Jenny

FUSSI

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AROUND THE NATION

Bat caves protected

BRISBANE: Twenty-three bat caves at Mt Etna, near Rockhampton on the central Queensland coast, will be included in a national park.

The caves, home of the endangered little bent winged and ghost bats, have been at the centre of a prolonged and heated battle between conservationists and mining interests. They will be included in an extension of the Fitzroy Caves National Park.

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED.

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CONTENTS

GOD LIST: Who's who in FUSSI p 2

TRIP REPORTS:

Town Well Cave p. 3
Gravity Cavity a Great Place, eh! p. 4
If You Go Down to the Well Today p. 5

ARTICLES:

Cave Management 1A p. 6
Camping and Conservation p. 12
Library Additions p. 13

GEAR ANALYSIS:

Sewer Light/Torch Light p. 9
The Whaletail Descender p. 10

TROG DELIGHTS: News from wherever Mavis found it p. 14

PROGRAMME. p. 15

CAVE LEEUWIN

Photographic Competion Details p. 16

TOWN WELL CAVE

Sunday 20th May

'I'd love to do the trip report'. I knew someone had said it, but didn't really want to believe that I had uttered the words. You soon know you have taken it on, as a certain lean female leans on you until you hand it up.

Mike Woodward was to blame, after thrashing around with CEGSA and others at Corra-Lynn Cave on an S and R day. He made it known that Town Well was a good SRT Cave with decoration well worth looking at. So a trip was born. I contacted people with the interest and the equipment available for an abseil entry and ascending exit. Matt, Rick, Dave, Di, Clare and myself made up the team.

The intention was a one day two cave trip, an early start, a hard days caving, and a quiet beer at the hotel. Mavis as usual invaded the day, the bloody hotel was closed, the early start was as expected, early! I was driving around before the milko had gone to bed, out to Belair and back to Hackham for Dave and Di. Clare was to be collected at Brighton and we were on our way in Dave's charabang. The Drive was uneventful, the coffee at Wakefield and the discussion on asbestos left the same taste in my month. Arrival at Curramulka was uneventful, not even a dog in sight.

The next bit of Mavis appeared, some moronic cretin had used his/her jackboots to bust the locks on the gate. Considering that directly under the gate is a long drop, the sheer idiocy of such a move defies description. As indicated, the entry is to be guarded against the unwary, so Di, in a gesture of wonderful self sacrifice, agreed to be suffering from the flu, so she sat at the top unsmiling.

The entry was a buzz, a nice free abseil down to the water table, balance on a piece of timber, unhitch, then climb up into the cave. In my mind the cave is split basically into two sections, the hot side and the cold side. The hot side is crawl and squeeze and the cold side is wet, stand up with few squeezes. The decoration is worth a look, much of it stained, but I was impressed.

The squeezes are most interesting. Rick had a great time undressing, leaving two full thicknesses of skin on the rock, he squeezed into a dead end, then squeezed out again. He almost admitted it was a bit thin.

The exit was all sorts of ascending gear, Jumar, Petzel, Clog and the multifit prussik cord. In spite of feeling a bit stuffed at the top we all agreed it was a visit well worth the effort, (pun intended).

Arrival at the top found Di drinking Coffee with the adjoining land owner and asking us questions as to what took us so long! We totally ignored such questions.

We de-rigged, and Rick fixed up the gate with materials on site using one padlock. We took the busted locking system back to Adelaide.

Equipment used:

2 x 50m Bluewater
Carpet Rope Protectors
Descenders/Ascenders.

Total time: 4 hours approximately.

John Callison.

Gravity Cavity a Great Place, eh!

Corra-lynn trip, 12-13 May. Members Present: Tania, Clare, Bruce, Richard, Guy, Jenny, and Pam.

Tania, Clare and I had arranged to leave Adelaide very early on Saturday morning. Accordingly, I woke up at 4.30am, and Clare arrived at my place by 5am. We considered this to be an excellent effort. As it turned out, we could have slept for a couple more hours. We were still waiting for Tania to pick us up at 6am. At about 6.15, the phone rang. Tania had slept through her very loud alarm and would arrive as soon as possible. Some time later, i.e., a few hours after Clare and I had forced ourselves out of bed, Tania arrived and made it quite clear that she wasn't in the mood for any smart comments about her late arrival.

We set off on our uneventful jouney, (except for the two turned over semi trailers at the intersection of Cavan and Main Nth Roads), to Corralyn several hours behind schedule. We arrived at about 10am, which wasn't too bad I suppose. Pam, Guy and Jenny arrived; not long after us. It was noted that the women out-numbered the men on this trip. Was this a first?

We decided to begin the weekend's caving by re-familiarising ourselves with the main parts of Corra-lynn - the Cauldron, Grand Central etc. The highlight of the trip occurred when Clare attempted to fit into a narrow crawl which runs off the Cauldron. Clare realised fairly quickly that she wouldn't be able to get very far without a lot of pain and discomfort (if, indeed, it was possible at all). Clare was half in and half out of the hole so that all we could see was her legs sticking out. She attempted to ease herself out of the hole but could not do so without some help from Jenny and myself.* We grabbed a leg each and pulled (dragged) Clare towards us.* (*how embarrasing ed.*) Clare swore loudly.* When we stopped for a moment, she complained (i.e. continued to swear loudly).* Jenny responded to these remonstrations by telling Clare "not to be such a baby".* (*Did this really happen? ed.*) In fairness it should be noted that Clare later successfully negotiated this crawl from the other direction.**

After lunch on Saturday, we set off in search of Gravity Cavity. Although we didn't actually become lost, we couldn't work out where we were on the map. We spent quite a long time sitting in one particular chamber, Bushwalkers' Chamber, while Clare, Pam, Jenny and Guy each had a number of turns at trying to work out exactly where we were. Guy eventully figured out where we probably were and, after a bit of crawling, squeezing and swearing, we came reasonably close to Gravity Cavity. However, we decided to turn back, (due to beer fantasies), and resume our search for the elusive Gravity Cavity the next day.

As camping is no longer allowed on the Farm, we set up camp at a site a couple of miles outside of Curramulka. This proved to be a more sensible place to camp than the usual spot because, for the first time on a Curramulka trip, we weren't ravaged by howling winds.

We were all subdued in the evening, the day's caving having been some what arduous. Nevertheless, we managed to eat well, consume a fair bit of wine, and indulge in the usual intellectually simulating conversation. The road which passes the campsite was very busy during the evening. A number of lads sped past at various times and one particular guy, clearly desperate for a raging Curramulka Saturday night, stopped and asked if we were having a party. Our unanimous answer was an unequivocal 'no'. If we hadn't been so tired we possibly could have had a rip-roaring party to end all Curramulka parties. But we were all stuffed and, not long after the arrival of Bruce, we retired for the evening.

