

THE BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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N.S.W., 2006.

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Volume 11, Number 1

May 1971

COMING EVENTS

- May 6 General Meeting - Room 328, south-east corner of the Quadrangle at 8pm. A social type meeting with slides etc.
- 8,9 JENOLAN - Continuation of morphological work in Mammoth + some surveying somewhere. Contact Jim Seabrook 74.6084
- 15 Library cataloguing day at 5 The Crescent, Linley Point (near Fig Tree Bridge). Turn up from 9am onwards and help get the SUSS library into shape - lunch will be provided for the workers. Then that evening a BARBECUE at the same address - turn up with steaks and flagons about 5pm - who knows, it may degenerate into an orgy! Information on these activities from Ludwig Muenzenreider 428.2034
- 22,23 CLIFDEN (awaiting permit) - surveying in Taplow Maze + a general relax by the banks of the idyllic Belubula River. The ideal Uni. vacation trip - contact John Holliday 54.1922
- 29,30 JENOLAN (tentative) - John Dunkley 759.9956. Possibly June 5,6th.
- TUGLOW (tentative) - sometime late in May Ludwig Muenzenreider hopes to go to Tuglow - surveying, fishing etc - 428.2034.
- June 3 General Meeting - Rm 328, south-east corner of Quadrangle at 8pm.
- 12,13,14 YARRANGOBILLY (awaiting permit) - surveying in Eagles Nest etc. See and feel Yagby in the winter. Jim Seabrook 74.6084.
- COOLEMAN (awaiting permit) - surveying either on the surface or in New Year Cave. Numbers may have to be limited to the availability of four wheel drive vehicles. John Holliday 54.1922
- Late June or sometime in July the event of the year - the SUSS annual dinner - always a memorable event. Arrangements have not yet been completed but the date should be known soon. The venue? The Union of course! Info from Chris Fieldhouse 76.5028 or John Holliday
- July 1 General Meeting - Rm 328, SE corner Quadrangle.

FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE!!

SUSS -- The SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President: John Dunkley

Secretary: Jim Seabrook

22/53 Alice St.,
Wiley Park, 2195.
759.9956

142 Parramatta Rd.,
Croydon, 2132.
74.6084

Editor: John Holliday
36 Lynwood St.,
Blackhurst, 2221.
54.1922

Results of the Annual General Meeting

President: John Dunkley

Secretary: Jim Seabrook

Treasurer: Jeanette Dunkley

Editor: John Holliday

Safety Officer: Murray Anderson

Librarian/Records Officer: Ludwig Huenzenreider

The total full or associate membership fee for 1971/72 was increased by \$1.00 to \$3.50 -- 50¢ of this will go to the A.S.P. as a result of the 50¢ increase in the capitation fee, and the other 50¢ will be used by SUSS to finance, among other things, purchases of new gear. Full and associate membership fees are now due, and it would be appreciated if members could get their money to the Treasurer, Jeanette Dunkley, as soon as possible. Several members have already paid, but at the old rate of \$2.50, thus leaving a \$1.00 difference to be made up.

The new Committee has appointed Chris Fieldhouse as Equipment Officer. The equipment will be stored at his house - 94 Barker Rd., Strathfield (ph: 76.5028). The log book of equipment usage will be kept by Chris -- trip leaders must provide him with this information after each trip.

New Members

SUSS has four new full or associate members -- Harvey Smith, Ian Callander, Colin Mathers, and Jan Turner. Colin and Jan are the first of this years intake of prospectives to gain full membership.

Publications

Avid readers of the front cover may have noticed a slight change -- this is the SUSS Bulletin. Why the change? Well the publication of the SUSS Journal has been discontinued (not that there have been any published in the last few years anyway), and it is hoped to publish any articles of journal standard in a slightly upgraded newsletter, that is the SUSS Bulletin. Note that the volume numbering of the Bulletin is a continuation of the old Newsletter numbers. Eventually the Bulletin will appear with a printed front cover of the type used on UCSS's "Down Under". Any major publications by the Society in future will appear as occasional papers.

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CAVING SAFETY and YOU....

A summary of Current Safety Practices and Techniques.

Section A: Personal Equipment.

1: What to buy.

Karabiners. The minimum number of krabs needed by the average caver who is unlikely to try free climbing or prussiking, is two. As the rope most frequently used is Millers No.4 Nylon, which has a minimum breaking strain of 1980 Kg., krabs of this breaking strain must be used. The most useful and versatile is the Stubai 985 (2200 Kg. minimum). The other should be of the screw-gated trapezoid-shaped variety, having at least 2000 Kg. minimum breaking strain.

These krabs will enable you to set up most belays, and perform twisted-knot abseils. Crossed karabiner or brake-bar abseils require additional purchasing, and this is left up to the individual.

Slings and Waistloops. Nowadays, slings are almost invariably tubular webbing tape, which are ideal for running belays, static belays and abseil slings. For the waistloop, 2" terylene webbing is becoming popular, but your author recommends that at least one member of a caving party uses a waistloop made from 25' of "manilla secured by a double figure of eight knot, as it can be used as an emergency lifeline.

Gloves. Gloves are a necessity when belaying and are a great comfort when ladder climbing or caving in piranha-type caves. Every member should have their own pair, and you can obtain yours at a ridiculously low price from me at the next G.M. (Courtesy of Graeme Mc.Gowan).

2: How to use it.

Before recommending any method of tying yourself on to the belay rope, there are a number of factors to be taken into consideration:

A: With a direct waist-tie (eg. with a bowline and no waistline) a person hanging on the rope will die in 10 to 15 minutes, due to the blood circulation being cut off through the diaphragm.

B: With a waistloop there is some chance of turning upside-down in a fall, and possibly falling out of the loop.

