

SumpThink

April 2000: Issue #266

Club Night

Wednesday 5th April 2000

Topic Kayaking in South America

Speaker Mike Wood

Venue: Small Gallery, Turnbull House 7.30pm

Contact: Mike W 477 0909

Prior to the meeting club members meet informally in the Backbencher from 6.30pm for a meal and chat.

SRT Night

Wednesday 29^h March 2000

WCG **SRT 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.

Please book in to ensure a safe ratio of instructors, and to allow for sufficient rigging.

Contact Bob W 04 298 9281 bw@caving.wellington.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.

Good Caving

We had some ups and down at Puketoi recently. Highlights were visiting Palmerston North and seeing the talk, including 3D slides (I kid you not, they were quite effective) on Lechiguilla Cave in Carlsbad Cavern National Park (see <http://www.carlsbad.caverns.national-park.com>), and Gillespies Folly.

With a Puketiti trip at the end of the week, and the always enjoyable Easter at Paturau (contact Jane **now** if you want to take part), join us.

Special

We have appreciated the support of Top Adventures in approaching the manufacturer or distributor of a product and arranging a good deal for the Hangdog Climbing Cavern Monthly Special.. There has been little if any interest in the Special in recent months. Consequently this feature has been withdrawn from the web site and SumpThink. Volunteers to resurrect it would however be welcome.

Simon

sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz

Events Calendar 2000

Wed 29 Mar 2000	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 7:6:30pm to 9pm Book in <i>Bring friends and family</i> <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	star-plus@clear.net.nz
Wed 12 Apr 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Kayaking in South America <i>Contact Mike Wood 477 0909</i>	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
21 to 24 Apr 2000 Easter	NSG WCG	Patarau, North West Nelson <i>Contact Jane and Jennifer</i>	jfurkert@bigfoot.com
Wed 26 Apr 2000	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 6:30pm to 9pm Book in <i>Bring friends and family</i> <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	star-plus@clear.net.nz
Wed 10 May 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Under the Motorway – Knots <i>Contact Rob S 04 298 8584</i>	
12 to 14 May 2000	WCG TTC	Okupata (Fraser's Bluff) <i>Survey</i> Prospect (optional long weekend) <i>Contact Simon Davis</i>	sd@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 31 May 2000	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 6:30pm to 9pm Book in <i>Bring friends and family</i> <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	star-plus@clear.net.nz
Queen's Birthday 2000	WCG	Mahoenui <i>Contact TBA</i>	President@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 7 Jun 2000	WCG	<i>Committee Meeting</i> <i>Contact Barry C 527 7332</i>	secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 14 Jun 7:30pm	WCG	Club Meeting Fifth of the Year <i>Contact TBA</i>	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 28 Jun 2000	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 6:30pm to 9pm Book in <i>Bring friends and family</i> <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	star-plus@clear.net.nz
Sat 8 Jul 2000	WCG	Mid Winter Swim <i>Contact Rob S 04 298 8584</i>	

Contributions to SumpThink

I urgently need articles for SumpThink.. 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

caving.wellington.net.nz

Wellington Caving Group Home Page

caving.wellington.net.nz/sumpthink

SumpThink

www.egroups.com/lists/wgtncaving

Email group, for the latest in event information

or wgtncaving-subscribe@egroups.com

Subscribe on the web or by email

www.egroups.com/lists/sumpthink

Email delivery of **SumpThink**

or sumpthink-subscribe@egroups.com

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	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.

March Caving at Puketoi

Ramsay's Neck

Saturday 11th March, Ramsay's Neck, Pori, Puketoi Range

Led by Mike Coburn, the team was Debbie, Jane, John, Doug, Natalia, Judith and Walter.

Ramsay's Neck is a narrow rift cave, enjoyed more by the smaller people in the group! It would be difficult to get lost, as there is only one direction through, although at times we climbed up or down to use the least narrow parts. The keyhole squeeze at the entrance is not too difficult, moving forward and ensuring the right arm gets over the rock before the legs drop into the gap. Walter was not comfortable, and turned back here. He waited for us at the exit, and said he could hear us talking at least 30 minutes before we appeared!

We moved slowly through, navigating corners and tight bends for most of the distance. In the pool where the two Entrance routes converge, there were fresh water crayfish (koura) living, one about 6-8 inches long, and a small one who tried to nib our gloves when it was picked up.

After this the route opened out a bit, and progress was quicker. We reached the exit and could see daylight - so close and yet so far! Mike with a bit of manoeuvring managed to get the rope we had earlier rigged from above. We put on harnesses and descenders, moved out a bit further, tightened the rope through the descender, and used the tape to control our swing out. Ensuring the tape was free so the next person could pull the rope in, we descended to the bottom. A lot of rigging and effort for such a small drop!

Jane

Gillespies Folly

Sunday 12th March. Gillespies Folly, Coonoor, Puketoi Range

Led by Brendan of MSG, the team was Simon, Sue, Jane, John and Jennifer.

