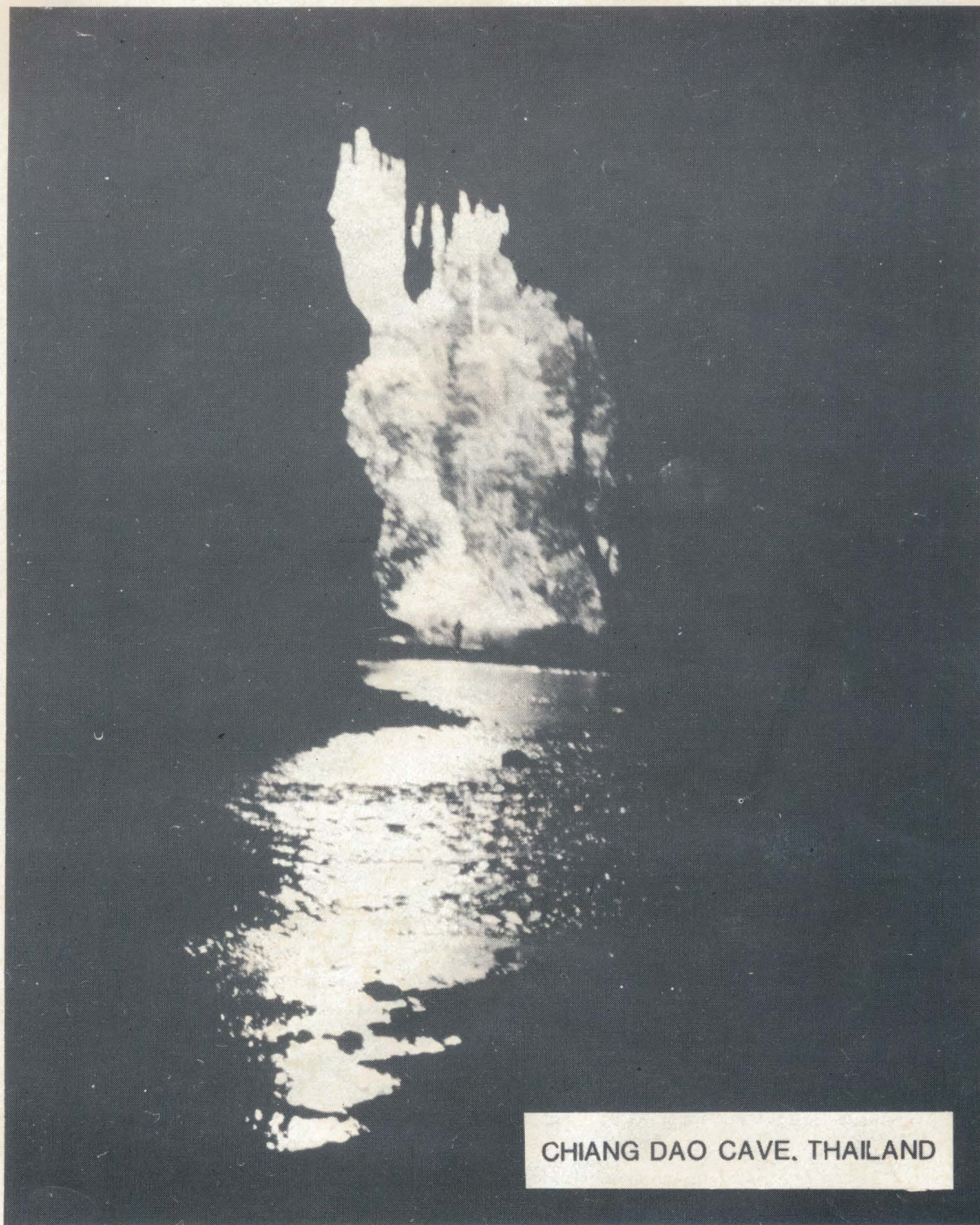


AUTUMN 1983 : No. 99

ASF NEWSLETTER

THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY



CHIANG DAO CAVE, THAILAND

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ASFS NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

ASF

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

You may have noticed some delay in the publication of this issue of the Newsletter. Put bluntly, this is because **YOU** have not kept those cards and letters rolling in.

This Newsletter is not a one man band and I am not going to allow it to become one - I just don't have that much free time. As I have said before, I'm here to edit it **not** to write it!

I am having a very difficult time at present getting this Newsletter to you as I am just not getting your support. I need articles to put in it. **PLEASE**, someone, anyone!! put pen to paper.

I really feel as though I am operating in a vacuum, no articles, no photographs, no feedback, and since I stopped telephoning every club, no Down Under All Over. If this continues, I shall find it very hard to retain my enthusiasm to remain editor of this publication.

Please don't let me or yourselves down, **PLEASE WRITE**.

Judith

Activities of the Australian Speleological Federation are:

1. Formulation of national policies on caving standards and ethics, cave safety, documentation and survey standards.
2. Preparation of a national automated data bank listing all Australian caves, cave maps and primary sources.
3. Biennial national conferences and a biennial Conference on Cave Tourism and Management.
4. Sponsoring of specialist consultancy services for karst and cave management plan.

Publications include the Newsletter (quarterly), Conference Proceedings (biennial), Cave Management in Australia (biennial), and occasional ad hoc publications.

Government is by a Committee consisting of a delegate from each member society. Meetings are held annually with each alternate meeting in conjunction with the Conference which is open to anyone interested. Continuing activities are administered by permanent commissions and special aspects of policy are studied by ad hoc committees. Overall coordination is through the Executive Committee Officers.

The Federation has chartered the NSW Speleological Council to provide liaison among member societies in NSW and ACT.

The ASF library is administered by the National Library in Canberra, ACT. Members may obtain copies of all Australian and most major foreign publications by interlibrary loans through their state or local library.

The Federation is the representative of Australia with the International Union of Speleology, Vienna, Austria.

