

SumpThink

October 2000: Issue #272

Club Night

Wednesday 11th October 2000

Topic Reading weather for outdoors activities

Speaker Leigh Matheson of the Meteorological Service

Venue: Small Gallery, Turnbull House **7.30pm**

Contact: John Robson 934 9544 jar@caving.wellington.net.nz

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

SRT Night

Wednesday 25th October 2000

WCG **SRT night** at *Hangdog Climbing Cavern*, 453 Hutt Road. See you from 6:30pm to 9pm. WCG 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.

What Now

Check out the two great trip reports of the Makuri Trip. Makes we want to go back there - and don't worry we will!

Just a note on editing **SumpThink**: I spend about half the time actually editing **SumpThink** (its 11pm Saturday night as I write this, a quarter locating, chivvying, persuading, pleading, begging, and grovelling for articles, reports, contributions, notes, and information, and the last quarter in postage and packaging.

Simon

sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the new financial year are now due. \$50 for the full year comprises \$15 WCG membership and \$35 NZSS membership. Please pay our Treasurer (Judith) at next club night or better still send your cheque to her now whilst it's fresh in your mind 81 Avro Rd, Blue Mountains, Lower Hutt.

Membership List Publication

Next month WCG would like to distribute the list of 1999 – 2000 WCG members including the phone number, street address, and email address. If anyone wishes to have some or all of this information not circulated to other members please contact Barry C at work 237 2448

This information will only be distributed to 1999 2000 financial WCG members.

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SumpThink is edited by Simon D and distributed by Sue P

Events Calendar 2000

Wed 11 Oct 7:30pm	WCG	<i>Club Meeting</i> Reading weather for outdoors activities: <i>Leigh Matheson of the Meteorological Service</i> <i>Contact</i> John Robson	934 9544
6 to 15 Oct 2000	NSG HTG	Takaka Hill, Harwood Hole <i>Contact</i> - Jane Trip Closed	
21 to 22 Oct	NZSS	NZSS AGM Waitomo	<i>Contact</i> Dave Bland (09) 443-5286 See article below
Wed 25 Oct 2000	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 6:30pm to 9pm <i>Contact</i> Bob W 04 298 9281	Book in <i>Bring friends, family and gear</i> bw@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 8 Nov 7:30pm	WCG	<i>Club Meeting</i> <i>Contact</i>	
11 to 12 Nov 2000	WCG	Mahoenui, Downstream Stinkpot <i>Contact</i> Judith 528 9267	treasurer@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 30 Nov 2000	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 6:30pm to 9pm <i>Contact</i> Bob W 04 298 9281	Book in <i>Bring friends, family and gear</i> bw@caving.wellington.net.nz
November	NZSS	Raft Race <i>Contact</i> Norm Fleming	Waitomo
Wed 6 Dec 2000	WCG	<i>Committee Meeting</i> <i>Contact</i> Barry C 527 4132	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
Dec 2000 to Jan 2001	WCG	Do your own thing, Some club members likely to be going to Waitomo Ask around.	

Events Calendar 2001

Wed 14 Feb 7:30pm 2001	WCG	<i>Club Meeting</i> <i>Contact</i> TBA	
15 to 20 Feb 2001	WCG	Nettlebed Annual expedition <i>Contact</i> Barry 527 4132 Hm 237 2448 Wk	bc@caving.wellington.net.nz
Wed 28 Feb 2001	WCG	SRT at Hangdog 6:30pm to 9pm <i>Contact</i> Barry C 527 4132	Book in <i>Bring friends, family and gear</i> bc@caving.wellington.net.nz
Mar 2001	WCG	Waitomo, Hollow Hill exact dates to be finalised and subject to obtaining permits. <i>Contact</i> Barry 527 4132 Hm 237 2448 Wk	bc@caving.wellington.net.nz
Easter 2001	NSG	Paturau Annual Easter family Caving trip. <i>Contact</i> Anyone planning to go?	bc@caving.wellington.net.nz

Contributions to SumpThink

I need articles for SumpThink. Please **email** (sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz) contributions to the editor, or put them on a floppy disk or piece of paper and snail mail them (2 High Street, Petone).

Deadline: the last **Wednesday** of the month. **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 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.