C: With a chest-tie, such a Beaudrier Alpin, there is a chance of the krab or knot hitting you in the face in the event of a fall.

I think the best compromise is the waistloop method, where wide webbing or 25' of thin manilla help spread the load of a fall. There is little chance of turning upside-down, unless you are top heavy like Sandra Nelson, and the chance of being left suspended for ten minutes is unlikely. A really safe method would be to wear a Beaudrier Alpin as well as a waistloop, so, in the event of a fall, the climber could clip onto the ladder to rest, and have the weight taken on his chest instead of his innards.

The ultimate system is a combined thigh, waist and shoulder harness, which eliminates all the above faults, but further investigation is needed before it can be recommended for caving, as it may be too restrictive.

A screw-sleeved karabiner should be used to join the belay rope to the waistloop via an overhand figure-of-eight knot. This knot is now preferred to the bowline for synthetic ropes like Kernmantel, Nylon and courene, as the bowline can creep loose, or under a side-ways load, turn into a slip knot.

Section B: Rope Management.

1: Belaying.

A: Traditional Methods. This covers all belays where the back and hands are used as a brake to hold a fall. The most common form is when the belay rope is taken around an anchor, a bight formed on the active rope, fed up through the waistloop and secured with two half-hitches around the two ropes that go back to the anchor. There are many variations to this basic system, such as tying the rope back into a karabiner on the waistloop, using a sling around the anchor, standing, sitting, shoulder belays etc. A versatile belay system in which all members should become competent.

The other traditional method is the "figure-of-eight" belay where the loop from an overhand figure of eight knot is placed over (or under, if you are belaying from below with a pulley at the top of the ladder) an anchor, the tail end of the rope tied into the waistloop krab with another figure of eight knot, and belaying with the active rope. The disadvantage of this system is that there is only one thickness of rope connecting the belayer to the anchor, but this is not important if the belayer is well braced against something solid. In its favour, the belay is quick to set up, and quick to change from one person to another by unclipping the figure of eight knot from the waistloop karabiner.

In all traditional methods, the active rope comes into the hand closest to the climber (the directing hand), around the back and into the other hand (the controlling hand) with a half turn around the forearm. Wear your gloves, and when taking rope in or out, never have a hand off either rope: Grasp both ropes in one hand, and then move the other hand back or forward as required.

B: Direct Belays. (Krab and Glove, Spike and Glove etc) These belays rely on friction generated by the gloves of the belayer to stop a fall. They are only safe when there is no slack in the rope between the belayer and the climber, so it requires good rope management on the part of the belayer.

A sling is placed around a suitable anchor and the rope is clipped into a krab on the sling. The belayer sits beside the krab and feeds the rope through as if it were on a pulley. In the event of a fall, the belayer crushes the two ropes together near the krab with his hands, and arrests the fall. The Spike and Glove belay is the same except that the rope goes directly around the anchor.

There are a number of disadvantages to this system. As was mentioned before, it cannot hold a dynamic fall, and hence the rope must be taut between the climber and belayer at all times. Also, in the event of a fall, the rope sustains a load on a small radius three-sixty degree bend at the karabiner, and this could lead to a rope failure. Lastly, the belayer is normally unprotected, and should sit in a position where he cannot fall, or belay himself to a different anchor.

C: Mechanical belay Devices. This is really an extension of the direct belay. Devices are used to generate more friction so it is easier to hold a fall. Crossed krabs, brake bars or krab and piton have been used, but these devices generate friction in both directions, so the rope is hard to pull up. The best mechanical device is the Jumar, which gives no friction when pulling the rope up, and locks on the rope when there is a downward load. The only disadvantage is that a call for Slack is hard to comply with.

2: Knots

As mentioned before, the best knot for tying onto the belay rope is the overhand figure-of-eight knot in conjunction with a waistloop and krab, or a double figure-of-eight if tying directly onto the belay rope. In nylon, a bowline and two half-hitches is the next best knot but this knot must not be tied in kernmantel.

The other knots that members must know are the tape knot for joining synthetic tape, and the double fishermans knot for joining rope. You must be able to tie a Beaudrier Alpin with your tape sling as this method of tying onto the belay rope is recommended. It is also useful for clipping onto a ladder for a rest.

There are also knots that would sometimes be required in the event of an accident, and members should know them. The bowline on the bight and the triple bowline give two and three loops respectively, which can be used as a harness for eg. raising a person up a shaft. Prussik knots could be used to climb the belay rope after a ladder failure. The Tarbuck knot is useful if there is going to be any slack between the belayer(eg. climbing a traverse) as it absorbs the energy of a falling climber, but remember the knot must not be tied in Kernmantel.

CONCLUSION:

1: Learn the knots as set out in the SUSS Handbook. This is important not only from a safety point of view, but also saves time if everyone can tie onto the rope, or set up a belay, quickly.

2: Wear a waistloop (2" webbing tape or three-quarter inch manilla) or a beaudrier alpin, or both.

3: Tie onto the waistloop or Beaudrier Alpin with an overhand figure-of-eight knot, via a full weight screw sleeved karabiner.

4: Learn all the methods of belaying and be able to set up a belay in any situation.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that caving accidents are rare, but this is no reason to become complacent. Prevention is better than a full scale rescue, so keep in mind the following when tying onto a rope, setting up a belay, preparing to abseil etc. :

Accidents don't happen, they are caused.

There are only two causes: Unsafe Acts and Unsafe Conditions.

MURRAY ANDERSON (Safety Officer)

References:

Blackshaw A., Mountaineering

Robinson D& Greenbank A., Caving and Potholing.

TASSIE NEWS

During recent months Tasmania has been experiencing a spell of very dry weather, so dry in fact that another assault on Khazad-dum has become feasible. This will probably take place over the Anzac longweekend, as long as the weather holds, and as long as there are enough takers. Any last minute news on the results of the trip will appear in a back page stop press.

