THE BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Volume 11, Number 2 June 1971

COMING ACTIVITIES

June 3 General Meeting - Room 328, south-east corner of the Quadrangle at 8pm. Hopefully we will be able to show some Tassie slides.

5-6 JENOLAN - A working weekend if ever. John Dunkley 759.9956

12-13-14 COOLEMAN - Because of dropouts a few spaces are still left. Come prepared with skis, chains, shovels etc. -- it will be cold and probably snowy. John Holliday 54.1922

COLONG - leaving sometime Saturday - Jim Seabrook 74.6084

TEXAS -- see a doomed caving area. John Dunkley 759.9956

19-20 JENOLAN (awaiting permit) Jim Seabrook 74.6084

July 1 General Meeting - Room 328, SE corner of the Quadrangle

3-4 JENOLAN - (awaiting permit) Jim Seabrook 74.6084

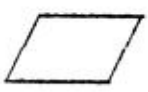
24-25 JENOLAN (awaiting permit) - hopefully a joint trip with Canberra speleos. John Holliday 54.1922

30 SUSS ANNUAL DINNER at 6.30pm in the Union. Tickets from Chris Fieldhouse 76.5028 or John Holliday 54.1922. Prices: $3.75 for members, $4.00 for non members and $7.50 for any double.

August 5 General Meeting - somewhere?

7-8 CLIEFDEN (awaiting permit) - another idyll? Murray Anderson 48.2685

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS



If there is a tick in this rhomboidal figure you are unfinancial and thus this will be the last Bulletin that you will receive.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE TRIP LEADER IF YOU FIND THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER GO ON A TRIP FOR WHICH YOU HAVE PUT DOWN YOUR NAME.

SUSS -- The SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Editor: John Holliday

TRIP REPORTS

Cliefden, May 22/23, 1971

"Idyll By The Belubula"

Present: John Holliday(TL), Murray Anderson, Ludwig Muenzenreider, Jim Seabrook Jack Vaughn, Judith Vaughn, Joy Muenzenreider, Jeanette Dunkley (M's), Merilyn Long, Marion Shaw (P's), John Forsyth(V).

This was one of those trips -- after leaving a rain-stricken city, fully equipped with tents, stoves etc, only to find, thankfully, that here but the stars shone over the Belubula, well!, caving became somewhat of a chore.

Saturday morning, as the sun shone brightly, saw two parties enter Taplow Maze. Due to a mix-up over the obtaining of a second tape, only one party was able to do any surveying. Over the two days Ludwig and Jim, using the forestry compass, put a control traverse thru from the entrance to the central (eastern) chamber placing permanent stations on the way. They also accurately surveyed this chamber, and their traverse will make it easier for the mistakes in the earlier survey of the maze to be corrected. Mention can be made here of the need to name various sections of the cave -- about the only definite names at present are those for the Danger Section and Araldite Alley, which is the gluey mud crawl into the southern chamber in the new (western) extension.

The other Saturday party (John, Murray, Jack, Merilyn, Marion and John) visited both the extremities of the surveyed cave. Despite the dry conditions on the surface (the river was low) the cave appeared to be no drier than usual.

Whilst these two parties were getting house-maid's knees underground, Joy, Jeanette and Judith went on a grog run to the Royal in Canowindra in the LR. A flat tyre on the way presented a problem, particularly when it was discovered that Ludwig has the habit of carrying a flat spare, but a local farmer came to the rescue.

Anyway the Sat. evening campfire was rather enjoyable, the result being a late rising on Sunday. Merilyn and Marion left early, and while Ludwig and Jim continued surveying the others cancelled a planned visit to Cliefden Main and instead spent the morning lazing on li-los in the sun. A scrumptious lunch of scroggin and biscuits was followed by some photography of the nearby anticline and a large meal at the Biggest Meals in the Golden West at Blayney on the way home. (By the way, the BMITGW should have a liquor licence soon.)

A point to ponder: when will the Taplow Maze survey be finished? It probably could be finished in one hard-working trip, but perhaps this would not be a good thing. SUSS always has such an idyllic time at Cliefden that to finish the survey and thus remove the incentive to go there could perhaps be bad for morale!!?

