

# ASF

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1975 - Autumn

# No. 67

? KUBLA KHAN

Quote:

ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN  
THE A.S.F. NEWSLETTER  
AND SPELEO SPIEL IS  
PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

SOUTH - WEST

# AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS :

President NICHOLAS WHITE  
Vice President ANDREW SPATE  
LEX BROWN  
ANDREW SKINNER  
Secretary ANTHONY CULBERG  
Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer JOHN TAYLOR

123 Manningham St., Parkville, Vic. 3052  
1 Hoskins St., Hall, A.C.T. 2600  
45 Nelson St., Corinda Qld. 4075  
18 Nixon St., Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005  
16 Nelumie St., Lindisfarne, Tas. 7015

C/- D.M.R., P.O. Box 399, Bega, N.S.W. 2550

## CONVENORS OF COMMISSIONS :

Bibliography GREGORY MIDDLETON  
Biological ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH  
Cave Safety LLOYD ROBINSON  
Speleo Handbook PETER MATTHEWS  
International Relations ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH  
JOHN DUNKLEY  
Library BRIAN LeFOE  
Longest & Deepest Caves ROSS ELLIS  
Newsletter LAURIE MOODY  
Conservation ADRIAN DAVEY  
Survey Standards EDWARD ANDERSON  
Ethics HENRY SHANNON  
"Australian Speleology" ANDREW PAVEY

P.O. Box 269, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005  
P.O. Box 36, Carlton South, Vic. 3053  
167 Mt. Keira Rd., Mt. Keira, N.S.W. 2500  
66 Frogmore Crescent, Park Orchards, Vic. 3114  
Address — as above  
3 Stops Place, Chifley, A.C.T. 2606  
C/- D.M.R., P.O. Box 696, Orange, N.S.W. 2800  
14/10 Fourth Avenue, Campsie, N.S.W. 2194  
13 Mason St., Claremont, Tas. 7011  
36 Davis Ave, South Yarra, Vic. 3141  
School of Surveying, Uni. of N.S.W. Kensington, N.S.W. 2033  
44 McCaul St., Taringa, Qld. 4068  
C/- 100 Pitt Rd., North Curl, Curl, N.S.W. 2099

## CONVENORS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES :

Cave Documentation PETER MATTHEWS  
Cave Tourism ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH  
and ROY SKINNER  
Membership Structure BENJAMIN NURSE  
Pacific Conference IAN WOOD  
Convenors of State Liaison  
Councils IAN BOGG

66 Frogmore Crescent, Park, Orchards Vic. 3114  
P.O. Box 36, Carlton Sth., Vic. 3053  
12 Nixon St., Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005  
P.O. Box 373, Potts Point, N.S.W. 2011  
P.O. Box 174 North Ryde N.S.W. 2113  
24 Scott St., Springwood N.S.W. 2777

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS :

### ACT. :

CANBERRA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

P.O. Box 530, Canberra City, 2600  
C/- Sports Union, Australian National University, 2600

### N.S.W. :

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB  
HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP  
ILLAWARRA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
KEMPSEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MACQUARIE UNI. SPELEO. INVESTIGATION GROUP  
METROPOLITAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
N.S.W. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SPELEOLOGICAL SOC  
ORANGE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
SYDNEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEO. SOCIETY  
UNI. OF N.S.W. SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 37, Glenbrook, N.S.W. 2773  
44 King St., St. Mary's N.S.W. 2760  
P.O. Box 94, Unanderra, N.S.W. 2526  
2 Albert St., Kempsey, N.S.W. 2440  
C/- Sports Assoc., Macquarie Uni. Nth Ryde, 2113  
P.O. Box E, 120, St. James, 2000  
P.O. Box J38, Brickfield Hill, N.S.W. 2000  
P.O. Box 752, Orange, N.S.W. 2800  
P.O. Box 198, Broadway, N.S.W. 2007  
Box 35, The Union, Sydney Uni. 2006  
Box 17, The Union, Uni of N.S.W., Kensington, N.S.W. 2033

### VICTORIA :

VICTORIAN SPELEO. ASSOCIATION

G.P.O. Box 5425 CC, Melbourne, Vic., 3001

### QUEENSLAND :

CENTRAL Q'LAND SPELEO. SOCIETY  
UNI. OF Q'LAND SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 538, Rockhampton, Q'land 4700  
The Union Uni. of Q'land, St. Lucia, Q'land 4067

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA :

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (Sth. Australia)

C/- South Aust. Museum, Nth. Terrace, Adelaide 5000

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA :

WESTERN AUSTRALIA SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP

P.O. Box 67, Nedlands, W.A. 6009

### TASMANIA :

NORTHERN CAVENEERS  
SOUTHERN CAVING SOCIETY  
TASMANIAN CAVENEERING CLUB

P.O. Box 315, Launceston, Tas. 7250  
P.O. Box 121, Moonah, Tasmania, 7009  
P.O. Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS :

BERMAGUI SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB  
ENDEAVOUR SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOC.  
LAUNCESTON SPELEO. CLUB  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP  
PENINSULA SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP  
SPELEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP W.A.

C/- Bermagui Country Club, Bermagui, N.S.W. 2547  
7 Martyn St., Cairns, Qld., 4870  
6 Attunga Rd., Miranda, N.S.W. 2228  
P.O. Box 120, Hadspen, Tas. 7256  
C/- R. M. Bourke, D.A.S.F., Keravat, East New Britain, P.N.G.  
P.O. Box 250, Mona Vale, N.S.W. 2103  
P.O. Box 120, Nedlands, W.A. 6009

NUMBER 67, AUTUMN 1975

CONTENTS

Editorial	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Notices	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2
ASF CODE OF ETHICS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2
SAFETY RULES FOR ABSEILING		*	*	*	*	*	*	3
CAVE SAFETY RECOMMENDED CODE OF PRACTICE			*	*	*	*	*	5
WHAT IS A CAVE LIKE KUBLA KHAN FOR?			*	*	*	Roy Skinner	*	6
BELAYING	*	*	*	*	*	Tony Culberg	*	7
CAVE ACCIDENT REPORT	*	*	*	*	*	Norman Poulter	*	8
SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA - DON'T TREAT IT LIGHTLY!	*	*	*	*	*	Laurie Moody	*	10
Down Under All Over:-								
News from around the Societies			*	*	*	by the Editor	*	10
Other News	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12

EDITORIAL.