NOTICES and NEWS

WE NEED COPY SO PLEASE START WRITING

NOTES ON THE ASF

SECRETARIAL NOTES

ASF is now the owner of a three door filing cabinet. After much looking and ringing around, I bought a second hand cabinet in excellent condition for \$85.20 and anticipate that the final cost will be around \$100.00 by the time hangers and labels are bought to outfit it.

As a result most of my time is presently involved in trying to transform a cardboard grocery box of manilla folders and assorted papers (presently ASF records) into some sort of organisation. Hopefully this will mean less frustration (for you as well as me) as things become efficient.

Thank you to Philip Toomer for organising the printing of the minutes of the last meeting.

By now all of you should have made the necessary constitutional changes needed for ASF to become incorporated. If you have any problems ring John Dunkley or myself NOW. I would like to take this opportunity to remind clubs of the need to send me a copy of their revised and amended constitution.

ASF TREASURER'S REPORT

As everyone by now must be aware the capitation fees have increased. Club delegates at Adelaide felt that an increase was long overdue as the last substantial rise was in 1976. Also it was felt that many of ASF's communications and other problems were due to the fact that we had been running on a shoestring budget since our inception. Perhaps this was acceptable twenty years ago when ASF was in its infancy and its main role was getting cavers across Australia together. However, today we are faced with many national issues which transcend state lines. We require the clout of a strong NATIONAL organisation to have any impact on these issues.

Letters were sent to clubs asking for this year's capitation and the South-West Tasmania levy. I would like to give a public pat on the back to:

- i Canberra Speleological Society; the first full member club to pay
- ii North West Walking Club (Tasmania); the first Associate to pay.

My thanks on behalf of everyone to these clubs for leading the way. I am now sitting back waiting for the flood of cheques which will I'm sure arrive soon. Three points before leaving capitation fees:

- i if your club is having trouble paying all of the money at present don't hesitate to contact me and we can make alternative arrangements
- ii please send the capitation and levy as one cheque, not one for each
- iii 1984 capitation fees have already been set at \$6.50 per member.

SUMMARY OF FINANCES (14/12/82 TO 10/4/83)

	\$	\$
Balance at 14/12/82		1944.33

Income

Full members subs (1982)	98.00
Full members subs (1983)	104.00
Associate subs (1982)	5.00
Associate subs (1983)	20.00
S.W. Tasmania levy	19.00
Interest on Int. Bearing Dep	25.00
TOTAL INCOME	271.00

Expenditure

ASF Newsletter	700.00
Internat Union of Speleology	212.50
Conservation (1982)	135.00
Secretarial Expenses (1982)	100.00
V. Pres Expenses	51.21
State duty on Deposits	0.03
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1199.24

Balance at 10/4/83	<u>1016.59</u>
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L H Mill (Treas)

ASF AWARDS - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year the Federation makes a number of awards to people who have contributed to speleology and caving in Australia. Nominations are now called for 1984, in the following categories:

1. Edie Smith Award for outstanding service to Australian speleology. Closing 31 January, 1984.
2. Fellowship of the Australian Speleological Federation, for outstanding service to the ASF. Closing date 31 January, 1984.
3. Certificate of Merit of the ASF, for specific contributions to the exploration, scientific study, conservation or documentation of caves, including the roles of leadership, administration, publication and development of techniques and equipment. Closing date 31 October, 1983.

Nominations need not be restricted to members of ASF societies, and may be made by individuals or through member societies. Don't be put off by thinking that one has to be a super-caver to qualify for a Certificate of Merit; perhaps there is a member in your club, not well known interstate, who by leading exploration or surveying trips has made real progress in knowledge about just one or two caves.

They should be forwarded to the President, John Dunkley, 3 Stops Place, CH FLEY ACT 2606, by the dates shown, for consideration by the Awards Commission.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT 1983

Each year the Federation awards Certificates of Merit to individuals, regardless of affiliation, who have made noteworthy contributions to Australian caving and speleology. All these people have given freely of their own time and skill over the years to raise the stature of Australian speleology, and this is our small way of being able to say 'thank you' for a job well done. In 1983 the recipients were:

NEIL MONTGOMERY:

"For the development and dissemination of information about vertical caving techniques, and for the exploration and documentation of the deep caves of Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea"

HENRY SHANNON:

"For the exploration and documentation of the caves of New South Wales and Queensland in particular, and for leading and inspiring several generations of cavers, notably at Jenolan"

JOHN TAYLOR:

"For the many years of service as Treasurer of the Australian Speleological Federation"

IAN LEWIS:

"For the exploration and documentation of South Australian caves in particular, and for furthering Australian speleology generally through cave diving"

ANDREW SPATE:

"For contributions to the scientific study, conservation and management of Australian caves, and for many years of service as office bearer and spokesman for the Australian Speleological Federation"

ROSS ELLIS:

"For advancing the standing of Australian speleology through documentation and editing of publications on Australian caves, especially in New South Wales"

JULIA JAMES:

"For advancing the scientific standing of Australian speleology, especially in the field of speleochimistry and through the editing of "Helictite" For promoting vertical caving techniques. Further, for inspiring the exploration, documentation and study of caves in Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea"

LLOYD ROBINSON:

"For the exploration and documentation of the caves of Western Australian, for contributions to cave management and tourism, and for contributions to cave safety"

ROY SKINNER

"For contributions to cave management and tourism, including assistance with organisation of conferences, and for many years service as Superintendent of Hastings Caves"

BRUCE DUNHILL and RAY ROWNEY:

"Awarded jointly in recognition of their contribution to the conservation and management of Cliefden Caves, particularly through wise administration of the access permit system".

Fifth Cave Management Conference Very Successful

About 30 cavers, guides, rangers and others attended the Fifth Australasian Conference on Cave Tourism and Management at Lakes Entrance in April. Special guests were IUS Vice-President and Chairman of the International Commission on Cave Tourism, Russell Gurnee and Mrs Gurnee. In between the drinking and general conviviality, those attending had field trips to Nargun's Cave and Buchan. Rod MacKenzie, the Minister for Lands and Forests, who performed the official opening, was dressed in boiler suit and wellington boots for a first-hand introduction to cave management problems in Nargun's Cave, described as possibly the grottiest little cave in south-east Australia. The next conference will be in Waitomo, New Zealand in 1985.