John Holliday

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trip reports continued on page 26

SUSS AT LARGE or HOW NOT TO GO TO LAKE MARGARET!

Norm Poulter Reports on a Shambolic Easter.

While working as a summer field assistant for the Mt Lyell Company, new TCC member Arthur Clarke discovered a new area of cavernous limestone in the Lake Margaret area about 30 crow-fly miles N.E. of Queenstown in western Tasmania. In drumming up support for a trip to the area there were statements like 'impressive glacial scenery' and '4WD road but a mini has been taken in'. A mini had been taken in but it had been towed most of the way. Arthur forgot to mention that as well as the fact that several geological survey Landrovers had been lost. This was the area that TCC decided to visit over Easter.

At 8am, Friday April 9th the trip started with Ian and Stella Farley in their 1500 VW and Albert Goede with me. Arthur Clarke was supposed to come too but failed to arrive. The Quiet Rover set off with 27 gallons of fuel on board, the first objective being Bubb's Hill, about 15 miles before Queenstown on the Lyell Hwy. Bubb's Hill is a tree covered hill of Gordon limestone capped by sandstone. The area was last visited about 8 years ago and has caves reminiscent of Bungonia. Two caves were entered, one containing an abandoned lair of a Tas. Tiger and the other with an active stream complete with glowworms. We left the area in the early afternoon so that we could reach Lake Margaret before dark, little knowing that we would never get there.

The Lake Margaret road was 19 miles long through very impressive, glaciated conglomerate country protected by some very nasty steep hills which the QR only just managed to claw over while the VW chugged along behind bottoming on every second rock but nevertheless still moving. Albert's face changed colour frequently as the top heavy LR lurched form side to side threatening to turn over (for those who don't know, Norm's LR has a huge camping unit on the back. ed.). One way or another we managed to force our way 11 miles from the Murchison Hwy through some bog-fords etc until we came to 'the Hill'. 'The Hill' was 300-400ft high with the road zig-zagging up it. I didn't like it. It looked much to rugged and steep, with a loose surface, but as it was near nightfall and the caves weren't that far away, we gave it a try anyway. The QR clawed its way 3/4 of the way up the hill before it ran out of steam with all four wheels throwing rocks in all directions. We started backing down, at one stage Albert casually saying that one of the wheels was in the air -- horrors! Either through bad directing or backing or both one of the rear wheels came up against a rock which could not be climbed over without overturning. Ian and Stella came up the hill to help removal operations. By trying to move forward the QR was only digging 4 holes under the wheels and trying to move forward under full power proved to much for one of the rear axles although we didn't here it break. Discovery of the break later terminated efforts until morning.

Next day everyone learnt how to peel a top heavy LR off a mountain without overturning it. We couldn't dig the rock out so we moved the Rover sideways by jacking the wheels off the ground with two jacks and then pushing it sideways off the jacks. We were able to turn around about 30ft down the hill and get to the bottom without bending anything, to have a much needed breakfast.

cont. over

After breaking camp we started the slow withdrawl -- the VW in the lead and the OR in the rear running in low range front drive. We were almost out of the main bog section when we hit a patch that didn't look soft. The rear wheel driver's side of the Rover sank past the axle. Using the two jack principle and some discarded caterpillar tracks we started jacking out. We were halfway through this operation when who should turn up but Arthur Clarke and Mike Esling in Mike's VW 1300. After much discussion they pushed on to try to climb 'the Hill'. We were not surprised when they only made the 2nd curve about 60ft up. By the time they came back the OR was out. We were still 9 miles from the hwy. after taking nearly 4hrs to crawl 2miles. However with some help from a Toyota 4WD we made the hwy by 4pm and headed into Queenstown to locate a new rear axle. No dice, although Dilberg's Shell Garage promised the use of their workshop if we could get an axle at Zeehan, 23 miles nth of Queenstown. Eight o'clock that night saw us heading back to Queenstown with the last spare axle in Zeehan -- cost $22.