TRIP REPORTSCoolleman Plain, April 8-13, 1971"SUSS Returns to Coolleman for Easter"

Present: John Holliday(TL), Murray Anderson, Andrew Hopp, Jack and Judith Vaughn, Zyg Szramka, Manfred Listing (H's), Rob Watson, Harvey Smith, Graeme McGowan, Ian Milligan, Bob Spence (P's), Raynor Listing, Christine ? (V's), Ian Callander(P-on SSS permit). Also at Coolleman were Elery Hamilton-Smith (VSA), Joe Jennings(CSS), Andrew Povey(UNSUSS), Julia James, Diane Perkins, Tony Dowling, Neil Montgomery and others(all SSS).

Weather: Beautiful -- fine and clear until Monday afternoon when approaching storms forced those remaining at Coolleman to rapidly evacuate.

The party arrived between mid-day Thursday and mid-day Friday and camp was set up under the small gums at the end of the point between Caves Ck. and the tributary from the efflux.

During Friday the whole party was infected by 'Coolleman lethargy'. Zyg, Manfred and Murray went climbing in the Gorge, and Andy, John and Rob went on a surface recce. of the area between Clown Cave and the Gorge. The fishing that evening proved to be poor -- actually there were plenty of fish, it's just that they're smart and thus the only things Zyg caught all Easter were the morning and evening 'rises'. Friday night saw the first of the bawdy campfires as we entertained ourselves with recitations of 'unlaundered limericks' and quotes from that champion chunderer Barry McKenzie.

On Saturday work started in earnest. Andy, John and Ian C. set about mapping Rebellion (Frustration) Cave and Murray led parties to Clown and Fish Caves, the latter being the scene for a rather icy dip. In Rebellion Cave the water flow was slightly less than the 0.3 cusecs reported on the Australia Day long-weekend. The map at CRG grade 4 is at present being draughted by Andy Hopp. A weta was collected and presented to Elery H-S.

Sunday saw Zyg go climbing again -- this time go attacked the bluff near the Blue Waterhole, but without great success. However, he did manage to carry out some unintentional and rather hairy looking gibberology. That afternoon the survey was completed and the evening appeared set for a planned booze-up cum orgy. Unfortunately a girl from a fishing party was reported lost in the scrub and SUSS and SSS then organised a joint search which was called off at the last minute, but just late enough to kill any festivities.

Monday saw people beginning to leave so that by 2pm only John, Murray, Keith(from the Yagby party) and 5 SSS bods remained at Coolleman. A surface traverse down the Rebellion Cave valley was planned using a Miner's dial kindly loaned by Joe Jennings, but this was abandoned when someone noticed large black clouds approaching. Never have three cars been so quickly packed -- we were almost at the Brindabella track when the muck set in. Dinner that night consisted of well seasoned 'dog', beautifully cooked by Julia James, and camp was finally made at Cotter.

Next morning after some interesting early morning driving we made Canberra where, together with Andrew Povey we visited Joe Jennings at the ANU. Joe presented SUSS with several Coolleman cave maps and is eager to receive a copy of the Rebellion (Frustration) Cave map.

cont. over

The trip home was uneventful except for the 2hrs wasted at the mournfully slow Golden Fleece Restaurant at Collector.

Comments: 1. The Cooleman area continues to be abused. There was rubbish in the Creek, the fishing was poor and the campsites dirty. We camped at a site which had been used on the Australia Day long-weekend by a group of Canberra boy scouts and we found that they had left ditches where they had had their tents and their toilet area was rather disgusting. Fortunately the N.P.W.S. is now doing something about this abuse -- rangers visited the area on all four days and four illegal cavers were booked on the Friday. Hopefully they will keep up these patrols -- an inspection of fishing licences wouldn't go astray either.

2. Cooleman should be visited on the June long-weekend (weather permitting) as there is plenty of work to do. It is good to know that any work SUSS does will be used by Joe Jennings.

3. Harvey Smith had his radios with him and these were of considerable use and would have been a real asset had the organised search got underway. If SUSS ever gets access to cheap radios, as VSA did, then they should jump at the chance.

John Holliday

Yarrangobilly, April 8-12, 1971

"Eagles Nest Doline Surveyed"

Present: Jim Seabrook(TL), Alan Moule, Rick Tunney, Mark Gainsford (all M's), Jim Moule, Bev Riley, Janice Turner, Jeff Turner, Colin Mathes, Roger Steadman, Keith Brister, Nick ? (P's).

Caves Entered: North and South Glory Holes (tourist), the Eagles Nest system, and East Deep Creek. Also four small caves on the Yagby R, MR984833

Weather: Wonderful!!!

SMA map 249182

Work Done: 1. On Thursday the Glory Hole Caves were inspected to appraise the work done in improving them for tourists. The set-up in these caves is, in my opinion, as good as any I have seen. The NPWS are to be congratulated on the work they have done in displaying these caves to their best advantage. Whilst the do-it-yourself inspection of the South Glory Hole is a unique and entertaining idea, the Service may find trouble with people staying from the established paths.

2. Grade six survey of the Y1-2-3 doline. A permanent base line has been placed from Y1 to Y2 using copper nails to mark the stations. The instrument was set up at each station and back bearings taken. The rest of the doline was mapped by triangulation. The forestry compass is a pleasure to use but the hair lines could be very hard to read in the dark.

Whilst the survey was progressing Nick became separated from his party and was subsequently found by the Eagles Nest party. Apparently he had been treed by a mob of small pigs although there is a chance that what actually scared him was the E-N party thundering through the bush.

cont. over

3. General exploration and photography in Y3-1-2, Y5 and Y22.

4. On Sunday four small unnumbered caves at river level were explored. All were less than 150ft and two of them had mammalian residents -- one pig and one wombat. Colin managed to become more familiar with these occupants than he really desired.

