

FUSSI

VOL 2 NO 3 SEPTEMBER 1990



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY INCORPORATED.

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Rumour, Conjecture, Myth and Reality: Caving with TESS

Well, hello from glorious, sunny, dry, friendly Darwin. It's high time I published the truth about caving here rather than have you subject to the myth and conjecture which is rampant throughout Australia.

Firstly: there is no naked caving. We do wear overalls although usually not with much on underneath. This means that one really does have to promptly repair the hole in the seat of ones trog suit. Some of us have been known to take off our clothing for brief periods of time whilst resting or swimming underground, but of course, only with all lights off. Do you believe me?

Seriously though, caving here is a very hot event. The morning begins with carefully calculated fluid loading. You need to drink enough water to prevent total dehydration and death underground, but not so much as to fill the bladder too quickly. This usually amounts to 1.5-2 litres of fluid. Alternatively, for the more gung-ho members, a litre of normal saline intravenously does wonders.

Then we dance around in the sunshine enjoying the cool before donning overalls and heading down. The caves have names like Turkish Bath and Blue Flame and they are really hot even by N.T. standards. Imagine scrapping and bumping along in close proximity with four sweaty males in 29 degree heat and 98% Humidity! (Some people I know say it sounds fantastic).

The caves themselves are great. The main caves visited by Darwin Speleoes are near Katherine. At Cutta Cutta National Park there are some caves which have been developed for tourism and several more which haven't. The Top End Speleological Society (TESS), are fortunate to have had good relationships with the ranger of these caves, including the current head ranger, Keith Oliver, who has had long associations with caves in NSW.

We have access to any caves we can find, and there are almost certainly heaps of caves out there that haven't

been found yet. There are also some caves on private land in the area, which we also have ready access to.

Generally speaking the caves have a reasonable amount of formation, some of it spectacular. There is a satisfying mixture of walking tunnels, crawls, squeezes and large chambers. There are plenty of unsurveyed areas and plenty of nooks and crannies to explore. Wonderful.

Usually after the first three minutes underground we are soaking in sweat and ready for a rest. After a good 15-20 minutes' rest we are ready for another 3 minutes serious caving, and this pattern is repeated for the next couple of hours. It's amazing how, if you time the fluid load properly, none of the water ingested beforehand reaches your bladder.

In one cave, Guy Cave, three of us were having a look around and discovered some new bits. There's a five metre squeeze which leads nowhere, has no formation called Sackie's Crawl. Sounds boring I know, but I can say that I am the only person to have been down there. We also found a lovely 20-30 metre Chamber with heaps of formation and with another exit to the surface all previously unknown.

The club has also done a trip to Indonesia (which unfortunately I couldn't go on), and there are more overseas trips planned for next year. Sounds pretty exotic, doesn't it, but it's actually cheaper for us to go north for a trip than south. Other activities Tess are involved in are: Abseiling, climbing, eating, drinking, home brewed beer, swimming in beautiful rock pools under shady gum trees all year round and sleeping. Sadly, there are no wineries for us to visit up here, but we have made it our mission to find the best hamburgers (sorry Clare). Mavis has been known to come on trips from time to time, looking very funky in an Hawaiian shirt. Mavis made me fall while climbing at Nourlargin Rock

in Kakadu, (not on a Rope), I was very lucky not to have been badly injured.

All in all, caving in the N.T. is well worthwhile and although the group is small, about 6 active members, we are enthusiastic and that's what counts. Anyone who is coming up here must come and experience the delights of being thoroughly soaked in sweat and dirt for hours at a time in caves that are off the beaten track for most Australian cavers.

Dr Sackie

**WINE FOR SALE
YES THERE ARE ONLY A
FEW BOTTLES OF THIS
LOVELY RED LEFT.**

**THE WINE CRITICS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR MASTERS OF WINE
HAVE GIVEN THIS WINE 146
POINTS OUT OF A POSSIBLE
20**

**FOR ITS COLOUR,
BOUQUET, FLAVOUR
AND FOR ITS ABILITY TO
HANG IN THERE IN THE
FACE OF ADVERSITY (I.E.
ALWAYS BEING DRUNK).**

**CRITICS OF THE INTERNA-
TIONAL SOCIETY OF MAS-
TERS OF WINE SAY THAT
THE MASTERS OF WINE DE-
GREE AS BEEN TAKEN BACK
AS THE PEOPLE INVOLVED
HAVE NOW JOINED THE OR-
GANISATION FOR THE
DRINKING OF HUNTER VAL-
LEY REDS AND THIS INDI-
CATES THAT THEY DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT THEY WERE
TALKING ABOUT IN THE
FIRST PLACE.**

**WINE FOR SALE:
\$5.00 PER BOTTLE
RING CLARE.**

NULLARBOR - 1990 CAVING TOUR

GROUP - John Callison (Trip Leader), Dave Brinsley, Pam Storer, Debbie Callison, Paul Waclawik, Rick Jeuken, Ian Callison, Adam Pentland, Di Brinsley and Sophie the Dog.



We left on the morn of the 6th July
Travelling by car, rather than fly.
We're off to the West to explore some caves
Planning to be away for about ten days.



We waited at Belair because Rick was late
He decided to sleep in 'till almost eight.
On the road again with all aboard
Equipment and food all securely stored.



