

SumpThink

February 2000: Issue #264

Club Night

Wednesday 9th February 2000

Topic Risk Management

Speaker Bob Wellington

Venue: Small Gallery, Turnbull House 7.30pm

Contact: Bob W 04 298 9281

Prior to the meeting club members meet informally in the Backbencher from 6pm for a meal and chat.

Climbing Night

Wednesday 23rd February 2000

WCG **activity night** at *Hangdog Climbing Cavern*, 453 Hutt Road. See you from 6pm to 9pm. Committee members will be there to provide the opportunity to climb, practise SRT, and find out about caving gear. Bring your friends and family along too.

Contact Bob W 04 298 9281 star-plus@clear.net.nz. Discounts for entry and for any gear you purchase. Food is available just down the road at Station village, or Pizza delivery.

Bring your gear if you have it, including helmet, electric light, harness, SRT equipment, etc.

Welcome

Welcome to the 21st Century. I hope you had as much fun on your holidays as I did a Camp Rangī Woods on mine. I've just pencilled the WCG trips for the next few months onto my calendar. It looks like a busy year with some excellent activities. WCG continues its monthly meetings at Turnbull house - bring a friend along. Climbing nights at Hangdog will also recommence in February, this is an ideal way of getting your SRT gear and technique sorted. Also: WCG needs your help - a new committee in August, trip and activity organisers, trip report and article writers, new members, existing members (please renew your subscription), trip and activity participants, contributions to the web pages.

I look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you out there.

Simon

Events Calendar 2000

Wed 9 Feb 2000	WCG	Club Meeting Risk Management Contact TBA	bw@caving.wellington.net.nz
16 to 21 Feb 2000 <i>Extended Weekend</i>	WCG	Bohemia and Bulmer WCG expedition. Horizontal and Vertical caving. Contact Barry C	bc@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 1 Mar 2000	WCG	Committee Meeting Contact Bob W 04 298 9281	secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 8 Mar 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Second of the Year Contact TBA	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
11 to 12 Mar 2000	WCG	Makuri Coonoor Puketoi Contact Simon Davis	sd@caving.wellington.net.nz
31 Mar 1 to 2 Apr 2000	WCG	Puketiti Contact TBA	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 12 Apr 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Third of the Year Contact TBA	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
21 to 24 Apr 2000 Easter	NSG WCG	Patarau, North West Nelson Contact TBA	
Wed 10 May 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Fourth of the Year Contact TBA	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
12 to 14 May 2000	WCG	Okupata (Fraser's Bluff) <i>Survey</i> Prospect Contact Simon Davis	sd@caving.wellington.net.nz
Queen's Birthday 2000	WCG	Mahoenui Contact TBA	President@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 7 Jun 2000	WCG	Committee Meeting Contact Bob W 04 298 9281	secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 14 Jun 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Fifth of the Year Contact TBA	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
Sat 8 Jul 2000	WCG	Mid Winter Swim Contact Rob S 04 298 8584	

Contributions to SumpThink

Keep those contributions coming. Please **email** contributions to the editor, or put them on a floppy disk or piece of paper and snail mail them (2 High Street, Petone).

Deadline for **SumpThink** is the **third Wednesday** of the month. **SumpThink** is **published** monthly from February to December.

WCG on the Internet

WCG has changed its email list provider. The pages have been tidied up and new links and content, notably some useful documents, added. Feedback and contributions are always welcome.

caving.wellington.net.nz	Wellington Caving Group Home Page
caving.wellington.net.nz/sumpthink	SumpThink
www.egroups.com/lists/wgtncaving or wgtncaving-subscribe@egroups.com	Email group, for the latest in event information Subscribe on the web or by email
www.egroups.com/lists/sumpthink or sumpthink-subscribe@egroups.com	Email delivery of SumpThink Subscribe on the web or by email
caving.wellington.net.nz/nzcaving	Index to NZ Caving sites and publications, Includes CCG's Cavity and NSG's Caverndish

Contact WCG 2000

President	Michael Wood	477 0909	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
Secretary	Pru & Bob Wellington	04 298 9281	secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz
Treasurer	Rob Sowerbutts	04 298 8584	
Membership Convenor	Rob Sowerbutts	04 298 8584	
Committee	Mike Coburn	04 299 1628	
	Mark Phillips	235 8173	
	Barry Cullen	527 7332	bc@caving.wellington.net.nz
	Rachel Miles	801 9979	rm@caving.wellington.net.nz
Gear	Bob, Rob, or Mike C.		gear@caving.wellington.net.nz
SumpThink Editor	Simon Davis	938 1956	sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz

For Sale

Calcium Carbide. At Club Meetings, or from the Treasurer. Coffee or Milo tin quantity to club members and approved non members.