Sign of Early Humans in Franklin Cave Find

Another cave containing highly significant archaeological remains has been found on the Franklin River about 8 km south of Kutikina (Fraser) Cave. Containing further evidence of occupation from pre-20,000 years ago to 15,000 years BP, it was named Deena Reena Cave. Scientists from ANU and Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service say there is no question that the region is now the richest archaeological storehouse in Australia.

ASF Team to Study Jenolan Caves

The NSW Department of Leisure, Sport and Tourism has commenced a management plan for Jenolan Caves Reserve. ASF has been asked to join with local personnel in producing draft proposals for long term management of both the tourist and non-tourist caves, and for the redevelopment of the Nettle and Arch Caves. Further details soon; we hope that as many clubs and individuals as possible will be involved in this important task.

Visit by IUS Vice-President

Members of several societies were host in April to the visit to Australia of the Vice President of the International Union of Speleology, Russell Gurnee, and Mrs Jeanne Gurnee. Cavers in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Hobart enjoyed their slide talks. They managed to get into some 36 caves, and took part in the Cave Tourism and Management Conference in Lakes Entrance. Sincere thanks to those clubs and individuals who helped to make this a memorable visit by two most distinguished and experienced cavers:

Roy Skinner, Tom Hayllar, Elery Hamilton-Smith, Stuart Nicholas, Greg Middleton, Steve Harris, Bob Woodhouse, John Callaghan, Keith Oliver, Mike Chalker, Alan Costigan, Guy Cox, Julia James, Andy Spate and numerous members of CSS, CTCG, NC, SCS, SSS, SUSS, TCC & VSA. Special thanks for their generosity and forbearance to the NSW Department of Leisure, Sport and Tourism, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in NSW, Tasmania and South Australia. (Hope that's everyone!)

WE NEED COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
SO PLEASE START WRITING

NEED MORE COPY SO PLEASE WRITE WE NEED MORE COPY SO PLEASE WRITE WE NEED MORE COPY

Letters to the Editor

MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

I read Norm Poulter's article on the close-up and macro photography in the Spring 1982 issue of the Newsletter with some interest.

For those who don't want to buy a telephoto lens or can't be bothered lugging all that junk into caves to get their close-up photographs, they can do what I did and buy an auto macro converter lens. This is a lens system (4 elements in 4 groups) that fits between a standard lens and the camera body and converts the standard lens into a macro close-up lens. I bought mine duty free in Sydney in September last year for \$77. Since then I have seen them advertised in the mail order section of American Photography as low as US\$65.

The big advantage is that they are no bigger than a standard lens (53 mm long) and weigh only 250 grams. Norm's bellows and lens weigh 1034 grams.

Procedure for use is simple; remove standard lens, screw in converter, screw in standard lens, set standard lens focus to infinity, focus on subject with focus ring on converter, set aperture, shoot.

Picture distance falls between 1.5 mm and 10 cm. At 1:1 ratio the distance from the front of the lens to the subject is 13.5 cm. With the bellows it is only 4 cm. Hence the depth of field at any aperture is better. Light fall off varies from 2.75 f/stops at 1:1 to 2.5 f/stops at 1:10 and this is marked on the converter for every magnification ratio.

I haven't taken mine underground yet. I used it very successfully taking close-ups of insects on flowers and water droplets on pine needles etc. in the Canadian Rockies where I spent some of my last vacation. Resolution was superb.

IAN WOOD

DEVELOPMENT AT ABERCROMBIE CAVES

Following a resolution at the last ASF Conference, a letter was forwarded to the Premier of NSW expressing the concern of the Australian Speleological Federation about proposals to divest control of Abercrombie Caves from the NSW Department of Leisure, Sport and Tourism.

Early in 1983, a meeting was held at the Caves between senior Ministerial and Departmental officers on the one hand, and representative from the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Field Naturalist Association of NSW, several local community groups, and two representatives of Australian Speleological Federation (Peter Ceapa and Ken Keck).

Support from ASF and other bodies has now resulted in a decision that the caves will remain under the department's control and there will be no change in staffing. Indeed this has been very much confirmed by the release of funds for improvement of walking tracks (now nearly complete) which enables tourists to walk up to Grove Gully and across the top of the Arch on a well graded and stepped track which leads back

down to the northern end of the Arch and will be extended to take in a walk through Stable Arch. A viewing platform has been provided about halfway down the hill which will look directly into the northern end of the main Arch.

I understand that the ultimate plan is to make Bushrangers Cave and Stable Arch into one inspection (avoiding the Arch altogether). Later the new exit to the Cathedral Cave located by MSS some years ago may be opened making a tour of King Solomons Cave and Cathedral one complete inspection, also avoiding the Arch Cave. These changes will permit Arch Cave to become a separate inspection.

Thanks again to ASF for support in this matter.

KEN KECK

JENOLAN CAVE RESCUE

Herewith are a few points which the members of NSW Cave Rescue Group felt need explanation, having read the various reports of the incident.

1. Cave Rescue has NO authority to call out any other group. We can only advise the police on suitable action. This was done when the accent changed from surface search to underground - but still some time elapsed before this advice was acted upon.

As a rule the police are reluctant to use volunteers of unknown discipline for obvious reasons.

Guy Cox, in his letter would seem to be supporting the old system, whereby various clubs sent lists of names to the police to be called out in case of accident. This was found to be unsatisfactory by the police as those so named, dropped out of caving, changed address etc., with out notifying them.

This is one reason the CRG was set up - so that the NSW Police Disaster and Rescue Branch would have a reliable, current call-out list of disciplined people to call on. In turn, CRG guarantee to supply further personnel if required.

NOTE: Because the NSW police are charged with the total responsibility for rescue in the state, the UK system cannot operate effectively.