Breakfast at Wakefield, Augusta for lunch.
Head for Ceduna and dinner we'll munch.
We'll camp overnight to rest weary eyes
Had to spray our bodies 'cost of mozzies and flies.

Camp site was set off the road you see.
With bushes and prickles and a lovely big tree.
We made the best of the surrounding area.
Hoping the mozzies were not infected with Malaria.

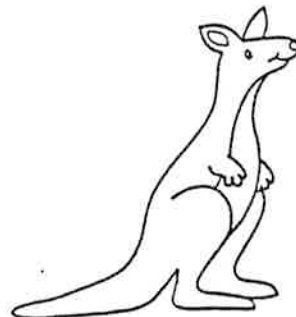


Saturday came and breakfast was had
Ian had his face washed, the poor little lad!
Six hundred K's we have yet to travel
Along bitumen and direct and sometimes gravel.



We stopped to look at the ocean so vast
It only took a minute - for a memory that will last.
We visited the owner at the Old Homestead.
She was pleased with the gift of a bottle of Red.

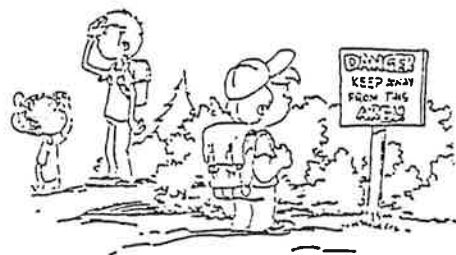
We chatted a while and then headed inland.
To continue our venture - a dream so grand.
An Echidna was spotted on the Homestead track
Rolled into a ball - 'til Dave turned it on it's back.



The Kangaroo jumped in front of Pam's car
Sophie rounded up the sheep that came from afar
We set up camp, had tea and a talk
To find Thampanna, we set off to walk.



Thampanna eluded us that particular time
Daylight came and we found the doline.
Excitement was evident by nearly one and all
Except for the cuddling of Debbie and Paul.



Kelly, Webbs, Thylacine caves were located
 Everyone's appetite became quite baited
 No-one slept too well that night
 Full moon was out and the stars were bright.



Thampanna Cave certainly was a caver's dream
 With lots of decoration, boulders and coffee'n cream
 Some really tight squeezes and lots of tight crawls
 Our bodies curled up to become quite small.

Webb's Cave was a magical mystery cave
 A string line guided you around the maze
 Abundant decoration was the order of the day
 We didn't want to leave - we wanted to stay.



Thylacine Hole set us in absolute awe
 Decorations like you have never seen before
 The gasps, the oohs, were well deserved
 In a cave of splendour so richly preserved.

The rain pouring down, a lunch fire was lit
 We all stood around-there was nowhere to sit
 John told the rain to p*** off out of here'
 He got soaking wet without his wet gear.



Kelly's Cave was fascinating and small
 A few rock piles and a couple of crawls
 A walk just over the top of the mound
 Surveyed a cavern that was decorated and round.

Thunder storms were threatening on Tuesday night
 The skies were incredible-my God what a sight
 With white fluffy clouds, dark black ones too
 The next time you looked it was brilliant blue.



Wednesday morn four vehicles cross the plains
 Nothing in sight - and sorry Matt - no trains!
 Dave was pleased with his new 4 runner
 Across the plains it was quite a stunner.



Witches Cave was absolutely nowhere to be found
 We searched two hours for that hole in the ground.
 We decided to become mountain goats for awhile
 Travelling down the escarpment in single file.



Back on the bitumen - heading for the pub
 With showers in mind, our bodies we'll scrub
 Fifty K's to Madura - it's getting hot in the car
 Looking forward to a cold beer at the Madura bar.



Camp set up on the Mullamullang track
 The Dome we'll conquer carrying backpacks
 Breakfast completed, the carbides made ready
 Five of us willing, but please, nice and steady.

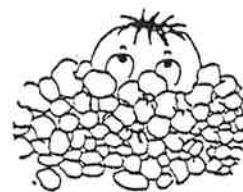


Con't p 6

At 12 o'clock three set out for Easter extension
 They wanted to explore that particular section
 Five went on in search of the Dome
 Over thousands of rocks they had to roam.



Whilst tramping over the rocks so huge
 I spotted some insects that John said were being 'rude'
 He made us all laugh as the conversation went wild
 Didn't last long though-in our presence was a child!



The Dome in sight, the adrenalin was pumping
 "We're here, we've reached it" - as Adam sat trumping!
 The book was signed to show our pleasure
 Of reaching the Dome - one of nature's treasures.



I left my camera down by the small lake
 Rick retrieved it - so their pictures I could take
 He signed the book a second time round
 'Cos he scrambled again the mighty big mound.



We arrived back at camp at the hour of eight
 Weary but proud of our accomplished fete
 It took eight hours to complete the loop
 Stories were swapped with the other group.



Pam's curry was delicious, it sure filled the gap.
 Sophie was quite comfortable asleep on my lap.
 The other group had missed the Easter extension
 They unfortunately had gone in the wrong direction.



Friday the 13th - ooh that mystical day
 To Abrakurrie we will make our way
 We'll wonder in amazement at the cavern so vast
 The holiday nearly over - time has gone so fast.



The track to Weebubbie was rough and nasty
 Travelling in the dark it became quite ghastly
 The camp was set up, the quickest one yet
 Weebubbie tomorrow and we'll all get wet.