Sunday dawned with rain. Albert and I were not in a hurry to get out of bed and get cold fixing the axle, so eventually the job was not finished until 2.30 that afternoon. Then after a late lunch we shot back off to Zeehan with the Farleys to look at the mining museum with the world's best example of crocoite crystal and the souvenier bottle of unpoluted Tasmanian air and convict sweat.

Monday dawned with true Tasmanian hospitality. In the grey misty dawn there was a squeal of brakes, crunching of gears, rapid reverse, brakes, more crunching of gears and off into the fog. Two hours later we found out what it was about. Our mysterious visitor was the local newsagent giving us a copy of the Hobart Mercury. The sun rose so we went off to have another look at Bubb's Hill. Arthur, Mike and dog went off to explore a hole they had located the previous day whilst the rest of us went bug hunting and eventually discovered a new species. Late that afternoon Arthur and Mike had not returned so Albert and I went to look for them, Albert with a whistle and field medical kit and me with my Winchester 30:30. The whistle did not raise a reply so we let go with the rifle. The hills resounded with the blast and we received an instant whistle reply. At 23¢ a round you'd want to. Six pm saw us back at the road and the OR hit Hobart at 11pm.

Thus at Easter we learnt many things, such as how to get top heavy LR's down steep hills, but the major conclusion was that TCC will not try to visit Lake Margaret again until there is a six lane highway leading to it.

THE SUSS ANNUAL DINNER

The Dinner Convenors -- Chris Fieldhouse and John Holliday -- have arrwhat should be another spectacular affair. Come along and see what happens. Buns are provided. The guest speaker will be old SUSS member Alex Jones and the topic should be known by the time the next bulletin gets out. The venue, as tradition demands, is the University Union, where, although the wine may be rough, there is plenty of scope for ???? The date: Friday, July 30th (last day of second term). The Numbers may have to be limited so make your booking early -- contact either Chris or John.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN

John Dunkley

Speleologists in N.S.W. have been notoriously loath to attach suitable original names to features in the caves they explore. Names of both the caves and the internal features tend to be singularly banal and unoriginal and it is not surprising to find many caves with a well established name referred to by number. Now whatever one feels about numbering caves, and in principle it has many advantages, it is important that an established name always be used where one exists and is accepted, lest it be lost to posterity. We must ensure that the day never arrives when computerization and bureaucracy in speleology labels everything by number, as though the uniqueness of every cave can be reduced to a lowest common denominator like driving or radio-TV licenses, taxation returns and business reply permits. Although plenty of consideration has been given of late to problems of naming caves themselves, not much thought has been devoted to their internal features. This note is a practical step in that direction.

Perhaps because of the complexity and morphological variety of levels and passage sizes, Mammoth Cave has attracted an unusually colourful collection of names, not all of which will bear repetition here. About 25% of the known length of Mammoth was known to the early pioneers in the late nineteenth century and nearly all the remainder has been first entered by members of SUSS. Few if any names were attached by Jeremiah Wilson et al. last century, except the name 'Mammoth' itself, so that most existing established appellations originated from SUSS, especially in the 1950s and early 1960s. A few more were contributed by SSS during recent mapping and intensive exploration in selected areas. areas.

In 1968, SUSS and SSS held a joint meeting at which progress in mapping Mammoth was discussed (Smith 1968). The nomenclature question was raised, several new names adopted to fill in blank spaces and remove inconsistencies, but time prevented an adequate consideration of general principles and the job was not completed. Since then a number of inconsistencies and anomalies have become evident, and some of the names simply were not accepted. Thus the replacement of 'Lower Level River' by 'Cusec Creek' to avoid use of the term 'level' proved unpopular, and it is now intended to refer to this the larger of the two streams in Mammoth, as 'Lower River'. After discussions with Ted Anderson and Henry Shannon, I drew up a complete list of terms and recommendations and these were agreed on, after some minor amendments, at joint SUSS-SSS talks on 27/5/71

In drawing up the list, the following principles were used:

1. The terms 'level' and 'extension' not to be used. Although there are several distinct levels in Mammoth Cave, representing former base levels of stream action, they were not being described either logically or consistently.
2. All major passages and caverns deserve some appellation to minimize confusion.
3. General principles of nomenclature suggested by the Australian Speleological Federation should be used wherever possible. These may be summarised thus:
   a) A first-used name should have priority, unless it has fallen into disuse and been replaced by another well-established one.
   b) Names should be brief, euphonious, preferably descriptive and where possible, morphologically appropriate.
   c) Avoid use of adjectives such as points of compass to qualify other names.
   d) Avoid names commemmorating living persons, temporary features, fortuitous or momentary encounters or occasions, except in exceptional deserving cases.