- Apologies to one and all! As you are no doubt aware by now, ASF Newsletter has had a number of problems in regards to publication since the SPRING issue of 1974. Firstly, we lost the services of John Dunkley and secondly, it became apparent that no-one could be "conned" into taking over as Editor. John's resignation meant that the SUMMER issue (No. 66) was left un-completed.

Eventually, Andrew Spate was "persuaded" to complete this particular issue but was un-available for any further editions. An approach was made to me in March and after some "préssure" from ASF secretary, Tony Culberg and ASF vice-president, Andrew Skinner, I agreed to "have a go"! However, as this is my first attempt at editing a major magazine, I humbly ask that you all bear with me until I am able to get myself fully established. In an attempt to put the ASF Newsletter back on a firm footing, I would like to inform one and all that a dead-line date for future copy will be a feature beneath the editorial of further issues. This will enable contributors to keep their reports etc. up to date. However, as this particular issue and the WINTER one will be speeded up to make up for lost time, suggested date for WINTER issue is no later than AUGUST 1st.

You may have also noticed that we have changed to A4 paper as Quarto is fast disappearing from the market. Moves are also afoot to have the Newsletter printed, collated etc. in Melbourne. As I have yet to receive the SUMMER issue myself, I have no idea what it contains and it is possible that some items may appear twice. Special thanks are extended to Andrew Spate for the work and time that he put in on the SUMMER edition. Thanks are also due to John Dunkley for past services rendered to the Club in the capacity of Editor and his services will undoubtedly be missed.

Our AUTUMN issue is mostly dedicated to aspects of cave safety and the like. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask all contributors for material and assure them that every effort will be made to keep the ASF Newsletter up with the news. It may also be fair to mention at this stage, that any similarity between this magazine and the TCC magazine, "Speleo Spiel" is entirely accidental and recent rumours concerning the "under-mining" of ASF by TCC - are undoubtedly a figment of the imagination!

REMINDER - DEADLINE FOR COPY - WINTER ISSUE - NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1ST.

NOTICES.

## NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE.

Please address all correspondence for inclusion in Newsletter to -

LAURIE MOODY, 13 Mason Street, Claremont, TASMANIA. 7011.

## SLIDES OF KUBLA KHAN FILMING TRIP.

John Carmichael has advised us that a collection of 30 slides taken during the filming venture in February, are now available at the "cheap-cheap" price of 35c per slide. This also includes the postage. All in all, the set works out at around \$10 but you must buy the full set - no picking or choosing allowed! If you are interested in obtaining this most interesting set of unique slides, contact -

JOHN CARMICHAEL, 108 Arden Street, Coogee, NSW. 2034.

## CLIEFDEN CAVES THREATENED.

Cliefden Caves, near Orange in NSW, is threatened by a proposed dam which will supply water to the new Bathurst-Orange Growth Centre. UNSWSS are preparing a submission on the area for presentation by ASF and would appreciate support from other Societies in this important matter. You are asked to contact UNSWSS if you have any suggestions or special knowledge of this area. Data is being collected regarding usage by speleologists and if you have run any trips to this area, the following is required:- Date of each trip; number who attended and purpose of that trip. Please forward any information to -

UNSWSS, Box 17, The Union, University of NSW, P.O. Box 1, Kensington. 2033.

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \*

## AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION - CODE OF ETHICS.

A motion was passed during the Conference in January that the Code of Ethics be published. It hereby appears below:-

1. (a) They will in reporting their work, avoid and discourage sensationalism, exaggeration and unwarranted statements.
- (b) They will in publishing their work take particular care to acknowledge other people's contributions to the work involved; either as clubs or individuals, published work, personal communication or whatever.
- (c) They will be discreet in disseminating information that might endanger caves. In particular they should not broadcast their knowledge of entrance locations or routes.
2. (a) They will treat guides and other officials of tourist caves courteously and respectfully.
- (b) They will endeavour to be courteous to the general public but will defend caves from the attentions of the un-instructed where this is deemed necessary for the protection of the cave.
3. (a) They will carefully observe the established rules of good camping. Conduct especially in the removal and proper disposal of rubbish.
- (b) They will bury their faeces when camping in bush conditions but should avoid the catchment areas of caves.
4. (a) They will have specific or tacit approval from the owner or guardian before entering private property or caves reserves.
- (b) They will follow normal procedures regarding gates on properties or reserves.
- (c) They will not, except in cases of emergency, presume on the goodwill of owners in dry areas for supplies of water. Prior arrangements must be made.
- (d) They will take care to avoid interference with stock or crops.
- (e) They will, where a cave entrance has been blocked by the owner to prevent injury to livestock, reblock the entrance after use and liaise with the owner to erect some fence or other less offensive means to protect the integrity of the entrance.

5. (a) They will not leave rubbish in caves; their own or other peoples' Spent carbide, flash bulbs, wrappings and other refuse must be brought out of the cave.
- (b) They will not disfigure caves by any unnecessary markings. Survey marks should be small and inconspicuous.
- (c) They will take care to avoid disfiguration or destruction of cave decoration or any other natural features of the cave. Disturbance should be confined to tracks. In areas of clean flowstone floors, muddy clothing or boots must be removed and only clean clothing worn. Tracks should be rigidly adhered to. Helmets should be removed in the vicinity of stalactite clusters.
- (d) They will not under any circumstances leave faeces in caves; they will prepare themselves beforehand or, when underground, make provision for the removal of faeces.
- (e) They will take stringent precautions to isolate artificially introduced organic wastes from the cave.
6. (a) They will, when visiting an area frequently visited by another club, do all in their power to co-operate with that club.
- (b) They will conduct disputes in a restrained and gentlemanly manner.
7. (a) They will behave responsibly in environmental matters.
- (b) They will endeavour to protect the caves of Australia.

\*   -   \*   -   \*   -   \*   -   \*   -   \*   -   \*   -   \*

#### SAFETY RULES FOR ABSEILING.

##### A. Selection of Ropes.

- A1 - Terylene (polyester) or nylon ropes should be used.
- A2 - The minimum diameter of terylene or nylon rope should be 10mm; smaller diameter ropes give too little friction and are easily abraded and cut.
- A3 - The use of single laid ropes should be avoided on free drops (causes spin).
- A4 - Never abseil on polyethylene or polypropylene ropes using a method where the rope is passed through a metal friction device, as these fibres have a low melting point.
- A5 - Natural fibre ropes should never be used since:
  - (i) Cotton or hemp ropes are not strong enough when of a suitable diameter for abseiling.
  - (ii) Manilla or sisal ropes are no longer manufactured to a suitable standard.
- A6 - Ropes of unknown history should not be used for abseiling.
- A7 - Ropes that have been subjected to heavy stress (e.g. in stopping a severe ladder fall or in towing) should not be used for abseiling.
- A8 - If forced to use any sub-standard rope in an emergency, test it first by hanging the weight of two people from it. In using such ropes, it is important to descend slowly and smoothly.

