



CAVERNDISH

NSG's NEWSLETTER

August 2008

Contents:

- Contacts
- From the Editor
- From the President
- Where am I?
- Past Trips in brief
- Trip Stories
- Hut News
- SAR
- Next meeting
- Trip List

Contacts:

- President: Andrew Smith 035432600 0211784160
- Secretary: Dawn Wood 03 5432600, Email dawnw@clear.net.nz
- Treasurer: Seb Head 035475048
- Trip List: Oz Patterson 035477395
- Hut Information: Oz Patterson
- Archives and NZ Map Officer: Oz Patterson
- Gear Hire: Leo Viersma 035441355
- SAR: Greg Pickford pickford@tasman.net 035447085
- Librarian: Jane Furkert 021739823
- Editor: Dawn Wood

From the Editor:

Hi everyone,

Hope you have all had a safe and exciting winter, it is nearly over and not been too bad, although it has decided to get all wet, windy and cold on us at the last moment.

If you remember back to our last Caverndish, (which was some time ago) we had a puzzling "Where Am I". There was no response on that one so it has been repeated. If you did take the time to solve the word find then please let me know the answer as I can't remember what it was.

I would like to welcome a new member from the UK, James Alker, a very keen caving enthusiast. If you're doing some caving he would be more than happy to hear from you, contact James on 0211038708.

The next meeting is the AGM, at Leo's place,
See you there.

Dawn ☺

A Quick note from the President:

Hi All

Ok it's been a bit miserable out there I know, but I have heard of some trips being done never the less.

DoC St Arnaud are reporting that the snow is a 1:50 year fall, there is much damage in the park with many tracks almost impassable due to tree fall caused by the over burden of snow.

Heavy waist deep snow has been reported on the Tablelands,

But I will let you into a secret and that is that there are many dry and warm caves still to adventure in even with these conditions.

It's been a year since Michael took the easy way out of Middle Earth, Wow where did that time go!

Good party the other month aye, did you see... and what was that she was wearing? Who was that with...

Anyway AGM time which means fees are due...BOO

Lets all pay promptly as it makes the Treasures life a bit easier. Yeah.

Andrew.

Where Am I? UnAnswered/Repeated

E	E	L	B	R	A	M	B	E	H	U	L	L
M	T	T	A	E	R	R	E	T	E	H	A	I
G	S	I	O	T	A	O	N	I	L	C	C	M
U	M	A	T	M	E	W	I	M	I	T	C	E
M	E	O	U	C	O	W	L	G	C	I	I	S
B	H	J	A	H	A	O	O	A	T	P	T	T
O	T	L	O	B	V	L	D	L	I	O	A	O
O	O	L	E	N	O	G	A	A	T	R	E	N
T	E	M	L	E	H	N	M	T	E	T	R	E
S	L	O	L	L	U	N	E	S	S	S	H	V
T	E	E	O	S	K	I	S	S	U	R	P	A
O	P	G	R	O	U	P	W	M	E	N	A	C
S	S	T	K	N	G	E	P	O	R	A	C	K

NELSON
SPELEOLOGICAL
GROUP
SPELEOTHEMS
STALAGMITE
STALACTITE
HELICTITE
KROLL
HELMET
MOA BONES
GLOWWORM
SRT
KARST
LIMESTONE
STROP
HOLES

PRUSSIK
PHREATIC
MARBLE
RACK
JUMAR
GUMBOOTS
PITCH
TOMO
SUMP
WETA
BOLT
DOLINE
AVEN
ROPE
CAVE
GPS

Past Trips in brief:

Ashton Villa February Ashton, Dion and Leo take Ashton down Ashton's Villa (Story Below By Ashton, Great story thanks Ashton)

Over the past 6 months, many caves have been visited, Middle Earth, Green Link, Little Harwoods, Summit Tomo, Mega Mania, Exelaire, Patarau Caving at Easter, Charleston Caving at Queen's Birthday and many more... Below are some stories that have come from some of those experiences

Trip Stories:

Ashton Villa

By Ashton Richards

Hi my names Ashton, and I'm going to tell you about my cave called Ashton villa. In 2001 I was four years old. I was on top of Takaka hill with my dad and his friend called Mike Hadfield. My dad and Mike are in the caving search and rescue team. My dad Mike and me were on top of Takaka hill surrounded by bush and limestone. When I was younger I thought that every dark shadow was a cave on Takaka hill. I was sitting on top of my dad's shoulders and my dad was moving some rocks into a hole so nobody falls into it. Mike was standing on top of a rock just above my dad and me and just to the left of us I saw a dark spot and I said to my dad "there's a cave over there dad" and then my dad said "No it's just a shadow" but then Mike said "I don't know it looks pretty good Dion" so my dad lifted me off his shoulders and looked at it and said a very naughty word. It was a cave, my own cave. My cave has got two squeezes and seven pitches and two bottoms. The best thing about my cave is that my dad has only been some of the way. He has never been past the second squeeze no one has. But I think I can fit through it. Six years later I was aloud to go down my cave for the first time. But I was only aloud to go to the bottom of the entrance because I'm still not experienced enough. So my dad and Leo set all the rigging up and I abseiled down the entrance. I waited at the bottom of the entrance for about half an hour while my dad and Leo which is also in the caving search and rescue got my dads ropes out of the cave. When Leo and my dad got back to the entrance we all got back to the surface of the cave and went home.

Greenlink surveying trip 9/3/08

By Michael Brewer

Bruce Mutton, Kip Mandelo, Michael Brewer

This trip was deemed necessary in the pursuit of the Greenlink map. Over the last few years most of the Greenlink / Middle earth system has been resurveyed to try and obtain a more accurate map than the original ones drawn in the 1970s and also to include a lot of newly discovered passage. The main part not surveyed – the section of the cave from the end of Kanga's house to the terminal rock fall – was our objective for the day.

Due to Kip's need to be at the airport by 6pm and the likelihood of the trip taking 10 hours our alarms went off at 0400hrs. We had decided to stay the night at the club hut so as not to disturb my family and also to be closer to the cave. Unfortunately for us there were other cavers at the hut all in a bit of a party mood making an early night not feasible.

The sky was full of stars when we entered the cave at 5am. The trip was uneventful (something I look forward to all the time) and we reached the far end of Kanga's house around 7.30am. So surveying started around normal breakfast time and took about 4hours. We spent about an hour finding our way through a rock pile to get to the final stream way before the terminal rock fall.

For all those interested in knowing find the cairn that marks the beginning of the abluion stream way section and then about 3m from this is a vertical gap in the rocks which provides an easy route through this rock fall.

As always when we entered this section of the cave by abseiling down a fairly drippy 30m pitch my mood dropped. The area consists of large breakdown passage that is dark, misty and all the rocks are covered in a fine layer of mud. It really is an area that breeds despondency and a desire to go home!

We headed out about midday and reached the sunny daylight at 3pm. On the way out we met a group of 3 French cavers in the room of ships. They had been at the hut the night before and were enjoying themselves trying to find the way through to pooh corner. We impressed at how well they were doing. An excellent trip, with great company.

Parking docketts

By Andrew Smith 4/4/08 ~ 14/4/08

Pete's car resembled a four-wheeled ski with the weight of five sets of climbing and personal gear weighing the back down. "It'll be a slow trip" came a voice from the drivers' seat. The car waddled its way through the suburban into the farm and out passing bush covered slopes and the Alpine. We were Christchurch bound, but ... our trip was only just starting... A pleasant smile asked for Passports and Boarding passes. Doors closed and soon we felt the acceleration that comes when a 737 hoists its self up into the clouds.

Nelson, Tahunanui, Upper Moutere, Christchurch, Brisbane, Melbourne, Bacchuss Marsh, Horsham, Natimuk, Mt. Arapiles. Yes you got it the compacted sandstone crag of Mt. Arapiles was going to get another thrashing by the Kiwi's.