General Observations: 1. The caves were much drier than usual. Most pools were dry the rest were down about 3ft. The passage to the pretties in Y2 had a pool 8'x3" deep instead of 60'x3'.

2. The pretties in EDC are getting muddy due to too many people going in there without taking off boots and overalls.

3. One could not help but notice that the wild pig population in the area has increased out of all proportion. As these animals are not part of and do excessive damage to the natural environment they should be eradicated. Perhaps the NPWS could issue permits to accredited hunters for this area.

4. A bottle of matches about eight years old was retrieved from a pool in EDC. There was about a one millimetre coating of calcite crystals over half of the bottle. It was presented to Phil Crooke on behalf of SUSS for the museum/info. office. Also retrieved were two bayonet mount Phillips flashbulbs which helped to date the bottle. It might be pointed out that this bottle had more calcite deposited on it than the milkbottle in the Temple of Baal, Jenolan. This is a growth rate approx 6 times greater.

5. What was possibly a party of freelance cavers were seen apparently coming from Y58 late on Sunday night.

6. A relatively tame wallaby came within 15' of the campfire earlier on Sunday night. This displays the lack of fear that some animals are developing after being in a national park. This same wallaby later absconded with four hot cross buns.

Jim Seabrook

Jenolan, 27/28 March 1971

" 'You can't get lost...' "

Present: John Dunkley(TL), Jeanette Dunkley, Ted Anderson, John Holliday, Murray Anderson, Ron Murray, Brian Wythes (M's), Bruce Nelan, Bev Riley, Graham Bailey, Ian Callander, Lindsey Tuart, Marilyn Long, Cherie Wheeler (P's), Andrew Pavey (visitor from UNSWSS).

After an eerie drive to Jenolan, thru fog for most of the way, the party was prepared for a typical Jenolan type weekend -- overcast conditions with occasional drizzly rain. Following a damp breakfast Mammoth Cave was entered at 11.00am. The party split into three -- Ron led one group (Jeanette, Marilyn, Bev, Lindsey, Cherie, Bruce and Graham) to Southern Section and Upper Oolite area, emerging about 6.00pm. Group two led by John D. (plus John H., Murray, Brian and Ian) and group three (Ted and Andrew) both headed for the Great North Cavern.

cont. over

Assured by instructions from Ted that 'you can't get lost', group two turned left instead of right at the top of a mud slope leading to the North Tunnel, negotiated an 80' long muddy squeeze and entered a section previously unknown to SUSS and not appearing on any maps. It had been entered before as there was a smoked inscription on one wall -- 'R.N.C. 22/7/61, 25/11/62'. The identity of the discoverer is unknown but he may have been a NUSS member (Newcastle were active in Mammoth about the early 60's), and thus a letter has been sent to them. The main cavern here appears to be a continuation of the Railway Tunnel, and thus the only known northerly extension of this system. A grade 3 survey was completed and the section has tentatively been dubbed 'Can't Get Lost' Section in honour of Ted's assured statement.

While John's party was blundering about in this part, Ted and Andrew overtook and thundered on to the Great North Cavern for photography. They were about to leave the G.N.C. when group two arrived, having again got lost at the flowstone barrier just past the 100% Friction Squeeze. The G.N.C. was a very welcome sight, and the trip back was not as difficult as expected. Once out of the North Tunnel progress to the surface was very fast considering the buggered condition of the party. The surface was reached at 2.00am Sun.

Later on Sunday a reconnaissance was made upstream as far as Wiburd's Lake for a proposed surface survey at Easter. McKeowns Ck was not sighted anywhere. Meanwhile several early leavers had car trouble -- Brian engaged in some dramatic reverse gear driving to get up the hill from the animal enclosure and John H. ripped the muffler of his VW and then spent several frustrating hours unsuccessfully trying to coax it back on with the much appreciated help of some of the Guides.

General observations in Mammoth: The dry siphon was up with 18-24" air space and perhaps 12" of water to wade through. It had fallen considerably since a sighting by Halbert(SSS) the previous week. Central R. was less than one cusec and Central Lake was low enough to progress past normally.

John Dunkley

Safety: Whilst in the 'Can't Get Lost' Section Brian got badly stuck head-first down a very dangerous rock tube. The tube goes off the side of a pit, reached via a formation squeeze at the northern extremity of the Section. A skull and crossbones marks the entrance and indicates the hazard. Brian stuck his head in and his hat fell off and rolled down. He then went down to get it but could not get back up. He was stuck for perhaps 1/4hr and it is a tribute to him that he did not panic. Eventually a loop was tied in the end of a waistloop and thrown to him. With his hands in this and John D. pulling and John H. pulling his legs, one very buggered caver slid up and out.

Mention can also be made here of the one hour wait by Brian and John H. at the dry siphon. It certainly proved how cold one can get through inactivity, even in Mammoth, and particularly when one is pretty near exhaustion.

John Holliday

HELP FIGHT WATER POLLUTION -

DRINK MORE BEER ON SUSS TRIPS!!

CONSERVATIONTasmania - Hydro Gone Mad

Tasmanians are at present fighting, in a last ditch effort, to save Lake Pedder National Park from drowning. If present Government plans proceed then Lake Pedder will eventually be submerged under the waters created by the damming of the Serpentine and Huon Rivers, as part of the Gordon River Scheme. According to the Hydroelectric Commission (HEC or 'the Hydro') the new Lake Pedder thus formed will have a great beauty of its own. However, most people who have been to Lake Pedder or who saw the "Four Corners" programme on April 24th disagree - its wide beaches and setting amongst the unique plain and mountain scenery of SW Tasmania make it a gem really worth preserving.

