

1.0 ETHICS

1.1 Members shall comply with the Code Of Ethics of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc.(A.S.F. inc.)

2.0 VISITORS

2.1 Visitors shall comply with the Constitution and by-laws of the Group.

2.2 To participate in activities other than the general meeting Visitors must be paid-up financial members of the group or of the ASF.

2.3 At the discretion of the Trip Leader a Visitor may be granted the privileges of a Full Member on the basis of prior caving experience with other organisations. It is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to verify that the Visitor has the appropriate abilities via suitable reference checks and practical observations

3.0 MEMBERS

3.1 On payment of annual subscription, a Member receives:

- (1) a membership card of the Group.
- (2) subscription to the Groups' publication, The Western Caver, for one year.
- (3) subscription to the A.S.F.s' publication, for one year.
- (4) voting rights at all types of general meetings of the Group.
- (5) access to the equipment and expertise of the Group.
- (6) subscription to the Groups' newsletter 'The Informer'.
- (7) access to the Groups' book, and slide libraries
- (8) access to the members' only section of the Groups' website.

4.0 FULL MEMBERS

4.1 A Full Member shall be a member of the Group who has achieved that amount of expertise deemed necessary by the Committee to be granted the additional privileges of a Full Member.

4.2 A Full Member may be granted access to locked caves as a participant on approved trips.

4.3 Any nomination for Full Member status must be published in the Informer or via the members' emailing list at least one month prior to consideration, with all members invited to comment to the committee concerning the member's suitability.

5.0 TRIP LEADERS

5.1 A **Trip Leader Horizontal** shall be a Full Member of the Group who is appointed by the Committee after attaining the required competency levels in areas which shall include, but no be limited to:-

- experience - partly from hours underground and partly from the range of localities caved.
- leadership skills - group management
- responsibility and discipline.
- ability to efficiently plan and execute trips
- hold a Current Senior First Aid Certificate or equivalent
- knowledge of the theory and practise of speleology.
- knowledge and practise of Minimal Impact Caving techniques.
- knowledge and practise of Cave conservation techniques.
- knowledge and practise of all applicable Codes of Ethics and Practices.
- knowledge of and practise at track marking techniques.
- surface and underground map and compass reading skills as well as underground navigation
- an appreciation of their own skills and limitations
- any other factors which the committee considers relevant.

5.2 A **Trip Leader Vertical** shall be a Full Member of the Group who is appointed by the Committee after attaining the required competency levels in areas which shall include, but not be limited to those for Trip leader Horizontal noted in 5.1 above and also:

- knowledge of the theory and practise of single rope techniques and laddering including basic rescue techniques.

5.3 A Trip Leader may appoint a Full Member as a Sub-Trip Leader for the duration of a trip.

5.4 Each underground trip shall be led by an authorised Trip Leader or appointed Sub trip Leader.

5.5 Trip Leaders shall be responsible for acquainting themselves with the formalities and restrictions of entry to property and caves which they propose to visit.

5.6 Trip Leaders shall ensure that all Visitors are familiar with and agree to abide by the by-laws of the Group.

5.7 Trip Leaders shall be responsible for the discipline and well-being of their party.

5.8 Trip Leaders shall be responsible for the safe return of all group property used by their party.

5.9 Trip Leaders shall be responsible for the collection and handing over to the Treasurer of all property maintenance contributions.

5.10 A Trip leader shall decide the size and composition of their own party; within the requirements of any relevant permits.

5.11 The Trip leader shall advise the Co-ordination Officer and/or the informer editor and/or the general meeting of proposed trips.

5.11 The Trip leader shall inform the membership of proposed trips via one or more of the following means: announcement at the general meeting, email to the members' list, notification in the Informer or by advising the Co-ordination Officer or Committee.

5.12 A Trip Leader shall lead at least two open (to members) trips per year unless he/she can provide reasons to the Committee showing that circumstances make this impossible or that the Trip leader has undertaken other activities, which have contributed to club objectives. If this requirement is not met then the Trip Leader's status may be reduced to that of Full Member. Restoration of Trip Leader status may be granted by the committee following the normal process for Trip Leader appointment as outlined in Section 5 of the by-laws.

5.13 All Trip Leaders' status will be reviewed annually by the Committee to ensure compliance with group by-laws

5.14 Any proposed appointment of Trip Leader status by the Committee must be published in the Informer or via the members' emailing list at least one month prior to final consideration, with all members invited to comment to the Committee concerning the member's suitability.

6.0 TRIPS

6.1 A trip is an outing with the intention of speleological activities in the field.

6.2 Where practical, a trip should be carried out with the knowledge and consent of the Committee.

6.3 The recommended minimum number on a trip is three (3).

6.4 A limit on the number of participants may be imposed at the discretion of the Trip Leader or the Committee where either the nature of the area or the work makes such a limit desirable.