John decided to sleep under a hitchie by his car.
 Whilst we experienced the iciest of weather so far.
 We're not quite sure what he was trying to prove.
 But he woke quite worried as 'something would move'.



Pam decided that home she must go
 With a thesis on her mind, it worried her so.
 She set out early on Saturday at daylight.
 Arrived on her doorstep at the stroke of midnight.



Con't p 7



Weebubbie was definitely a fun and relaxing cave
 We made lots of ripples and bloody great big waves.
 Our bodies responded to the clear, cold water
 They guys reckoned they had shrunk by at least a quarter!



A quick lunch, packed up and we're on our way
 To Ceduna we'll head where the night we will stay
 Sunday 15th, we will arrive back home
 With thoughts of our next trip and where we will roam.

We stayed at the Ceduna Caravan Park
 Learnt a new card game - what a lark!
 We all had fun, a giggle and a laugh.
 But all I really wanted was my bubble bath.



On the road again and it's home we will go.
 Left Adelaide when it was raining, and almost snow.
 Our weather was nearly always so good
 Certainly no threat of any flash flood.



We stopped for coffee and said our goodbyes.
 To a group of friends - what really good guys.
 We will meet them all again I am sure.
 On the next caver's magical mystery tour.

The trip was great, it was so much fun.
 Clare would have been proud of the language by some
 David was with us in a very special way
 My thanks to you - my friend he will stay.



I enjoy being a member of the group called FUSS
 With camping and Caving and all that stuff
 A trip report? Yes I'll give it a try
 Here's my version, with compliments and love from Di.

Di Brinsley

Announcement
(for the social pages):
(Cowaburger, folks! chance for a piss-up! ed.)

Guy Smith wishes to announce his imminent departure for colder climes.
(fool, ed)

In joyous anticipation, there will be an

Informal Valedictory Social Gathering

at his home on the evening of Saturday, 20th October.

All are invited.

Theme: British.

(Oh, that does it! I threw out all my British garb when I ceased being a convict. ed)

The editor also believes that a motion concerning

Fuss members in Exile

will be discussed.

EMUS, TIGERS AND MAVIS

Members present, Saturday: Clare Buswell, Jenny Laidlaw, Guy Smith, Carol and the radio version of the Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Sunday: John Callison, Ian Callison, Adam Pentland, Craig Williams, Tania Wilson.

It was a universal decision made late on Friday night that we would have a nice leisurely start to a Corra Lynn Trip, be at Henley Beach by nine and we may get away by ten depending on how long it takes to read the Saturday papers, drink a mug or two of coffee and of course, pack the car. The decision went further than that in the end, as there were only four of us going over for the Saturday we decided that we may as well trundle over to Innes National Park and have a look around. Who wanted to go caving when Hussain had just invaded Kuwait and Bush was rattling every toy in his borrowed Saudi sand pit? If it was a matter of when the bomb was going to be dropped then we wanted to enjoy the last rays of the sunset before the nuclear winter set in for good.

Finally got underway by mid morning, with a news report about the army maneuvering 200 trucks along the Port Wakefield Road and suggestions that the road be avoided.

Drove and drove till we got to the Minlaton Wild Life Park, which Guy suggested should be renamed the Minlaton Tame Life Park, because the emus are happy to share your lunch and anything else you cared to part with. Carol had her first encounter with the Native animals of Oz, nothing like the lions of Sri Lanka. Drove on to Innes National Park and looked at the Ethel Wreck, and then decided that if we were going to get any exercise for the day we should at least go for a walk along the beach. This caused Carol some concern as in Sri Lanka the beaches are shared, at life's peril, with lions, elephants and Tigers*. After some discussion about the lack of human eating animals in Oz and guerrilla movements, Carol changed her mind and it was

off on a "drawing lines in the sand" walk.

A few hours later saw us back at Curramulka sitting around the camp fire upholding Fuss's reputation of imbibing excellent wine and food and talking about how difficult life could be.

Sunday morning and the pace of the weekend picked up when John arrived at 8.30 suggesting that we might do some caving today. Breakfast then ceased to be a calm "sit in the sun and read the rest of yesterday's newspaper" affair.

Trundled over to Y1 and met up with some Cegsa people who were waiting for the rest of their group to arrive. Mavis reappeared having, on the Saturday, caused Clare to forget some Indemnity Forms. This time Mavis was disguised as Guy wearing a tie and his trog gear. We concluded from this that Mavis doesn't know anything about the Middle East Crisis or cruise missiles, but could possibly be responsible for a new type of triangular bandage. Only Guy would know.

Graham Pilkington arrived with heaps of Indemnity Forms and the day's activities began with a sojourn out to Grand Central for some and a navigational exercise out above Bushwalkers Runs for others. Carol wasn't too sure about bears and what lived in Y1. I knew for a fact that emu's didn't.

Both groups meet in Bushwalkers Chamber and the words Gravity Cavity wafted across the universal space time continuum. Little did we know that this was Mavis's doing. Life for the next hour for some was going to consist of: crawl, going around in a circle, crawl, crawl back into the dim dark mists of time, humming *Also Sprach Zarathustra* whilst getting stuck looking for those cheesegrater rocks and finding G C according to the map. As for reality? It made sense to us at the time and we knew that, philosophically, crawling was good for

something. Middle Eastern war games perhaps!