Contact WCG 2000-2001

President	Barry Cullen	527 4132	president@caving.wellington.net.nz
Secretary	Mark Phillips	235 8173	
Treasurer	Judith de Wilde	528 9267	treasurer@caving.wellington.net.nz
Membership Convenor	Judith de Wilde	528 9267	membership@caving.wellington.net.nz
Committee	Jane Furkert	934 0932	jf@caving.wellington.net.nz
	Rob Sowerbutts	04 298 8584	
	John Robson	934 9544	jar@caving.wellington.net.nz
SumpThink Editor	Simon Davis	938 1956	sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz
Gear	Michael Wood	477 0909	gear@caving.wellington.net.nz

For Sale

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

Carbide is now available in two sizes. The regular Milo tin for \$12 to WCG members (\$25 to others) and now a smaller soup tin for \$8 to members (\$18 to others). Available from President (Barry) 527 4132 or Gear Officer (Mike W) 477 0909. Ring if you would like some bought to club night.

Varta AA alkaline batteries. Superb value. Varta AA alkaline \$5 for 4 still available from Bob 04 298 9281.

Sell and Swap

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

Wanted to Buy

Petzel Stop wanted. Phone Sue, 971 3262. sp@caving.wellington.net.nz.

Weekend Trip to Makuri August 4th – 6th

Rob Spillard, Barry Cullen, Jennifer Roberts, Cassy, Trouty, John Lewin, Walter, Simon, Judith de Wilde, Deon, John Robson

It took me a year after my arrival in New Zealand from the UK to pluck up the courage to search the internet for the local caving club. By that time, my caving kit bag had mildewed into non-existence under the house and my Fisma had sprouted more rusticles than the Titanic.

A phone call to John was my first contact with the NZ caving scene. He suggested that I contact Barry. John's introduction included "Barry may not be going caving both days – he has to fix a hole in the shearer's quarters wall where he put his head through it on the last trip". Hmmm. Would my mother approve?? John then led into a gleeful list of all the various injuries that have happened to club members down "Famous Five". I was quietly thinking on the phone "I wonder if Wellington has a knitting club?". By the time he informed me that the shearer's quarters leaked when it rained it was too late to back out.

After a drive over the Rimatukas in Barry's impressive new Mitsubishi (thanks for squashing me in everybody) we arrived at the hut. The next morning saw a trip up to Crash cave in the pick-up. We dropped Trouty off at the cave mouth where he spent the day creating a fencing master-piece more secure than Stalag Luft to ward off the most determined of cows.

Barry, Jennifer, Cassy, Walter, John, Simon, Deon and myself then headed off to "Famous Five". Barry had warned me not to expect caverns measureless to man – but the cave was good and varied with some nice exposed scrambles. A really good little cave. We went in the low route and came out the high route – bumping in to Judith and John (Robson) on the way out. I think I may have heard Cassy say "I'm definitely never ever going caving again!!" Was she only joking? I don't think so....

Back at the hut, the festivities began. Devilled Sausages (do you do home deliveries John?), wine, silly games and...Port?? I felt rather ashamed of my Steinlagers. Most of the evening was spent by everyone getting into various drunken contortions in order to place a beer-can as far down the room as possible. A certain nameless caver then accidentally kicked the can over on the way back to his seat and received the wrath of the WCG.

The next day saw an alpine start (11am) and a ride in the back of the pick-up to "Indecision". Deon, Simon, Judith, Walter, John and myself bimbled down to the entrance and explored all the various passages. Not as good as "Famous Five" but the stream passage to the sump was nice and fresh – if not a bit short.

Whilst we were underground, Barry, Jennifer, Cassy & Trouty were on their mountain bikes heading round to Ngaturi. Trouty managed to fall off impressively and damage his knee – (impressively because he did it going – up-hill).

After an excellent drive with the windows down and the cold winter sun streaming over the hills, we all met up again in Ngaturi and headed off home. I think Cassy was possibly beginning to come around to the idea of caving again – until Trouty changed from his dirty cycling shirt into his even dirtier caving shirt whereupon Cassy pushed her nose up to the gap in the window for the rest of the drive

I got home having had a great break. Excellent to get under ground again. Thanks to everybody on the trip – especially Barry – for taking me. I promise to bring port next time.

Rob Sp

Makuri weekend August 5 – 6 August.

Cripes you should have seen the near new Mitsi Triton ute as we pulled out of Trouty's drive. Laden to the gunnels it was. 5 people, 5 sets of personal gear and caving gear, 4 mountain bikes, fence posts, warratahs, fencing wire and all the required tools to do the job.

On board were Rob Sp, Cassie, Jennifer, Trouty and Barry.

We lumbered over the hill, had a feed in Masterton and arrived at the shearer's quarters past most peoples bed time. Already in attendance were John L and Walter and we were joined in the morning by ex VCs Simon and Dion and after we had left for the day Judith and John R turned up.