2. The first feeling of the police was that the lost boy was injured, above ground within reasonable distance of Caves House. Then it was suggested that he may have left the area, but this was not allowed to detract from the search activities. CRG was called in to check thoroughly, cave entrances within the probable areas. But this was only meant as assistants to police searchers. That Aladin Cave was not checked by cavers in the initial sweep was an unfortunate 'luck of the draw'. This is likely to occur in all similar situations. (It should be noted that CRG did specifically ask police if Aladin Cave had been carefully checked.) The need for additional assistance to search caves became evident to the police towards the end of the day when they were going off duty and CRG had been twelve hours in the field.
3. Fatigue is an insidious deterrent to safe caving and particularly so in the rescue situation. The planned night search was of

limited duration to ensure the safety of all.

4. Another major concern was our lack of communications. This was to be overcome by the arrival of WICEN operations.
5. The mechanism for the search was in operation prior to the arrival of the additional helpers. We were only awaiting who and how many. B Welch and R King were seconded to advise on optimum search patterns using their local knowledge. Previously, we were using CRG and cave guides (being most knowledgeable of tourist activities). Team allocation was done in consultation with CRG.
6. The only efficient search method is that of a systematic and disciplined pattern. CRG were operating along standard police guidelines (unchangeable) with their inherent advantages, safeguards, and hence, limitations. Thus, Devil's Coach House (and environs) was searched three times, each time with increasing penetration before the pattern was extended to cover the next degree of probability. David Sima could have been found two hours after the search commenced or four days after the time he was actually located, or at any time in between.

It is interesting to note the comments (unrecorded) of one member of a party that actually found David Sima:

- a. while standing at the entrance to Aladin Cave he could clearly hear the conversation between the lost boy and his rescuers
 - b. he also commented that there was no sound from the boy until about the time the rescuers saw him.
7. CRG are very willing to send observers to the individual club's rescue practices but to this date no requests have been received.

Surpassing this would be the need for those who are likely to respond to a request from the police via CRG to assist in a search and rescue situation, to be disciplined, to understand the limitations of operations under which CRG works, to appreciate the responsibilities imposed upon the police and their reaction to them. To achieve this there must be a degree of personal contact with CRG, ideally membership of and total involvement in CRG.

B McQuillan, R Steenson, M Attard, S Murray, E Byrnes, L Zanker, D Matts, G Matts, R Taylor, et al - CRG.

ROPE ARTICLE

Having just read ASF Newsletter No. 98 (Summer 1982) there are a few comments which must be made.

As equipment organiser of "Muller '82". I have grown accustomed to gross misinformation about the equipment we took. More than half of our rope was privately owned by expedition members and as such was to be replaced if damaged or lost. Every endeavour was made to bring back this rope, no matter what it was, so as to avoid the extra expense of replacing it.

Many people were (probably still are) confused as to which rope was which. On more than one occasion we heard complaints about that "terrible Beal stuff" when the rope in question

was in fact a length of ancient Downs 10 mm sailing rope.

Abrasion resistance - (I must admit we were a bit sceptical before we used it.) Ropes put on the heavy use entrance series of the caves received a terrible beating. As far as field comparisons go, 11 mm Bluewater II fared the best, followed by 11 mm Bluewater III and (10.5 mm) Beal Dynastat wearing about the same. No other types of rope were used on this main thoroughfare, dirty pitches. Some other high traffic pitches received regular rinsing and so can hardly be compared. I am writing a separate article about stretch so I don't want to say too much at this stage.

Beal was not often used on short pitches because we had a good supply of short personally owned ropes (Beal, Bluewater, Downs, Edelrid, Marlow) to fill that role.

Beal was used on several long pitches because it came in 200 m rolls - eg. the 300 m "jungle abseil" to Nali and Malemuli. On Mt Legari the lighter weight Beal found special favour as all equipment had to be carried through exceptionally thick jungle for 10 km to Uli Mindu (150 m entrance pitch) and back again at altitudes of 2,500 to 3,200 m a.s.l.. If we had had some 9 mm rope we would have used it instead!

Almost all of our Beal was freighted off the Muller but somebody obviously thought it a good rope as a 200 m length disappeared between the helicopter lift and Sydney. Most of the discarded rope was the remains of my 10 mm Downs, some old Marlow and an Interalp climbing rope. In all, 700 m of rope was "written off". 200 m stolen, about 200 m left behind, and the remaining 300 m (various brands, but mainly Bluewater and Beal) is being sold off for what it is worth i.e. almost nothing.

Most of the Beal has been sold off at cost, even in a used condition. We could have sold very much more.

Beal makes an excellent canyon rope, having most of the handling properties of an 11 mm climbing rope, yet lighter, cheaper and less bouncy. If Beal Dynastat is still available at \$1.40 a metre I suggest that everybody looking at buying rope should march out and get some! (But be careful to get Dynastat, and not Hyperstat.) Dynastat is easily distinguished by its 3 larger braid on braid construction, while Hyperstat has a more conventional cove and sheath.)

ALAN WARILD

Copy Deadlines

SUMMER 1983 : No. 102

1 Nov 1983

AUTUMN : 1984 : No. 103

1 Feb 1984

Conservation Column

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA CAMPAIGN REPORT - April 83

RANDALL KING

ASF's Role

ASF members have played a long and active role in the South West. Kevin Kiernan in particular has spearheaded this involvement. In the Autumn 1982 issue of the ASF Newsletter Kevin wrote "times have changed since a handful of amateur cavers eight years ago commenced exploration of the Franklin River karst in the hope that their activities might somehow bolster the case against damming the last major wild river in temperate Australia."

Indeed, it is important to emphasise the exact position of ASF with respect to south West Tasmania. ASF has a duty under our constitution to safeguard the karst heritage of Australasia. The position as adopted at the January 1983 Conference was that ASF would run its own independent, apolitical campaign directed solely at promoting the protection of the caves in S.W. Tasmania, which might be adversely affected by dams and dam construction work. However, that said, the reality is that a substantial proportion of ASF membership have a strong sympathy with the broader aims of the wilderness issue and it is inevitable that individual members will become identified with other organisations, such as the Wilderness Society or make strong personal statements.

