

The Cream of Australian Speleological Publications!?

BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Lumen
in
Tenebris*

SUSS



FOUNDED 1948

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THE GREATEST SUPER-COOL, ENVIRONMENTALLY LIBERATING
EVENT OF THE YEAR IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!!!!!!

THE 1972 SUSS FRESHERS GENERAL MEETING AND MEE JASPER CAVING JAUNT

Mee Jasper Caving Trip: This is the trip on which the
new members of SUSS - mainly those who joined in Orient-
ation Week - are taught the relaxations of caving and
the rigors of a slothful campsite. Last year over 50
people attended. This year should be even better.

The date: MARCH 11-12TH (leave on night of Friday 10th)
FOR FULL DETAILS OF THIS TRIP CONTACT LUDWIG MÜLNZEN-
REIDER ON 428.2034 or

.....better still

COME TO SUSS'S MARCH GENERAL MEETING ON THURSDAY 9TH
MARCH AT 7.15PM IN THE GULLAN ROOM OF THE UNION --

Most of the arrangements (eg: transport, gear) for the
Mee Jasper trip will be made at this meeting.

INSIDE.....

New Zealand Report - the Mt Arthur Karst

Wally's (seemingly infinite) Follics

SUSS's Vital Statistics

SUSS --- The SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President: John Dunkley
22/53 Alice St
Wiley Park 2195
759.9956

Secretary: Jim Seabrook
142 Parramatta Rd
Croydon 2132
74.6084

Editor: John Holbiday
56 Lynwood St
Blakehurst 2221
54.1922

COMING ACTIVITIES

- March 9 General Meeting -- NEW MEETING PLACE - the CULLEN ROOM in the UNION at 7.15pm (Forest Lodge beforehand for those interested). ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEE JASPER FRESHERS TRIP WILL BE MADE AT THIS MEETING.
- 11-12 WEE JASPER - Introductory caving trip for new members. BYOG. Those wishing to come should contact Ludwig Muenzenreider 428.2034 as soon as possible, or better still come to Thursdays meeting.
- 18-19 or 25-26 FIELD DAY perhaps? Hopefully we will know for certain by the General Meeting.
- April 30-4 (Easter) COOLEMAN (tentative) - surveying and relaxation at NSW's most beautiful caving area. Ludwig Muenzenreider 4282034
- YARRANGOBILLY (tentative) - see some of NSW's best caves. Jack Vaughn
- CLIEFDEN (tentative, John Dunkley 759.9956
6. Annual General Meeting - the most important meeting of the year at which all Committee positions are up for grabs. 7.15 Cullen Rm Union.
- 15-16 CLIEFDEN - John Dunkley 759.9956
- 22-23 JENOLAN - who knows what we might get up to! John Holliday 541922
- May 6-7 JENOLAN - Jim Seabrook 74.6084

EDITORIAL (of sorts) Weeclllll! another SUSS caving year is off to a start. Whether it will be better than last year is hard to say for actually we did do quite a bit last year. The year has already started well --- the Mammoth Cave book is already out (see ad on p. 76), and members have been caving in New Zealand and Tasmania. Sydney bound cavers have been hard at work at Jenolan and Cooleman (reports on these trips will appear in later issues). Undoubtedly the major project for the year though, will be the organisation, in conjunction with UNSWSS, of the Ninth Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation. This will be held at the Univ. of NSW early next year and will be preceded by field trips to most NSW caving areas. If we work at it hard it could be the best conference ever.

WANTED!!! WANTED!!!! WANTED!!!!! A new Editor for this, one of Australia's most lively speleo publications. Yes after 21 months at it I have tired of the task (as evidenced by the above editorial). Plenty of perks - such as pushing your own political viewpoint!! Apply at the AGM.

NEW ZEALAND SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETYSummer Expedition 1971-2 - Mt Arthur, Nelson, N.Z.