The point is Lake Pedder can still be saved for a cost of up to \$10m. J.G. Mosely, writing in "The Australian" of April 23rd, states that the only reason that the new Lake Pedder exists is so that the waters from it can flow by gravity via the McPartlan Pass Canal into Lake Gordon, the main storage and the one connected to the power station. For an additional \$5-8m he states that only the lower Serpentine would need to be dammed (thus saving Lake Pedder) and the water could be pumped into Lake Gordon.

The Tasmanian Government is, however, deaf to such arguments -- it has even rejected requests for a referendum on the issue, although its hard to understand why. If one had been held and the people voted to preserve Lake Pedder, then the Government could have spent extra money on this with a clear political conscience. But no, the industry and developmental interests backing the Government could not be denied their way. Thus Lake Pedder will almost certainly drown.

The Gordon River scheme is only the start of course. The Pieman River scheme in NE Tasmania was recently approved -- it will flood one of Australia's wildest rivers. Meanwhile the Hydro is investigating potential dam sites all over the South-West. Think of a river and one day they hope to flood it. The lakes created will cover enormous areas of unexplored limestone, which speleologists have just not had the time nor the money to get to.

A series of dams on the lower Gordon are probably next on the list of Hydro plans although it will be the ultimate shambolic situation if they eventuate. The point is that the days of the reign of hydro power are numbered. Nuclear power will ultimately become as cheap as hydro power (surely before the lower Gordon is flooded). It is already less destructive of the environment, as well as being more reliable. Tasmanian hydro power is certainly not reliable -- one only has to think of the drought a few years ago and the power cuts it caused. Tasmania, if it is not careful, could end up with plenty of hydro power, not enough takers, and hundreds of square miles of flooded wilderness to boot.

Fortunately, however, some environmental consciousness does appear to be seeping across Bass Strait (the Lake Pedder fight is an example). Ultimately this may force a re-examination of Tasmanian priorities. For it is highly debatable whether industrialisation via hydro power was ever really an answer to Tasmania's continuing economic problems. Perhaps

Tasmania would be better to opt out of the industrialisation race being pursued by all the mainland states, and other advanced countries for that matter. Perhaps she would be better to fully preserve her natural beauty. Such a decision could reap great dividends, particularly if Tasmania realises that it has only pricked the surface of its tourist potential.

John Holliday

Colong - Victory in Sight

The annual general meeting of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers took place in Melbourne last Wednesday, April 28th. Despite the change of venue it was a typically stirring meeting -- a major version of the SUSS AGM. The retiring chairman of APCM, Sir Grant Herrier, appeared on "This Day Tonight" that night and stated that he was hopeful that the reserves at Marulan would prove satisfactory (a report is expected in about three months) and that if this was the case then an exchange of leases would be negotiated with the Government. In fact from the general tenor of his statement it appeared that Sir Grant was more than hopeful, he seemed almost certain. Lets hope that the joy of retiring and the thought of no more rowdy meetings to chair hadn't gone to his head.

THE GREAT NON-DEBATE

At the Sydney Epelcological Society meeting on April 29th an informal debate took place on the issue of ladders with lifelines versus single rope techniques (ie: brake-bar abseiling and jumars for the ascent). It was a pity that the originally planned formal debate did not take place, although if it had the results could have been a little embarrassing for the ladder supporters.

The single rope side (Julia James, Neil Montgomery, Andrew Pavey) presented a reasonably well argued case. The essence of their technique is expertise. Single rope users must practise assiduously and be prepared to maintain a range of expensive gear. The technique apparently has great advantages for cave exploration. It is much quicker than laddering and obviously has a place in the cavers 'bag of tricks'. It has been used successfully for years overseas, particularly by the Americans, and would be a boon in exploring the deep caves of New Zealand and Tasmania, as long as there are enough competent people to make a team.

The ladder supporters (Ben Nurse, John Bonwick, John Walker), in contrast, presented a poorly argued and prepared case. They presented a mass of bewildering statistics and eagerly extolled the well known virtues of ladders. However, at no stage could they refute the claims of the other side that single rope techniques have a place in the expert caver's repertoire. Nor could they answer to the fact of the successful overseas usage of single rope techs. In fact either they did not want to, or were not capable of making a debate of the issue.

Thus the debate in reality was a non-debate. However, at least the evening gave the single rope users a chance to explain their technique to a few more cavers.

Ed. (correspondence welcome!)

THE 1970/71 ANNUAL REPORTSPresident's Report 1971

A President's Report should presumably cover the highlights, trends and problems of the past Society year, draw conclusions and speculate on future glories . . .

The Society Perhaps the most encouraging trend has been the substantial increase of nearly 50% in membership of the Society compared with 1969-70. This was brought about by a vigorous recruiting campaign last year and continued active caving throughout the year. There has been another big increase in prospective membership this year from Orientation Week. Several members of long standing depleted active membership by going overseas - Dick (Mad Dog) Heffernan to Tierra del Fuego, Mike & Ros Shepherd to Chile, Rick and Pat Crowle to be married in America, and Pam Fitzgerald and Jeanette Ferguson to England.

Meetings and Functions General meetings have been well attended but a problem arose recently when our usual venue was lost; this should hopefully be resolved within a month. Two highly successful field trips were well attended at Wahroonga Rocks, and followed by a barbecue and booze-up for which we must thank Murray Anderson and his parents. Several members attended a smorgasbord and slide lecture by Bro. Nicholas, former President of the National Speleological Society, U.S.A. SUSS arranged a one day visit to Wombeyan for this distinguished visitor. The Annual Dinner featured Dr B.J. O'Brien, former President of this Society and of the Australian Speleological Federation and former Professor of Space Science at Rice University. He has recently been appointed Director of Environmental Protection in Western Australia. In July about 70 people heard Mr R. Murdoch, Director of Tourism, deliver the first Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture. organised by this Society.