The next day, while I attempted to study above ground, the rest of the gang set off in search of Gravity Cavity once again. Apparently the group came even closer to Gravity Cavity, but again, didn't quite manage to get there. Rumor has it that this state of affairs was due to the cheese grater rocks and lots of bruises from the day before. Bruce holds the distinction of being the Fuss member who has come closest to entering Gravity Cavity. After the bruised and weary cavers emerged from their mad scramble, they lived out their beer fantasies, and left Curramulka for greener pastures and the Sunday drivers on Port Wakefield road.

Richard Ewart

* Clare has since denied all of these allegations and says that as she wasn't on the trip someone has mistaken her for Mavis. *ed.*

** Clare however does not deny that she has negotiated the crawl from the other direction. *ed.*

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WELL TODAY

Corra-Lynn and Windmill Cave. Saturday and Sunday June 13 - 14. **Members Present:** John, Jenny, Di, Guy, Peter Storer, Angie, Clare, Ian, Bruce.

Somebody suggested that I turn up on the Sunday of the weekend Corra-Lynn Trip and go down Townwell, Windmill and also Corra-Lynn. Like a fool I listened to this person and got out of bed at 4.30am on the Sunday. Drove down the S.E. freeway in the fog and meet Bruce, who'd been watching the soccer waiting for me to arrive. Morris 1100s don't like 5am starts.

Bruce and I arrived at Curramulka at 8.30 to find everybody but John and Di sound alseep. Bruce and I wondered about sleep and why we had got up so bloody early. I decided that the best place to be was by the fire, the one reprieving feature for the person who suggested that I turn up. Slowly the rest of the campers rolled out of various verhicles, the only dry accommodation apart from the Curramulka pub. It was not a pretty sight.

I figured, as I stood by the fire warm and dry, surveying the emergent human wreckage, that the best course of action was to silently drink my 4.30am brewed thermos coffee. I'd work on those Dinsdale comments about what great weather, (howling gales, rain, hail and more howling gales), the weekend was having.

Decided to start the conversation on the topic of the Pub, as to talk of yesterdays caving activity would have made the bruises blacker and the boodies ache more. "Yes", they all replied, "we did go to the pub. It offered warmth, dryness, and a beer or two". I refrained from asking if they had been thrown out due to the low level of hygine which resulted in frequenting such places as Skeleton Crevasse.

Jenny Laidlaw had noticed that there was a spacial division in the pub, with Fuss members at one end and the locals at the other.

The pub also offered the entire population of Curramulka as the local club had won the football. The was also a fund raising do for the local Apex Club or National Party Branch in the town hall and most of its participants ended up in the pub. The place was full, it seemed, and even if you did smell and were covered in a good layer of clay you kept warm.

The rest of the conversation centered around the state of the weather, yesterday's activities and brewing coffee. Saturday it seem everybody had been on one of Guy's, "Around Corra Lynn", tours. It was one of his, "Specials", as it gave people a choice about going down Bandicoots Bypass. Skeleton Crevasse was given special mention by Peter Storer, as he had spent some time being a human ladder. The Whalrus came in for a mention as well, as it seem like a place to travel to. Sometime was spent in Rope Crevasse and Dick's Extenion. The latter place being responsible for the demise of the seated overall.

Sunday it was decided to split up into two groups, one going to Town Well and Windmill Cave, and the other going to Corra-Lynn to have a look at the area above the Wombat runs. I looked forward to the abseil into Town Well and a few of its squeezes.

Drove over to the entrance of Town Well and put on one's gumboots, as the area around it was covered with water. Opened the gate and looked down a water laden shaft with water pouring into the small Lake at the bottom. Over the top. Shades of Yagby on the Yorke Peninsula! Held a conference and decided not to go in as some of us didn't want to get that wet. Party poopers. Turned around and drove over to Windmill Cave instead.

It was back to the driest state in the driest Continent on earth. Nothing happens in Windmill Cave except for the continued rusting of the air conditioning unit at the botton of the shaft. John had decided that we needed some ladder practice, so rather than SRT out, John rigged up a couple of Ladders. I had a feeling that Di and I would reget that. We sent John over the edge first, he being brave and not at all afraid of breaking up the usual spiders' webs that are found in this sort of hole. John stopped halfway down to sort out a tangled ladder, much cursing was heard. He continued on, reached the bottom, unhitched and looked around. He yelled for the next person to come on down. So Di hooked in and abseiled down, unhitched. There was a long wait at the top as John and Di went on an explore of the only lead out of the bottom of the drop.

A while later a call was heard for Ian. I began to wonder at this. Ian is the smallest of our group, good for two things, sending down squeezes and for having a guaranteed chocolate supply. Ian went down, and a little while lattter came back and said to me, "it doesn't go anywhere"! Di came up the ladder, telling John that she would not ladder out of a cave again. Bruises would be evident for weeks later! Bruce decended, his first abseil into a cave, lots of encouragement and no problems. A little while later he returned.

John asked if I was going to come down this hole. I figured that I better go and have a look. No point in wasting a 4.30am start to the day! I abseiled in, looked at the rusting air conditioner, other farm debris and a smiling John. Long silence. The bottom of the hole is about 4 feet across and 6 feet long and has a small lead which requires a willingness to lose a few layers of skin or bring a small child, under the age of 7 size. I unhitched, and stepped on the ladder. I cursed John, as loose debris came down. This was it, from now on in I would leave the Safety Officer at home and cave only with sensible people, (tourists). The ladder climb was a real bastard, bits of debris, caught overalls on bits of rock, bruising to the upper thighs and about half way up, people, Ian in particular, asking me if he could have some of my thermos coffee.

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WELL TODAY

What was this: a coffee house! "Sure", I mumbled as I cursed some more, "Just remember that I like my coffee black and I'd like a slice of that really nice caving cake that's in Guys van over at Y1". "Thanks", said Ian. "Don't worry Ian any time. It does't matter if I'm covered in mud and sweating my way up a bloody ladder for sixty feet, you just ask me for coffee and things will be fine".

I reached the top and was met by a smiling Di who was glad I'd come on this trip. She had missed the colour of my language. Ian was drinking coffee and eating chocolate. Bruce was also imbibing. Where was the cake I ordered! John started to exit and was bringing up the ladder at the same time. I hoped he was having fun. I drank the last of my thermos coffee, revenge is sweet. John arrived at the top. "Did you have fun", I asked. "Yes" he replied! Silly twisted boy!