##### B. Care of Ropes.

- B1 - Ropes should be checked before each trip for:
  - (i) extensive surface abrasion (light abrasion causing a fuzzy appearance can be ignored).
  - (ii) internal abrasion and powdering at the strand axis (laid ropes).
  - (iii) distortion of the lay.
  - (iv) decayed, burnt, soft or hard spots.
  - (v) areas of reduced diameter.
- B2 - Keep ropes free from kinks and unnecessary knots.
- B3 - Never stand on a rope.
- B4 - Coil up any excess rope at the bottom of a pitch and place it clear of people and falling rocks.
- B5 - Ropes should always be carried in packs, both underground and on the surface.
- B6 - All ropes should be kept away from corrosive chemicals. Do not place ropes near batteries.

- B7 - The rope should be kept clean as this minimises the abrasive effect of mud and washing may be carried out in the caving area in streams. At home, the best wash is achieved in a washing machine using a mild detergent or pure soap and cold to warm water. If soap or detergent is used, it is essential to rinse the rope in fresh water.
- B8 - The rope should be kept as dry as possible in the cave. Wet grit accelerates rope wear.
- B9 - Wet rope should be dried thoroughly as soon as possible in a stream of cool air away from direct sunlight. Only store completely dry ropes - store away from direct sunlight.

#### C. Choice of Anchor Point.

- C1 - Take care in the selection of anchor points. Where possible, use two separate points; independently tied off.
- C2 - Never rely solely on one artificial anchor (piton, bolt, jamnut, etc.).
- C3 - When the anchor point is rough or the rope travels over dirty surfaces, it is advisable to protect the rope with plastic hose or sacking - in some cases, a wire trace is useful.
- C4 - When people are taught to abseil, they should also have lessons in the selection and use of anchor points.

#### D. Equipment and Method.

- D1 - 5cm (2 inch) seat-belt webbing (nylon or terylene) is recommended for harnesses. Rope harnesses are uncomfortable.
- D2 - Leather gloves must be worn.
- D3 - Except for short pitches, classic and over-the-shoulder methods should not be used. The dangers are:
  - (i) Rope burns.
  - (ii) Loss of control when descending can result in the person falling off the rope.
- D4 - The Pierre Allain descender and the twisted knot method should not be used.
- D5 - The recommended method uses the brake bar assembly: See "Vertical Caving Techniques".
- D6 - Care should be taken to keep loose clothing, hair, etc. clear of abseiling devices.

#### E. Belaying.

People should be belayed while learning to abseil or while doing difficult or dangerous abseils.

- E1 - Classic and over-the-shoulder methods can be belayed by using a belay rope in the usual fashion.
- E2 - Methods involving friction devices can be safe-tied from below by pulling the abseil rope taut if the person abseiling experiences difficulties. The abseiler can be controlled from below in any further descent by regulating the tension on the rope.

#### F. Through Trips.

Here a double rope is used. If two ropes are required, the best knot for joining them is the double fisherman's knot. The rope can be retrieved from the pitch after the descent by pulling on one end. A disposable anchor sling may be needed.

- F1 - Before the last man descends, the rope should be pulled from below to check that it runs freely.
- F2 - Make sure that any knot does not have to be pulled around the anchor point and that it will not catch in crevices.
- F3 - Ensure that the rope is untwisted before pulling down.
- F4 - It is essential that one of the party is a competent prusiker. Only prusiks to retrieve a stuck rope where both ends of the rope are at the foot of the pitch and one is anchored.

N.B The only way a through trip can be carried out in complete safety is to carry sufficient ropes to double-rope all the pitches.

CAVE SAFETY RECOMMENDED CODE OF PRACTICE.

## INTRODUCTION.

Caving is a pursuit which, by its nature, involves a certain element of risk; cavers are advised to make it a calculated risk by observing the following recommended Code of Practice. The rules suggested here-in are intended as a basic guide and do not purport to cover all or every possible caving hazard.

## PRE-TRIP ORGANISATION.

1. No one to go caving alone. Desirable minimum size - FOUR.
2. Each caving trip to be under the control of a trip leader possessing qualities of responsibility, discipline and temperament needed to ensure the safety of the party and the protection of the caverns.
3. Suitable helmet, clothing (one-piece boiler suit) and footwear to be worn underground.
4. First aid kit to be carried on all trips and kept at camp.
5. Two totally independent forms of lighting to be carried by each person.
6. Inspect for wear and damage all equipment (i.e. safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders, climbing aids, winch ropes, etc.) whose failure could result in an injury. Ensure that such equipment does not suffer chafing during transport or come into contact with chemicals (i.e. battery solutions).

## ABOVE GROUND ORGANISATION.

7. Do not take underground anyone whose ability is affected by drugs or liquor.
8. In the event of all persons on a trip going underground at the one time, leave some type of indication at the campsite of whereabouts and expected time of return.
9. When entering caves where flash flooding could prove hazardous, ensure effective communication with the surface for weather change warnings.
10. Care should be taken to avoid becoming lost or separated above ground when visiting remote caving areas (i.e. Bendethera, Nullarbor, Kimberley, Camooweal and Tasmania, especially in the south-west of this state).
11. Ensure radio transmitting equipment is switched off when using explosives.

## ASCENTS AND DESCENTS.

12. A safety line should be used in any situation where a fall could result in injury. The trip leader should make the decision considering:-
  - a) Experience of the party.
  - b) Physical condition of the party at time.
  - c) Difficulty of rescue should a fall occur.
  - d) Difficulty of the obstacle.On pitches in excess of 7 metres, a safety line should be mandatory.
13. A belay man should be experienced in same and securely positioned.
14. Only one person at a time should descend or ascend a cable ladder, rope or winch.
15. At least three (3) members of a party should be experienced in knots and the use of climbing equipment where the trip involves the use of such equipment.
16. Alternative means of contact to be used on pitches where un-aided voice contact is difficult.
17. Care to be taken with safety lines to avoid damage by sharp projections or nailed boots.
18. Abseiling underground should only be used where other methods are impractical.
19. Don't use abseil ropes as safety ropes or vice versa.
20. Helmet-mounted naked flame light not to be used when ascending or descending a pitch.
21. Use only metal cables on powered man winches.
22. Do not engage in horse-play, rock throwing etc.