4. The final test of appropriateness should be acceptability to those using the name. In this regard it is considered that, in the interests of ensuring that a given name will be perpetuated, some of the previous principles may have to breached a little.

These guiding principles are not mutually exclusive, and when it comes to weighing the relative merits of well established and accepted names, compromises had to be made. There is no warrant for blindly sacrificing convenience, acceptability and uniqueness in the cause of precision and principle. The Dry Siphon may be both contradictory and wrong but we all know it and there is only one. Naked Lady Chamber evokes an inquiry which is likely to perpetuate the name if not the muddy model after which it was named. Some of the names agreed upon are bound to fall into disuse; we hope though to encourage consistency and avoid proliferation and confusion.

Notes on some specific problems encountered in this exercise (e.g. the lakes in Mammoth Cave) will be published in the next Bulletin.

References (inter alia)

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SMITH, G. (1968) : The Mammoth Cave, J13, Jenolan Caves. Stop Press 12 (3): 39-40

WILCOCK, A. (1968) ; Geographical Nomenclature (in) Speleo Handbook, ed. P. Matthews Australian Speleological Federation, Sydney, 1968

WILLIAMS, I. (1960) : Central Level and the Northern River Section of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan. SUSS Jnl. 6 (1) : 25-26.

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Annotated List

An annotation has been attached to the names in this list only where some confusion might arise with previous terms, or where elucidation is required.

GENERAL AREAS OF THE CAVE

Southern Section - all of the cave south of Entrance Cavern and the Forty Foot, including Conglomerate Cavern and the Mammoth Squeeze.

Central Section - Between top of Forty Foot and beginning of Middle Bit, including Sand Passage, Hell Hole area, Ice Pick Lake and minor passages.

Northern Section - All to the north of Central Section, including Middle Bit.

MAJOR PASSAGES

Railway Tunnel
Sand Passage
Upper Oolite
Middle Bit
North West Passage
Infinite Crawl
North Tunnel
Snakes Gut (main route to Ice Pick Lake)

MINOR PASSAGES

Smirnoffs
Cycloidal Passage
Waterfall Passage
The Guzunda
Cant Get Lost Section
Hell Hole area

CAVERNS and CHAMBERS

Entrance Cavern
Fire Cavern
Conglomerate Cavern
Home Sweet Home
The Oval (large chamber in Upper Oolite)
Pisa Chamber
Horseshoe Cavern
Mouldy Boot Cavern
Naked Lady Cavern (between Hell Hole and Ice Pick Lake)
Sinkhole Cavern
Great North Cavern
Sparkling Cavern
Oolite Cavern

OTHER FEATURES

Glassy Rock
Mammoth Squeeze
The Forty Foot
The Rockpile
Denzdig (a dig in Oolite Loop)
Oolite Loop
Cold Hole
The Gunbarrel
The Breezehole (entrance to Waterfall Passage)
The Dry Siphon
The Junction
Ohmeneez Squeeze (upstream in the bed of Central River, near The Bypass)

HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES

Lower River (replaces Lower Level River & Cusec Creek)
Central River
Central Lake (the one en route to the northern section)
Ice Pick Lake
Slug Lake (at the end of the passage entered from south side of Lower River)
Grinning Monster Lake
The Overflow (see note in SUSS Newsl. 10 (7) : 49
The Bypass (floodway from Central River to the Junction and beyond)

OTHER FEATURES

The Guzova
99% Friction Squeeze
100% Friction Squeeze
Gravel Grovel (just past preceding item)
Thud in the Mud (muddy 45° blind squeeze to left beyond Gravel Grovel)
Red Cascade (pretties section at beginning of North Tunnel)
The Zig Zag
The Backbreaker
Formation Squeeze
The Slippery Dip (in Railway Tunnel)

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S.U.S.S. MEETING ROOM

The Committee wishes to apologise to members for the problems emanating from our having lost the old permanent meeting room in the Griffith Taylor Building when the previous tenants, the Geography Department, moved elsewhere. It has been taken over by the Psychology Department who are apparently renovating it, so we can't continue using it. Last month we told at the last minute that Room 328 off the quadrangle would not be available, hence the rushing around at the Union.