Varta AA alkaline batteries. Superb value. Contact Bob W or catch him at club night to make your purchases.

Sell and Swap

SumpThink carries **Buy, Sell, and Swap** notices from members. Please send to the editor.

February Hangdog Climbing Shop Special

Aspiring Caving Chest Harnesses, Small, Medium, and Large. Contact Hangdog for prices and orders.

To **order** ring Hangdog on 589 9181, email hangdog@paradise.net.nz, or visit 453 Hutt Road.

School Holidays at Waitomo

My son Alex and his cousin Raewyn are lucky to have Mike Coburn for a grandfather. While most kid's grandads show them how to play cricket, theirs takes them on adventures. I, along with another caver, Carol Bird, was fortunate enough to accompany them on their latest escapade.

Wednesday, 15-12-99, 7:30pm:

After seven hours in the car we arrive at Waitomo. Five road weary souls. Hungry and tired. Actually, it wasn't really that bad. In fact some of us stuffed ourselves silly on chips in Taumarunui and slept most of the way.

Upon arrival at HTG headquarters it's nachos for tea. Mmmmmmm nothing like a huge plate of chilli beans the night before accompanying four other chilli bean powered cavers into the bowels of the earth. (Er, don't mention bowels).

Thursday, 16-12-99, 11am:

Zwei Holen is our cave of choice for today and as a non-caver I am impressed. In fact I may even be hooked.

After a wee walk on a lovely manicured track, a wee bit more of a walk on no track at all and a touch of indecision about where the entrance is, we find Zwei Holen and enter by sliding down a fallen tree trunk, similar to a rather fat fireman's pole. What a way to begin. Then slurping through mud and wriggling through squeezes. I like this cave. The pretty bits are pretty. Although I'm sure I've seen nothing yet. And the abseil is fun. A final slosh through the river and all too soon, daylight beckons. Yes, I like this cave.

Friday, 17-12-99, 9am:

Today we're Black Water Rafting. After donning the standard issue wetsuits, it's in the van and off to the cave. But before entering the cave we have to suffer a touch of humiliation and learn how to be an eel. That done, we walk in full wetsuits up hill for five minutes to the cave entrance. Scrambling, wading and floating follows, and a light show prettier than any night sky is our reward. More humiliation to earn a choccy fish, (I'd do anything for a choccy fish) and the adventure is all but over. Back at BWR base it's hot showers and tomato soup with bagels. A tasty end to a hard days work. I'll definitely be back for Black Water Rafting II.

This trip report would not be complete without mention of the latest adrenaline sport available in Waitomo. Dead Cow Surfing.

- Step one: Find a nice ripe dead cow
- Step two: Tie rope to said cow
- Step three: Tie other end of rope to 4WD vehicle
- Step four: Drag cow at speed along ground
- Step five: Run alongside cow
- Step six: Jump on cow
- Step seven: Fall off cow

Spectator warning - DO NOT STAND DOWN-WIND DURING THIS EVENT. RIPE COWS FIZZ WHEN JUMPED ON!

Siân Coburn.

N.B. No cows were harmed in the making of this report.

New Year 2000

At Waitomo after New Year,
Jane and John were staying there.
Arranged by email sent by me,
with Kevin and Mark of HTG.

We must write more we know,
because the editor he tells us so.
Caving trip? Well write it up;
Our first cave was **Rumbling Gut**.

With Rob of Auckland in the lead,
through the cave we went with speed.
Getting through Last Minute Squeeze,
despite it's history, it was a breeze.
Down on my side and then my knees,
wiggling left - I managed with ease.

Across the chain still fairly dry,
although to dunk us Rob did try.
Rumbling Gut in just two hours,
then heading back and to the showers.

California Dreaming next on the list,
squeezy, muddy - you get the gist!
Named because they thought they may,
perhaps go there soon on holiday.
Dreaming though they must have been,
no hippies, flares or sun were seen!

Abseiling down through a waterfall,
Those in the know swung out from the wall.
15 minutes walking a narrow rift,
no turning heads - there wasn't room to shift.
Eight of us in single file,
we think we walked more than a mile.
When there's no room to turn around,
narrow people are better we found!

Squeezing and crawling and mud on the face,
up the main stream we had a race.
Up past a junction, as far as we could get,
half-submerged we tried pushing the outlet.
From the sump and back to the fork,
left or right - sometimes leaders ideas are all talk!