We de-rigged and drove over to Y1 to meet up with Jenny and Guy's group. They'd gone over to the top of the Bushwalkers Runs and were having a look around. I decided to go out to the Portals and up into the Dream World area. Di stayed up the top to meet up with the others. So off the rest of us went. Crawl, crawl, crawl, and crawl some more. A good twenty minutes later we were standing at the Portals. Bruce climbed up, John decided that the ladder climb out of Windmill Cave and the efforts of yesterday had taken its toll. So we opted for a bit of an explore around the Portals. Bruce came back down, and the next twenty minutes or so was spent crawling up a lot of dead ends. Decided that it was time to exit and drive back to Adelaide.

Half and hour later found us on the surface freezing our butts off in the howling gale, drinking orange juice that Jenny and Guy had very kindly left us. Packed up and decided that we would meet at Port Wakefield for a coffee in the warmth. By the time we got to Port Wakefeild and the body started to ache all over I remembered why I got up at some unheard of hour to go caving on a Sunday: the promise of a good long soak in the bathtub when I got home.

Clare Buswell.

CAVE MANAGEMENT 1 A

Introduction

In terms of cave conservation it is important to make a distinction between cave conservation issues such as Mt Etna, Yassabah and conservation via management plans. This article is concerned with the latter.

What follows is basically an overview on the current management practices in some parts of the country, and a review of two of the principal classification schemes which have had some effect on those management plans. The article is not by any means definitive and aims at providing some background information in the debate about cave management.

Cave Management Around OZ

In terms of Management Plans, different situations occur in different states. In South Australia this year we have seen the release of the draft managment plans for Naracoorte, Tantanoola, and Picaninni Ponds, and are expecting later this year, the draft plans for Kangaroo Is, and the South Australian section of the Nullarbor. It is quite possible that, by the end of the year, the major caving areas in the State under National Parks juristiction, have firm management plans and quite comprehensive policies on access for both recreational and speleological purposes.

Outside of this, management depends on good relationships between other gov't bodies,(e.g. Woods and Forests), farmers etc., and speleos, with CEGSA being responsible for the gating and locking of a number of caves and access to one cave in the State.1

In Western Australia, both SRGWA and WASG have operated a Cave Access Committee to help minimise the overuse of sites and have been responsible for sub-surface management policies within the state. The Dept. of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), has also been responsible for the establishment of much land management practice. It is currently pushing to have major additions included in the Nullarbor reserves system as well as forming a management committee for the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge area.2

In Queensland the situation is similar to that in S.A., in that National Parks have or are developing management plans for areas under its control. Outside of this, management is left to a number of statutory bodies, private tourist operators, farmers and mining companies. One example of this in the remaining cave in the Border Rivers Karst Region. It is under a mining lease, with a limestone quarry operating on an adjoining ridge. A 500m mining free zone, centered on the cave has been negotiated by National Parks.3

In Victoria, there are management plans covering the Bairnsdale, Lower Glenelg and Mitta Mitta areas, and the process is underway for a plan for the Lava Caves area. The VSA has had major imput into most, if not all of these plans and numerous advisory

Con't p 7

CAVE MANAGEMENT 1A

committees exist upon which the VSA has representation, the most important one being the Victorian Caves Advisory Committee. The Friends of Buchan Caves group carry out a fair amount of work in tourist caves in the Buchan Karst area. There is also an Exchangee Programme between Parks under which guides spend time at other cave areas throughout the State(s).

The ASF

In 1976 the ASF set up the Commission on Cave Tourismand Management, now called the Commission on Cave Management. It held a series of conferences on cave management and tourism which were co-hosted with cave management authorities such as National Parks. These confernces have involved mostly cave managers from both Australia and New Zealand.

Out of the conferences organised by the ASF Commission the Australian Cave Management Association was formed, which, sometime around 1987, became the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA). It is this organisation and the ASF Commission which is currently influencing cave management policies.

Worboys/Yallingup System

At the Fourth Conference on Cave Management and Tourism at Yallingup, W.A., in 1981, Graham Worboys, Adrian Davey and Clyde Stiff presented what has probably become the seminal paper on cave classification in Australia. It was a compilation of different types of classification systems which were around at the time and drew mainly upon overseas, in particular, US thinking on Wilderness Management.

The main objective of the Worboys' et. al. system was to:

> provide cave managers with a flexible framework upon which their management operations may be based, and to permit consistency from one area to another, such that users and other interested persons may readily understand management objectives and practices.4

Worboys et. al. basically classified caves into three groups with a number of sub-categories:

Public Access: Adventure and Show caves.
Special Purpose: Reference, Outstanding Natural Value and Dangerous caves.
Wild Caves: Caves classified as Wild and all Unclassified caves. 5

Each of these categories, had clearly defined objectives and statements of clarification which aimed at enabling management to influence what sort of access and other activity was suitable. The category of Reference, for example, meant that the cave was to: "provide for strict protection of relatively undisturbed baseline sites for scientific reference".6 In terms of management practices, this meant that access to the cave was kept at a minimum and then only for scientific purposes and only if those investigations could not be carried out elsewhere. The aim was to leave the cave in as pristine a condition as possible, with only a few reference markers around so one could record any changes.

Similarly, with the classification Outstanding Natural Value, the objective was to:

> protect sites of outstanding scientfic .... educational or æsthetic significance, [whilst at the same time] providing appropriate opportunities for scientific research, æsthetic appreciation, education, recreation or other activities consistent with protection of the outstanding value(s) of the site. 7

Here the aim is to enable activities which are consistent with the special nature of the site. Some recreation, some speleological and some science related activities are allowed.

With caves classified as Wild the objective was to provide:

> opportunities for responsible cave recreation and exploration. No specific management practices and controls apply.8

Worboys envisaged that most caves would fit into this category and that development would be restricted to essential markers and the odd path and anchors.

The authors set about detailing the requirements of what is essentially a format for a management plan. This included such things as: statements concerning the responsibilities of the management, objectives of the management for the entire area under management control, general polices and the reasons for them, priorities for allocation of management resources among categories of caves and among individual caves within categories. 9

With regard to the classifications of individual caves, Worboys et al, stipulated the need for details concerning:

> any additional management objectives practices or controls, with reasons: the management operations programme, activity restrictions (if any) and access restrictions, if any, and any additional management objectives, practices or controls.10

Flexibility in the system was deemed necessary so as to take into consideration different locations and laws. Management practices would differ in different locations, for example, management of caves on reserves differs from that on National Parks land and from state to state.

Worboys et al, also emphasized the need for all interested parties to consult with each other and to regularly review cave classifications, via working parties and formal arrangements.11 Information concerning the classifications of caves should be made available to the interested public and be updated regularly.12

Worboys' classification system was generally accepted by both speleos and cave managers as being a usable system of classification and it has, as a consequence, become the baseline from which both groups operate.