6.5 All persons under eighteen (18) years of age participating in trips shall be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

6.6 Smoking in caves is forbidden.

6.7 Alcohol shall not be consumed until the caving activities for the day have been completed.

6.8 Firearms, explosives and other lethal weapons shall not be taken or used without prior agreement of the Trip Leader.

6.9 Members taking visitors must notify the Trip Leader beforehand and they must take steps to brief their visitors on the:

- (1) by-laws
- (2) objectives of the trip
- (3) camping and caving conditions expected

6.10 The Group's name and property shall not be used without the prior sanction of Committee.

6.11 No explosives shall be kept in any inhabited dwelling during a trip.

6.12 It is the right and responsibility of the trip leader to assess the capabilities of proposed trip members and hence their suitability for particular caves to be visited. This assessment should be based on their previous experience, references or testimonials and the judgment of the trip leader. The trip leader should only take them to caves commensurate with their level of technical skill and caving ability.

6.13 All trips will apply the ASF Minimal Impact Caving Code where applicable.

6.14 Where a cave is covered by the Caves Access Committee (CAC) then Trip Leaders and members shall comply with CAC requirements regarding access permissions and any special requirements as directed by the CAC.

7.0 SAFETY

7.1 Each person participating in an underground trip shall be adequately equipped with headgear, footwear, clothing and sources of light, and any other specialized equipment deemed necessary by the Trip Leader or the individual.

7.2 It is the responsibility of all members to inform the Trip Leader of any health, fitness, medical or other conditions they have which might affect their ability to safely participate in the caving activities or which may affect any medical treatment provided to them in the event of an injury. This is to be provided prior to commencement of any caving activities on a trip.

7.3 At the request of the Trip Leader members shall fill out a WASG Medical/Indemnity Form prior to commencing caving activities on a trip. These shall be retained in a readily accessible location for the duration of the trip. Such forms shall be considered private and confidential and only accessed on a needs basis.

8.0 PROPERTY

8.1 Persons using Group property shall contribute to the maintenance of that property as scheduled by the Committee.

8.2 Persons using Group property shall return it promptly after the completion of a trip, ensuring that it is clean and in good repair.

8.3 At the discretion of the Committee, the borrower shall be responsible for the cost of the repair or replacement of any property damaged or lost.

9.0 SPECIMENS

9.1 Persons who wish to remove material, including speleothems, minerals, bones, biological specimens, guano, cave fittings, etc. - must obtain written permission from the Committee as well as appropriate statutory permits and land manager permissions.

9.2 Materials should only be removed for research purposes.

9.3 Such material shall be offered to a recognized scientific institution as soon as it is practicable.

10.0 DUTIES OF CONVENERS

10.1 Conveners of sub-committees shall report at the fulfilment of their objectives, at the request of the Committee and/or annually.

10.2 The Editor shall publish an annual journal, all copies of which shall be distributed to members. The price shall be scheduled by the Committee and included in the annual subscription. Additional copies shall be available. The Editor need not necessarily be on the Committee.

10.3 The Safety Officer shall conduct training in caving techniques and cave rescue practices. A contact list to facilitate the organization of rescues should be maintained.

10.4 The State Cave Recorder shall investigate and collate all information of speleological features in Western Australia. The State Cave Recorder shall be responsible for the naming of speleological features considering recommendations on the standard cave nomenclature form and the A.S.F guide-lines. A cave numbering system shall be maintained in accordance with A.S.F practice. The State Cave Recorder shall maintain and update cave area lists.

10.5 The Map Curator shall catalogue and store the originals of maps. Within any directives of the committee the Map Curator shall make the maps available to all Full Members and Trip Leaders. Any member who believes their access to the map library has been unfairly restricted may appeal to the committee. The map curator shall keep a log of who has used the library and a brief summary of what they have accessed.

11.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

11.1 Where a trip is organised under the auspices of the group then the group shall have the right to the use of such information or intellectual property as is created or gathered during the trip or developed from information obtained during the trip; irrespective of ultimate copyright ownership, provided such usage is consistent with the group's objectives as outlined in the constitution.

11.2 The group or its members shall not use the information purely for financial gain without prior written permission of the legal owners of the copyright.

11.3 Information may include, but would not be limited to:

- Survey and location data
- Water level readings
- Fauna population studies
- Cave maps
- Images including photography

11.4 A trip conducted under the auspices of the group would include, but not be limited to:

- A trip advertised via the group newsletter
- A trip utilising group equipment or funds
- A trip where the participants are of the understanding that the trip is a group activity
- A trip where permissions or permits etc. have been obtained with the aid or nomination of group affiliation

11.5 Where information or intellectual property of the group is used it shall be acknowledged as having been sourced from the group with direct reference to the original creators of the information whenever practical.

12.0 GROUP POLICIES

12.1 The Group may adopt policies that are developed by the WASG Committee, and approved by a two thirds majority of a group general meeting after circulation to the membership. Such policies may be similarly amended. These policies may apply to group members or external bodies as specified within the policy statements. The policy documents listed below have been approved by the group:-

- 1) Nil.

APPENDIX 1

The Logo of the Western Australian Speleological Group (Inc) is the graphic image illustrated below.