## CAVE DIVING.

23. Do not attempt to force siphons alone or without proper diving equipment. A diving party to consist of at least five (5) persons.
  - a) Lead diver.
  - b) Follow-up diver.
  - c) Emergency diver.
  - d) Telephonist.
  - e) Runner.

24. Divers must be attached to a suitable guide line in all siphons or near siphons.
25. Communications to be established through all siphons by the Lead Diver and maintained by an outside party where the trip leader considers it necessary.

GENERAL.

26. Safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders and man winch ropes are not to be used for other than its intended purpose (e.g. towing vehicles).
27. Dry out ropes etc. and store in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight.
28. Do not uncap carbide lights in confined spaces.
29. Ensure reserve supplies of carbide do not become damp.
30. Carbide lamps are not reliable indicators of foul air. Use matches or candles as indicators if foul air is suspected. If still in doubt, more sophisticated detection equipment should be used.
31. Do not use copper in modifying carbide lamps.
32. Do not construct cable ladders of materials likely to cause electrolysis (e.g. copper ferrules on steel cable).
33. Internal combustion engines not to be used underground or on the surface where exhaust fumes are likely to enter a cave.
34. Persons using explosives should be experienced in their use. Extreme care should be exercised to avoid explosive fumes, especially underground. Advice should be sought on explosives that give off less toxic fumes for underground use.
35. Ensure that cords used to carry whistles, lights, etc. around the neck will break with reasonable ease should it become caught during a slip or a fall.
36. The Trip Leader should ensure that no member of his party is coerced into a situation beyond his capabilities.
37. Advice should be sought from local clubs as to caving hazards when visiting unfamiliar areas.

WHAT IS A CAVE LIKE KUBLA KHAN FOR?

by ROY SKINNER.

The recent film making effort in Kubla Khan Cave at Mole Creek by a party from the Mainland has evoked some critical comment from persons concerned about resultant damage caused in the process. It has also been stated that publicity surrounding the venture will more than compensate for the damage. A further point has been made that it is hoped the film will justify the use of the top entrance. Inherent in all these comments is a common concern for the cave's protection. Let us then try to determine by whom and for whom the cave should be protected.

First of all, the filming did take place and no-body legally could have prevented it. Some apprehension was expressed beforehand that some damage was bound to occur and this apparently was shown to be an accurate prophecy. The publicity was intended, by those who initiated it, to draw greater attention to an awareness of the cave's visual attractiveness. I think it would be correct to assume that this was the principal motivation for the decision to make a film there in the first place - with the challenge to the skill of the speleocinematographers as an added incentive. As for the quality of the film justifying the damage, according to reports filtering through, I think we can forget about this. It is unlikely to be acclaimed with any great enthusiasm as a milestone in the evolution of the cinematographic art, albeit my personal good wishes of success for the perpetrators.

So, a film was made, some damage occurred, considerable publicity accrued and the film can at best be expected to be moderately successful. Was the damage justified?

Kubla Khan is known by everybody who knows anything - as Australia's most beautiful cave. As such, it is agreed that it must be preserved in its natural state as far as is humanly possible. Does this mean that it must be preserved by cavers for cavers for ever? I don't think so! The recent publicity has probably had its desired effect. Many more non-cavers will be intrigued by the glowing descriptions of the cave's features and would like to see them but lacking the caver's ability and inclination, they may not do so until access and means of progression are made much easier.

Obviously, the ultimate means of protection in perpetuity is to impose a total ban on entry.



Any alternative must involve compromise. Compromise can mean a form of restricted entry but this involves problems of selectivity and is no guarantee against un-authorised entry or errors in selection, both conducive to occurrence of further damage. Even if these things did not happen, the means of progression through the cave must bring about fairly severe deterioration.

Another alternative is to completely or partially dis-allow entry for an unspecified interim period, terminating at a point in time usually defined vaguely as "when the demand warrants and funds are available to develop the cave for the general public". I maintain that the point in time is now! The demand for recreational facilities for the general public is great enough at the present time to justify initial planning for the very best methods of exhibiting our superior caves, ensuring that past mistakes are not repeated and drawing upon the sum total of accumulated knowledge and experience to reserve, present and interpret the natural features to the best of our ability.

To identify with this objective, means that cavers can play a more positive role in forward planning and cave conservation and also in the achievement of a worthwhile goal to which their past efforts have greatly contributed. I know that many cavers are contemptuous of, and are reluctant to, identify with "tourist caves", but don't forget that you have all been, or will be, a tourist in some form or another at some stage of your life. However, the day will come when you inevitably must hang up your trog suit and bash hat for good!

Re-printed with kind permission of Roy Skinner, from an article appearing in the May 1975 issue of "Speleo Spiel", No. 101, Page 4.

# BELAYING.

by TONY CULBERG.

As this issue of ASF Newsletter is dedicated to safety, ethics and similar ideas, I have been asked to write an article on Belaying. While it is usual for clubs to handle this area of expertise in their own way, there is an increasing need for a uniform approach throughout the whole of Australia because of the amount of interstate travelling and the wide attendance at conference field trips.

Different terminology can lead to dangerous situations and some calls in current use are downright dangerous.

A belay is one of two things:

- a) the point, projection or tree to which the rope or ladder is attached.
- b) the act of belaying a person on a pitch.

The verb "belay" means, to control a person who is climbing, through the use of a rope, so that he or she is protected from falling. A person may fall for one of several reasons - exhaustion, during a difficult manoeuvre or as a result of being hit by a falling object. It is essential then, that any belay system must be always ready to hold a fall.

Once a person has fallen, there is another problem! If a body is suspended by a loop around the waist, which is the traditional method, that person has a life expectancy of about ten minutes. This is because the waist loop compresses the diaphragm, making breathing difficult. If the person is knocked from a free-hanging ladder by a rock and is unconscious, it is essential that it be possible to lower or raise that person.

A belay system then needs to be able to give support to a climber, but also to lower a body to the foot of the pitch. The system must be usable by a single person and should be simple enough to be explained in little time and adverse conditions (e.g. under a waterfall).