Con't p 8

CAVE MANAGEMENT 1A

The Site System

The system however was/is not without its inadequacies. John Dunkley, of ASF Commission on Cave and Karst Management fame, wrote a renewed system in 1988 for the Jenolan Management Plan. 13

This system changed the emphasis from classifying whole caves to sites within caves.14 Site size may vary, according to Dunkley, from a few square metres up to a whole cave or group of karst features.15 Thus a single cave may contain many different categories. For example, Blackberry Cave at Naracoorte is part scientific, part outstanding natural value and part public access (adventure).16

Dunkley maintains Worboys's basic terms of classification, i.e., public access, special purpose, and wild, but is more specific in terms of the management prescriptions associated with each group.

Under the reference classification, for example, the basic objective remains the same but management is:

> expected to provide adequate control over the entry into the site: the criteria for deciding monitoring priorities, techniques and frequency: procedures for surveillance of the site and finally procedures for access into and activities within the site. 17.

Similarly, Dunkley has stipulated management prescriptions for sites categorised as Special Natural and/or Cultural Value. These prescriptions include such actions as not visiting bat habitats when bats are roosting, overwintering, etc. Dunkley expects that:

> visitation by groups will be controlled, party size will be limited, and must be suitably equipped and experienced. Gating of sites may be necessary if it does not conflict with other values of the site. 18

Caves classified as wild, under which most caves are classified, enabled responsible cave recreation and exploration provided that it was consistent with the mangement requirements for the area. For example, if you need a permit to cave in the area, as you do for Jenolan, Yagby or Naracoote, them you get one, but you don't have to specify the wild caves that you are intenting to visit.

What Dunkley has done is to refine Worboys' basic system in terms of the responsiblities of both management and speleos. It recognises that a cave is not an homogenous mass but that sections of it differ greatly in value and the cave may contain the whole gamut of classifications. Dunkley also recognises that speleos have different interests and are of differing standards. Some are interested in surveying, others photography, and others the geology of the caves they visit. Still others like to go and visit and admire. Indeed many speleo groups recognise differing skill levels in their constitutional divisions between full and associate or full and novice members.

The site system enables cave managers to be more specific in the practice of managing different sections of caves, by focussing on the sections of the highest value whilst at the same time accommodating a wide spectrum of users, not just those visiting Public Access Caves.

Conclusion

Both these types of classification systems are but one way of enabling human access which is consistent with the long term management strategies. The aim is not to lock up entire caves and forget about them but to identify caves or sites within caves that matter. Other methods of conserving what we have, is to hand down an ethic on how to behave in caves. The ASF code of ethics is one example of this. Also, teaching people caving techniques: from identifying and not walking over speleotherms to SRT. Another system is to classify cavers, a bit like you classify divers. One of the most important isues for members of speleo groups is to be involved in the development of management practices and strategies via direct submissions when draft management plans are released, via lobbying and via representation on committees.

C.Buswell

End notes:

1. This has been done at the request of farmers to keep people out of the caves and also for safety reasons.
2. Watson J. M., Current Karst Management in Western Australia. Australasian Cave and Karst Management Newsletter. No. 5 June. 1990 p. 11.
3. Anonymous, Current Karst Management in Queensland. In: Ibid. p. 9.
4. Worboys G., Davey A. & Stiff C., Report on Cave classification. Cave Management Australia IV. Yallingup 1981. Ibid. p. 12.
5. Ibid p. 13.
6. Ibid. p. 14.
7. Ibid. p. 15.
9. Ibid. p. 18.
10. Ibid. p. 18.
11. Ibid. p. 18.
12. Ibid. p. 17.
13. Dunkley J., Appendix 2: the Site Classification System. Jenolan Management Plan 1988.
14. Ibid. p. 2.
15. Ibid. p. 2.
16. Naracoorte Draft Managment Plan. Dep't of Environment and Planning South Australia. 1990 p. 10.
17. Dunkley. Op. Cit. p. 4.
18. Ibid. p. 5.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank John Dunkley for allowing me to use his unpublished paper on cave classificaiton and for his comments on the draft of this article. Also Chris Dunn and Kevin Mott for their comments.

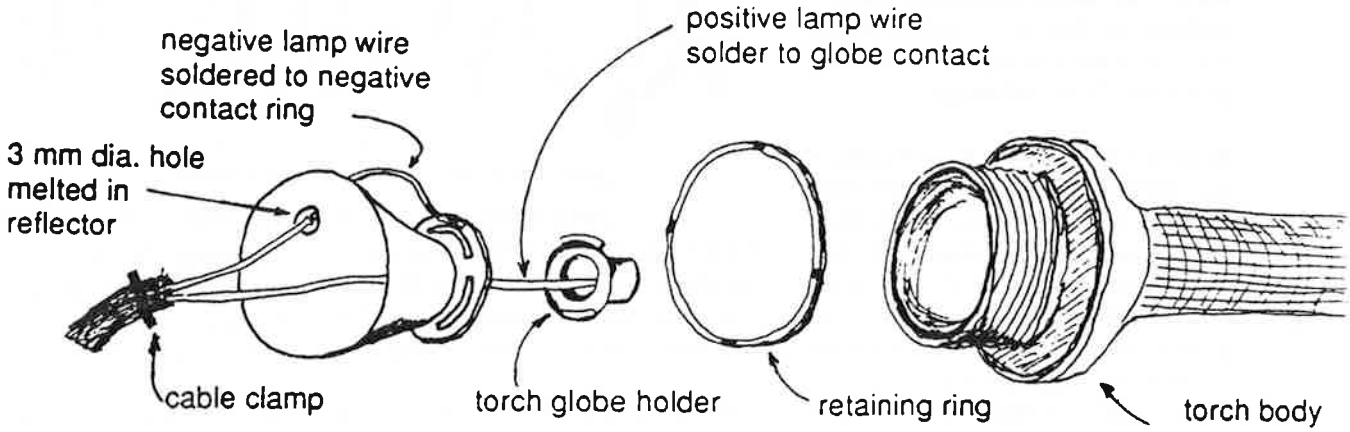
SEWER LIGHT - TORCH LIGHT

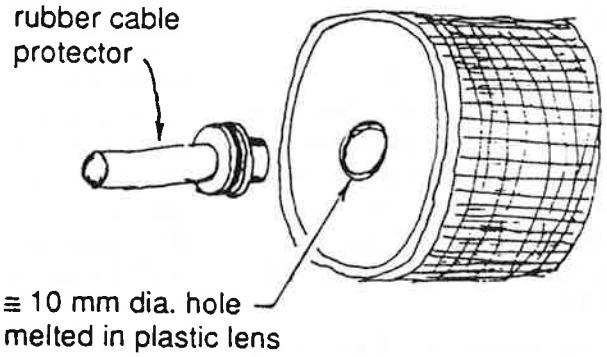
Reprinted with permission from the author.
Source: O' Toole. D., **Nargun**. Vol 22, No 10. p. 103.