Australian members: Paul Caffyn (leader, ex-UQSS), Ted Anderson (SUSS/UNSWSS), John Dunkley (SUSS), Henry Shannon (UQSS, SUSS), Andrew Pavey (UNSWSS), Julia James (SSS), Tony Dowling (SSS), Neil Montgomery (SSS), Phil Irvine (SSS), Keith DeJkors (WASG), Kathy Hurricane (UQSS) and 10 New Zealanders

For the past several years the NZSS has been organizing a major expedition each summer to the more remote and generally totally unexplored cave prospects of the mountains of South Island. The venue for the last three years has been near Mt Arthur, 25 miles from Nelson, in the north west of South Island. The marble here outcrops for several miles with a stratigraphic thickness exceeding 4000ft.

The Australian contingent, except Paul and Keith who were already working in New Zealand, duly joined the New Zealand Alpine Club to latch on to a 30% discount on normal air fares and left Sydney on Air New Zealand B707 on December 18, 1971. From Christchurch we bused to Nelson via Kaikoura, and in time were trucked out to the mountains. Most of the group gear and food, totalling over 2000 lbs, was lifted in by helicopter, for which we were eternally grateful.

Access was via the 'Gate' on Mt Arthur, a 5600 ft pass still carrying snow banks which required a minor deviation in the normal route. The weather was delightfully fine, the views over the Nelson area superb. Camp was established in a totally enclosed glacial cirque basin modified by karst processes, about 4500 ft a.s.l., nestling in a reasonably sheltered position beneath the Twins which rose above the camp to 5990ft. On the whole, the weather during our 2 week stay was delightfully pleasant, but during a severe storm one day the only two of the ten tents which escaped damage of some sort were both Force Ten erections and the author was glad to be nestling inside one of them owned by Ted Anderson. One of the tents was a total loss and one other was very badly damaged. The main problem seemed to be that we were camped in the middle of a quite large alluvial fan and during the worst of the rain about 4 cusecs of water was going straight underneath Andrew Pavey's built-in floor, creating a superb ~~xxxx~~ water bed if you were in the mood to appreciate it.

Major achievements included :

1. Discovery, exploration and mapping of a new deep cave, Gorgoroth, with two entrances. At 1140 ft it is the second deepest in the Southern Hemisphere and contains one sheer drop inside of 450 ft, enough to put it into world class on that score.
2. Mapping and further exploration (unsuccessful) of last year's big news, Blackbird Hole (1040ft deep, now third deepest).
3. Mapping and exploration of Coriolis Chasm (630 ft) with a shattering first pitch of 500ft., Terylene Tomo (550ft), Slingshot Tomo (320ft) and many lesser holes.

4. Extensive surface surveying, prospecting and geological, hydrological and biological field work which included collection of many moa bones.

The karst typically carries alpine grasses or montane forest cover and the higher dolines are mos. . full of frost shattered debris. By sampling I estimated very roughly the regional doline population at perhaps 2000, though only of the order of 100 caves worthy of the name are known. Nearly all caves require ladders or ropes, hence the considerable time and resources to explore them. On this expedition all exploration was done with single rope techniques using abseiling devices (the 'whaletail') and Jumars. The latter proved infinitely superior to cloggers and similar methods. The author was deeply impressed by the techniques and skill of the crack vertical cavers and was duly converted to the principle of single rope techniques for such cases. However he would not recommend it to novices under normal circumstances met in Australia.

Thanks are expressed to members of the New Zealand Speleological Society for their hospitality and enthusiasm. It is sad to have to record that their motoring pride and joy, "Jude", beloved caving buggy (actually an extremely elderly 1937 Chev truck) finally did its block (literally) and had to be laid to rest in a friendly farmer's paddock.