Meanwhile Guy and a number of others set off to follow the lead of his tie, or was it Craig? Guy's tie seemed to lead into the area of Dick's extension. Craig's lead led to ??? No, it was not in the direction of exit but it followed the map perfectly out to Crystal Chamber via grovelling and associated modes of perambulation. Guy's tie, on the other hand, was used to find the way back, which was not very difficult seeing that Guy had trained it quite well.

Meanwhile the gravitational pull of G C had lured John and Co through a rock pile or two, along overall eating rocks followed by skin eating rocks, followed by lunch eating rocks, i.e. you're stuck and can't go anywhere. At this stage the relative comforts of Octopus Chamber took hold and it was decided to cut one's losses, lots of skin, sand rash caused by your overalls' extensive air conditioning system, and dust. John and Adam hauled Clare out of the jaws of the hungry rocks and Ian made himself useful by supplying chocolate. More of a peace offering to Clare as either he couldn't be fagged going down the same skin removing squeeze or he is not into being heavily dusted from head to foot.

We left for Octopus chamber and the exit via the stomach mode of transport and ended up meeting Guy's group just after Craig decided that Guy's tie didn't know the way out. Craig was wrong.

We exited for lunch and the after dinner game of cricket, which lasted longer than it should. By this time it was decided that drop bears don't live in Corra Lynn but the two watch birds by the door certainly did.

Mavis

* The Tamil Tigers who fight for the Independent State of Eelam.

CAVE MANAGEMENT 1 B: USERS.

Introduction

A month or so ago the National Parks and Wildlife Service of South Australia released for public comment a draft policy to "Manage Public Access to Caves in NPWS Reserves". The release of the paper marks an important stage in the debate about public access and cave management practices in relation to speleologists in that it attempts to categorise speleos and set up a formal accreditation process. It says little concerning other user groups. It also raises wider philosophical questions concerning the classification of users of "wilderness", and could have wider application to other areas of recreation, such as bushwalking, rock climbing etc.

The aim of this article is to look at users and regimes which may help or hinder both users and managers in their ability to understand, protect and conserve Australia's Karst Systems. For the purposes of this article let me divide user regimes into two types, self imposed and externally imposed.

First, it must be recognised that the users of karst systems are many and varied and that Karst systems have been used for many thousands of years. Users range from bats, bugs, fungi and spiders through to speleos, tourists, school groups, scientists, managers, rock hounds and mining companies. Each of these users has different requirements of the resource; sometimes these requirements cause conflict between users and sometimes these requirements put users on common ground. Let's look at speleologists.

Speleologists and Self Regulation. The ASF.

In Oz there are about 600 people who belong to caving groups which are full members of the ASF. There are also many others associated with the ASF and others that remain outside of the national organisation. For the majority of the ASF linked groups it means participating in the formulation of, and abiding by, guidelines set up by the ASF concerning ethics of how to behave in caves, safety procedures,

data collection and management practices. Some of them have, at some time or other, spent time and energy trying to expand the pool of knowledge that we have about Karst. Most of the members of these groups respect, have an understanding of and care for the cave environment.

Speleos go underground primarily as a recreational activity. They do what they do because they enjoy it and part of that enjoyment is linked to finding out what is going on in the karst system. So speleo's tend to end up exploring, digging, mapping, chasing water systems, collecting fossils etc. Some management organisations do this work also, but it is more often than not dependent on their time tables and the Gov't willingness to fund research.

Speleo Groups: Local Rules

Most Speleo groups have some type of programme that its members follow to become skilled cavers. These programmes vary from organisation to organisation in detail and implementation and are often dictated by the type of karst system that the group frequents. For example, S.A. cavers are not in a position to use SRT as much as say, the Tasi and NSW groups, due to the lack of a large number of vertical caves in the state. Thus for the South Oz cavers not as much emphasis is placed on SRT as would be the case for some interstate groups.¹

Strictness of adherence to the organisation's programmes is also dictated by the group's position within other organisations. For example, in S.A., the Scout Caving Group, because it is bound by its national body, has a fairly detailed programme which takes people from Novice status, though Trip leader, up to Party leader level. The programme has a formal testing process enabling people to move from one level to another.

On the other hand, Cegsa and Fuss, as autonomous organisations, are not part of a Gov't supported or regulated body as is, say, the SES, and are really only bound by ASF guidelines and rules of their own making. Both Cegsa and Fuss

make distinctions between associate/novice status and full member status, based on the number of hours underground, the type of karst systems visited and one's ability to lead and organise trips. No formal testing of skills is carried out. Members choose to learn the skills that they want in their own time scale, depending on where they want to go and what they want to do.

The vast majority of speleos are trying to conserve the resource, they do not want to trog a site or karst system to death. They recognize that visiting caves causes damage to the cave environment and hence why they attempt to teach members of their organisations how to behave in caves. In this context, the majority of speleos are happy to see access to caves of high value limited. Indeed, this is already happening in W.A. and in North QLD where the speleo groups limit the number of visits to caves per year in an effort to protect the caves from overuse.²

This is basically a speleo imposed Permit system. Care must be taken to ensure that the system is working and if the traffic level, and speleo behaviour is causing damage, then the limits on access should increase.