The ''torch'' light is an easy to make, cheap alternative to the ''sewer'' light D cell dry cell power unit, as detailed by Peter Ackroyd (1989). The torch light makes it possible to turn a dead Oldham caplamp into an effective dry cell caplamp in about 5 minutes. The materials required are:

- 1 'Brilliant' brand (made in Taiwan) water proof torch (available from disposal stores for about $12).
- 1 Oldham headset and cable
- 1 Oldham rubber cable protector.
- Silicon sealant.
- Solder and soldering iron.

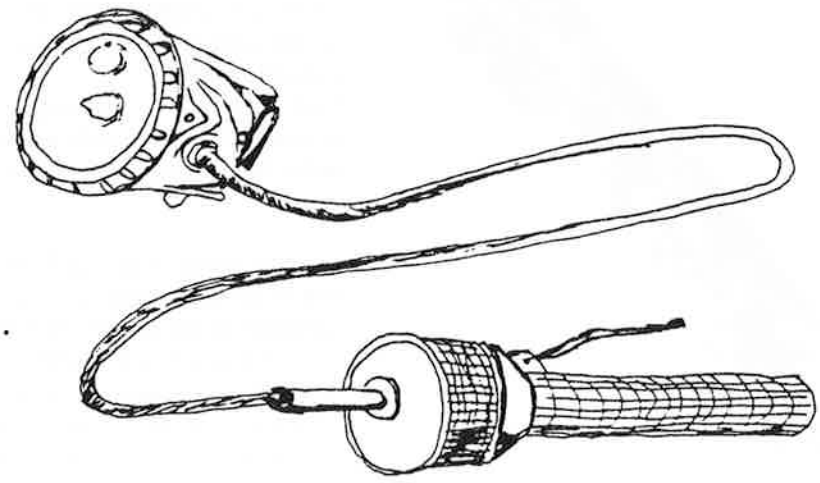
Reference ACKROYD, Peter (1989) An extremely low maintenance expedition light. *Australian Caver* 121:8-11.





Note: Be sure to slide the torch lens bezel assembly onto the cap lamp cable before soldering wires to other components

For water proof operation seal the cable protector and lens joint with silicon. Also seal the cable in the cable protector.



THE COMPLETE TORCH LIGHT

WHALETAIL DESCENDER

This article is taken from the manufacturers flyer and Montgomery's Single Rope Techniques.

HISTORY: The Whaletail was invented in the USA by G.A. Wood but didn't achieve popularity there due to competition from the rack and because the American design did not include a safety gate across the first tow slots. The lack of a gate caused several serious incidents where the roped popped right out of the device. A safety gate was added in Australia and it has become a popular device for vetical caving. (1) The Whaletail was first commercially manufactured in Australia during 1970. Since then numerous enhancements have been made. The advent of modern milling technology has permitted a major revision in the method of manufacture and an even better Whaletail.

MANUFACTURE: The Whaletail has been designed as a relatively compact descender with a minimum of moving parts. The Whaletail (280 mm long) is shorter than most commercially available racks and has a greater heat capacity. The massive aluminium backbone assures mechanical strength and rapidly distributes heat generated by rope friction. The greater heat capacity of The Whaletail ensures that it has a slower temperature rise than any other descender. The body and gate of the Spelean Whaletail are milled from special tempered extrusions. The result is a very tough, strong and very hard product. You will be pleased by how well they wear.

Figure 1. The Whaletail Descender.

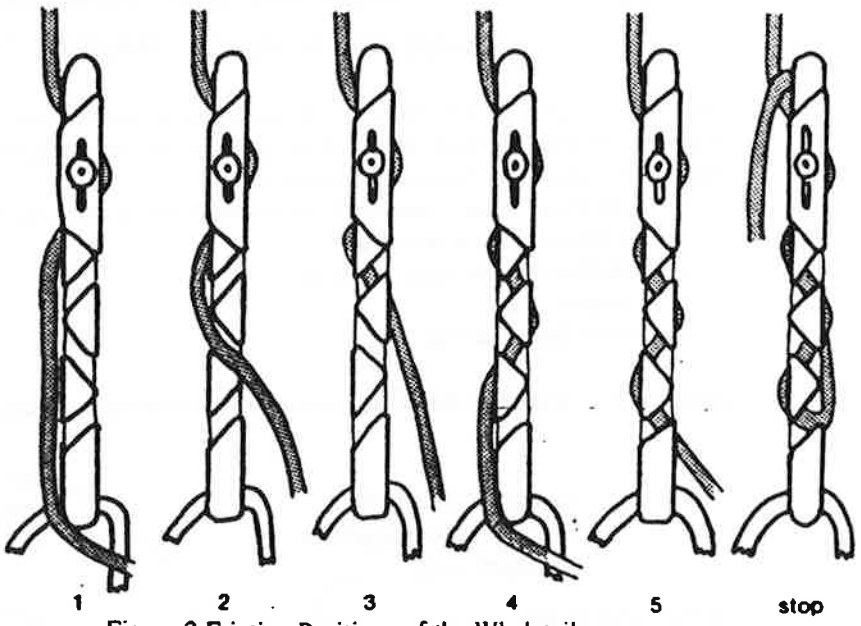


Figure 2 Friction Positions of the Whaletail.

Source: Montgomery. N. R., Single Rope Techniques. p.66.

STRENGTH: The Whaletail has a tensile strength in excess of 4000kg. The gate assembly will withstand a sideways load in excess of 1000kg.

FEATURES: The Whaletail is designed as a compact and aesthetically pleasing device with a minimum of moving parts. Compact: The Whaletail is 275mm long and weighs 550pgm.

Heat Capacity: The massive aluminium spine of the Whaletail ensures its mechanical strength and rapidly distributes the heat generated by rope friction. The great heat capacity of the Whaletail ensures that it has a slower temperature rise than any other descender.

Easy attachment: The Whaletail has 29mm diameter attachment holes to permit two large karabiners to be connected simultaneously. This is very useful when suspending packs or doing assisted abseils.

Safe lock off: a locking notch is adjacent to each attachment hole to make the locked position even more secure.

USING THE WHALETAIL: The Whaletail is best suited to ropes with diameters in the range 11mm - 13mm. The Whaletail is a variable friction descender, the rate of descent can be varied by changing the amount of friction arising from threading the rope around a different number of pegs.