-- John Dunkley

WAITOMO, New Zealand

January 25, 1972

Les Kermode (NZSS), J.R.Dunkley, J.G.Dunkley, E.G.Anderson

We arrived at the hut owned by Hamilton Tomo Group at Waitomo at about 10pm after a long day walking up Mt Tongariro and a 140 mile drive. The hut which is used by anyone willing to pay the requisite fee, is amply decorated with cave maps, photographs and a little museum but was altogether too commercial. We much preferred the larger house owned by Auckland Speleological Group a few miles away, which we saw the next day.

On the 25th, Les managed to insinuate us into Waitomo Glowworm Cave between the inevitable hordes of paunchy middle-aged trippers from the American midwest. No-one was particularly keen to actually see the glow worms so we gave the boat ride a miss and concentrated on the geomorphology etc. Later we drove to Ruakuri Cave (also tourist) which to my mind is far more attractive, absorbing and intriguing than Glow-worm, and has considerably greater prospects for exploration. We did not have the time nor the equipment to do other than the regular tourist path through the cave though fortunately we had the place to ourselves. Afterwards Les drove us west from Waitomo to point out some of the grosser features of the karst and the location of some of the larger caves. Even in this well settled part of rural New Zealand there is an immense amount of limestone which by Australian standards has been barely scratched compared with Bungonia, Wee Jasper or even Jenolan. The possibilities are still tremendous without even taking into consideration the remoter areas of South Island. We are most grateful to Les Kermode for making available his valuable time to show us around.

CONSERVATIONBungonia -- the Continuing Saga of Wally's Follies

The fight to preserve Bungonia Gorge has been going on for quite some time now and is much too complex to summarise here. Suffice it to say that thanks to the efforts of the State Govt, and especially our Minister for Mines and the Act he administers, the Gorge is in danger of being turned into Australia's biggest rubble drain. The Govt's attitude was well illustrated by Warwick Counsell of UNSWSS in a speech he gave before a Town Hall meeting on 21st of November last year. The full text of his speech is reproduced below:

.....Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

'As mining of the Bungonia-Marulan limestone started in the 1920's there is not much point in me getting up here and advocating stopping it; but two enormous quarries must not be allowed to wander over the landscape unrestrained for the spectacular Creek gorges are being despoiled, and public use and enjoyment of the recreational opportunities they offer seriously interfered with. The Southern Portland Cement quarry covers 500 acres on the western side of Barber's Creek Gorge. Illegal dumping into this Gorge was brought to the public's attention and tidied up quite a bit by this year's Mining Warden's Court.

But this was really tame compared to the destruction going on further south. The incredibly ugly Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Aust.) quarry on the north side of Bungonia Creek, spewing from its south eastern edge massive rubble screes loading 1200ft down the cliff to the Creek. These scars have continued to grow despite many protests. The Mines Dept refuses to do anything about them. The company disclaims any knowledge of deliberate dumping despite witnesses to the contrary. Early in 1970 when APCM(A) were assessing their limestone reserves west of this quarry they constructed several roads off the leases. One cut into an adjacent reserve involved rubble and trees being bulldozed over the edge of an 800ft cliff. At the end of this illegal road, within 300ft of the North Wall of Bungonia Gorge, a site was cleared and a drilling rig set up. Immediate representations to Mr Lewis, Minister for Lands (and former Mines), through Mr Brewer, the Country Party member for Goulbourn, brought no action in three months. So, on the 9th August, 1970, members of the University of New South Wales Speleological Society entered the area, interviewed the drill operators, and prepared a map of the road in relation to the lease and reserve boundaries, and the Gorge. Three days later the map and photographs showing the drill 700ft into the public reserve were taken to Mr Brewer at Parliament House for delivery with written complaint to Mr Lewis. Concerned that this would bring no action Mr Brewer advised me to write to the Mulwarrie Shire Council. I did and a fortnight later, on 6th September, the Council ordered the Company to cease operations outside its leases. Two days after this, Mr Lewis having stalled for four months, handed the matter over to Mr Fife, the Minister for Mines, who, six weeks later, advised that my complaint was still under investigation.

