

Caverndish

NSG's Newsletter

August 2006

Letter from the Editor.

Hello fellow cavers (Ladies and children included)
Welcome to my first Newsletter.

Firstly many thanks to Andrew for your dedication on past editions of Caverndish, they have always been an excellent read. I have big boots to fill.

I'm looking forward to hearing about your adventures and bringing news to you from the deep, so to speak. I want to know all your "deep", "dark", secrets.

Finding a new cave or new place of interest is always a thrill, sharing that information is not always easy, but don't worry, your secrets are safe with me. I have a terrible sense of direction so no worries about me delving deeper on your new finds.

Any other bits of information that may be of interest can also be sent to me. Maybe you have something to sell or swap or maybe you're in search of something lost that another member may be able to help you with, let me know and I can help get the word out there.

So get out there, get down and get dirty...
I want to hear all about it.

Dawn Wood
Editor

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PAST TRIPS & EVENTS

Midwinter masquerade dinner June 24th

Another year has past and another midwinter dinner went off with a few “BANGS”.

The hut looked as pretty as a postcard with all the fresh snow around.

A bit of fun in the snow saw big busty Muriel Madonna making a frosty appearance.

Deb and Oz put on a fantastic meal as they always do, we all wined and dined well, very nice thanks.

All the masked members that attended had a great time, and some fluorescent displays really brightened the evening.

The usual chair and table antics kept many of us challenged, amused and bruised.

The following day was spent around the hut enjoying some karst appreciation.

Prospecting Sherry River, Tadmore. July 8th

Andrew, Dawn, Yoni, Sara and Tony Stephens.

A meeting with John Boyde, a long time resident, about his childhood adventures sparked an interest to explore this area.

Going on his memories a cave was located and although it wasn't a large one, Andrew is keen to go back and survey it. He has thoughts of naming it after John's father the late Charlie Boyde. Unfortunately forestry work in the area has disturbed the ground and there's a high possibility that some of the caves of yester-year have been buried.

Further prospecting has since taken place with little success.

Rope Rescue SAR Training, Vertical Limits, July 25th

Great to see so many attend the SAR Rope Rescue exercise at Vertical Limits. Hamish brought along his Vortex A-Frame and gave a good demonstration on techniques of how best to use this apparatus in SAR instances. Thanks Hamish. It opens up thoughts on suitability for Rescue Rigging on such places as Harwood's Hole. Many thanks also to Dean at Vertical Limits for the use of their wall for this exercise.

TRIP REPORTS

Riley's Farm Collingwood August 12th 13th

Skilton Cave

By Andrew Smith

Michelle, Sam, Olivia Riley. Andrew, Adi, Yoni, Sara, Ian McG, Derek, Moira and Dawn

The muddy farm track meandered its way through lush pasture, heading south, along the banks of the Aorere River. The skies were blue with a hint of cool descending from the fresh white on the tops.

Near an empty hay shed the farm vehicles drew to a halt and eleven clean excited faces emerged. Five hours later the faces would not be so clean.

Michelle, Olivia and Sam Riley were the guides for the day.

The entrance to Skilton's Cave was great. Two vertical walls of horizontal layered limestone formed the jams and a bedding plain slab formed the lintel. A doorway to a vault and the secrets of the great pyramid in Gaza lay below, at least this is how it seemed.

Stooping down it wasn't long before we came across a junction with a high scallop shell encrusted roof, memories of Moonsilver, without the water, came flooding into my memory.

Travel was easy in the small passage. We turned, passing junction and passages, left and right. Small amounts of formations started appearing and flowing from the walls. First of all flowstone formations and then shawls, a few stals and then there was the “jail”. Stals in abundance from ceiling to floor, joining together, clasping together, supporting the roof and forming the impenetrable barrier. The formations white with glistening water contrasted against the orange mud of the limestone cave.