Threading: The rope must be threaded in the Whaletail in such a way that the rope passes over the smooth surfaces of the pegs and NOT over the points.

While in use the safety gate should always cover the first two slots, the thumb screw should be tightened firmly.

Friction: The Whaletail has five simple friction positions, (see figure 2), and a locked postiton. In the 1 and 4 positions the rope is guided under the end of the Whaletail. In positions 2, 3 and 5 the rope passes directly out to the controlling hand. Friction is adjusted by varying the amount of tension applied to the rope by the controlling hand.

Locking off: The locked position is achieved by first stopping the descent by applying sufficient tension to the rope with the controlling hand. The controlling hand, while firmly gripping the rope, should be allowed to move to the hip. In a single firm motion, while retaining the tension in the rope, push the hand forward and up. With the other hand guide the rope between the top end of the Whaletail and the rope which goes to the anchor point. Pull the rope into the locking notch.

The locked position permits stopping for extended periods during a descent or

Con't p 11

WHALETAIL DESCENDER

lower. Locking off can be accomplished with minimal effort leaving both hands free to perform such tasks as knot crossing, adjusting rope protectors or rigging.

Attachment: When descending, the Whaletail should be connected so that the gate is at the end of the Whaletail that points towards the anchor point. The orientation of the whaletail is largely a matter of personal choice. However, the recommended orientation is with the gated side towards the user because changes of friction and locking off are most simply accomplished.

Rate of descent: On any descent the friction generated between the rope and the descender will cause a descender to start to heat up. The temperature rise is directly dependent on the length and the speed of descent and the weight descending. The longer the drop; the faster the descent; the heavier the load - the greater will be the amount of heat generated. The higher the heat capacity of the descender the slower will be the temperature rise. In this regard the Whaletail is better than any other commercially available descender. Speed of descent should always be controlled so that the descender never becomes too hot to touch. It is vitally important that you do not allow a descending device to become as hot as 150c as both polyamide (Nylon) and polyester (Terylene) soften at around this temperature. As a guide, when a descender becomes nearly too hot to touch its temperature is around 70c.
Lowering and Belaying: The Whaletail should be securely anchored with the gate end of the Whaletail pointing away from the anchor point. The rope is then threaded around an appropriate number of pegs (for thin ropes more pegs are required than for thick ropes; for heavy loads more pegs are required than for light loads). In general it is better to start with too many pegs and then reduce the number until the rope runs through the Whaletail at the desired rate. To stop the lower, tension is applied by the controlling hand. In all belaying and lowering situations sturdy leather gloves should be worn by the person operating the Whaletail.

WASHING AND DRYING ROPES: When dirty, ropes should be washed to reduce the abrasion by grit on both the rope and the associated equipment. Ropes should be made thoroughly wet and then pulled through and securely anchored whaletail. Repeat the process two or three times or until the rope is clean. This process will squeeze the dirty water from the rope. The method may also be used to dry wet ropes.

Where possible clean dry ropes should be used as this will prolong the life of both the rope and the whaletail. Ropes should be washed frequently in cold water with a pure soap. Detergents are not recommended as it is rare to find a detergent without additives. A fabric softener (which merely coats the fibres with a slippery substance) will improve the flexibility of the rope without harmful effect.

WEAR AND CARE OF THE WHALETAIL: If the first peg on your Whaletail wears to an appreciable degree (ie worn down by about 5mm) the gate should be removed by totally undoing the thumbscrew, the gate should then be fitted to the other end of the Whaletail.

summary

. Superior in-line descender - doesn't twist your rope
. Great heat capacity - difficult to melt your rope
. Variable friction - adjustable to suit the load
. Minimum of moving parts - doesn't rattle and catch
. Safety gate - to prevent rope from jumping out
. Long working life - can be reversed to double life
. Tough and durable - not easily damaged
. Made from hard Aluminium alloy

* Always securely fix the safety gate

* Do not descend at a rate which causes the descender to become too hot to touch.

RED CROSS FIRST AID COURSE

Would you know what to do if you fell in a cave and twisted your ankle? Or were bitten by a spider on the loo at Corra Lynn?

A First Aid Course is being held on the 18th and 19th of August.

The course deals with Resuscitation, bandaging, splinting, bites, burns and hypothermia.

Cost is $30.00 for students and $60.00 for workers. It is run over the entire weekend from 9am - 5pm. It's great fun, particularly were you practice bandaging on each other.

The course is also a pre - requisite for the forthcoming Wilderness First Aid Course to be held later in the Semester.

Ring Tania, 274-1697 ASAP.

CAMPING AND CONSERVATION

The rise in popularity of outdoor recreation has led to a population explosion in Australia's National Parks and wilderness areas. With the increased use has come increasing damage to the natural environment. Escapes from bushwalker's campfires, trampling and cutting of vegetation, outbreaks of gastroenteritis and overuse of walking tracks have all become more frequent.

Fortunately along with this increase in wilderness use a new bush-walking ethic has also developed. The 'Minimal Impact' philosophy is now being widely adopted by bushwalkers. Without it we run the very real danger of 'loving our wilderness areas to death'. If we are to avoid limits on walker numbers or even the closing of tracks we must all learn to walk more 'softly' through the wilderness.

This article covers the major Minimal Impact techniques. Some - in particular those to do with fire - carry the weight of law. All of them will need to be adopted if the wilderness is to survive.

Fires

There's nothing quite like sitting around the glow of a warm fire at night, telling stories, sipping coffee and relaxing after a hard day's walk. Well, sadly, those days are gone. Many areas are denuded of firewood and campers have started to pull down standing trees. Rotting ground timber and dead trees provide a host of homes for hundreds of living creatures and should not be burnt. This means campers should consider the use of a stove more seriously. Some areas in fact are already designated stove-only areas.

The other major problem is escaping fires that cause havoc. Thousand year old forests have been burnt to the ground because of carelessness. If you have to light a fire in an emergency, make sure it's completely out when you've finished and that you don't start 'underground' fires over peat or roots that can smoulder undetected and then rise to start a fire later.

Pack it in. Pack it out.

When is a wilderness not wilderness? When the track and campsites are littered with rubbish!

-Always carry a tough plastic bag in which to store rubbish.
-Pack to minimise rubbish.
-DON'T burn, bash and bury.
-Carry everything out including cigarette butts, orange peel, foil even matchsticks!
- Other people's rubbish. Yuk! Grit your teeth and pick it up too!

You'll do everybody a favour.

Washing

Even biodegradable soaps can harm fish. Wash at least 50m away from stream and scatter dish water so that it will filter through the soil.

