

NEW SOUTH WALES VOLUNTEER RESCUE ASSOCIATION Inc.

A.B.N. 68 767 393 968

TO: CRS, PRS AND OTHER VRA PERSONNEL

FROM: HARVEY BLACK, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

RE: CAVE TRAINING, TIMOR CAVES.

A training weekend will be held at Timor Caves, in the upper Hunter Valley on the weekend of 9th and 10th of August 2008. Members of VRA squads, PRS units as well as personnel from the NSW Cave Rescue Squad are encouraged to attend.

WHERE? Timor caves are situated on private property in a remote area East of Murrurundi, on Isaacs Creek and along the Isis River. There are no facilities at the cave sites, though there are camping sites along the creek bank. The enclosed map shows the locality and the access roads.

AIMS.

1. To continue the regular training programme of the NSW Cave Rescue Squad.
2. To introduce area VRA squads to the personnel and techniques of NSW CRS.
3. To familiarise local potential responders with the more popularly used caves in the Isis River Karst area, so as to improve their response capability.
4. To provide ongoing cave rescue training for VRA and PRS personnel from across the state.

WHAT TO BRING. You will need to be self sufficient for the weekend, in camping gear, cooking and eating utensils, food and water supplies along with suitable caving and wet weather gear. Don't forget your warm clothes, as Timor can get quite cold. The nearest fuel is some distance away so fill up at Scone or Murrurundi before heading out. Aside from local firewood and a portalo, there is nothing in the paddock, so if you want it, bring it yourself. While there are some fire places, a small gas stove would be recommended, in case there is a TOBAN.

SUITABLE CAVING EQUIPMENT. The caves that will be used at Timor will not require the use of technical equipment, except for rescue exercises. Here is a short list of personal caving gear, however, for those attending who are not regular cavers. Hard hat with chin strap, cap lamp, second independent light source, spare batteries, old overalls, sturdy boots with grippy soles, water bottle, some nibble food, minimal first aid kit, long sleeved sloppy joe or similar and a suitable small pack or bag.

COSTS. While there will not be any charges leveled for attendance during the weekend, I will take up a collection on behalf of the land owner, who charges a small fee for camping on his land. This is normally on a per person basis. Any costs associated with the provision of training will be met from VRA funds.

ARRIVAL. It would be good to have everyone on site on Friday night, even though some people will have considerable distances to travel. The road in from Blandford will be marked with "CRS" signs and barrier tape at intersections, so no one should have a problem navigating. The timetable will commence after breakfast on Saturday morning.


PROGRAMME. The programme will commence with registration, followed by some lectures and demonstrations to familiarise attendees with the equipment, techniques and protocols that will be used over the weekend. Depending on the numbers in attendance, groups may be formed to enable best use of the resources we have. There will be roles for experienced as well as novice personnel. It is envisaged that we will finish at lunch time on Sunday so that everyone can travel home early.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY. While there is no ban on alcohol consumption on Friday or Saturday nights, attendees are reminded that the VRA's policy requires zero levels of drugs and alcohol during both daily activities.

COMMUNICATIONS. Due to the remote area involved, no reliance can be placed on mobile phone services. A satellite phone, number 0147 145 437 will be available for emergency calls out during the weekend.

REPLY FORM ATTACHED. A form is attached for indicating your attendance. Please fill this out and return by mail or fax as indicated. Numbers might need to be limited, so get in early in case some culling has to be done (first in, best dressed). All nominations should be back to me by Friday 1st of August 2008.

QUESTIONS? Anyone requiring additional information can contact me on 6792 1334 at home, 6792 1333 on the fax, 0427 254 374 on the mobile, or at PO Box 44W, Narrabri West 2390.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HARVEY" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Harvey Black,
Director of Training.

TIMOR 2008

ATTENDANCE REPLY FORM

I/we plan to attend cave rescue training at Timor Caves on 9th & 10th of August, 2008.