We advanced further on into the cave. Passages all over gave the impression of maze travel, then the cave changed. A deep rift appeared below us. The cave then became more and more rifty with holes appearing in the floor and the recent conformity of the grid-patterned passages was left behind. Passages now disappeared off at different levels, some disappearing down and some heading off high. Many of the passages, slowly but eventually, became too tight and restricted. We continued travelling toward the back of the cave with as much as two kilometers behind us. The main passage slowly, but surely, became difficult to travel through with rockfall and ceiling collapse more prevalent. Bridging out over another rift was the end of the easy travel, but Andrew continued on. Across two bridging rifts and down to a lower level, climbing took him up again to a wet, clean rockfall with light calcite formations. Spinning around revealed a small cluster of heliotites, clean and white, pristine and fresh, quite a gem amongst the dirt of the cave.

Finding our way out went with few hitches. Entering the green world we breathed the misty drizzle of the day. Moira had hot drinks and warm cheer waiting and a kind invite was received from the Riley's to spend the evening meal with them. A resolve was made to return to Skilton's Cave with survey gear.

Meanwhile.... Above the Ground at Skilton Cave

By Dawn Wood.

Moira and myself also arrived at the farm to send off the enthusiastic cavers.

Moira with her walking stick and me brandishing a brand new bright red plaster cast and a shiny pair of crutches. We laughed as we tottered our way across the soft muddy paddocks, following the cavers, referring to ourselves as the "Wobblies" with our awkward gait that the track took us on, both very keen and enthusiastic to get to as close to caving as our legs would allow. We had all day and made our way almost to the entrance of the cave. I tripped and stumbled over vines, almost breaking the other ankle. Our trek had its many challenges as the mud sucked the stoppers off the end of my crutches and created a challenge for Moira to remove them from the mud. We had to traverse around a large muddy puddle and over a small rock wall. We finally reached our destination and stood for quite some time admiring the layered limestone rocks that marked the entranceway just below Skilton's Cave.

After some time we made our way back to a farm shed and the comfort of Derek and Moira's van. The afternoon was most pleasantly spent recapturing past experiences of caving and sharing tales of the men below the surface. But shhh! don't tell them that!!

We tottered around the old shearing shed that had been converted into accommodation quarters and dreamed of the pleasant summer afternoons that this rustic dwelling would bring to those that would sleep under its roof.

Back in the van, with the aroma of hot mushroom soup, we dined and shared more stories of Patarau at Easter, children and grand children and delighted at their cheeky grins in the many photographs that Moira had on board. A glance out the window we spied a weka that had come to nosy around the hay barn we were parked in. It caught our eye that this weka was much brighter than most we had ever seen, but as Moira reached for her camera it escaped our sights. So the two wobblies set off to find the elusive red bird. It wasn't long before we heard the "Aye Ooo" calls of the returning cavers. One by one they returned, children followed by men, all very muddy and grateful for the nice hot beverages Moira had waiting.

Patarau 13th through to 16th July

Seahorse cave

As told by Greg Pickford

Greg, Alison, Seb and Ian McGregor

Located in the beautiful countryside of the Patarau coastline, along the bushline, approximately 1.5km south of the Te Hapu River.

First found on a prospecting trip by Greg over the Easter period. Greg has now found that this is a through cave with passageway of about 150 to 200mtrs. It has been surveyed and named Seahorse Cave because of the unusual seahorse shaped rock that met their sights upon exit. Greg describes it as quite a sporty cave with some climbing areas and narrow rifts. They managed their way through this cave with only a handline needed. Greg first thought this cave was going to run out to the coast but at the last part opened out to be quite large and turned parallel to the coastline. Greg described the area as being very promising. He is keen to run future trips to the area, so keep your eye on the trip lists for more details.

HUT NEWS

From Oz

Although the Hut hasn't had much activity of late, maintenance is taking shape nicely. The club is very lucky to have so many people with different skills and talents, and the time they put in is much appreciated. One wee job that had to be done was the re-erection of the loo that somehow ended up on its side, thanks to those strong hands that put that right. Leo has been very busy, he has attached mesh to the steps for safety during those frosty periods. He has also adapted some geo satellite mounts to the roof for the solar panels. The panels can now be easily adjusted for optimal efficiency. Well done Leo.