Publication of these views in the ASF Newsletter does not constitute endorsement by the Federation.

Particular people who must be thanked include Harry Coleman, Greg Middleton, Peter and Glennis Wellings, and John Bonwick both for their contributions to the early Franklin expeditions and for their strong support of the campaign, including evidence before the Senate Select Committee of Enquiry and organising a public meeting at Rockdale Town Hall in the Barton electorate.

The list of people involved just goes on and on. Judith Bateman for strong editorial support, Nick White and Adrian Davey for setting the ASF directions and co-ordinating the campaign in Victoria, and of course to all those who gave up their time, money and often liberty to attend the blockade - an extra special thanks.

Federal Election Victory

By now the conservation victory in the March 5th, election is history. This is solely attributable to the massive support given to the campaign in such a myriad of ways by people from all walks of life.

The election campaigning was focused on 14 marginal electorates, and additionally in John Howard's, Sydney seat of Bennelong. In Bennelong, the well known conservation candidate Milo Dunphy, claimed 12% of the total vote and tied up John Howard in his own electorate for a large part of the available campaigning time.

The special 'Vote For The Franklin' tickets which were distributed in some of the marginal seats had different preference distributions to the ALP tickets distributed in those seats. This was designed to identify and quantify any significant difference in preference distribution from the ALP how to vote leaflets. Scrutineering of votes revealed that in Phillip (NSW), Bowman (QLD), and Diamond Valley (VIC) 14%, 13% and 16% respectively of ALP votes were cast on the special conservation ticket - or about 15% (1 in 6) of the total ALP vote in all these seats on a unweighted basis.

Pre-election polls indicated that about a third of the people who said they would be influenced by the dam issue were previously Liberal voters. On this basis, it could be said that the wilderness campaign decided the outcome in 3 seats (Diamond Valley, Flinders and Fadden), and was an important factor in the outcome of another 9. In fact, in Anne Summers book "Gamble for Power" (1), the ALP concedes an additional 2 seats - Casey and Petrie for the National South-West Coalition (NSWC) campaign.

In Victoria, where we were the most successful, the 5 Franklin seats averaged 6.62% swing to the ALP versus a swing of only 4.16% in "the rest" (5.4% versus 3.7% in NSW).

The Democrats benefited even more from the NSWC Senate campaign. The average primary Democrat vote in the 15 "conservation" seats was 13% against an average of 8.87% in the other 110 divisions. This was enough to return the No. 2 democrat Colin Mason in NSW, and to score 4 out of the top 5 Democrat votes in the 34 Victorian divisions, including the national high of 19% in Casey (2).

To give some idea of the scale of the campaign nationally, about 5,000 volunteers gave blanket coverage to polling booths in the targeted seats on March 5th. At some booths, particularly in the country NSWEC workers often outnumbered booth workers from all other parties combined. ALP officials were quoted as saying the full colour double page advertisement printed in the Sun Herald and the Age on March 2nd (the most expensive single item of the campaign) was the most effective single political advertisement they had seen.

Even outside the 15 targeted electorates, the momentum of the interest generated by the 1,500 arrests in South West Tasmania and strong, but little publicised local efforts had a subtle but critical influence on how the Federal Government was viewed by the electorate. In Ian Sinclair's National Party seat of New England in NSW, one Wilderness Society organiser ran a 5 day whistle stop tour of 10 towns, setting up 4 TWS branches, giving media interviews and distributing 8,000 Vote For The Franklin green stickers. Ian Sinclair, a "states rights" hardliner in Cabinet was forced to preferences.

So let there be no question that the national Hawke mandate to create sanity in Tasmania is somehow illusory. There is no better reference than that of the ex-Deputy Prime Minister Doug Anthony, who stated the day after the elections that the wilderness issue was the next main reason they lost after the economy.

The lesson to be learnt by governments of all political complexions is that given this combination of outrageous and provocative circumstances, people can be and will be motivated to vote on the basis of a single issue. The Tasmanian Liberals sowed the seeds

of their own national destruction - had they held a proper referendum or accepted an independent inquiry into the South West (which most people aren't aware was the sole short term objective of the Franklin blockade) they might not be in their present predicament.

A New Sense of Values

This election marks the resurgence of a new sense of values and commitment to how we relate to our land. In the same sense that the radical womens' movement in the early 1970's marked a turning point in public attitudes, the Franklin campaign symbolises a focal point within the community for disenchantment with the cavalier and self serving political machinery which has led to the situation in South West Tasmania today.

The hallmark of the Franklin campaign has been the way in which middle class concern has been translated into action (3). We all now have a responsibility to build upon these foundations.

Economics and Employment

The Tasmanian Wilderness Society has entered a new phase of operations. A team of researchers is now tackling the problem of providing ideas for positive long term economic strategies exclusive of the brief hydro-industrialisation. These projects cover a wide range including a speeding up of work on the Pieman Scheme; development of tourist facilities; road, school and rail construction programmes; upgrading of fishing ports, sewerage and water supply developments.

All the above projects meet the criteria of provision of long term economic advantages whilst requiring a workforce with similar skills to the HEC workforce. These projects could be funded through Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies. There is strong local support for most of these proposals as authorities have been starved of capital by the funding of the HEC over the years. Before the first Labour Cabinet meeting on the South West, a paper entitled "Immediate Non-Hydro Employment For The Gordon Below Franklin Workforce", was produced by this research group. This paper was instrumental in providing many of the ideas later developed by the new Government (4).

Another paper released recently analyses the latest available information on demand for electricity in Tasmania (5). The three most important points raised are:

electricity demand actually fell by 0.5% for the first time in calendar 1982 (6)

consumption is now 112 megawatts below the 1979 HEC projection used when justifying the Franklin project

at the average growth rate of 1.53% per annum of the last four years (assuming the present decline corrects itself) it will take 21 years to exhaust the 1025 mw capacity of the Tasmanian grid after the Pieman, Great Lakes and 3rd Gordon generator projects are completed.