Externally Imposed Regimes

Permit Systems.

Permit systems operate in a number of National Parks controlled caves. In Tasi, proposals are in train to limit the number in a party visiting Kubla Khan, Croesus and Lynds to six, and to 12 in all other permit caves. At least half the members of these parties must be current financial members of an ASF affiliated club. Individual clubs will be permitted a maximum of four trips into Kubla Khan per calendar year and are then limited to marked trails and regulations about not tramping mud over formations etc.³

The permit system at Yarangobilly in NSW similarly limits cave access

CAVE MANAGEMENT 1 B: USERS.

to ASF affiliates the number of people on a trip to 12. Track markers must be followed and clothes removed when visiting areas of clean and/or delicate formation.

A similar system exists at Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park. Currently it helps management to know when groups are going to be in the Reserve, what caves they are going to visit and what they intend to do in those caves.

Permit systems as they stand vary from location to location and can, if implemented with managers going on the odd trip with speleo groups, as occurs at Yarrangobilly and Jenolan, give managers an ability to assess both the skill level of the group and the cumulative damage level occurring in the cave/s.

Caver Accreditation Systems.

The aim of this type of system, is to enable managers to make decisions on who can enter a cave or a system of caves, because they have the skills to cave safely and with minimal impact on the resource. The system can also enable speleo groups to think out clearly what it is that makes a person competent and train their members accordingly.

Worboys outlined three levels of caver in 1976/77, they were: Experienced Caver, Caver and Novice.⁴ The levels clearly stated what is expected, with a Novice being defined as "one who has no previous caving experience or has not in the opinion of the experienced caver, had sufficient caving experience to be familiar with the basics of cave safety and caving techniques".⁵

A caver is one who has the necessary sense of responsibility to ensure the protection of the cavern, who has trained in cave safety and caving techniques, but may not be as proficient as an experienced caver.⁶

An experienced caver, according to Worboys, must be able to demonstrate a proficiency in the use of

knots, ladders, abseiling, belaying, basic first aid, trip organisation, surveying techniques, and an ability to lead trips ensuring the safety of the party and the protection of the cavern[s].⁷

The Draft Policy on Public Access to Caves in SA NPWS Reserves (DPAC), as it currently stands, sets out another caver accreditation process of three different levels of caver: Novice, Competent Caver and Expedition Leader. The system proposed is the following:

A novice caver is somebody who is able to demonstrate:

- a knowledge of the ASF Inc. code of ethics, safety and cave conservation,
- a knowledge of the relevant regulations of the NPWS Act, 1972, and
- an understanding of the aims and objectives of the NPWS in managing caves.⁸

A Competent Caver is somebody who can demonstrate:

- a knowledge of the use of ropes, ladders, belays and anchors,
- safety precautions applicable to cave exploration,
- an ability in rendering first aid,
- an ability to lead a party underground,
- a knowledge of cave development and relate such to novices under supervision,
- a knowledge of search and rescue procedures,
- a knowledge of cave map interpretation,
- be competent in the skills required in any specific physical caving activity, and
- maintain and produce a log of caving experience and activity.⁹

An Expedition leader must be qualified as a Competent Caver, be over 18 years of age, have a first aid certificate, completed a minimum of 100 hours of caving in at least 2 different cave systems, participated in a detailed caving project, has a working knowledge of SRT, and has sufficient maturity, technical skills, experience and teaching ability to competently instruct in caving principles and ethics.¹⁰

These are but two examples of caver accreditation or classification. Undoubtedly, speleo groups might modify the requirements depending on the region they visit most or other local restrictions. Herein lie some problems.

Damage to caves fits into a number of categories. Firstly, there is wanton destruction caused by the smashing of cave decorations, removing formations etc. Secondly, there is carelessness and irresponsibility, the leaving of rubbish, lighting fires camping or smoking in caves, unnecessary trampling of new pathways, breaking formations or urinating or defecating in caves. Thirdly, there is wear and tear: progressive widening of paths, smoothing of crawls and squeezes, building up of mud along routes and disturbance of sediments.¹¹

Belonging to speleological groups who educate their members about the cave environment, and pass on a philosophy of caving with minimal impact helps prevent all three types of damage done to caves. The third type can be further alleviated by permit systems and by resting caves or areas within caves over a number of years. It is the authors view that, of the various users of caves, speleoes cause the least per capita damage.

There is also a fourth type of damage and that is in the area of blasting open passages, digging, marking routes, excavating etc. This damage is a form of modification of the cave environment, both speleoes and managers do it.¹² Without it a good percentage of the show caves we currently have would not be in existence, and the exploration of a number of karst systems would not have occurred. The issue is whether or not the damage done outweighs the gains made.

If our aim is to firstly conserve the resource because of its intrinsic value and secondly, to try and work out a process which gives both managers and speleo's a set of ra-

CAVE MANAGEMENT 1B: USERS

tional guidelines which enable us to understand karst systems and to ensure that its conservation occurs, permit systems, caver licensing and self imposed rules by speleos can help with the latter but will not really solve the problems which cause the great percentage of cave vandalism which is deliberate and usually done by people outside of the caving fraternity.

If managers are really concerned with managing the resource and no longer want to be in the position of making arbitrary decisions on who goes where and why because they know so and so, then the caver classification scheme coupled with a good cave classification programme will go a long way to achieving both these aims.