On the 12th November, 1970 in reply to a question asked in the Legislative Assembly, Mr Fife stated (quote):

"I did not give my consent for the road construction and drilling" but offered no reason for the road construction. A month later when Mr Fife was asked about prosecution of APCM(A) for violation of public reserves, he explained that he had been in Parliament for a long time and most of the legislation he had been involved in was to prevent people doing one thing or to punish them for doing another and he was sick and tired of it. Was he implying

that the penal clause had no place in the Mines Act?? So, naturally I accused him of encouraging, in this area anyway, the wanton destruction of scenery and woodland by those engaged in exploration, as this gets them half way towards future success in lease applications. He angrily replied that the Mines Dept had observers who watch every move these companies make and report infringements to the Dept for action. Where were they this time?? What action???

Soon after a letter from Mr Fife stated that(quote):

"APCM(A) had inadvertently constructed the access roads and drill site because of a misinterpretation of instruction given to site personnel."

But the humdinger came in a letter from Mr Lewis who contradicted Mr Fife by saying (quote):

"The road construction was necessary for the progressive movement of a drilling rig used in connection with open cut mining in the area."

This brings us up to January this year. Two weeks ago APCM(A) applied for an 87 acre special lease over the eastern end of this spectacular limestone gorge, one third of a mile of the bed of the creek, and most of their revolting infringements. Luckily the Mining Acts ridiculous 7 days for objection lodging didn't beat us this time, and nine people will now be challenging the company in the Mining Wardens Court. This application includes the illegal road and drill site and nicely supports Mr Lewis's explanation of the road as necessary for further mining, but makes Mr Fife's "inadvertant construction" excuse look deliberately misleading. Or maybe Mr Fife is just too gullible for the big business with which he is dealing. Gullible or not, Mr Fife has crippled the already inadequate penal provisions of this Act. He has allowed despoilation of public reserves to provide an excuse for needlessly handing them over to the mining companies. HE, AND HIS ACT ARE CLEARLY UNFIT TO SUPERVISE LAND UTILISATION IN THIS STATE.'

Thank You,

W.J. Counsell 21/11/71

There should be further reports on the Bungonia dispute in future issues of the Bulletin (ours, not Packer's), including a report on a recent "Public Inspection of Bungonia Caves Reserve". In the meantime readers may be interested in the following quote from C. Wright Mills:

"Across the bargaining tables of power, the bureaucracies of business and government face one another, and under the tables their myriad feet are interlocked in wonderfully complex ways."

"THE EXPLORATION AND SPELEOGEOGRAPHY OF MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN"

by John Dunkley & Ted Anderson

Yes this super SUSS (oops! SRC) publication is now available after several delays. Buy your copy now to see the incredible isometric projection of Mammoth cave + innumerable photographs and maps. Available at SUSS meetings or from the Speleological Research Council Limited (Box 235, Kingsford, 2032). \$2.75 including postage, \$2.50 over the counter.

"If our experience is destroyed, our behaviour will be destructive."

R.D. Laing

TRIP REPORTSTuglow - 2-3rd January 1972"The First Kowmung Li-Lo Derby"

Present: Ludwig Muenzenreider(TL), Joy Muenzenreider, Jack Vaughn, John Holliday (M's), Frances ? (V).

While most members were either recovering from New Years Eve or else roughing it in the New Zealand or Tasmanian wilderness, the above small party managed to get away on the first SUSS trip for 1972.

Jack and myself arrived on the Sunday afternoon after staggering down the hill under the weight of all those luxuries (eg: li-loes, beer, ropes, ladders etc) that one is normally used to just lifting out of the boot of a car. We had intended entering the Main Cave, but the humid weather and the sight of good rapids in the Kowmung soon changed our minds. Out came the li-loes, and within minutes two 'Palma GT's' were hurtling down the river, much to the astonishment of the occasional trout fisherman. The following afternoon Ludwig joined in, and it was decided to have proper races. A course involving two good sets of rapids and a long still, reedy section (interestingly christened Black Snake Alley) was chosen, and the three of us lined up for a Le Mans start. After at least a dozen false starts we finally got away, but the race turned into a non-event, for Jack, despite a wipe-out in the rapids, won by lengths. His victory was mainly due to amazing speed with which he negotiated Black Snake Alley -- apparently he felt that hordes of Joe Blakes were on his tail.