Having set the ideal conditions, I now find that any system used by cavers is normally a type of compromise. In fact, several people have criticised my own belays at different times. With hindsight, I can see how easy it is to become blasé about belaying.

There are some systems which can be rejected almost immediately. Perhaps I should explain that in ideal conditions on short pitches, much of this can be ignored. For any pitch over say, 15 metres or where rescue would be difficult or where other conditions (e.g. a 5 metre waterfall 6 hours into a cave) optimum practice should be mandatory.

Any system which involves a rope over-the-shoulder method, is dangerous. A little thought will remind you that the backbone is flexible, and under load conditions most people fold up like an accordion.

Any system where the belayer is standing is also doubtful (except where a double-belay is used from the bottom of a pitch). Any system using a Jumar or similar prussiking device has the added disadvantage of not being easily reversed to lower a person to the ground. We are then left with human systems and other mechanical devices.

## a) Mechanical.

A Whaletail or rappel-rack is obviously the best possible belay device. If a person

falls, he can be held or lowered, the device is simple, easy to use and (almost) foolproof. If it is necessary to haul the person up the pitch this can be easily done. The choice between Whaletail & rappel-rack is personal, either device has its benefits and disadvantages.

b) Human.

The only really acceptable set-up consists of a strong belay point with a short sling around it. Clipped into the sling is a carabiner (not oval) and the belay rope passes through that. The belayer sits so - a) he is comfortable, with his feet braced against something - and - b) the "krab" on the sling is just behind him.

This position means that a fair amount of heat can be absorbed by his back, but he is not pulled off his perch, as the lifeline is restrained by the carabiner. Any system in fact is designed to convert potential energy into heat plus sound energy. It is essential that leather gloves be used and any braking device have a large heat sink.

CALLS.

This is an area of great confusion and variation. Ideally a call should be identifiable if any part of it is heard. For this reason, different vowel sounds should be used in the vital words, to minimise confusion. The correct response is important too. This is one suggestion:-

- 1) "ON BELAY"
- 2) "UP ROPE" or "TAKE IN"
- 3) "THAT'S ME"
- 4) "CLIMB WHEN READY"
- 5) "CLIMBING"
- 6) "OKAY"

Calls 1, 4 & 6 are made by the belayer. Calls 2, 3 & 5 are by the person about to climb. It is imperative that no call in the sequence be omitted - if the belayer tells the climber to climb when the rope goes taut, it may in fact be only hooked on a projection and no protection would be given. If "OKAY" is not returned, the climber has no guarantee he will be belayed.

If the climber needs to retreat during an ascent (to rest or approach a tight section in a sort of different manner) he should say "GIVE". The belayer will give rope until advised to "HOLD" or "TAKE IN" again. He would also answer "OKAY" as he starts paying out rope. If the climber realises he is about to fall, he should yell "FALLING" to give the belayer maximum chance. If the climber just wants to pause to catch his breath, he calls "RESTING", to resume the ascent he calls "CLIMBING".

You will notice that at no time have I used the word "SLACK". I have heard "UP SLACK" and "GIVE SLACK" used and if only the last word is caught, the belayer can become confused!

I realise that I have not covered all points in this topic but I believe that all rope & ladder work should be practised rather than read about. If there are any comments on this topic, I would be pleased to hear.

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \*

CAVE ACCIDENT.

by NORM POULTER.

ABSTRACT.

On Monday, January 27, 1975, while members of SRGWA led by A.R.Watts were returning from a photographic trip of Strong's Cave (Witchcliffe, WA) a rockfall occurred in the entrance zone resulting in two people receiving minor injuries, whilst another, Kerry Sayers, suffered a spiral fracture of the right tibia.

SOURCE.

This report was compiled from comments and trip reports submitted by A.R.Watts, K.Sayers, S.Roatch and Kevin Webb.

INTRODUCTION.

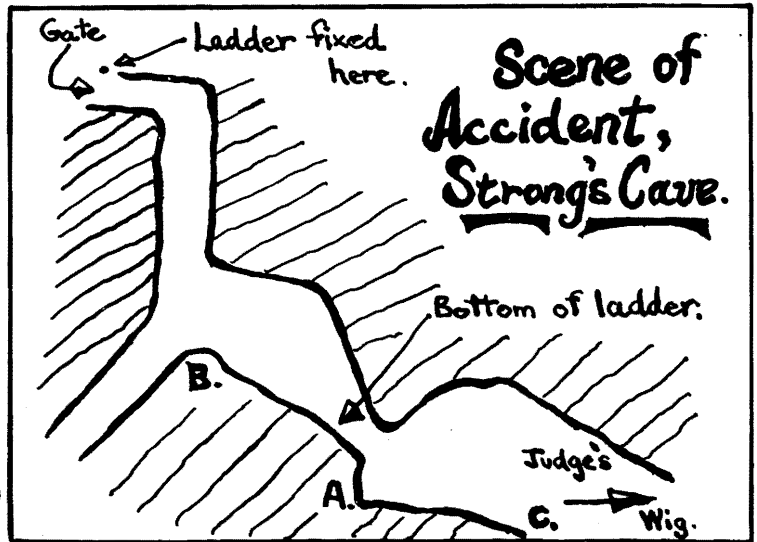
Strong's Cave was entered by four members of SRGWA at approximately 11.30am. for the purpose of photography. A 50 foot ladder was rigged at the entrance to facilitate entry to the cave with the necessary photographic equipment. (See illustration) The party returned to position "A" at approximately 2.00pm. Watts proceeded up the slope to "B" stepping clear of the ladder to allow Webb to ascend. Before Webb was able to complete his ascent from "A" to "B", three rocks came down the slope from above him. It is not known whether the rocks fell from the ceiling or dislodged from

slope itself. One rock glanced off Webb's shoulder and onto Sayer's leg. Roatch received a bruised foot. An examination of Kerry's leg by Roatch concluded that the lower right leg had suffered a fracture. Kerry was moved down the slope to "C" and left in the care of Webb, Watts and Roatch returning to the surface to organise the removal of Kerry from the cave.

Four other members of SRGWA (Jane Cox, Dick Van de Roest, Lyn Plester and Sherry Watts) were located at camp together with the club's Emergency Rescue Kit (ERK). By the nature of his profession as a Fire Brigade Station Officer, Roatch was then appointed leader of the rescue operation. Several saplings were cut down to be used as splints and for manufacturing a stretcher, the other ingredients of the stretcher being a blanket and a rpe.