The SUSS Committee considers that it is outrageous that this Society does not receive anything whatsoever from the University – no aid, financial or otherwise, towards equipment, publications etc., not even the guarantee of a permanent meeting place. Every other University caving club in the country receives grants of varying amounts from its Union or Sports Union. SUSS has paid for all its equipment and all its many publications, included among which are some of the best ever put out in Australia, entirely out of members' pockets. Appropriate complaints and approaches are being made now about the meeting place question in particular and hopefully the situation will improve considerably within a month or so.

Jenolan, April 24-26th, 1971

"Three Days, No Rain! My God!!"

Present: John Dunkley(TL), Jeanette Dunkley, Denis Ward, Jim Seabrook, Jack Vaughn, Ron Murray (M's), Brendan Hyde, Arthur Jenkins, Brian Spilsbury (P's).

Saturday began rather hilariously when Jim demonstrated how to get strung up in a most spectacular manner. He descended the Mammoth pitch using several crossed Krabs and promptly became suspended 5ft from the bottom when a kink in the rope caught in the krabs and stopped him with a jerk. It took him an embarrassing five minutes to devise a way out of his predicament. Once the party were all down the Ice Pick Lake region of Mammoth was visited -- the Lake was at normal level but the access passages (pressure tubes) had been flooded since the last visitors. John and Denis also visited the Hell Hole region off the east side of the Railway Tunnel.

Sunday saw John lead a fast trip to the northern section of Mammoth, whilst Jim lead a survey party to Henry's Hole. This survey was subsequently posphoned when the cave was found to be in a very unstable state. Meanwhile in Mammoth the Dry Siphon was negotiated without getting very wet (approx. 8" of water -- Waterfall Passage stream was trickling), and the party proceeded up the North West Passage, descended the hole at the end, negotiated the rockpile and in due course arrived in the Infinite Crawl. It was possible to push only 100ft upstream from this point due to sand and gravel reducing headroom -- SSS has been rather further than that previously. It was noted that the SSS survey stations in the roof had been removed by the last flood.

On Monday it was finally decided to take advantage of the unbelievably good weather and work on the surface. John and Denis checked out apparent errors of reading in Ted Anderson's Easter traverse down the Creek. The trip ended with what must have been the slowest return to Sydney in SUSS history -- chock a block traffic all the way home.

John Dunkley

Jenolan, 8-9 May, 1971.

"Jenolan All Over"

Present: Jim Seabrook(TL), John Dunkley, John Holliday, Murray Anderson, Ludwig Muenzenreider, Denis Ward, Ron Murray (M's), Henry Shannon(UQSS), Rob Watson, Jeff Turner (P's), David Cook(V).

During the weekend Jenolan was hit pretty hard all over. On Saturday John D. and Henry carried out morphological and surveying work in Sthn Section Mammoth, and John H., Murray and Jeff surveyed Smirnoff's Passage. That night Muenzenreider's mob arrived, after a thirst quenching stop at Caves House.

Sunday saw parties visit Sthn Section again, Wiburd's Lake and the Sthn limestone. Individual reports now follow:

cont. over

Smirnoff's Passage - Smirnoff's turned out to be slightly tighter than had been expected and thus only John H., Murray and Jeff were able to get in, and put through the desired grade four survey. Following a very tight downward looping squeeze, which produced some excellent bad language, the passage zig-zags for some 100ft to the end where the sound of a flowing river can be faintly heard. At this point the passage ceiling rises some 30ft, with some good flowstone in the upper parts, which Murray reached by chimneying.