We left Nelson Friday morning and were climbing Saturday afternoon.

Old memories came flooding back, "D Major" **50m, two pitch Grade 9 "Piccolo" **35m Grade 11 were climbed before tea. The camping ground was full of blue tarps and abodes of various shapes and sizes. We added our own personality to the mix by erecting a ... blue tarp.

Guitar sounds (not music) and the occasional burst of laughter echoed about the trees only 200 meters from the crag.

Mt. Arapiles is situated on the Melbourne/Adelaide road (roughly), and about 300Kms from Melbourne. It is often said that it is the best climbing area in the Southern Hemisphere.

The guidebook reprinted Oct 2001 Mentz/Tempest, and due to be replaced shows 1000 selected climbs.

1000 selected from approximately 3000.

If you are a crack climber its there, if you are a slab climber its there, if you like face climbing, lay backs, hand jams, multi pitch climbs ... I think you get the idea.

Graded climbs range from "Sunny Gully" * 12m grade 2. Declaration Crag area to

"Punks Addiction" * grade 32. The Pharos area.

Now don't you laugh at the low grades, Arapiles is known to be graded low, perhaps two grades except for the slab climbs which seem to be graded a little high.

If you are an inside wall climber you need to re-evaluate your grading. Also keep in mind that the grades are for a climber leading on natural pro. Arapiles has a "no bolt" policy, but you will find the odd one here and there.

This is a route description direct out of the Guidebook:

"Arachnus" * 105m Grade 9.**

A truly great climb up the middle of the "Watchtower". An unforgettable classic that reeks of days gone by; of sandshoes, filed out hardware nuts and hawser-laid rope. Many parties choose to do the *Minerva Variant* described below. Start at the crack 5m L of undercut R arete (don't confuse it with the "Watchtower Chimney" which is the crack 9m L) 1. 40m (8) Up deep crack till it ends, traverse 4m R, then over disconcerting bulge and continue to good ledge. 2. 21m (8) (most parties run pitches 2 & 3 together.) Up smooth wall just R of crack till below bulge. Step L over crack and up wall to narrow ledge under overhang on L. 3. 14m (9) There are two options here: either climb straight up veering slightly R to comfy cave, or, make an unlikely traverse R (past peg) then start moving up. 4. 30m (8) Move back L and truck on up the exhilarating wall. Nov 1964.

Decent is via two rap of 45m close to the famous "Watchtower Crack".

Although I enjoy the whole climb the best for me is the slightly overhanging fourth pitch.

If you want to learn how to place natural pro this is the place to be.

Our return trip took us via Sydney and a long haul early Sunday morning back to Nelson.

As I was writing this I received a text from Mark today regarding a car parking issue we had in Christchurch, I said I would write a letter to the authorities, the Txt came back ... "forget it I just want to go climbing.

Mark Holmes, Pete Squires, Ian Millward, Dawn Wood, Andrew Smith.

Trip number 9. to 'the beautiful bulmer' series June 2008

By Michael Brewer

Another 4 day holiday in camp 2 this time with a big group of cavers. Dave Hume, Al Wood, Bruce Mutton, Neil Silverwood, Claire McElwain and myself. Definitely 6 is the maximum number to comfortably stay at the campsite and then a warmer bag or 2 would be good. The billy handle rusted through and had to be repaired!

The walk in to the cave entrance was done in drizzle with the threat of an approaching snowstorm. Luckily we made it to eye-in – the sky mostly dry though the day was cold and getting underground seemed like a good idea. Once again the direct scrub route proved faster to the bluff route. We met Neil up at the entrance. He had just survived a Cave 2 assessment, had needed time out and had walked in the night before to camp under the bluffs by himself. He informed us that he always took a sleeping bag up with him because over the 20 old trips to camp 2 he had been forced to camp in the bush due to rain or snow about 5-6 times. Put my solitary night out with Dave a couple of years ago into perspective.