#### REMOVAL FROM CAVE.

The rescue party entered the cave at approximately 2.45pm. while the girls stayed on the surface to assist where-ever necessary. On re-entry, Sayers was given Trilene (Poulter 1968. Calcite No. 16), a pain killing vapour inhaled through the nose (via a special inhalor) which has no lasting side effects and does not alter the symptoms of injury.



The leg was placed in sapling splints lashed from ankle to knee with a continuous length of sash cord and Sayers then placed onto the stretcher (assembled on the spot) and was carried up the slope to a ledge at the bottom of the vertical pitch, removed from the stretcher and was hauled or assisted up the pitch leaving the cave at approximately 4.15pm.

The patient was then removed to the Augusta Hospital where an X-ray examination revealed a spiral fracture of the tibia.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

The main recommendation that will be carried out, is that in future, ERK will carry a list of contents affixed to the lid.

From the nature of the accident, it is reasonable to assume that members of the party (although not realising it) were 'in line' during their ascent of the rockpile and not paying proper attention to the action or position of other members in the party. Perhaps if members were more aware of their surroundings, did not treat rockpiles with the indifference that they sometimes receive by proceeding up them 'in line' and together, then this accident might not have happened.

#### CRITICISM.

The method of splinting employed by Roatch was to use two splints either side of the leg and bind leg and splints together by using large diameter sash cord, utilising little padding. ERK carried an abundance of padding and triangular bandages. The reason that these commodities were not used in the splinting operation is a mystery, although one comment was later passed that nobody wanted to get them dirty.

It was later established that the Trilene had been administered before splinting of the leg commenced. That procedure was wrong, as the Trilene could have hidden pain caused by lack of padding, incorrect splinting or by the very nature of the injury itself.

#### COMMENT.

The 'common' side effect of Trilene, as advertised by the manufacturers is 'slight slurring of speech'. However, different drugs effect some people in different ways. A.R.Watts recollection of the drug's effect on Sayers was that she became a little 'high' (i.e. drunk? from a possible overdose?) and could be heard giggling several times throughout the rescue operations. Despite any possible overdose, no damage (other than that caused by liquid Trilene entering the nasal passages or contacting with the skin) could take place with the use of the drug and it's pain killing effect was judged as most successful. As far as it is known, this is the first time that Trilene has been used in a cave rescue.

#### CONCLUSION.

The members who participated in the rescue are of the opinion that it could not have been carried out so quickly if Kerry had not remained as calm as she did throughout the operation. All members of the rescue party carried out the leader's instructions as quickly and efficiently as they could and are to be commended for this and their apparent teamwork.

Once again it is emphasised that all club members undertake a first-aid course.

SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA - DON'T TREAT IT LIGHTLY!

by LAURIE MOODY.

Whilst on the subject of safety etc., I think that it might be an opportune moment to draw your attention to perhaps the most notorious caving area in Australia - south-west Tasmania! At least once or twice a year, someone always manages to become stranded or lost in this particular area. A check of facts and figures regarding the number of people who have had to be rescued or have gone missing in this remote region would surprisingly show that most, if not all, were from the Mainland states. Far too many visitors are coming to Tasmania under the illusion that they can "walk" Australia's smallest state in a day or so.

Being somewhat familiar with areas of the south-west, I feel at liberty to mention that all walkers who venture into this area on extended trips, should be compelled to make known their intentions before entering the region. A good majority of walkers do abide by the rules but there are still quite a few "rebels" who do not observe the following procedure:-

- a) how long they intend to be (rough estimation)
- b) route they intend to take
- c) number in party, names etc.

The above should be forwarded to either the police, ranger or responsible persons. Adequate gear and provisions should also be considered carefully.

The south-west region of Tasmania can be regarded as one of the last 'frontiers' so to speak, and deserves to be treated as such. Intending walkers or cavers entering this area must be made aware that despite it's rugged, natural scenic beauty, it can also present a completely different guise. It is subject to inclement and unpredictable weather conditions. A fine summer's day can change in a matter of hours, especially in the vicinity of Mount Anne, into a cold, miserable nightmare. Snow-falls in the midst of summer are not uncommon and several lives have been lost in this particular area alone.

Over recent years, access into the south-west from the north-eastern region has become much easier due to the opening of the Scott's Peak Road to the general public. A network of tracks lead to numerous scenic points of unrivalled grandeur but if one happens to stray off a track only a short distance or so during bad weather, re-location of the track can be extremely difficult.

People have also been known to encounter thick pockets of the dreaded 'horizontal scrub' and it has taken them several days to cover less than six kilometres. However, what peeves me most, is that some people are still entering this area without notifying the police or authorities of their intentions.

This aspect of disregarding those in authority can cause a lot of needless hardship for those people who are called out to look for a person or persons who have failed to safeguard themselves. I feel that it must be stressed that by simply notifying the appropriate authorities, your chances of survival can be greatly enhanced if an emergency does occur.

No doubt there are other areas throughout Australia that should also be treated with the respect that they deserve. If you know of such an area, drop me a line and attention can be drawn to this important fact.

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \*

DOWN UNDER ALL OVER.

News from around the Societies.

BSA Latest news from Dennis Moore informs us that things have been fairly quiet. Difficulty of access to Bendethera after March's floods have so far prevented any further surveying, but several caves already numbered by ISS were located. The area of cliffs around Point Perpendicular exceeded expectations and Dennis refers to them as "an unique example of cavernous sandstone". A further trip to Bendethera is planned for late May early June.

CEGSA Ed. Bailey's news is fairly recent and although my information is extracted from their latest newsletter, it appears that a successful trip was held to Trog Heaven, Naracoorte on the long weekend in January. It is pleasing to see that an article on safety rules for abseiling appears in this newsletter. Projected trips to Naracoorte, surveying, are due during April and May. A trip to Glencoe, Lower South-East, took place at the end of March and Ian Lweis reports "the most enjoyable caving trip many of us have had in a very long time". Surveys of 8 caves in 4 days were completed. He also goes on to mention a coming trip to Victoria Cave.