The cave classification system must bear some correlation to the experience level of the caver.¹³ For the combination of the systems to occur and to work all interested parties must be consulted.

As it stands, both the Worboys and Dunkley systems are concerned with categorizing valuable sites in a karst system and imply a system of access based on the higher the cave/site classification the more limited the access and the more skilled you have to be to visit it. Neither of their systems outline what those skills are. Nor are these two systems applied on a national basis. What seems to be happening is that a combination of both systems is being used in different parts of the country.¹⁵ This not only reflects the need to have a flexible system which acknowledges local variations, but also reflects a degree of confusion on cave management systems by managers.

Similarly, if we are to find a system of Caver Accreditation that is workable then it must be usable on a national level and yet be able to be applied to regional situations which means being able to cope with the differing requirements of speleo groups. It should not cost the earth

to administer.¹⁴ Further, if it is found that it is not a viable option then it should be let go.

What we must all bear in mind however, is that we are really only looking at a small percentage of the total users of the Karst systems. The majority of users are the people who visit show caves. The mining companies probably make the most money!

Let's keep thinking.

C. Buswell

Endnotes:

1. South Australia has around about a half a dozen vertical caves; the rest are either walk in or a short ladder pitch. Most SRT work is done when a group plans a trip interstate.
2. See the Chillagoe Caving Club Inc. 1989 Annual Report. pp. 17—18.
3. Dept. of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage Permit Form as presented to the ASF Council meeting in Jindabyne by the Northern Caverneers Inc., Jan. 30/31 1990.
4. Worboys G., A Basis for Cave Management. In: Spate A.P., Brush J., Coggan M., Proceedings of the Eleventh Biennial Conference. ASF Canberra. 1977. pp. 7—16.
5. Ibid. p. 14.
6. Ibid. p. 13.
7. Ibid. p. 13.
8. Draft Policy on Public Access to Caves in NPWS Reserves. p. 11.
9. Ibid. p. 11.
10. Ibid. p. 12.
11. Planning Sheet No 5. Cave Management. Parks Wildlife and Heritage Tasmania. Presented to the ASF Council meeting in Jindabyne by the Northern Caverneers Inc., Jan. 30/31 1990.
12. The changes which management organisations make to show caves are quite severe, and some of them have, over time, been recognised as management vandalism, e.g., wire cages built to contain the odd straying hand, is one example which comes to mind. One could also add the number of visitors put through cave systems per year could contribute to vandalism in terms of the problems being caused by the

lint buildup and the mud buildup that inevitably finds its way down through the floor of the cave. Concrete pathways alter the floor and in many cases become calcified over. Entrances are blasted out and steps built in. But maybe show caves are a way of conserving the wider system from overuse and at the same time enabling the cave to be seen by a majority of the public.

13. There is some debate in the USA on whether and how to classify caves in terms of difficulty, much along the lines of climbs, canoeing routes and bushwalks. The aim of the rating system is to give an individual an idea of what is to be expected in a trip and gauge if she/he is capable of getting through it before they enter the cave. Thus, a 200 metre stoop followed by a 100 metre crawl on hands and knees, followed by a ten metre stomach crawl with a couple of right hand bends in it becomes a 5.6 for example. There are some problems with the scheme. For example, the ability to negotiate a crawl relates not just to one's ability to crawl, but to the size and length of the crawl, if it has bends in it and one's own body size. Thus skill level relates to the ease or difficulty of negotiating one's way through a system or a group of sites. Further, this rating system bears little or no relation to other values of sites or systems in terms of the presence of speleothems, bat usage or spider population. See: cavers@m2c.org, an e-mail cavers mailing list.

14. If administered by speolos then maybe they should be compensated for their time. We must however be careful not to create a situation of elitism, where caving costs the earth and only those who can afford it can participate in it. That is a recipe for creating ignorance and no doubt increased vandalism.

15. See for example the Draft plan to manage public access to caves in SA NPWS Reserves and Parks.

SPELEAN TIED HARNESS

(A) A very safe and simple improvised free style harness can be constructed from between 4 and 5 metres of 50mm rated tape.

(B) As shown in Figure 1, a Tape Knot is tied on the bight to form a loop with a diameter of about 50mm. Sufficient tail should be left out of the knot to pass around the thigh, then feed completely back through the knot (in Tape Knot pattern) so as to lock off the leg loop. Once this action is completed, around 75mm of free tail should be left out of the knot.