On this information there can be no justification of the claim that hydro electric construction needs to be commenced immediately. A Moratorium should be declared.

At the National Economic Summit, a paper was released to all participants and media "New Directions for Tasmania - We Mean Business" (7). This addresses the longer term requirements and alternatives for moving the economy from the present capital - intensive, primary resources manufacturing base, to

job-intensive, skilled industries such as sunrise technologies. Tasmania is ideally placed to adopt these strategies if some of the hydro industrialisation capital funding (57% of all available capital funds in 1982) is redirected. These factors hit at the core of the present problem and, if the alternatives are adopted, will inevitably lead to a rationalisation of HEC operations.

Where To From Here

Since 1967, when the Lake Pedder scheme commenced, the wilderness area has been whittled down from over 20% of Tasmania, to 11% before the current development commenced; soon only a few percent. Even the Labor Government has been promoting the continuation of the Crotty Road development right through the World Heritage area. In March the Tasmanian Government announced the lifting of the moratorium on mining, forestry and commercial development of the South West.

So the dream of a true temperate wilderness area in Australia of significant size will not be achieved. Our job now is to work towards minimising the impact of these proposals and trying to introduce a breath of sanity. Before we can afford to broaden our sights on the other significant national problems outside the South West it is VITAL that we don't sit back on our laurels and get rolled just when our chances are bright.

What You Can Do

Write to the popular newspapers and magazines (eg. tabloids, Womens Weekly etc.) expressing your feelings. It is important we counter the campaign being conducted by the "organisation for Tasmanian Development". Speak to your Federal Parliamentary Representative on:

- the need for a strong South West Tasmania Management Plan
- objection to the Henry, Anthony and King River hydro electric proposals which are either in or effect the Australian Heritage area. This only continues the economic folly of hydro industrialisation
- join the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, support their shops and stalls, continue your donations and help organise the continuation of the campaign. Ring the TWS in the capital city of your state for further details. If there is not a local branch in your area, why not start one?

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DON'T BE A VICTIM OF INEXPERIENCE

Chiang Dao Cave, Northern Thailand

JOHN DUNKLEY

Across the northern part of Thailand is a small part of the largest limestone area in the world. This area covers most of south-west China, some of northern Vietnam and extends across the fabled Golden Triangle of Laos, far northern Thailand and northern Burma.

My interest in getting to the area some day was sparked by a talk given by Elery Hamilton-Smith at the ASF Conference in 1968. He reported conversations in Bangkok with Fred Stone, a member of the NSS (USA), who had walked over and caved under much of Asia. Fred claimed to have walked, run and swum through railway tunnel sized caves for up to twenty kilometres with no sign of an end. Trouble was, where were these caves? Fred doesn't seem to have been one to commit much to paper; his reports were rather sparse and I didn't have time to contact him.

Ah well, yet another elusive speleological Shangri-La! However, in 1976, following our largely abortive reconnaissance trip to Burma, Andrew Pavey in a fine display of suicidal bravado, rented a motor bike and rode the 80km from Chiang Mai to Chiang Dao. He returned to Australia with news of a large tourist cave and a high limestone plateau, the latter rather inaccessible because of local political troubles and the odd bit of opium growing and drug running. About the same time an Austrian caver visited Chiang Dao and reported in 'Die Hohle' that it was "said to be 10 or even 14 kilometres long". It is evident, though, that he did not go beyond the first few hundred metres of electrically lit tourist section.

Finally, a 1981 letter from the inimitable Mike Bourke, who has also poked around northern Thailand, enthused me about the caving potential. I reached Chiang Dao without trouble in December 1981.

The cave is 800km north of Bangkok, about 500m asl., 5km west of Chiang Dao village on a rough tarred road and is an active outflow at the foot of Chiang Dao, (or Doi (Mountain) Luang) which rises very steeply to 2186m and is all limestone. Like a surprising number of other caves in Thailand, income from tourist inspections helps support the local Wat (Temple). About 400m of the northern branch is electrically lit and another 300m can be explored readily with a hand torch. It ends in a deep pool of water which appears to underly and drain a re-entrant valley on the mountain slopes north-west of the entrance.

There are two distinct overlying passages in the southern section of the cave, trending almost due west. The upper level (Tham Mar, or Horse cave) is typically 4-5m high and wide, quite well decorated and ends in a flowstone blockage after 400m. There are connections to a lower passage known as Grass Cave, which is of similar proportions though much wetter. I was shown two places where water obviously sinks still lower in the wet, and a short distance further on, a muddy section which fills completely in the wet season. Another 100m and we reached what the guide said was the limit of inspections except in the dry season.

In the second half of the dry season, which lasts from December to March, guided trips can be arranged further into the cave for a whole day for 200 Baht (\$8) which must mean many more kilometres travel.

Each of the three sections of the caves is more or less level walking, or running. Grass Cave seems to be the main drain, running due west almost directly into the massif of Doi Chiang Dao. There can be little doubt that this is one of the big ones and no reason to contradict the claim that it runs 10 to 14km. As well, there is at least the theoretical prospect of the deepest cave in the world: the local limestone relief is 1700m, rainfall is high and the Doi is at least 20-30 sq km in area, covered with rain forest and has vertical cliffs 200-300m high on its south face.

There are significant variations in available geological maps, probably reflecting advances in exploration, but they suggest large outcrops of Permo-Carboniferous Ratburi Limestone on all sides of the small plain containing Chiang Dao village. A very steep mountain (limestone?) is visible to the east, while to the north-west a long range of limestone mountains apparently extends continuously to the 500m high cliffs towering above the main north road 25km north of Chiang Dao. A little further north still is Tham Tap Tao, or Dap Dao Cave. Said locally to be even larger than Tham Chiang Dao, one story has visitors walking between Buddha images for most of the first 2km of the cave. A detailed geological map shows this cave is also opening at the foot of a high limestone massif. I obtained details of 30 other caves in the area and 200 in the whole country.