- CSS      The March edition of "TVL", produced by Bob Nicoll and Mike Owen, reveals that their club has been fairly active with trips to Wyanbene/Big Hole area last December. This particular trip was a combined effort with NUCC. However, most of the work is being done at Yarrangobilly. Wee Jasper, London Bridge (now mapped) and Marble Arch have been receiving their share of the attention from club members.
- KSS      The March issue of "Trog" announces that the Kempsey boys and girls are sick of looking for caves that nearly always prove to be non-existent. A recent report of caves at Kindee has yet to be investigated. Three days were spent in the Kunderang area early in January and several caves were visited.
- LSC      Reports received via local knowledge indicate that LSC are fairly active and also enjoy a good social life. Trips are usually conducted to either Mole Creek or Flowery Gully. Some members have visited Exit and the Junee-Florentine areas under the guidance of Andrew Skinner.
- MSS      According to the club newsletter, MSS have been pretty busy with trips to Bungonia, Wyanbene and Jenolan Caves towards the latter part of 1974. An extended visit to Yarrangobilly was held over the Xmas-New Year period plus a brief visit to Cooleman Plain. Another extended visit to this area has been planned for the Easter break. Wyanbene was again visited during the long weekend in January. February saw trips to Abercrombie and Cliefden caves. A large party visited Bungonia early in March plus yet another trip to Yarrangobilly.
- NC      Members, including their new President, Jed Butler, have been busy in the Mole Creek area - numbering. Aided by that well-known figure and refugee from TCC, Andrew Skinner, who at present is working in Launceston, they have been quite active. Members from this club and TCC assisted greatly with the filming of Kubla Khan in January-February.
- OSS      News from Ray Rowney indicates that OSS are still alive after several years of inactivity and would like to advise that Cliefden now has a cottage provided by the landowner. It costs \$1.00 a night and visiting speleos are requested to use this in preference to camping on the "flat". Members from some new Sydney clubs are getting lost and enter Cliefden property - the caves are on Boonderoo property. Any club intending to visit this area is asked to get in touch with OSS as a permit system still exists. A considerable amount of exploration has been done in the Canomodine area as well as Bowen Park and many new caves have been found. OSS also advise that Molangulli Cave has been known to them for many years.
- SCS      President, Ron Mann tells me that things have been fairly quiet and apart from a trip to Herbert's Pot, where the downstream section was looked at, most trips have been of a "tourist nature". Some talus was pushed in Hell's Half Acre at Hastings and some members participated in an exercise at Cape Raoul on Tasman Peninsular. This was in conjunction with the Climbers Club and the Police Search and Rescue Unit.
- SRGWA      Apart from the fact that a Caves Access Committee has been formed in conjunction with WASGA, no information on trips etc. is available.
- SUSS      Yet another club that has little to report on the caving scene. According to their latest newsletter, their last trip was to Jenolan in October 1974. (About time you filled me in - Ed.) Pleased to see that this club and others are publishing Safety Rules for Abseiling etc. Also like the following - KEEP BUNGONIA GORGEOUS - Install Showers for Cavers!
- TCC      A very successful expedition was conducted in January-February to the Cracroft area and the subsequent discovery of quite a few new caves resulted - including one with a well-preserved skeleton of a Thylacine. The expedition covered nine days and nine caves were listed. Despite a wet start and higher water conditions which turned the near siphon in Judd's Cavern into a true one, a team of four wearing wet-suits, passed through and explored another 1,000 metres of passage. Trips were also conducted to Mole Creek. Cave numbering continues to be the major concern with Andrew Skinner busy at Mole Creek and Laurie Moody and Co. in the Florentine area. Plans are also afoot to form a branch club at Maydena amongst the locals. After a twelve month break, Albert Goede was again elected President at the March AGM.
- UQSS      This club participated in a Post Conference Trip to Mt. Etna-Limestone Ridge early in January and members visited Windy Gap later that month to do a bit of surveying. A new entrance was located on the way out. A combined trip, being described as somewhat slack, was held at Carrai-Kempsey, also in January. Things appear to have been fairly quiet since then although Easter saw a combination of UQSS-CQSS bods again at Mt. Etna-Limestone Ridge and Karst Glen.
- VSA      The April edition of Nargun announces that VSA have hit the front with the discovery of Australia's highest altitude cave - Speculation Cave, at 1550 metres. Congratulations. Adrian Davey led a trip to New Guinea Ridge in December scrub-bashing but no significant find was made. An un-dated trip was also held in the Buchan area led by Janet Mackay and several caves were visited. Gray Wilson and his wife also participated in a trip with the Kempsey "gang" at the Tenth Biennial Conference.

WASG News on Activities:- by KERRY WILLIAMSON.

AUGUSTA: The gneiss extension of Easter Cave (AU 14) has been visited for pre-survey familiarisation purposes.

COWARAMUP: Four caves and one promising, but yet undescended shaft, have been explored and surveyed in the area north-east of Quinninup Lake Cave.

ENEABBA: A small but well-decorated cave has been found in the vicinity of Drip Cave (E 30).

LOWER WEST COAST: LW 4 has been surveyed and an extension found in the southern end.

WITCHCLIFFE: Bussel Cave (WI 101) has been surveyed as have several extensions of the Calgardup Cave (WI 49). Digging has commenced at the Swamp Inflow (WI 87). An inflow has been found roughly north of Connelly Cave (WI 48); and two caves, one of which goes down to the water table have been found in the same area. WI 9 has been extended a further 200 metres approximately and a nearby cave with an 11 metre entrance pitch has been surveyed.

YALLINGUP: YA 39, known locally as "The Chimneys" has been positioned and caves in the region of YA 1 - tagged.

YANCHEP: YN 129 has been surveyed.

- \*\*\*\*\* -

#### ST. GEORGE AREA CAVING TEAM.

Reports from this club indicate that several trips have taken place to Bungonia last December and a trip was also conducted to Wyambene this same month. January saw trips to Jaunter to explore an un-named cave and do a spot of surveying. Wee Jasper and Narrangullen were visited by a large party in late January. Trips are also planned to Bungonia and Tuglow in April.

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \*

#### OTHER NEWS.

Orange Speleological Society would like to draw attention to the following:-

Several "do's" and "don'ts" for Cliefden.

- a) Request permission for trip well in advance.
- b) Limit numbers to 12-15.
- c) Camp in house provided - leave in clean condition as it has just been painted.
- d) Do not alter locks on caves - some have been interchanged by visiting clubs hence causing inconvenience to the next users.
- e) Be sure of directions to caves - "little old ladies" at Cliefden don't like being woken at midnight by weird speleors.