Drier now, through **Moe-ana** we climbed,
the surveyors campsite we managed to find.
After a while, with lights running low,
suddenly ahead the daylight did show.
Up vertical cliffs and not on the track,
through the forest, finding the route to get back.
Navigation out here we found -
was just as hard as underground.

Tuesday the 4th and it's **Gardner's Gut**,
the 20th time for most in the HTG hut.
It's a beautiful cave, with a crystal clear stream;
two backpackers and MSG now in the team.
In through **Zweihohlen** using a handline,
so far the tourists are doing fine.

Clambering up and round a muddy slope,
then we went down by abseiling a rope.
A slower pace than the previous days,
giving us time at formations to gaze.

Reaching Mark's least favourite place,
last time here he was a stretcher case.
Belaying a safety line from the top,
we used a wire ladder to descend the drop.

The crystal clear stream with a pebble bed,
shallow and flat, in both directions it led.
I walked upstream and turned out my light,
glowworms and water - a magical sight.
No wonder beginners on their first cave,
come here then go home and rave!
I went upstream but not to the end,
just till I reached a 'knee-deep' bend.

Downstream all the others went,
taking our bags on they were sent.
Mark and I pushed through a very tight rift,
bending double, our progress was swift.
Zigzagging and crawling with no room to sit,
finally we squeezed out the last bit
through a hole of such tiny size
it sure gave Jodie a bit of surprise.

Moving along down the streambed,
I followed Mark then looked at his head-
His blue helmet glowed on one side,
it was a glowworm hitching a ride.

Past an Auckland Uni experiment
counting people to measure sediment
To see how much movement was occurring,
whether naturally or due to cavers stirring.

Downstream Entrance we came out,
it was a great cave without a doubt!

Later that day suggested Kevin and Sue,
rock-climbing would be a fun thing to do.
Climbing above ground was a great idea,
seeing as **Froggatts Edge** was so near.
That night I drove out with Mark,
and climbed the cliffs until it got dark.
With birds and a gnome, it's a beautiful spot,
I see why the locals come here a lot.

Next day - **Virginia**; rigging a 34m drop,
only slightly above ground the rope did stop!
Into the Swimming Pool I didn't go,
I'm getting so tired I just said no.
Neck deep went Kevin and John
into a tunnel and then they were gone.
Half hour later they came back in sight,
standing up, I turned on my light.
Heading up now the other way,
I think I was ready to call it a day!

Abseiled up and back for lunch;
then out again, 8 cavers in a big bunch.
[some big long Maori word] was it's name,
it and **Lime cave** are one and the same.
Got permission, no problem the farmer said;
while I fell asleep in the van instead.

Next day was **Lucky Strike** for John,
energetic, with lots of climbing going on!
His story soon will be written down,
he must have time now he's back in town!

Jane

Barbecue 1999

The BBQ went well with Bob, Pru, Rob, Pip, Emma, Nicola, Mike C, Jennifer, Sue, Trouty, Jane, John, Douglas, Natalia, Gavin and Barry and family represented, a good turnout.

Wellington Caving Group Proposed Change to the Constitution

Introduction

The WCG Committee proposes the following amendment to the Group's constitution by inserting the underlined text in the following section. The amendment limits the period for which a member is able to hold any given elected position.

Amendment

6 OFFICERS

- a. The Officers of the Group shall be:
 - (i) President
 - (ii) Secretary
 - (iii) Treasurer (provided that the Office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person)
- b. If the President cannot attend meetings, a Chairman is to be elected for the duration of the President's absence.
- c. The Officers of the Group shall be financial members of the Group and shall be elected at the Annual General Meetings, except that in the event of the resignation or loss from office of an Officer, the Committee shall have the power to appoint a replacement for the period up until the Annual General Meeting. Such Officers shall be nominated and seconded by financial members of the Group and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, but will be eligible for re-election (provided that no person shall hold any single elected office for more than three consecutive years.)
- d. The Officers elected at the Annual General Meeting shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they were elected.
- e. Officers elected by postal vote shall take office at the following meeting.

Discussion

The committee is concerned that committee members may become 'stale' in their positions if they remain in them for an extended period. By limiting this period it is hoped that Group members will be encouraged to allow themselves to be elected onto the committee, providing new faces and a fresh approach.

The amendment does not prevent an elected member, at the end of a three year term in office from being elected into a general position, or any other elected position.

Voting

We propose discussing this matter at the February and March 2000 meetings, before putting the proposal to a postal vote, to close at the April 2000 meeting. The results and, if passed, the amended constitution, will be published with the May 2000 Sumpthink.

M K Wood
President
WCG

15-Nov-1999

Wellington Caving Group
SumpThink Newsletter
Return to: 2 High Street; Petone.