The area obviously has immense potential but at this stage deserves a 3-4 man reconnaissance exploration rather than a large expedition. The trip could be as easy or hard as desired. Being readily accessible, Chiang Dao Cave alone would repay the effort, but some attempt should be expended in reaching remoter villages, many of which now have motorable access tracks. Chiang Dao village is sophisticated enough to serve as a base (the main street boasts a sign in English announcing 'Toilet for Rent') and the winter climate is dry, mild and pleasant day and night.



Safety and Techniques

RESCUE '83 A REPORT

Rescue '83, a cave rescue training and practice weekend and organised by the Cave Rescue Group with the assistance of many, was held at the Bungonia State Recreation Area over the weekend of 12-13 March. This was the eighth such exercise held by the Group and had by far the largest attendance; nearly 400 persons.

The breakdown of those who registered was this:

Cave Rescue Group	27
Scouting Movement	118
Caving Societies	87
VRA Squads	30
Sydney Police	3
Victorian Police	3
Squad Training & Assistance Group (VRA)	5
Fed. of Bushwalkers	7
W.I.C.E.N. (V.R.A.)	20
Nat. Parks	1
V.R.A. Executive	4
Volunteer Air Patrol (ground party)	4
S.E.S. Squads	15
'Vertical World'	3
M.S.A.	2
Ambulance (on duty)	1
St John's Brigade (Goulburn)	23
Outdoor Groups	6
Ungrouped	24
TOTAL	383

Friday evening saw large numbers of participants arriving at the Area, keeping Registration on their toes until the early hours of Saturday morning.

On Saturday, teams based on previous attendance at this exercise were selected and the most experienced (yellow) began a cave rescue practice in a difficult cave with two patients. This exercise took some nine hours to complete. The rest of the teams, (red, green and purple) were given lectures during the morning on such topics as 'The Role of the Cave Rescue Group', First Aid, Cave Safety, Map Reading, Leadership and Bushcraft. The afternoon was devoted to workshops. Topics and practices included Orienteering, Hauling, Types of Stretchers, Manoeuvring stretchers in a mock cave, and Single Rope Techniques. Saturdays events were concluded with the showing of the film "Life of Brian".

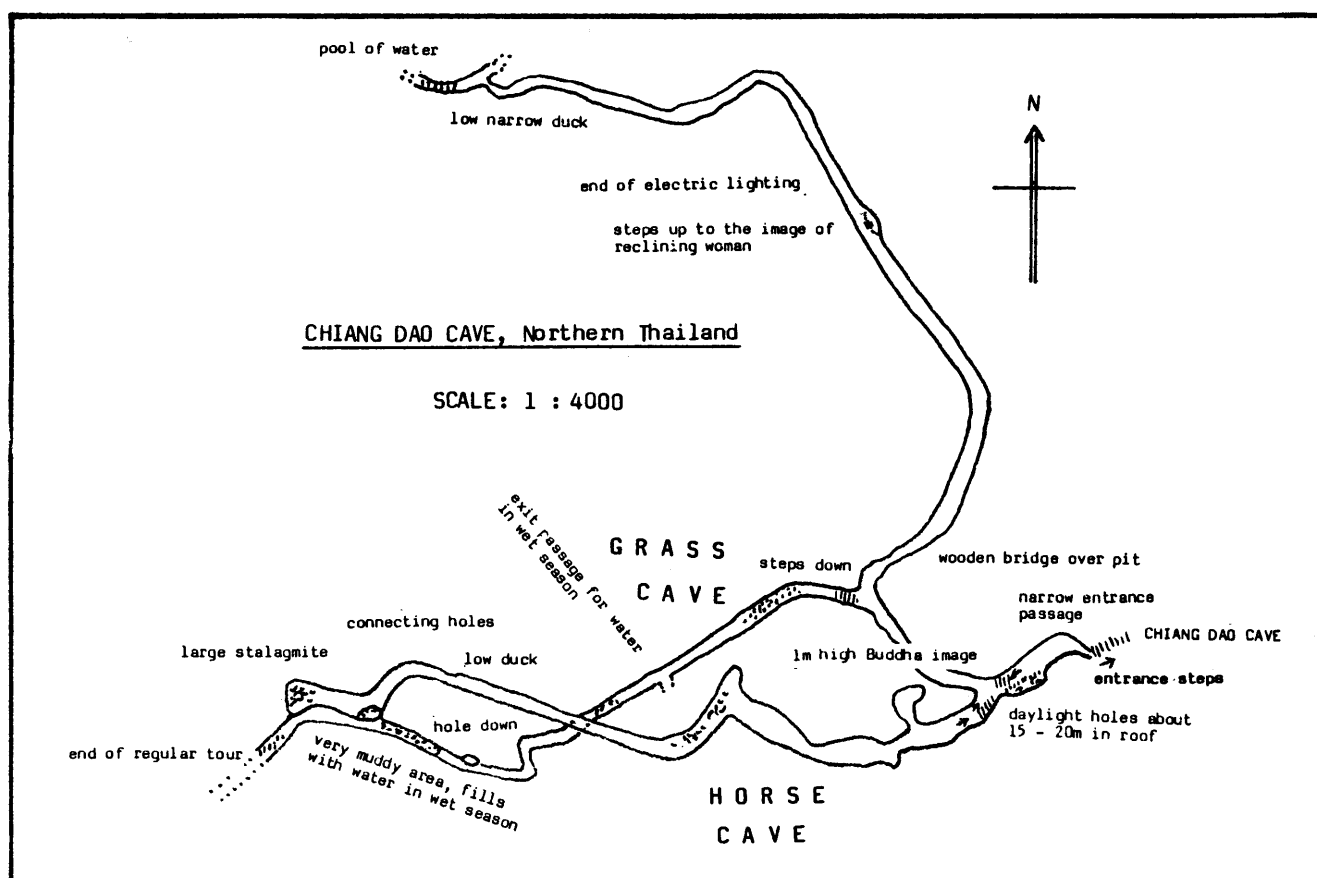
On Sunday morning, the yellow group had their debrief and discussion session while the rest were divided into twenty teams for some four hours of cave rescue practice. After lunch a short general debrief were held and the official activities for the weekend were concluded.