John Holliday

The Southern Limestone - After some initial trouble like climbing down the wrong hill, we (Ludwig, Denis, Murray, Rob) arrived at the end of the southern limestone at 12 noon. Our aim was to locate caves shown on the SUSS map of the sthn limestone and to carry out investigations.

Denis directed us to a cave which he had visited with Barbara Dew and Henry Shannon in 1964. This cave has a fairly wide entrance with a stream, about 0.1cusecs, effluxing from it. There is an entrance chamber about 8' high by 20' wide. The cave goes in a sthn direction into a small hill of limestone and about 50' in there is a large chamber with in some places a low roof. This contained in excess of 200 bats most of which were Miniopterus schreibersii. One peculiar phenomena was the way in which these bats hung from the roof in clusters of 7 to 8 (viz: 'bulb-like'). From this chamber the cave continues along the stream in a southerly direction, the passage in most places being about 2-3' wide and 2-4' high. The floor of the stream is characterised by a gravel. Denis noted that the level of a small lake to the left of the entrance chamber was considerably down over the 1964 trip. If this is so then the part of the cave which we visited would have been inaccessible owing to the high water level. The roof of this cave shows extensive solution along bedding planes. There is some evidence of joint control. From the chamber containing the bats the cave was pushed upstream for another 50' where on the eastern side there is a large flowstone formation coming down from a chamber about 30' high. The stream passage continues south and requires further investigation.

A look at the surface revealed a limestone mass of 300x400x100', the 400' length running north-south -- the contact was 400' sth of the entrance. It becomes clear that this cave cannot be extensive, that is less than 400' south unless the beds are dipping.

The limestone lens runs 5deg E of N. On the eastern side of the limestone a small cave was investigated but was not extensive being only 10' deep and ending in a choke of rock and clay. This was probably an old influx or efflux.

Having searched the sthn end of the lens, we turned our efforts to the continuationon the nthn side. An efflux was found with flow at about 0.1cu. This resurgence flows from a cave entrance which although collapsed would have looked like the cave entered on the sthn side of the dry stream which disects the limestone lens in an east-west direction (the lens running nth-sth). The lens was searched for another 300' north at which stage no further caves being found we returned to the cars for the trip home.

Ludwig Muenzenreider

cont. over

Hiburd's Lake Cave -- On Sunday John H., Jim, Jeff and David went to Hiburd's with a view to commencing the planned high grade survey. However, the trip turned out to be a reconnaissance of the river system below the lake region, and eventually there was no time left for surveying. Much to my surprise I found that the 'river' tended much more east- west than previously thought. The western branch or upstream direction of the river goes much further west than expected. This section had not been entered since the last flooding and I suspect that we were the first in the cave since that time.

Jim Seabrook

A CAVER'S FIRST AID KIT

by Jim Seabrook

1 x 2" roller bandage
1 x 1" roller bandage -- one of these can be used as a pad and be held in place by the other
1 tube of anti-histamine cream
1 small tin (M&B) of Savlon (3/4" x 1" tin)
1 packet of band aids
1 small tin (M&B) of cotton wool buds (2" x 1" tin)
1 bottle of Murene eye drops
1 strip of Disprin
1 x 11/2" Leukoplast (also useful for repairing sleeping bags, tents, packs, groundsheets etc)
1 x chapstick
1 x box matches
1 x razor blade (or scalpel) -- do not use in snake bite cases
1 x needle (1" sewing)
1 rubber torniquet
1 silk square (for getting muck out of eyes)

This kit costs about $3.50, weighs about 3/4lb and will pack into a small plasitic lunch box. It is recommended that the contents of tubes be transferred into small aluminium jars (1 x 11/2) as these are likely to puncture.

With this kit I have found that I am able to treat all minor injuries, burns, insect bites, headache, cracked lips, cinders in eyes, cuts, splinters and chaping. The contents also covers first aid for more serious accidemts that a caver willfind himself involved in such as deep cuts, snake bite, burns, sprains and fractures.

It is strongly recommended that all SUSS members have their own first aid kit. The above kit has proved adequate during five years of caving and bush-walking.

NEW MEMBERS

At the last Committee meeting Jeff Turner and Rob Watson were made full members of the Society, Rob having made the grade after a probable record stay as a prospective.