Saturday morning dawned fine after overnight rain and we were all going to Famous Five except Trouty who had volunteered to erect the fence around the entrance to Crash Cave. Previous visits to this cave indicated that this entrance was a death trap for stock, both sheep and cows, which meant that a visit at the wrong time was a most unpleasant experience. And of course it was costing the farmer dough.

The said above ute was a 4WD so we had hoped to cart the fencing gear to the cave entrance using motor power. Wet grass is always tricky in any 4WD and when you have one with tyre's that tendered more towards on road than off road it's all to easy for things to turn to poo. Despite low ratios, limited slip diffs and 4WD such occurred when we encountered a muddy stretch part way up the hill just prior to a narrow gate. Suddenly all passengers bailed and I was left to reassess the situation. Backup and give it heaps seemed the only alternative and met with success, although the team did have to push the front at one stage to help me to avoid that narrow gate post. Trouty and gear dropped off the rest of us headed for Famous Five.

Stream was up a bit, which meant that things were wetter than normal. Too wet for John L who beat a hasty retreat after realising that caving with glasses covered in water was next to impossible. The rest of us proceeded at a leisurely pace via the low route. Had a bite to eat at the sump and returned via the high route. Judith and John R had turned up at this stage and over took us by a reverse high route, low route option.

Well done to Cassie, Jennifer's daughter for whom this was her first cave; successfully completed. Famous Five is fun for the experienced but I can imagine that it would be frightening in places for first timers. Also great to have Rob Spillard along on his first caving trip in NZ since arriving from the UK a year ago. Quite, solid, dependable people you can't have enough of, especially on trips with beginners. What took you so long to get back into it Rob? And, I insulted him all weekend by calling him John, as if we didn't already have enough Johns.

The evening began with the usual selection of cheese and crackers followed by John L's famous devilled sausages washed down with a couple of bottles of red wine. A sheer fluke saw 3 bottles of R&B Special Reserve port bought by different people so we knocked them all off as well. Rob Sp (to differentiate from Rob So) introduced us to a UK cave game which must be very hard on the stomach muscles cos mine still hurt. John R was the winner of this one. Next time John, next time. Two person place the can was fiercely competed for with various combinations tried in various order but eventually it came down to Trouty and Judith who were absolutely determined to win but couldn't overhaul the more experienced (or should that read taller) team of Jennifer and Barry.

Now I'm not suggesting that the wine and port had anything to do with what happened next but you have to wonder, cos Trouty, Judith and Barry went caving. Yeah that's right at 11.00 o'clock at night.

Took the ute to the top of the hill again, but much drier this time, admired Marks flash new fence and explored Crash cave from one end to the other. Even poked our noses into the aven with the formation. Interesting free climb that on a couple or three drinks.

Got back at 1.30am. Rest of team were nervously awaiting our safe return; not. Quick Milo and we were all soon throwing up plenty of Z's.

Sunday dawned fine and clear again. After much discussion, Jennifer, Cassie, Trouty and Barry were to Mountain bike the Makairo Track and the rest went and visited very nook and cranny of Indecision (PT17).

They will have to tell there story cos I wasn't there, but our ride was good value. Track is gradual up hill for first 3-4k to saddle then a neat downhill for next 5 – 6 k. Track is an old public road so gradient is generally kind but it is now virtually reduced to a single track and on the day was in places very wet. We all had our moments and some had spills but no serious damage was done. A convenient country cross roads was as good an excuse as any for lunch in the sun followed by a leisurely and most pleasant ride through country roads first to Kohinui and then on to Ngaturi our designated pick-up point.

Timing to perfection saw Rob Sp arrive with the ute within minutes of our arrival on the bikes.

All in all, a most enjoyable weekend. Did I mention that John R didn't look that flash on Sunday morning. Must have forgotten. He was heard to mutter something about a sore head of unknown causes. Yeah, likely story.

Thank you, John L for organising.

Barry**Catering @ NZSS AGN**

There have been several enquiries regarding the meals on offer for the NZSS AGM.

The following is on offer for your dollar...

Saturday Night \$30

Black Water Rafting Cafe...(A very nice place indeed!)

Licensed Premises. Drinks around the \$3ish mark

Basic Nibbles

Italian Chicken in a Bacon

Mushroom & Tomato Sauce

Medley of Winter Roast Vegetables

Green Salad with Balsamic Dressing

Homemade Breads

Black Water Dessert Surprise

Tea & Coffee

We trust that having one meat dish will satisfy all, vegetarians and carnivores alike.