Once again, many thanks to all those helping hands.

A Whenua-iti group is staying at the hut mid week.

GEAR NEWS

From Leo

The Club now has a new carbide generator. More gear still on order.

Leo has put out an URGENT REQUEST that all Club gear on loan be returned to him ASAP.

Leo wants it all back for stocktake purposes and is looking at coding it all to help keep better track of the gear.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dawn Wood: Editor of Caverndish.

Seb Head: Secretary

Oz Patterson: NZSS South Island Maps Officer

CAVE MAPS AVAILABLE

Oz is now NZSS South Island Maps Officer.

If you want a map, then Oz is your man. Speedy Print in Nelson has offered us a good deal on some large maps. These are 1.5mtrs long. If you are interested in a large map of the Bulmer, Nettlebed or Tomo Time cave systems then contact Oz. If you are to be involved with the Deep Cave SAREX at Tomo Time in March 2007 then this is the map for you. Make yourself familiar with the cave system or maybe you need to refresh that tired old memory. This is a great opportunity and a great price of only \$10.00. Laminating extra.

GENERAL

This month's meeting is at Colin and Marianne's, 7.30pm, 72 Tipahi Street, Nelson.

Be nice to see you there.

Maybe you can think up some trips you might like to run, lets get the Trip List pumped up so we can all get out there and do some caving.

Oh and if you know of a cave with crutches access be sure to let me know.

The Editor

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NSG trip list and events August 06 to February 2007

To assist the trip leaders please inform them as early as possible if you are interested in going on the trip. If you have a trip planned and would like others to join you contact the trip's coordinator (Oz Patterson Ph 5477395) Note: Some trips will have limits on numbers and may also require that you have certain skills for the cave.

Additional trips can be put together at club meetings.

17 th Aug	<u>Club Meeting August</u>	Colin & Marianne's Ph 5482020
19/20 th Aug	De-rig Windrift Cave, Mt Arthur	Bruce Mutton Ph 03 5467281
2/3 rd Sept	Salvation Hall via Overlander. Return via Jacobs Well. Skill level required and numbers limited.	Andrew Smith ph 021 1784160
14 th - 17 th Sept	Patarau Caving. Accommodation to be arranged.	Andrew Smith ph 021 1784160
21 th Sept	<u>Club Meeting September</u>	Steve and Jennys Ph 5447052
23 rd Sept	Ed's Cellar Cave. Takaka Hill	Andrew Smith ph 021 1784160
1 st Oct	Chiops Cave. Hodge Creek	Gazza ph 021 429920
7 th & 8 th Oct	Harwoods Hole Cave-SAR exercise.	Contact Cave SAR Advisers.
19 th Oct	<u>Club Meeting October</u>	Jim Palmer's Ph 5479694
20/23 th Oct	NZSS AGM Labour W/e at Pio Pio (Nth Taranaki) WCG hosting event. Lots of caving organised! See details in T.T	
29 th Oct	Ian's mystery prospecting trip, Takaka Hill	Ian McGregor ph 021 436224
4/5 th Nov	Blunderback Cave. Flora Stream Area	OZ Patterson ph 5477395
16 th Nov	<u>Club Meeting November</u>	Mike and Sarah's Ph 03 5287541
24 th /29 th Nov	Villa-Maria Area, Mt Arthur 5 days prospecting and exploration	Oz Patterson Ph 5477395
18 th Dec	Xmas BBQ at Bronwyns and Kevins 18 Hanby Park	Ph 5484363
27 th Dec to 6 Jan 07	NZSS Mt Owen Expedition, Bulmer Area.	See TT for details.
18 th Jan	Honest Lawyer Cave 7.30pm	
16 th Feb 06	Club meeting February Note club library is at Jane's. Jane Furket's ph 5457457	

Trips pencilled in for summer: **Moonsilver w/e, Granity cave Mt Owen, East Owen Karst field!!**