A new cave for WCG, Simon had printed the maps and Brendan knew where the entrance was, so off we went. [The land belongs to the same farmer as Famous Five; Gillespies Folly is a bit further up the road from Famous Five]. Another rift cave, much more bending over to get around rocks than yesterday. About 1 to 2 hours caving, no cave packs, possible to get totally wet in crawls.

The entrance we went in goes down beside the stinging nettle, and immediately into a squeeze. The squeeze looked worse than it was; on one side and arm - there were sufficient rocks to push and pull yourself through on. Here is a crossroads and 1m waterfall - straight ahead is a 50m wet squeeze up the stream, to the left another entrance (Jane exited out here later), and to the right the route we took.

The cave is not very long, but the crawling up and around makes it seem longer. We went through a series of small hollows and narrow rift bits, water ankle deep in places. We came to a larger pool, with a few glowworms. To the left we went first, bridging in places to access the least narrow gaps. This ended soon in a muddy narrowing of the passage, so we returned to the pool and went up to the right side passage.

Sometimes there were two routes, one involving sitting chest deep in the stream and pushing through the gap, the other route going up and pushing through similar sized gaps. Women found some areas more difficult than the men, getting stuck in certain positions that required a bit of pushing and pulling to get through. At the passage end Simon tried climbing up, using Johns head and shoulders, and looking for a route on, but there wasn't anything visible, just a aven with a flat muddy floor. The climbing here was very slippery clay and mud.

We went back up the passage to the crossroads, Jane went up the stream to find the other entrance. It was a crawl and on the stomach exercise, in a tube shaped tunnel that went a long way - much more than the 5m that the map showed (or so we estimate!). Simon followed most of the way, hearing Jane yell as a large koura swum away - she was on her stomach in the water at this stage, and hoping nothing would swim up inside her overalls. The map showed a straight line, but it took 3-4 bends in the stream before daylight and a way out was seen. Not a difficult squeeze, but not one where you would be able to turn around and retreat. Jane's exit was observed - by the large plug of water that rushed down the stream to the others waiting at the crossroads!

The exit into the paddock is a long trench-shaped crack, only 5m or so from the other entrance.

Jane

Furkert's Folly

Sunday 12th March. Furkert's Folly, Coonoor, Puketoi Range

Led by Jane, observed by Simon, Sue, Brendan, John and Jennifer.

A likely spot that we had to pass on the way back to the cars, John described it as 'a nasty little hole' and carried on. Jane, with others encouragement, investigated.

It was a muddy hole with a width only slightly larger than a person. Feet first, the hole kept going on a 45 degree downward slope, the mud ensured climbing back should be possible, so Jane continued down. It descended about 4m, then went horizontally for about another 4m, before stopping in a mud bank. At least 3 sheep skulls, just bones, so must have been quite some time since the hole was big enough for a sheep to fall down. (A dinosaur skeleton and three live moas were also seen, but as Jane was the only one down there, this couldn't be confirmed.) Wiggling back up again, first her head appears, then taking a few minutes to manoeuvre her widest but flexible part through the narrow gap, and finally she is out and climbing up through the onga-onga and back to the grass.

A guide to bringing Beginners or Family Caving

If taking someone new on a caving trip please stay with them as support. They are your responsibility too. The leader has the responsibility for the group, and cannot and should not be expected to spend the whole time on one to one training or coaxing. This can leave the rest of the party wanting, and reluctant about the return journey, not to mention reduce the opportunity for them to experience the cave.

Consider carefully before taking in more than one person, if you can actually look after and support both of them. It could be you sitting in the paddock with them waiting for the return party.

Your children should be under your guidance at all times, or with someone you have arranged prior. Make sure the invited party is doing and making this challenge for the right reasons. It's a team event where each person has his or her own mental and physical challenge to overcome when entering a cave. Let new people know of any areas that fall into this category. Don't mislead them with "it's easy anybody can do it" We all have different capability levels.

If the mental or emotional outlook is right, is the physical capability right? Maybe the person may need to prepare for a while and join the next trip. We all need goals!

Follow the leader

Let the leader know...

- Register, we need to know prior to the day. (Times and events could change, be cancelled or postponed, and enough gear needs to be arranged)
- What each person's capabilities are, and be honest
- Meet at the designated place. If not following the leader to the next point, make sure the leader knows when and where you will be meeting. (Wondering off and doing your own thing can be a time waster, time that can be better spent in the cave --that goes for support crew as well!)
- Book your equipment for hire, find out the costs and have the money ready on the day.
- Turn up to the monthly meeting prior to the trip
- Pick up a gear list

The leader has every right not to take anybody they feels is not up to it; mentally, physically, gear wise, clothing, or without a good ratio of experienced to novice cavers.

Soooo...

Let's be considerate

Let's have fun

Let's learn safely

Let's do it together as a team - with the right gear

Let's know caving etiquette, take out what we take in

Let's take the time to thank the leader, organiser and support crew

After all they're the ones that spent time planning, making toll calls, getting access permission, arranging gear and cleaning it. It's just courtesy

NO HELMET = NO CAVING

BE SENSIBLE = BE SAFE

- * If you enjoyed it share it with the club members, (may as well nobody else is going to believe you) write a short or long piece for Sumpthink

Sue

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.