Publications The Newsletter has increased substantially in quality and quantity under the vigorous editorship of John Holliday, and the recurrent problems of printing were overcome for a few more months. Zig Szramka arranged typing and Rick Crowle printing of a new Journal last year, but the job is not complete and in the meantime there is still much material worth publishing which needs a typist. The main reason SUSS does not publish more is not that we have no work worth reporting but simply that too often it is not typed, printed and published while still interesting. This is a serious problem deserving far more consideration and attention than it has received lately. The last copy of "Caves of the Nullarbor", which SUSS and CEGSA can rightly claim to be the finest publication ever on Australian speleology, sold the last copy in Hobart for an accumulated surplus of about \$250.

Equipment This year has seen the final depreciation of the 1966 generation of ropes and ladders and we are up for a big bill this year. As well, a forestry-type compass has at last been obtained through the good auspices of Bob Hawkins (SSS) and financed by loans by the Committee members. An approach to the Students Representative Council for a grant towards equipment was totally ignored and complaints had to be made to the Student Advisor.

Speleological Research Council This is a limited liability company composed of SUSS members. Ted Anderson and I in March presented a report on proposed restructuring of the company which was accepted in principle. We have been asked to consider and report on means of implementing the proposals.

Finance This Society has done some of the most truly original speleological research, as distinct from systematic caving, in this country, albeit haphazardly. We have done it almost entirely from members' own time and pockets. I think it is a disgrace that no institution of this University sees its way clear to making even a small grant in aid. The narrow minded football type conservatives of the Sports Union do not even recognise speleology as a sport. We are the only University speleo club in Australia without financial assistance. Consequently, if we are to renew depreciating equipment and maintain our regular commitments, a fee rise is inevitable and I ask you to consider the problem in a responsible manner. The Committee has devised supplementary sources of income which will be explained later.

Conservation In 1970-1 members attended conservation functions at Sydney and Macquarie Universities, made themselves vocal at the shareholders meeting of Australian Portland Cement Manufacturing Ltd (the Colong wreckers in which we hold one share), and complained about the proposed rerouting of the Snowy Mountains Highway at Yarrangobilly. A number of bat certificates and books have been sold with proceeds aiding Mt Eyna Caves in Queensland, and a donation was made to the Barbara Dow Memorial Fund of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

Australian Speleological Federation With the possible exception of the Victorians, no club in Australia has supported A.S.F. as vigorously as SUSS has. We have provided 2 Presidents, a Secretary and 2 editors among others, and of course it was on our initiative that the Federation was formed. Unlike our vocal friend SSS, we believe we receive rather more than our money's worth and we supported a fee increase this year not for mercenary reasons but because we know the A.S.F. has already shown its ability to use resources wisely in the best interests of Australian speleology, without having to justify itself to every last member of every Society. 8 SUSS members attended the Hobart Convention and subsequent field trips, both being an unqualified smashing success. 7 members fronted a Search and Rescue Practice at Kempsey and 2 went to Newcastle for a meeting of the N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee.

Conclusion In concluding I have to thank the Committee members for their sterling services to the Society over the past year and for their patience in meetings that went on into the early hours. I don't think enough members appreciate that the work done by Committee Members is not all claret and chips.

At the end of next year SUSS will co-host the Ninth Biennial Convention of the Australian Speleological Federation in Sydney. This will involve us in a great deal of organization and liaison with University of N.S.W. Speleological Society, with government institutions, the Press and other speleo societies. The next year is going to be a big challenge; let's ensure that SUSS retains its high reputation and continues its contributions to Australian speleology and to its members social life. The last year has been really terrific, let's make the next one even better.

John R. Dunkley,
PRESIDENT
1970 - 1

Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement for the Year 1-3-70 to 28-2-71.

Receipts

| | | |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Membership - full | 58-50 | |
| associate | 20-00 | |
| prospective | 48-50 | 127-00 |
| Badges and cards - ASF cards | -15 | |
| metal badges | 3-50 | |
| cloth badges | 5-25 | 8-90 |
| Sale of goods - journals | 3-55 | |
| ASF handbooks | 7-00 | |
| donated goods by auction | 3-20 | |
| nylon webbing | 12-60 | 26-35 |
| Supper profits | 5-51 | |
| Bank interest | 4-75 | |
| SUSS dinner | 107-50 | |
| Repayment from Special Fund for postage of Nullarbor book | 6-26 | |
| Repayment from G Hunt for overpayment last year | -10 | 124-12 |
| <u>Total Receipts</u> | | 286-37 |
| Cash in hand at 1-3-70 | | 10-25 |
| Cash in bank at 1-3-70 | | <u>113-31</u> |
| | | \$ 409-93 |

Payments

| | | |
|--|--------|--------------|
| Publication costs - stationery and duplicating | 79-34 | |
| postage | 12-55 | |
| printing of notices | 14-50 | 106-39 |
| Secretarial expenses - general | 20-00 | |
| duty stamps | -40 | |
| cheque book | 2-50 | 22-90 |
| Subscriptions - ASF | 11-50 | |
| 'Holictite' | 2-40 | |
| National Parks Assoc. | 4-00 | |
| Colong Committee | 7-00 | 24-90 |
| SUSS dinner | 129-50 | |
| Orientation week stalls (2 years) | 27-50 | |
| Postage of Nullarbor book (repaid from Special fund) | 6-26 | |
| ASF handbooks | 7-00 | 170-26 |
| <u>Total Payments</u> | | 324-45 |
| Cash in hand at 28-2-71 | | 5-00 |
| Cash in bank at 28-2-71 | | <u>80-48</u> |
| | | \$ 409-93 |

Jeanette G. Dunkley - Treasurer 1970-71

Audited by J.B. Holliday 30-3-71

Editor's Report

I took over the editing of the Newsletter in September last year. Since then I have been able to increase the content of the Newsletter considerably and there has also been a general improvement in the quality of the articles. This has been achieved by planning each edition well ahead, rather than by bashing it together over a weekend. The co-operation of other members is appreciated -- articles and trip reports no longer have to be 'chased up' to quite the same extent as was once necessary. If this keeps up the next year should see the continuation of the present highly readable and regular Newsletter.