- Avoid putting scraps into streams.
- Don't bath in streams and lakes - wash away from them.
- Don't brush teeth near streams.

Modern Equipment

This avoids the need to dig trenches around tents, cut ferns for beds or saplings for poles. The day of the "pioneer" who lived "off the land" is gone. The trick nowadays is to use the high-tech gear available to avoid the necessity of using the land.

Toilet

Where provided, always use them! Otherwise, the rule is 100m from the nearest water and bury about 15cm deep. Restore the site by putting dead leaves, a stone etc. over the filled in hole.

Party Size

The size of your party is an important conservation issue - the bigger it is, the bigger is your impact. Most huts and mountain tops can reasonably carry only a few people.

Resorts cater for the humdrum of commercial, city-like life. On leaving a resort you enter a world which seems to approach a more genuine essence of life. People often experience a deep re-creation, and a closer connection with their environment and the other people in the party. This experience can't be realised in mass onslaughts, either for the big group, or for others that have a right to the natural peace.

Groups are usually at least three or four in number: six to eight is a good maximum.

A Code

Introduction

The single most important factor is a sensitivity on the part of the visitor to the very special nature of wilderness and an acceptance of the responsibility to leave it in an undisturbed condition.

The aim of this code is to encourage the preservation of the physical and intangible qualities of wilderness areas by promoting the ethic that humans are but visitors to the wilderness and they neither remain nor leave any long-term trace of their presence.

1 Self reliance

In the wilderness the visitor meets nature on its own terms and is fully self-sufficient. Accommodation is portable (tent), temporary (snow cave), Motorised transport is not used. In emergencies, reliance on outside help is kept to a minimum.

2 Campsites

Campsites are chosen with a view to minimum impact. Previously used sites will be appropriate in many cases, but are avoided if they show signs of over-use. Camp is not made on fragile vegetation. Activities such as the construction of tent platforms and bed sites, and the digging of trenches are not accepted. Little evidence of use will remain on leaving.

Con't p 13

CAMPING AND CONSERVATION

3 Flora and fauna
Live vegetation and animals, including birds and reptiles, are left undisturbed.

4 Fire and fuel
All risks of bushfire are guarded against. Existing fireplaces are used where possible and the area around the fire is clear of flammable material. Small fires reduce both the possibility of escape and the impact on the wood supply. Fires are thoroughly extinguished when leaving. Gas and liquid fuel stoves are used during fire danger periods and where dead wood is scarce or unavailable, but not during total fire bans.

5 Sanitation
Wherever possible human faces are buried - well away from tracks, campsites, and water. Toilet paper is burnt when it is safe to do so, otherwise it is buried.

6 Water
Every effort is made to keep lakes, rivers, streams and the sea free of any polluting agent. Soap, not detergent, is used for washing; and then well away from the water source.

7 Rubbish
The motto is: If you can carry it in, you can carry it out.

8 Walking tracks
Marked or formed routes are used where they exist and new parallel tracks are avoided. Otherwise the least possible sign of passage is left. New tracks, blazes, or artificial track markers are not used.

9 Vandalism
Nothing is defaced, damaged or removed.

10 Courtesy
The sounds of the natural environment predominate. The noise from radios and other electronic devices is not in keeping with wilderness. The right of other wilderness users to peace and solitude is respected at all times. Large parties are avoided as they can adversely affect the enjoyment of both their own and other parties' members, as well as increasing the potential for impact on the environment.

11 Domestic animals
Dogs, cats, horses etc. have no place in the wilderness.

12 Emergencies
By its very nature, wilderness travel entails a certain amount of risk. Procedures for search and rescue are planned with minimal environmental impact in mind.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

END OF AUGUST.

LIBRARY NEWS

New additions to the library.

Australian Caver No. 123. 1990. List of 1990 Member Organisations: Notices and News: Down Under all Over: Srgwa: ASF Inc. Cave Safety Guidelines: Some More Things You Wanted to Know About Blasting: A note on Icetube: Report on ASF Inc. January Meeting 1990: Cave Leeuwin: ASF Officers.

SUSS Bull 30.(1) Reports on: Coral Cave and other Nomenclature Problems at Colong, Bill's Creek and Church Creek: Diving in Sydney's Sewerage Dispersal Units: Five Dives to the X-Window: Dive Slug lake, Manmoth Cave, Jenolan: Scaling poles in Jubilee Cave: The 1990 New Year Jenolan Expedition: Spelunking as a Manifestation of a Counter Claustrophobia: The End of the Tuglow Cave Survey?: Lechuguilla Cave and The NSS News.

Journal of the Sydney Speological Society. Vol. 34 No. 4. 1990.
Reports on: Glen rock and Exploratory Visit: Trip reports to Bungonia: Society Scene Section, Meetings etc.: Topics in Publications received by SSS.

Nargan The Newletter of the Victorian Speleological Association. Vol. 22, No. 10, May 1990. Forward Planning: Post War Memories of Caving. VSA News: Flower Pot: How to Make a Torch Light Out of Casablanca: M - 262 Gravel Pit - the Inside Story: Maps of Gravel Pit: The Voice.

Cavers Chronicle. Vol. 17 No. 1. Srgwa Newsletter. Report on ASF Council Meeting: Trip reports: December/January Nullarbor Trip, Wanneroo, Yallingup, Witchcliffe, Boranup: Cave Leeuwin Information: Weebubbie and Madura Cave Maps: membership list.

Troglodyte Newsletter of the Northern Caverneers Inc. Tasmania. Vol. 2 No. 4. Notice concerning Permits into Kubla Khan: Locking up of Boldock's Cave: Search and Rescue meeting: Wet Cave Trip Report.

Troglodyte Newsletter of the Northern Caverneers Inc. Tasmania. Vol. 2 No. 5. Trip Programme: Report on Drainage at Moll Ck: Forestry Investigations.

Library material is available on a monthly loan basis. Ring David Manual if you want anything.

TROG DELIGHTS.

Want to Really Do Something Helpful ?

MAVIS THE GIBBON.

Bungonia Mine is growing and has developed into the predicted eyesore. The 3 kilometer long open cut mine cascades debris into the gorge and is now creating new scree slopes on the western end of the canyon known as the Slot.

In addition to this Southern Blue Circle Cement is actively dumping mine tailing and processing waste into Bungonia Creek coating the river bed in yellow material that visibly extends to the Shoalhaven River. This dumping is in part achieved by dumping waste into a cave swallet near the top of the ravine. This waste pours out of the resurgences at the bottom and into Bungonia Creek.

The protest regarding Bungonia requires your support and the attention of Government Ministers must be continually drawn towards the operations of Southern Blue Circle Cement.