It was about 3 1/2 hours up to the entrance then lunch and underground about 1300hrs. On the way we picked up some more rope, replaced the worn metal strop on the pitch into the lion's den, replaced the rope into the 'wild cat' connection, bolted the handline out of the hundred-meter-mosey into the Texas Pots and bolted the 'unnamed pitch' above the awesome aven so that it hangs better. A good bit of scout like teamwork all told.

We arrived at the campsite at different times due to our different tasks on the way in. Al got there first and had a brew going by the time I arrived there. The others soon followed.

The first day of exploration involved 2 teams. One team tidied up the rigging from the previous trip and put in some bolts. The others surveyed. The name for the new section was decided when Al came up with the name 'who dares sins'. It seemed very apt as the climb we did, although not equivalent in risk to Kieran's climb around 'who dares wins', was fairly out there at times and also the exploration of the beautiful passage beyond did feel 'sinful' to those with a good Church of England upbringing!

The surveying and rerigging took most of the day. We arrived at the pit where exploration had stopped previously to find that climbing out of it was more difficult than we had initially thought. Luckily Neil went into rabbiting mode and after climbing up 5m into the rift before the pit he found a convenient bypass to the pit. Lovely trampable passage followed until pit number 2 was encountered. Here again a bypass route looked likely and after using various slings and shoulders a 4m climb was achieved and sure enough the passage went on beyond pit 2. Here Neil and I took off for a quick exploration before heading back. More splendidly decorated passage was found with easy walking. After 15mins or so we found Pit 3 that looked more formidable. It was at least 20m deep and 10m in diameter with no easy bypass. Dinner was calling so back home we went.

The next day both Dave and Claire were suffering from bad groin chaffing – a combination of PVC overalls and furry suits resulting in sweat ++. They opted for a rest day so the remaining 4 of us headed out to explore and survey. Surveying by Bruce and myself was continued from Pit2 while Neil and Al went off exploring. We arrived at Pit 3 to find that they had rigged and descended a 30m pitch to find a dead end. At this stage I adopted Neil's policy of ferreting around and yet again soon found a bypass route around the top of Pit 3 that hadn't initially been that obvious. Amazing luck!

Beyond Pit 3 we had to drop a short distance into a canyon like passage that then presented us with multiple severe ethical problems. The passage was massively decorated all over and a lot of time was spent figuring out routes that minimized damage. This went on for over 200m and it was only time that forced us to go back. The survey stopped about 200m short of the limit of exploration. A short climb is needed to gain new passage with several other possible leads obtainable by climbing into tubes.

We were back at camp by 11.30pm and up at 0400hrs to ensure an early exit. The trip out was uneventful.

This area contains some of the most valuable formation of any cave I have ever been to. We surveyed 1.2km of new passage making a total of 1.8km of passage so far in the 'Beautiful Bulmer' series.

Hut News:

The Mid Winter Do celebrating the hut's 20th Birthday went down a real treat. A good number of people attended and dined eloquently. Entertainment, games and music made for a fun filled evening. Jim Palmer captured the moment with a photograph to be mounted on the wall of the hut.

Some maintenance has been done including, a handrail up to the deck, decking board repaired, loo secured. Future maintenance includes gas bottles housed in a box seat on the deck. Gravel for the driveway. A sign for the gate, please note the gate has been found to be open a few times, it must be kept closed at all times, please make sure you don't leave it open.

Many thanks to all those that have volunteered their time and skills to help with maintenance jobs on the hut throughout the last 12months. Much appreciated, thanks.

Members \$4.00 per night
Non Members \$6.00 per night

SAR News

Sar Course on Leadership Skills is to be held on the 8th/9th November (closing date 08/10/2008) at Pine Valley about 15kms up the Wairau Valley near Blenheim. If people are keen they need to contact Sarah Brewer 5287541 or email M.brewer@xtra.co.nz. There are no ropes courses planned but we can always organise one if we have sufficient interest. Some

local training will be organised over winter- if there is anything special anyone thinks we need training for let Greg Pickford know!

Next Meeting:

NSG AGM
Thursday 7:30pm
At Leo's Place

See you there
Dawn Wood
Editor ☺