I/we are members of the following group;

My/our names are as follows; 1.

(As you want on tag)

2.

3.

4.

Return address for information

Contact phone number

Emergency contact during weekend

Do any of you have any injuries or illnesses that could affect your safety on the weekend? No/yes (if yes, please specify)

Who?..... What?

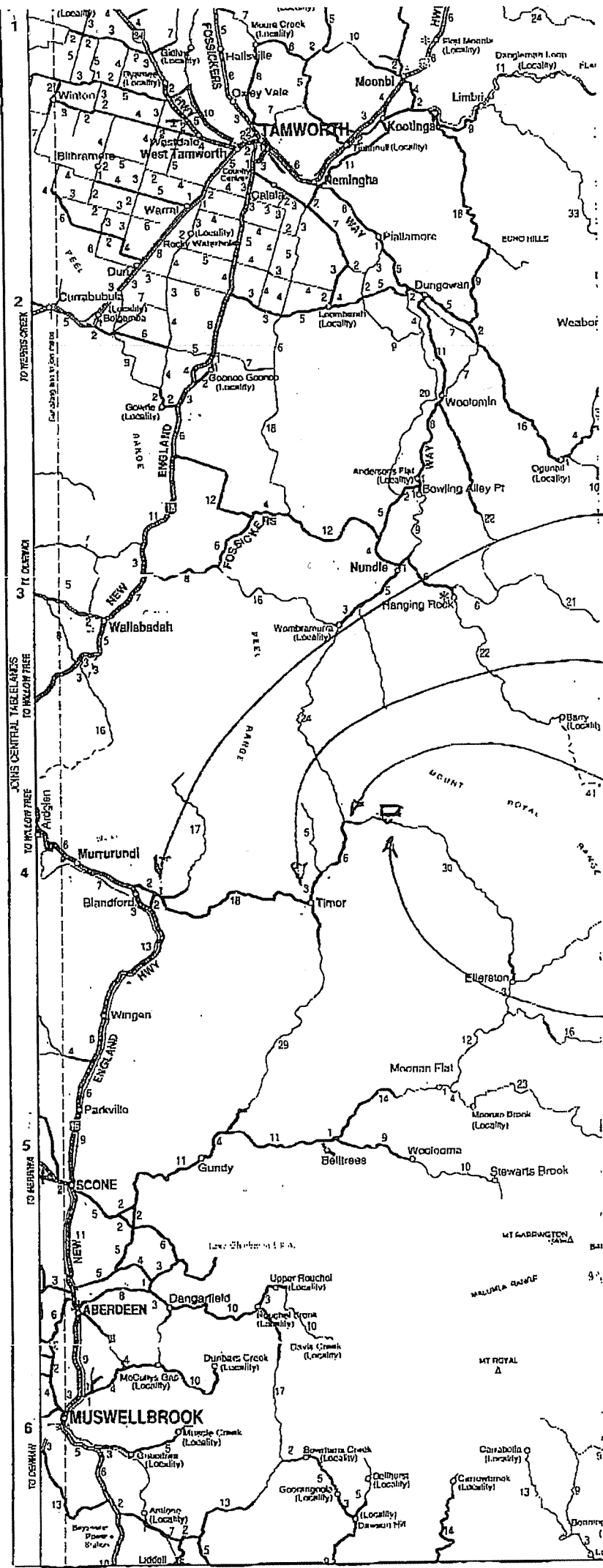
Previous caving experience

Return to :-

Harvey Black,
VRA Director of Training or 6792 1333
PO Box 44W Fax
Narrabri West
NSW 2390

By Friday 1st of August, 2008, thanks.

LOCALITY MAP of TIMOR CAVES



1 Turn off either side of Blandford for Timor.

2 Turn left at T intersection at Timor. (CRS sign)

3 Turn right at Ellerston turnoff. (CRS sign)

4 Turn left down bank at campsite. (CRS sign)