The weekend was a huge success with many favourable comments being noted on the team questionnaire. The large number of participants certainly cause a problem and generally the teams were too large for good efficiency. The CRG was run ragged because of the shortage of staff.

Catering was superbly handled by Senior Constable Neil Turley of the Sydney Police Rescue Squad and the police catering van. Where would we be without him?

The weather was very hot which contributed nothing to the smooth running of the exercises but most came away well pleased with the events and the information offered, vowing to 'see yhou at Rescue '84'.

Brian N McQuillan,
Convenor Rescue '83 Committee.



DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

CTCG A weekend trip to Deua Cave and Ridge Mine Pot was conducted in fine weather with a magnificent camp site on the Deua River. Most of the night was spent learning the intricacies of damper making. Ridge Mine Pot was visited the next day but as the weather was so inviting we decided to forego caving and indulged into the old standby - surface exploration. A euphemism for mucking about. The Coleman Caves were visited over the January long weekend. Murray's Cave was the highlight as it was open beyond the sumps owing to the drought. In March we visited Yarrangobilly and gave Joe Jennings and Andy Spate the first official inspection of Y58 since its rehabilitation. The following day was spent with Joe on a guided tour of some of the hydrological and geomorphological puzzles of the Yarrangobilly district.

Jim Reid

MSS The Society has had a busy year to date with trips to Abercrombie, Wombeyan, Yarrangobilly, Jenolan, Timor, Wyanbene and Lake Burrenjuck.

At Yarrangobilly cleaning of parts of Glory Hole was commenced under the guidance of Andy Spate. Other work at Yarrangobilly included photo-tagging, surveying and the discovery of further extensions and voice connection in Y48-49. These two caves are very unstable and extreme care needs to be taken.

A small cave was recently discovered at Abercrombie (A220) and there is the possibility of further discoveries in the area.

The Department of Leisure Sport and Tourism are retaining their interest in the Abercrombie Cave Reserve and money has been provided for track development and improvement of tourist facilities.

The Society was lucky enough to be able to visit Lake Burrenjuck, with members of HSC, prior to the dam refilling. It may be decades before the numerous caves in the area become exposed again.

Scott Macfarlane

OSS Little activity was evident during the summer months. Interests other than caving seem to be occupying our membership for the present. The survey of Diprotodon Cave at Canomodine has now been completed and is being put on paper at present. Most of our activity will continue here for the meantime.

Bruce Howlett is the new President, taking over from Bill Johnston; and Derrick Halls is the new Secretary, taking over from Ray Rowney. Brian Bunbridge is the club's new ASF representative.

SRGWA

The group is slowly getting into it's stride after the Christmas break and the ASF Conference. Robert and Norman Poulter caved for a short time on Kangaroo Island and visited Nurina Cave on their way back from the Conference. Several more amphipods and water samples were collected from the cave. It is now evident that the main colony of amphipods are centralized around a 1m² lake at the base of the entrance rockpile so visitors should exercise care on entering the cave. A scientific description of this new species is currently in progress negating the need for any more collecting.

Work is proceeding on the cleanup of Yallingup tourist cave with the Group presenting a slide show at the nearby Caves Hotel whenever they are in the area.

The television documentary that the Group was involved with last year went to air in mid-March receiving good audience response. Just on 30% of the fifty minute programme was devoted to caving and diving under the Nullarbor Plain. Press reports indicate that the series will be shown through Australia in the near future on the Channel Nine network. Known as The Wonder of Western Australia, the three episodes produced so far are well worth watching out for.

Norm Poulter

WASGA

Rauleigh Webb reports on WASG activities for the last six months. Pre-Speleovision trips to the Nullarbor were organised by WASG and were quite successful. In general these trips were fairly touristy but some work was done. A small cave found on Mundrabilla station by the Williamson and Parr's travelling 'circus' was surveyed to ASF grade 55 and a resurvey of Webb's Cave, to a similar grade, was commenced. Water flow experiments were conducted in Nurina Cave and to everyone's surprise the water was found to be flowing beneath the calcite rafts!!

The only disaster of the trip was a certain South Australian who found that all of the great photos that he had been taking for the previous two weeks were figments of his imagination as the camera had no film in it.

Post conference trips were in general poorly attended by WASG members as we all had to head for home but Mike Butcher arrived from WA just in time for the Post Conference Corra Lynn and Nullarbor trips.

Surface mapping has continued at Yanchep with Mike Butcher leading many one day trips to tag, survey and mark onto an area map, the many caves of this area. Following a burn in the Melaluca Cave area several weekends were spent finding new caves. Several were of significance by Yanchep

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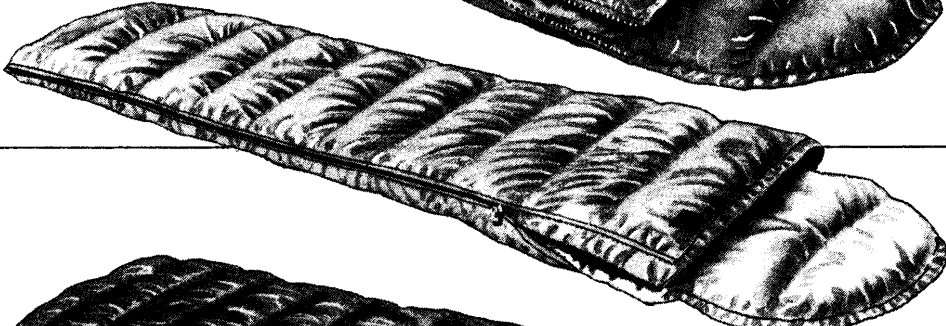
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HOTHAM	1.60 kg	Box Wall	700 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
MELALEUCA	1.55 kg	Box Wall	800 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Side Zip	34 x 23
BOGONG	1.60 kg	Box Wall	900 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
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