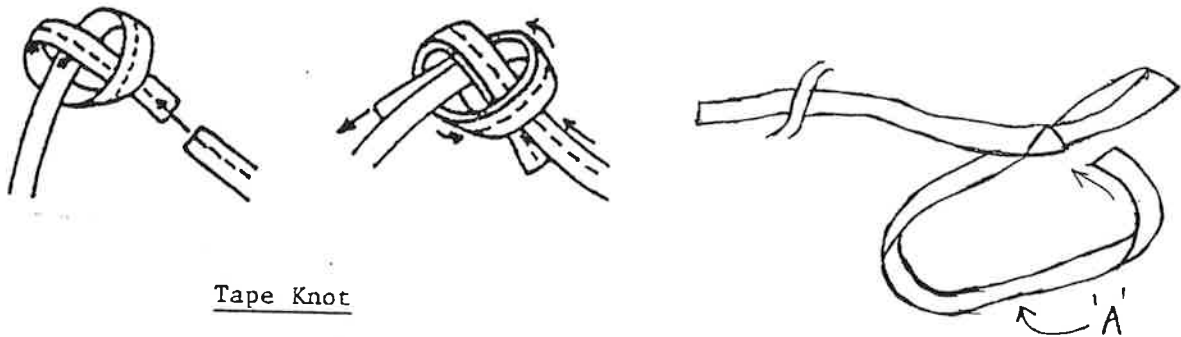
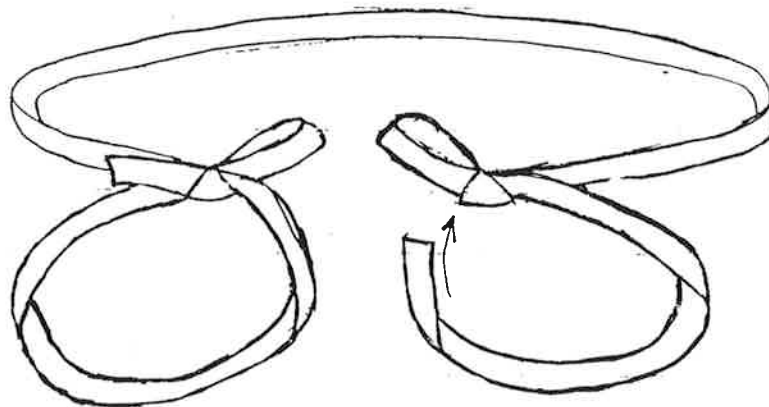


Figure 1

(C) Whilst in a sitting position, the remainder of the tape is taken around behind the body at mid-buttock level. A second thigh loop is formed, once again with a 75mm tail. Both of the 50mm loops should be positioned in front of the body, about 50mm apart, and just below belt buckle level. (Figure 2)



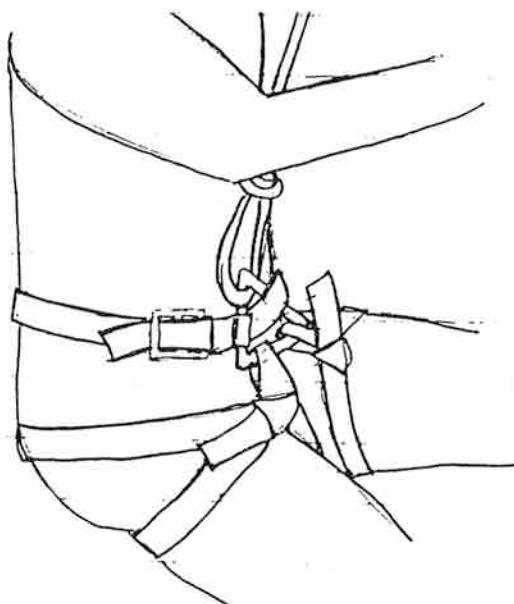
(Figure 2)

Con't p 13

SPELEAN TIED HARNESS

(D) WARNING: The harness must be worn with a rated belt of tape waist line. It is recommended that a delta maillon is used to hold the harness and waistline together, and serve as an attachment point. (Figure 3).

(E) When a waist tape line is set up, a further 3-4 metres of tape is required. The tape is taken around the waist twice and finished with a Tape Knot.



(Figure 3)

Flinders University Speleological Society
Presents a seminar on

**Cave Management and Caver Access
in South Australian Caves**
by Mr. Brian Clark.

**National Parks and Wildlife Service
Ranger in Charge,
Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park.**

**Monday October 1st, 7pm
Purple Lounge, Union Building.
Wine and Cheese will be provided.**

TROG DELIGHTS

LIBRARY NEWS

Mavis ended up in the Fuss library the other day, pulled all the material from the shelves and found the following New additions.

Australian Caver No. 124. 1990.
List of 1990 Member Organisations: Notices and News: Down Under all Over: Srgwa: A very good article on how a group of four cavers waited out the flooding of the Growling Swallett System in the Junee Florintine area in Tasi: Abstracts of speleo publications from around the world: Request for the caving community to write letters to Ministers for the Environment expressing their concerns over the problems at Bungonia: a trip report to the caves on Christmas Island.

SUSS Bull 30.(2) 1990.
Programme: Editorial: Letters to the Editor: News and Notes: Trip reports to: Timor, Wyambene, Wombeyan, Bungonia and Jenolan: Tagging at Tuglow: Lists of the deepest caves in New Zealand, Tasi and the World: Article outlining the requirements of trip leaders and selection processes: Caving as a Tantric Meditation: and numerous newspaper clippings on the Tasmanian caving accident in July, and a rubbish clean up day at Jenolan.

Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society. Vol. 34 No. 8. 1990.

Reports on: Tagging around the Bungonia Area: A book review of Basil Ralston's book, *Jenolan the Golden Age of Caving*: Letters to the Editor Abstracts of Journals received: Presidents Column.

Nargan The Newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association. Vol. 23 No. 3, Sept 1990.

Programme for the four months: Letter to the editor: notices from the

VSA, in particular the closure of Kubla Khan Cave whilst a plan of management is prepared: List of the worlds longest and deepest caves: note from the International Computer Mailbox 'daemon@iuvax'. concerning the various origins of the word "spelunca": Note on VSA first aid kits and procedures.

