



Australian Speleological Federation Inc.

Registered as an Environmental Organisation by the Department of Environment and Heritage, Canberra

5th November 2009

NOTICE OF NEW CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND OTHER MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Dear ASF Member Clubs, Members and Associates,

Membership application received from the Cave Exploration Group of Western Australia (CEGWA)

A new caving club in Western Australia consisting of 50 members has applied for membership to the Australian Speleological Federation. Acceptance is determined by the Council, therefore your club needs to consider the merits of this application and instruct your nominated councilor (or proxy) accordingly for the meeting on the 2nd January 2010.

CEGWA's committee has provided the ASF Executive with a letter of introduction which is attached below. CEGWA has also provided its constitution and by-laws, recent trip reports and a current membership list. If your club requires any further information on this application, please send an email request to myself on jodie@rutco.com.au

Representation at the ASF AGM

It is important that your voice as a member club be heard at the ASF Council Meeting on the 2nd January. Each corporate club has the responsibility to ensure a representative is sent to every ASF Council Meeting. Rights and Privileges of a Corporate Member are suspended if they have not been represented at the previous two council meetings.

If your club is unable to send a councilor, you may allocate a proxy representative. A proxy form was sent out with the agenda by the general secretary Bob Kershaw. The number of councilors (or votes) that each club is allocated is calculated by the treasurer annually. Grace has prepared the councilor (votes) tally, which will be forwarded to the members in the next couple of days.

Please note, ASF Members & ASF Associates who are not allocated as councilors are still welcome to attend and take part in the discussions.

Regards

Jodie Rutledge
ASF Membership Secretary
Jodie@rutco.com.au

CEGWA – New Club, New Caves!

by Paul Hosie, CEGSA and CEGWA

It is my pleasure and privilege to announce to you that a new caving club has been established in WA – the Cave Exploration Group Western Australia (CEGWA) Inc. The club is named in honour of CEGSA – a group we are grateful to for setting such an excellent example of how an active and enthusiastic caving club can be successfully run and so supportive of its members. CEGWA may not achieve a fraction of what CEGSA has done during their history to date, but we will certainly have a lot of fun trying!

CEGWA has been formed to fill a gap in WA caving – a community group where the social and recreational caving pursuits of its members takes priority. With more than 40 members and hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of limestone to explore, the future looks very bright indeed!

The Objects of the Group are as follows (direct extract from the CEGWA Constitution):

- To provide a safe, friendly and fun social environment for the Group's members.
- To explore, survey and study caves.
- To foster recreational caving, speleological research and the preservation of natural caves, with particular emphasis on the caves of Western Australia and the Nullarbor Plain.
- To place on record the results of the Group's activities.
- To foster adherence to the Standards and Codes of Practice of the Australian Speleological Federation.
- To co-operate with land managers, traditional owners and other community groups in the furtherance of these aims.

The CEGWA Team

We are particularly proud and privileged to have the considerable experience and wisdom of people like Dr Roger Howlett PhD, Frances Loveday, Mike Newton and John Cugley as invaluable members of the CEGWA Team. All successful clubs know that young people provide the enthusiasm and energy needed to get out there and do great things and we have a number of youthful members (aren't we all?!) to keep the 'older' members of the team motivated. Peter Rattigan and Kym Hosie have applied their creative talents to producing and maintaining the dynamic and beautiful www.cegwa.org website and 'CEGWA Capers', our quarterly Newsletter, both of which we are very proud. I invite you to 'check it out' and give us your constructive feedback – it will be very welcome.

An application for Corporate Membership of the ASF has been submitted for consideration at the next ASF Council meeting in January 2010. Your club's support of our application would be greatly appreciated!

Recent Cave Explorations in WA

In the true spirit of cave exploration that CEGWA represents in WA, we are happy to report that a number of discoveries have recently been made by our members, including several beautifully decorated caves, over 100 karst features not yet in the ASF KID and a possible new cave diving site which has all the indications of being a significant cave system – stay tuned for that one later in 2010 (Mum's the word!).

Eneabba

Probably the most significant discovery we have made so far was on June 26th this year when I happened across a small sandy doline under a bush thicket in the Beekeepers Nature Reserve. The water all drained into a small cluster of solution tubes – lo and behold, one of them was big enough to access and dropped 3m straight down into a low roofed 30m wide x 1.5m high chamber. Crawlways lead to the three main chambers of the cave, the largest of which is 35m in diameter and 8m high. Virtually the entire chamber – ceiling, floor, walls and boulders are covered in multi-coloured speleothem deposits, the diversity of which is remarkable. In addition to the regular straws, stals and flowstones, there are pendulites, shawls (including one 3m long and 1m wide), moonmilk, cave coral, calcified tree roots, dogtooth spar crystal in gour pools, helictites, cave pearls and the fascinating soil heligmites which we refer to as the ‘Mudmen’. A low wide chamber at the furthest SE extent of the cave is notable for the number and size of the Mudmen it contains including some that are growing off the top of stalagmites. This unusual and beautiful place we have named the Mudmen’s Palace.

Peter Rattigan, Kym Hosie and myself were the privileged first to explore and photograph the cave (designated 6-E100) on 27th June. Mike Newton and Kim Halliday joined me one week later to begin the survey of the cave and John Cugley helped set up the trackmarking in early August. Mike Newton has been caving in WA for over 30 years and his comment “that’s the best decorated cave in the Eneabba area, better than Weelawadgi I reckon” is a great accolade. I think what makes it stand out from all the other caves in the area is the pristine condition and diversity of the speleothems which is so rewarding to see and our number one aim is to keep it that way.

The land manager (Mr Keith Hockey, DEC-Jurien) has been briefed on the discovery. Our intention is to complete the survey and trackmarking of the cave prior to submitting a report to the land manager with recommendations for its future management. There is no doubt this is a significant discovery and the cave will probably be locked and added to the Caves Access Committee list for future protection.

Nambung National Park

In addition to 6E-100, CEGSA/CEGWA members have also discovered and commenced exploration and mapping of two beautifully decorated caves in the Nambung NP. The park is located about 200km North of Perth and 100km South of Eneabba and is famous for the ‘Pinnacles’ which are of course, limestone! The karst region is referred to as South Hill (6SH). Kaiser’s Cave was discovered by Peter Rattigan on 31 July 2009 when he fell into it! The initial discovery and exploration revealed the stunningly decorated main chamber – Kaiser’s Hall (25m long x 15m wide x 3m high) and a large floorpit which was unsafe to descend without some rope. In late September, Dr Roger Howlett and the author descended the floor pit to explore another 100m+ of finely decorated passages and chambers in the cave. In early October 2009, a small hole in a shallow depression a short distance from Kaiser’s Cave was investigated and found to lead into a fascinating cave in which all the walls and ceilings from the entrance to the lowest point (approximately 20m below the surface) are covered in a thick layer of the most delicate and pure white cave coral imaginable. A detailed survey of both caves has commenced and it is hoped this will help us to identify a connection between them so we can publish a map of the entire cave system.

More to Come!

Some of the photos of the new caves are with this article, but the CEGWA website www.cegwa.org has more photos in full colour for you to check out, together with more details of the caves and the stories of their discovery and exploration. We look forward to contributing more cave and karst news to you in the future.

Kindest Regards,

Paul Hosie
President,
Cave Exploration Group - Western Australia