Well so much for li-loing, what about caving? On the Monday morning a surface traverse was done with the forestry compass from Tuglow Main Cave to the unnamed cave in the Horse Gully Sinks area (map SUSS 10 (8): 58). Some fruitless digging was then carried on in this cave. This was a follow up to work previously reported by Muenzenreider (SUSS 11 (6): 67).

John Holliday

BOW CAVE AND CAMP(ing) CAVE, JENOLAN

John Dunkley

A trip report by Rick Tunney in the last issue of this Bulletin ("A Surfeit of Caves" p.66) states:

"Another party ascended the hill opposite Mammoth and surveyed a small unnumbered cave. This has been named Camp Cave as it is believed that it is the cave used by SUSS members during wet weather many years ago."

In fact, Camp(ing) Cave is the large rock overhang now inside the wallaby enclosure at the entrance to the gorge and was used up until about 1963. The name does not have any official sanction.

Furthermore, I must protest at the continued reference to the 'Oxbow' Cave in the same report. This abortion has also been perpetrated by SSS (see eg: Foster & Scott, 1964; Hayllar, 1964) and by BMSC (Keck, 1971). For the last word:

"The next is the Bow Cave, to which reference has previously been

made. It is a small cavern and, as has already been explained, there were found in it six bullock bows, together with two harrow pins, and a pair of hinges; supposed to have been planted there by M'Ewan the bushranger about the year 1839."

(Cook 1889, p.187)

References:

- Cook S. (1889) : The Jenolan Caves: an Excursion in Australian Wonderland
London, Eyre & Spottiswoode.
Foster H. & Scott P. (1964) : Ox Bow J16 (map) Stop Press Dec 1964 : 4
Keck K. (1971) : (TR in) Oolite 3 (2) : 15-16
Hayllar T. (1964) : (TR's in) Stop Press Nov 1964 : 8-9

SUSS COMPUTER DIVULGES SECRET STATISTICS

".....UQSS is the only society which bothers itself with such useless nonsense as caving stats. A comparison with other clubs on a similar basis could prove very interesting and enlightening."

So sayeth Kathy Hurricane in the Nov. 71 edition of UQSS's Down Under (p.148). Well at long last SUSS is at last able to divulge its own vital stats, mainly because I've got nothing of greater interest to fill up the rest of this page with.

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Trips</u>	<u>No. of People</u>	<u>People Miles</u>
Tasmania	n.a.	8	?
Jenolan	13	144	32,832
Cliefden	4	45	16,650
Cooleman	4	44	27,016
Yarrangobilly	2	22	13,464
Wee Jasper	1	49	22,050
Colong	1	7	2,310
Tuglow	1	8	2,304
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 319	<hr/> 116,626

The above figures are by no means dead accurate. The figures cover the whole of 1971, and are for official trips only. Of the trips John Dunkley led the most (7), followed by John Holliday, Jim Seabrook and Ludwig Muenzenreider (5 each). Holliday and Seabrook attended the most trips (15 each) followed by Jeff Turner (12), John Dunkley and Jack Vaughn (10), Jeanette Dunkley and Ludwig Muenzenreider (9), and Murray Anderson, Manfred Listing, Denis Ward, Rick Tunney and Judith Vaughn (all 8).

Unfortunately SUSS's stats. cannot be as comprehensive as UQSS'S mainly because nobody can be bothered with collecting the data from which such useful stats. as average caving speed and av. % caving time (or slackness rating) can be calculated. I doubt however that this is because we are all too busy caving. Anyways, page filled, thats it!!!!!!