John R. Holliday 1-4-71

Safety Officer's Report

In the latter part of 1970 I was elected Safety Officer after Rick Crowle resigned. The ladders were in good condition except for ladder 'O', which has since been retired from service. This leaves SUSS with only three ladders, so others will have to be acquired in the near future.

The rope situation was bad, in terms of both condition and organisation. My recommendations to purchase new ropes (see SUSS N1. V10, No9 : 68) were agreed upon, and the Society should reap the benefits of safer caving during the next few years.

In conclusion I would like to point out that the equipment is only as safe as the person who sets it up or uses it. Therefore I would like to see all members, especially the prospectives, become conversant with current safety practices and techniques as they are published in Handbooks and Newsletters.

Safe speleology,

Murray J. Anderson 1-4-71

Records Officer's Report

The SUSS records are in a mess. During the year records and trip reports amounting to approx 10% of all SUSS records were passed on to me by Denis Ward. All of the Minute books have been accounted for except the earliest one (commenced 1948). Meanwhile some 90% of all records remain missing.

Attempts are being made to recover or perhaps replace these lost records. Letters have only recently been sent to old SUSS members who were active about the time the records disappeared (1966-67), and hopefully this will throw some light on the situation. If not it may be possible to reconstuct some of the records from early Newsletter reports and the personal records of old members.

To safeguard current records it is recommended that all trip reports be pasted in a very large book.

In conclusion may I ask, that if any person reading this report has in his possession or knows the whereabouts of any trip reports, the 1948 minute book, maps or other such items, would he please contact the Society.

Ludwig G. Huenzenreider 1-4-71

Equipment Officer's Report

Equipment held as at 31-3-71:

3x50' ladders - 2x12" rungs spacing, 1x15" r.s.
1x150' manilla rope (1 1/2") - red dye
1x120' manilla rope (1 1/2") - blue dye
1x150' no. 4 nylon rope - belaying only - red dye
One carbide lamp and one helmet (battered)
Assorted bat-catching gear
One inflatable rubber dinghy (?)
One scaling pole (residing somewhere)
1x200' manilla rope (2") (not used because of its bulk)
One Ushikata forestry compass + tripod
One theodolite + tripod (property of SRC)

James M.G. Seabrook 1-4-71

Secretary's Report

SUSS received 190 publications from more than 35 clubs and organisations, and currently we send our Newsletter to over 20 of these.

Eighteen new members were welcomed into SUSS from the ranks of ninety odd prospectives that joined during the year.

Highlights of the year were the Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture on 20/7/70, the annual dinner with Brien J. O'Brien as guest speaker (a memorable event for all concerned), and the ASF Conference in Tasmania over Xmas attended by eight SUSS members.

Other major events from the secretarial point of view were the attempts to obtain finance from the SRC, correspondence with Fisher Library regarding the SUSS library, our eviction from our old meeting place and attempts to find a new venue, and the introduction of trip fees.

James M.G. Seabrook 1-4-71

Notice of Motion Concerning the Constitution

Notice is hereby given of the following Constitutional motion, moved by Zyg Szarenski and seconded by Manfred Listing: Amend Section 6.g. to read:
"A simple majority of members present and voting at any general meeting, shall have power to amend, alter, reverse and deal with any decision of the Committee as the Meeting determines appropriate"

Colong protesters vocal at APCM meeting

MELBOURNE, Wednesday. — More than 200 conservationists including 12 from Sydney, invaded and disrupted the Australian Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd annual meeting in Melbourne today.

For three hours the conservationists attacked the company's policies, raised points of order, shouted comments and, on three occasions, moved votes of no confidence in the chairman.

They were there primarily to protest against the company's plans to mine limestone at the Colong caves reserve, in the Kanangra Boyd National Park, 60 miles from Sydney.

Since 1967 they have been buying APCM shares to enable them to speak at the company's annual meeting.

The conservationists outnumbered the other shareholders today, but between them they controlled only 1,200 of the company's 12.5 million shares, with members of the board controlling most of the others.

On three occasions, when the conservationists attempted to force an issue, a poll was called for and the directors won easily.

The company, which has its headquarters in Sydney, met in Melbourne for the first time.

The conservationists claimed the move was made to avoid a confrontation.

About 200 local conser-

vationists attended, each with a proxy vote given by the NSW group of conservationists.

The small AMP theatre was packed with 300 people, some of whom had to stand.

Conservationists claim that if mining proceeds at Colong, a beautiful, natural wildlife area will be ruined, a mountain removed, a river polluted and a network of power lines built.

The meeting opened on an unusual note, with a conservationist thanking the company for heading the meeting in Melbourne.

It gave Sydney conservationists a chance to meet

their southern counterparts, he said.

Mr Milo Dunphy, secretary of the Colong Caves Committee, moved for the rejection of the minutes of the last meeting as not presenting a true picture.

When this motion was refused, he moved a vote of no confidence in the chairman, Sir Grant Ferrier.

The chairman ignored Mr Dunphy's claim that the company had acted illegally in building a road and carrying out drilling on a public reserve, ousting one of its NSW leases.

Sir Grant Ferrier said he had no knowledge of any

unlawful act by the company.

"There may have been some occasion when there was a misunderstanding," he said.

Sir Grant said alternative deposits to those at Colong Caves were being investigated at Marulan.

He hoped for a final geological report on this area in three or four months.

