

## BOOK REVIEWS

Tuohy, Liz. 1998. "*Leave No Trace. Outdoor Skills and Ethics. Caving*". National Outdoor Leadership School, LNT Skills and ethics series, Volume 14, 1st Edition., Lander, Wyoming. 20pp. **Reviewed by Lana Little.**

It is reassuring to see the principles and practices of the Australian Speleological Federation's Code of Ethics and Conservation, and Minimal Impact Caving Code reflected so strongly in this international publication. In this case, the techniques have been developed through the collaborative efforts of cavers, land managers and the USA's national Leave No Trace education programme, but the similarities in the resultant publication are remarkable.

The booklet should not be considered as an alternative to our own ASF guidelines, but rather to be considered in conjunction with them. There are no major additions to the principles embraced in the Australian system, but there are some nice examples of elaboration of a point, or extension of a concept, such as what constitutes appropriate clothing and why, and notes on methods for minimal impact caving-related surface activities like getting to the cave entrance, and camping. (Although the suggestions pertaining to 'bear country' are probably safe to overlook.)

Sira, Adrian. (No date). "*A Guide to Responsible Caving*". National Speleological Society, Inc. Huntsville, Alabama. 20pp. **Reviewed by Lana Little.**

Distinct from its counterpart above, this booklet is written in more a narrative style, and has no table of contents, which makes it a little harder to find specific information quickly. It also takes on a broader scope, with some introductory information concerning caves. Given that each booklet has the same number of pages, it follows that this one is lighter in content concerning the actual caving guidelines. A summary of dot-point safe caving practices and a suggested caving equipment list are provided at the back

Focus is retained through simple wording avoiding specialist terms, clear and logical layout with sub-headings, and each section being kept to a sensible minimum. There is a table of contents, for quick reference.

In the one or two instances where reference is made to legislation, the north American origins are apparent, but parallel legislation exists in Australia, and this matter does not significantly detract from the usefulness of the publication.

The booklet would be of clear assistance to anyone new to caving, and of more subtle but no less powerful benefit to the experienced caver, who can always gain from a personal review of current best practice. It is available free, with a donation gratefully accepted for bulk orders, so no caving association should be without one.

This publication sports an attractive cover with colour prints, and black and white photos within, and would make an interesting once-through read for novices, but it is my impression that it is less likely to be picked up and perused again, because the format does not provide information in small discrete bites.

However, it is the same price as the LNT version!