Orange area now covers - Canomodine, Bowen Park as well as Cliefden and we can also help with contacts in the Euchareena area.

Tasmanian Cavers would like co-operation from all ASF members in the following matters:-

- a) Kubla Khan:- The top entrance (MC 29) is locked and the key is only available for genuine scientific purposes or for rescue purposes. The key is held by the Northern Caverneers and the Mole Creek Police. The key held by the police is only for emergency purposes.
- b) Croesus Cave:- Keys are only available to ASF members who write in advance to Tory Richardson, who is Cave Superintendent at Mole Creek, 7304.

#### "CRYSTAL KINGDOM".

A 16mm. colour film entitled "Crystal Kingdom", is now available for hire. The film was shot by UNSWSS at Cliefden, near Orange, New South Wales and traces the course of three explorers through the cave and also emphasises cave conservation. The hiring fee is only \$5.00. For further information, contact:- JOHN CARMICHAEL, 108 Arden Street, Coogee, New South Wales. 2034.

## OTHER NEWS - continued.

## AUSTRALIAN SPELEO ABSTRACTS.

The 1973 issue (complete in one 120 page volume) is now available.

Australian Speleo Abstracts is the concise, comprehensive and convenient summary of published works relating to caves and caving in Australia. The 1973 issue contains references to nearly 1300 items - a single volume library! Keep abreast of what's happening in Australian speleology and if you haven't got a copy, subscribe to it now!

A.S.A 1973 is available from:-

Greg Middleton,

9 Nixon Street, Sandy Bay, TASMANIA. 7005.

Cost: \$2.00 (plus 50 cents if posted).

## RISE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A probable rise in subscriptions to ASF Newsletter may occur in the near future. This will probably be brought about by increased postal charges and material costs. More news on this will possibly be available in the next Newsletter.

## WHO'S WHO ON THE SPELEO SCENE.

(A new series - we hope!)

In March, 1971, ASF Newsletter started a series on caving personalities. However, only four persons were featured. Then, for reasons unknown to the Editor, the series ground to an abrupt halt. Whether this was due to unpopularity or to lack of interest, I don't know. I'm probably sticking my neck out but I'm going to attempt to revive this series.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all clubs to submit a brief biography on their "heavies" or of members who have contributed to speleology in various fields. If the response is good enough, six people will be featured in the Newsletter each issue.

Get to know a bit about the person behind the name. Most of our readers are familiar with names like - Dunkley, Hamilton-Smith, Shannon, Goede, Skinner, Poulter, James and many more but would like to know a little more. So, how about it?

Information required would be something like this:- Name, date of birth, club(s), when and where started caving, outstanding achievements, most popular areas of caving, present caving interests, positions held in club (if any) and occupation plus marital status.

Limit these biographies to no more than eight lines.

We would like to commence this series in the SPRING issue but if sufficient biographies turn up in time for the WINTER issue, we will start it then. At six people per issue, we can cover 24 people a year and if popularity exceeds demand, this number may be increased. Don't be bashful, get to know a bit about cavers from other clubs in other states. Get your club's secretary to rush your contributions to the Editor, ASF Newsletter - NOW!

Below is an example of what we are looking for:-

## THE EDITOR.

Joined TCC in June, 1973. Born 20/5/44 and is married with two children. Most of his time, apart from isolated trips to other areas, is spent locating and numbering caves in the Junee-Florentine with (what could and has been called) monotonous regularity. He is familiar with many Tasmanian caves and at present, is engaged in exploration work in the Western Florentine area. Held position of President TCC in 1974-75 and at present is Editor of "Speleo Spiel". He is employed by the Tasmanian Prison's Department.

That's about all we need, so get with it and let me hear from you!

## SPACE FILLERS.

Did you hear.....?

About the jury that wouldn't convict the defendant - it didn't want to get involved!

About the kid who had Egyptian flu - he got it from his mummy!

About the girl who wore a mini-skirt out in the rain - it shrank something wonderful!

About the hippie wedding - the bride promised to love, honour and protest!

OTHER NEWS. Cont;

LATE SUPPLEMENT.

CONSERVATION ISSUES.

CLIEFDEN: (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Under the Bathurst/Orange Growth Centre proposals, a water supply dam has been named as a possible site at the "Needles", 2km downstream from the Cliefden Main Cave on the Belubula River.

The one thing currently certain, is that the caves will definitely be inundated if this dam is built. Another major conservation issue seems to be the portent of the future as a result.

This time, there is approximately 1½ years before any final decisions will be made by the State/Federal Government, so a RESPONSIBLE and SUREFOOTED approach must be made on the cave conservation side.

An even bigger alternative dam further downstream would seem to mean that Walli caves may be flooded, but the fate of Cliefden under this dam is uncertain.

An ASF Committee will shortly be formed to co-ordinate the conservation effort. John Carmichael (c/o UNSWSS or Sydney, 665/1657) is currently UNSWSS Cliefden Co-ordinator and Randall King (c/o SUSS, Sydney 969/4543) is the SUSS Cliefden Conservation Convenor.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any information at all.

TIMOR: (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Rick Tirnney (SUSS) has alerted speleos as to mining leave applications covering the caves area. SSS is currently investigating this proposal.

Randall King (SUSS).

"UNDERSTANDING ECOLOGY".

ASF have received a letter advising that Dr. David Goldney is offering a short course in the area of basic ecology and conservation. The school entitled "Understanding Ecology" is to be held at Bathurst from August 31st. to September 5th., 1975. This school is opened to all interested persons.

The school aims to bridge the gap between the professional ecologist and the lay man/amateur naturalist, through an exciting field-orientated programme in which all of the students will actively participate, e.g., bird banding, small mammal trapping, vegetation surveys, conservation studies, laboratory studies, etc.

For further information, write to:

Dr. D. Goldney,  
Spring School, Science Department,  
"Understanding Ecology",  
Mitchell College of Advanced Education,  
BATHURST. 2795

ASF NEWSLETTER INDEX.

An index covering issues No. 31 - 65 is at present being prepared for eventual publication by Tony Culberg. Further details on this will be available in the next newsletter.

NEWS FROM NEW GUINEA AND NEW ZEALAND.

I would like to take this opportunity of asking speleos in both New Guinea and New Zealand for contributions to ASF Newsletter. It is intended to publish news from each of these countries in future issues. Any items, big or small would be greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to send correspondence should address it to the Editor, ASF Newsletter, c/o Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont. TASMANIA. 7011