The most potent action that you can take to protect the environment is to write. Please complain of the mining procedures by Southern Blue Circle cement and send your thoughts to

The Hon T.J. Moore
Minister of the Environment
Level 9
Legal & General House
8 - 18 Bent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

The Hon N.E. Pickard
Minister for Minerals and Energy
38 th Level
Hyde Park Tower
Cnr Park & Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Yogi Bear meets the Feral Cat

"There's no need for a ceiling on visitor numbers . . . Carrying capacity of parks should be set by market forces."

"Reduction in Research Staff is a good thing because with fewer researchers, fewer problems will come to notice.

"The less we know about ecological problems the better."

The above quotes are reported in *The Feral Cat* as allegedly coming from the lips of senior management responsible for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Feral Cat is an underground newsletter published by a former member of the Service who has remained extraordinarily well plugged in.

Under Bjelke-Petersen the Service was subsumed into a Department of Environment and Conservation with a former Joh staffer as its boss. According to a correspondent called "Old Tom", the new structure led to a purge of people with "conservation oriented philosophies".

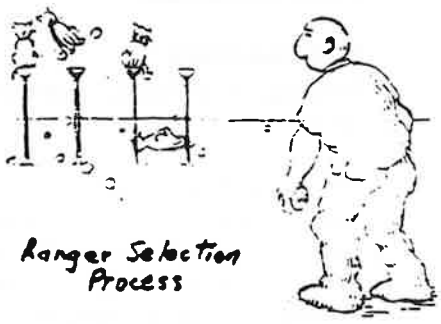
Emphasis on professional qualifications has been downgraded with graduates from a special diploma course at the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton being treated with suspicion.

According to the Old Tom, "The new system meant a person could start as a workman with no qualifications and become an Area Manager - a strategy designed to build an empire of lowpaid, malleable puppets who would bow and sway to political and bureaucratic whim, and above all never blow the whistle."

Professionals who spoke out did so at serious cost to their careers — a zoologist, John Toop, who drew attention to the value of the Mt Etna caves as a bat habitat was transferred to processing visitor permit applications for the Great Barrier Reef Park.

The newsletter claims that head office staff have been escorted on shooting safaris by rangers. On one occasion, shooting of brumbies on Moreton Island was allegedly accompanied by a barrage of bullets unleashed at seabirds foolish enough to be in the area. The idea apparently was to make the carnage look like the work of vandals.

Not everyone was busy blasting away at the bush. *The Feral Cat* sternly denounced the practice on Heron Island of taking "topless resort staff, who supplied picnic hampers, on Ranger patrols".



Ranger Selection Process

Source: The Eye.
June 1990. p 12 -13.

Second Semester Programme

Friday, 20th July	9.30am to 3pm	**Day Walk Belair National Park.** Meet at Flinders Uni. Sports Centre. 9.00am. BYO BYO lunch; wet weather gear to be carried.
Sat.-Sun., 21-22/7	9am	**Red Cross First Aid Course,** Flinders Uni.
		Semester starts 23rd July.
Wednesday, 25/7	7.30pm	Cegsa Meeting. Royal Society Rooms. Behind the S.A. Museum, Kintore Ave.
Tuesday, 7/8	7pm	**General Meeting** Purple Lounge.
Sunday, 11/8 Reynella.	10am	**Abseiling Clinic.** Grant Rd. Quarry, BYO Lunch. John Callison Co-ordinating.
Sat.-Sun., 25-26/8		**Corra Lynn** Jenny Laidlaw Co-Ordinator.
		SEPTEMBER 7 - 30 Mid Semester Break
Tuesday, 4/9		**General Meeting.** Talk on Rope Techniques, John Callison.
Friday-Monday, 14-16/9		**Flinders Ranges Trip.** Leaders: Rick Jueken, Simon Schmidt.
Monday, 1/10	7pm	General Meeting. **Talk on Cave Management** National Parks and Wildlife - Brian Clark.
Sat.-Sun 27-28 / 10		**CAVING SKILLS WEEKEND.** Cave Search/rescue weekend Corra-Lynn.
Sunday, 28/10	10am	**Abseiling Clinic**. Onkaparinga Gorge (Weather permitting).
Sunday, 3/11		**Caving Dinner** and General Meeting.
Dec. 20th? onwards		**Pre Cave Leeuwin Trips Nullarbor.** Co-ordinated by G. Pilkinton, Cegsa.
Dec. 30-Jan. 5 1991		**Cave Leeuwin Perth.**

CAVE LEEUWIN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The aim of a photographic competition is to entertain and educate while at the same time compete against other entrants for favourable criticism.

1. An entrant need not be an attendee of the Cave Leeuwin Conference. All posted entries must enclose cheque/money order to cover return postage and packaging costs.

2 Photographs that have been awarded prizes at previous ASF Conference photographic competitions are not eligible.

3 A limit of five photographs per category.
A maximum of three photographs may be submitted in any category as a story entry and be classed as one entry ie 1 of 5.

4 An entry fee of $3 per category is imposed irrespective of the number photographs entered in that category (1-5).

5 All entries must have been principally taken by the entrant ie directed operations.

6 Photographs that in the opinion of the judge/s depict unsafe acts or equipment will not be eligible.

7 If insufficient entries are received for any category - entries in that category may be suppressed or absorbed into another appropriate or Open category.

8 If all entries in any category are deemed to be of insufficient quality - that category will be suppressed.

9 All slides must be within the 50mm x 50mm (35mm) format. A 5mm black dot must be in the bottom left hand corner of the viewing side. The entrant's name, division number and title must also appear on each slide entered - it need not be on the viewing side.

10 The minimum size for black and white and colour prints is 250mm x 200mm. Entries must be mounted with the entrant's name, division number and title printed on the rear of the mount.

11 A trophy will be awarded to category prize winners.

12 If an entry in any category is deemed by the judge/s to warrant further significance - a special Grand Prize will be awarded. Only one Grand Prize will be awarded

13 The principal judge's decision will be final

14 Deadline for entries is Monday, December 31,1990 - either handed in at registration desk or posted to CAVE LEEUWIN - PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION P.O. Box 120 Nedlands 6009 - with no other Conference documents All posted entries will remain unopened until Dec. 31.

CATAGORIES	SLIDES	B&W PRINTS	COLOUR PRINTS
SURFACE must contain Karst features	S1	S2	S3
ENTRANCES	E1	E2	E3
PASSAGES or CHAMBERS	PC1	PC2	PC3
DECORATION	D1	D2	D3
SCIENTIFIC	SC1	SC2	SC3
ACTION or TECHNIQUES	AT1	AT2	AT3
HUMOUROUS	H1		