If the second limestone reserve proved workable, the company would negotiate with the Government for an exchange of leases, he said.

Company meets Jenolan critics, P 23.

"SAVE CAVES" — CITY CLIMB

MELBOURNE, Mon. — A rock climber lowered himself by rope from the top of a seven-storey building today to publicise a conservation campaign.

It supports a group that is trying to stop plans to exploit limestone reserves at Mount Ararat and the Colong Caves, New South Wales.

Thousands watched as the climber David Eden came down the face of a building at the corner of Queen Street and Little Bourke Street.

The Sydney-based mining corporation Associated

Portland Cement Manufacturers (Aust.) Ltd. has an office in the building.

The conservationists claim the company wants to exploit the limestone reserves at Mount Ararat and the Colong Caves.

The area was proclaimed a wildlife sanctuary in 1899, and forms part of the 42,000-acre Kanangra-Boyd Park, 60 miles south-west of Sydney.

Today, Eden carried with him 62 proxy shareholder votes.

The organiser of the Melbourne contingent of "Save the Colong Caves" committee Dr. Harvey Cohen, a senior lecturer in Mathematics at La Trobe University, was on the footpath to meet Eden.

He was handed the proxies and immediately registered them in the company's office.

The conservation committee hopes the votes will ensure the rejection of the company in Melbourne on Wednesday from going ahead with the Colong project.

APCM meets Fri Colong critics

May give up caves mining

A large number of irate conservationists turned up at the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Aust) Ltd annual meeting yesterday despite the deterrent switch of venue from Sydney to Melbourne.

The meeting, which went for three hours, was attended by about 300 shareholders, most of them conservationists protesting about the company's plans to mine the Colong Caves in NSW for limestone.

Three polls, three votes of no confidence in the chairman, numerous points of order and a cry of "revolution" were highlights of the meeting.

When the meeting opened a shareholder proposed a vote of thanks to the board for holding the meeting in Melbourne.

It is usually held in Sydney.

"It gave us a good opportunity to meet local conservationists," the shareholder said.

After the company secretary had read the minutes of the previous annual meeting, a shareholder, Mr Milo Dunphy, moved that the minutes not be accepted because they did not provide a true record.

A vote of no confidence was put following the refusal of the chairman, Sir Grant Ferrier, to put the motion to the meeting.

During his chairman's address, Sir Grant said that because of the important identification of the company with industry in Victoria, the board considered that the annual meeting should, from time to time, be held in Melbourne.

On the conservation question, Sir Grant said the company had agreed to a proposal to establish whether or not alternative uses of limestone at

Marruin Creek or Marulan could be substituted for the Mt Armour leasenhoid.

The Marruin Creek area had not proved adequate resources, he said.

"The other deposit at Marulan, where the company presently operates, has been thoroughly investigated and the final geological report is almost complete," Sir Grant said.

The company and the Government have agreed that should limestone reserves in this area prove to be a viable alternative to Mount Armour, then the Government would negotiate an equitable exchange.

Sir Grant mentioned that Sir Henry Bland had been nominated to succeed him as chairman of the company after today's meeting.

There were immediately three cheers for Sir Henry and one shareholder suggested he should make a speech.

The shareholders present refused to accept a motion passing the directors' report and accounts of the company.

A number of confusing motions were put and at one stage a shareholder rose and said: "I move that a motion be put that the motion put that the other motion not be put, be put."

There was silence for a moment while the other people considered the implications of the motion.

Eventually a poll was taken on whether the reports and accounts be accepted. The result, 18,

485,680 for, 30,883 against, was announced later in the meeting.

There were 29,000 false votes in the poll.

One enthusiastic member had put his number of shares down at 1,000 million.

Another poll was called following shareholders' refusal to pass a motion re-electing the company's auditors.

The business of the meeting continued while the poll votes were being counted and a shareholder, Mr Terry Stern, asked whether the company had made any provision in its accounts for possible losses from potential mine areas.

The chairman replied that those matters had been considered by the directors.

Two special resolutions altering the company's articles of association were proposed. One sought power for directors to decline to register any transfer of less than 20 shares and the other related to the payment of dividends.

Shareholders refused to pass these motions because not enough notice had been given.

Another vote of no confidence was passed and another poll called.

Shareholders agreed that the capital of the company be increased to \$30 million by the creation of 20 million ordinary 50c shares.

The chairman said the increase was just a question of reasonable protection for the company.

The chairman of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Aust) Ltd, Sir Grant Ferrier, said yesterday he was "very hopeful" his company's use of the Colong Caves lease would not be necessary.

He told a stormy annual general meeting of the company in Melbourne that if evaluation of the company's site at Marulan, southern New South Wales showed adequate limestone deposits they might not exploit the Colong deposits.

He said the evaluation would be finished in three to four months.

A small group of Sydney conservationists and bushwalkers spearheaded an invasion of the annual general meeting.

They led about 200 supporters in attacks on the company over its refusal to give up a limestone lease covering the Colong Caves, 64 miles south-west of Sydney.

About 10 demonstrators, some wearing bushwalking clothes, took over the running of the meeting to pass three separate motions of no confidence in Sir Grant Ferrier.

Police and uniformed employees of a security company attended the meeting and the proxy-voting rights of each member of the audience were carefully checked before it began.

Sir Grant, 65, and the seven directors on the small stage faced almost three hours of motions, points of order, technical queries and some serious allegations about the company's activities.

The meeting was dominated by an architect, Mr Milo Dunphy, and a solicitor, Mr Terry Stern, both of Sydney.

Mr Stern used an apparently intricate knowledge of procedural matters and a vast amount of homework on the company's affairs to keep the board constantly alert with queries.

Mr Dunphy put motions to the meeting himself when the chairman refused to recognise them.

Sir Grant smiled often and obviously knew the leading protesters well from previous meetings.