Sunday BBQ \$10 Adult / \$5 Child (14 and under)

Awatiro...(The best caving hut in New Zealand!)

BYOG

The usual stuff...Meat and salads with breads, sauces etc. If we have the numbers, vegetarian sausages will be supplied...no problem. (We are still to decide if the BBQ is worthwhile, hence vagueness of menu. If numbers are poor, we will abandon this idea and consider just having drinks at the hut)

Trevv - ASG

NZ SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AGM

Cavers of New Zealand

October is upon us and we, ASG have one registration for the NZSS AGM. I trust we're not likely to see an influx of registrations on the day of the dinner? If you do, you'll be too late. We are required by the caterers to give a days notice. If you haven't notified us by 10am Sat 21, you'll miss out.

Please, Please, Please, early notification of your interest to attend the weekend is greatly appreciated. This gives the poor souls organising the weekend (5), a chance to confirm with farmers, trip leaders, caterers and other assorted people what is happening.

If numbers are low we may look at cancelling a number of trips.

October 21 - 23, 2000

Everything you've heard is true. ASG is hosting this year's NZSS AGM. A warm welcome awaits you in Waitomo where the caves are horizontal, almost clean and heaps of fun! So say goodbye to the winter blues with a trip north to the 'capital' of New Zealand caving - Waitomo. We have a host of caving trips for you. They range from the novice to the extreme so bring as little or as much gear as you want.

Some caves have been reserved for Southerners that have not visited them before. Above ground ASG has several trips that we can point you towards. A quiet bush walk in Waitomo on a sunny day can not be beat! Some trips offered are self-guiding.

To help us plan for the weekend, we have included a registration form. This confirms your commitment to attend and will prompt a more complete information package to be posted to your address. If numbers are sufficient. At the moment the weekend looks something like this though it's bound to change!

Weekend Agenda

Fri 20th:

(am & pm) Register at Awatiro, ASG's club hut

(am & pm) NZSS Council meeting. Waitomo Museum AV room.

(am & pm) Establish base camp. Check out the local sights, the tavern or the new museum.

Sat 21st:

(am) Assemble at Awatiro for a variety of organised trips.

(pm) 5.00pm NZSS AGM @ Waitomo Museum AV room

(pm) 7.00pm Dinner and entertainment at the BWR cafe.

Sun 22nd

(am) Assemble at Awatiro for more organised caving trips, etc.

(pm) Caving trips continued

(pm) Speleo sports at Awatiro (ASG club hut)

(pm) Collection of displays from equipment companies (Maybe)

(pm) barbecue meal at Awatiro

(late pm) Visit the Natural Bridge for the best display of glowworms above ground.

Monday 23rd on...

For those of you staying on, there will be more trips available.

Accommodation Listings

A great web site to visit if you have the means is www.waitomo.govt.nz.

This site gives you the pricing and further information regarding Waitomo accommodation and the attractions.

Fully Serviced

Waitomo Caves Hotel Waitomo Village (07) 878-8204

Motels

Caves Motor Inn 5 mins from village (07) 873-8109

Glow Worm Motel 5 mins from village (07) 873-8882

B&B's

Waitomo Caves Lodge Waitomo Village (07) 878-7641

Woodlyn Park 2 mins from village (07)

Budget

Caves Motor Inn 5 mins from village (07) 873-8109

Hamilton Tomo Group 2 mins from village (07) 878-7442

Juno Hall 2 mins from village (07) 878-7649

Waitomo Caves Hostel Waitomo Village (07) 878-8227

Camping

Cavelands Country Holiday Park Waitomo Village (07) 878-7639

Juno Hall 2 mins from village (07) 878-7649

ASG Organising Contacts

Man in charge Dave Bland (09) 443-5286

Trips Marcus Frith (09) 473-8775

Registrations Alison Carswell (09) 479-1384

Registration Form

Name/s attending: _____

Postal address: _____

Phone: () _____ email: _____

Will you require caving trips for Monday 23rd? **Y / N**

Will you require caving trips beyond Monday 23rd? **Y / N** If so, till what date? _____

Attending the Annual dinner at Black Water Rafting Cafe? Adult (\$30/head) _____

Attending the Annual dinner at Black Water Rafting Cafe? Child (TBA) _____

Attending the BBQ at Awatiro, ASG hut? (\$10/head) _____

Total \$ _____

Thank you for your registration. Please attach your payment and forward before October 12th to:
Alison Carswell, 4 Mistletoe Place, Browns Bay, Auckland, Cheques payable to 'Auckland Speleo Group'

Look Forward to seeing you all there!!!

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