Troglodyte Newsletter of the Northern Cavekeepers Inc. Tasmania. Vol. 2 No. 7. Aug 90.

Notice concerning the Closure of Kubla Khan Cave and a Clean up the cave: mapping of the Mill Creek/Erks Loop Area: Meetings with the Head Ranger at Mole Creek: First Aid Courses: Gov't plans around Croesus Cave and its management: Notice concerning the 1992 ASF Conference in Tasi: The Northern Cavekeepers will be celebrating the 31st birthday of their club in 1991: Article on the Early White Settlers of the Mole Creek District: Letters concerning the closure of Kubla Khan cave and Croesus cave from the Dep't of Parks Wildlife and Heritage.

Cegsa Newsletter Vol. 35 No. 2 June 1990.

Editorial concerning access to Naracoorte: Trip reports to the Lower South East and Thailand: Library acquisitions list: Article on the collection of Bones from Corra Lynn: Update on gear hire, key fees and helmets: Programme for July - September.

Draft Management Plans for the Naracoorte, Tantanoola and Picaninne Ponds area: and the draft Policy on Public Access to Caves in South Australian National Parks and Reserves.

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

Do you
want to know
about who has written on
Moon Milk,
or Bats
or
the Hydrology of the South
East of S. A
or
what bones have been found
in Corra Lynn Cave?

**Then the best place
to look is in**

Australian Speleo Abstracts 1976 - 79.

Edited by G. Middleton.

It contains abstracts of
everything that has been
published
on cave and caving
in Australia since
1976 to 1979.

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recent collection of material
relating to caving and caves
in Australia and is
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## Second Semester Programme

|                                                   |      |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, 1/10                                      | 7pm  | General Meeting. <b>Talk on Cave Management</b><br>National Parks and Wildlife - Brian Clark.<br>Purple Lounge. Flinders University   |
| Wednesday, 10/10                                  | 11am | <b>Fair Day</b> Flinders Uni.                                                                                                         |
| Saturday, 20/10                                   |      | <b>Guy's Farewell Party,</b><br>Bring your own Margie Thatcher.                                                                       |
| Sat.-Sun., 27-28/10                               |      | <b>CAVING SKILLS WEEKEND.</b> Cave<br>Search/rescue weekend Corra-Lynn. This is<br>the <b>last trip</b> into Corra Lynn for the year. |
| Wednesday, 31/10                                  |      | <b>Deadline for Public Comments</b> on the<br>Draft Policy on public access to caves in S.A<br>National Parks.                        |
| Sunday, 4/11                                      | 10am | <b>Abseiling Clinic.</b> Onkaparinga Gorge<br>(Weather permitting).                                                                   |
| Tuesday, 6/11                                     | 7pm  | <b>General Meeting.</b>                                                                                                               |
| <b>TERM ENDS NOV 9</b><br><b>EXAMS 9 - 30 NOV</b> |      |                                                                                                                                       |
| Sat.- Sun., 24-25/11                              |      | <b>Naracoorte Mapping.</b> Jenny Laidlaw<br>Co-ordinator.                                                                             |
| Sunday, 3/12                                      | 7pm  | <b>End of Year Celebration Caving Dinner</b><br>Henley Beach.                                                                         |
| Dec. 20th? onwards                                |      | <b>Pre Cave Leeuwin Trips Nullarbor.</b><br>Co-ordinated by G. Pilkington, Cegsa.                                                     |
| Dec. 30-Jan. 5, 1991                              |      | <b>Cave Leeuwin Perth.</b>                                                                                                            |

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: END OF **OCTOBER**



CAVE LEEUWIN

A NOTE FROM THE ORGANISERS.

DUE to procedural problems, the costing of the Conference has suffered numerous delays in formulation. However, at long last here it is and the organizing committee would be very grateful indeed if you could disseminate this information to your members as soon as humanly possible, if not even quicker.

REGISTRATION: includes FIELD BOOK
PROCEEDINGS
ICE BREAKER BARBEQUE.....\$35.00

OTHER COSTS: NEW YEAR'S EVE BARBEQUE (BYO).....\$10.00 est.
CAVE PERSON'S DINNER, (watchout Flintstones).\$17.00
Daily lunch vouchers will be on sale at the Conference.

OPTIONS Conference "T" Shirts will be available
Registrants of the Conference will have access to discount cave tours.

PAYMENTS 50% DEPOSIT REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 30, 1990.
FINAL PAYMENT REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 30, 1990.

A late fee of \$5.00 applies to all payments made after December 7, 1990 with the exception of the photographic competition.

FINE PRINT: As you can appreciate, some of the above prices were formulated prior to the commencement of events in the Middle East. Therefore, the above prices are subject to variation without notice due to the current uncertainties in relation to the Middle East crisis and its effects on fuel prices.

PAPERS: By the time you have read this, the October 1 deadline for completed papers will have expired. However, papers will still be accepted up to December 16, provided they are on electronic format, (floppy disk) and accompanied by a hard (typed) copy.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: Intending participants are reminded that there is a competition and you do not have to attend the conference to enter. Competition details are listed in Australian Caver #123. A \$3.00 fee per category is applicable and payable up to and including January 2, 1991.

**HAVE YOU ARRANGED YOUR TRANSPORT
TO CAVE LEEUWIN YET?**