

# THE BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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University of sydney,  
N.S.W., 2006

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Volume 12, Number 1

May 1972

## COMING EVENTS

### MAY

- 4 General Meeting Cullen room - Warwick Cousell SPEAKS' he is  
president of Vice and chief stirrer of U.N.S.W.S.S.
- 6 Janolan for those who like gaiety and excitement at its best.  
Contact Jim Seabrook 74-6084

- 13 JANOLAN trip with U.Q.S.S. Interested persons ring Jim  
74-6084
- CLIFDEN ( late May or early june ) John Dunkly 759-9956

### JUNE

- 10 SOMEWHERE lead by SOMEBODY read the next thrilling bulletin  
for details or be at the next meeting.
- 30 (tentative ) S.U.S.S. ANNUAL DINNER. The event of the  
year, and GUS the only member of S.U.S.S. who is a  
pink elephant is coming, for information ring  
John Holliday 54-1922

There ~~will~~ be a General Meeting on the first of June in the Cullen  
room

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## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

If there is a tick in this rhomboidal  
figure then you are unfinancial and  
thus this will be the last Bulletin  
that you will recieve on your  
present subscription.

SUSS == THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY--

Editor:  
Brian Spilsbury  
53 St. Johns Rd.,  
Glebe, 2037.

President:                      Secretary:  
John Dunkley                  Grahame McGown  
22/53 Alice St.,              2 Sydney Rd.,  
Wilsey Park, 2195.            Lindfield, 2070.  
759.9956

Results of the Annual General Meeting

President:      John Dunkley  
Vice President: John Holliday  
Secretary:      Grahame McGown  
Treasurer:      Jack Vaughn  
Editor:          Brian Spilsbury  
Safety Officer: Jim Seabrook  
Librarian Records Officer: Col Mathers

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The total full or associate membership fee for 1972/73 remains at £1/15/6--but all full members can now rejoice as their trip fees have been lowered to 2/- whereas those for prospective members will remain at 5/-.

New Members

SUSS has gained another full member -- Bruce Welch.

Trip Leaders

Grahame McGown has been made the first new trip leader of 1972.

A collating night will be held some time in the third week of May at a venue to be decided ( probably my place )      Ed.

John Dunkley will be leading a trip to CLIFDEN on the 13th and 14th of May, this is the first weekend of the Uni holidays, getting in touch with John 759.9956 in the week before the trip will be harder to ring early.

The field day although enjoyable did not receive the response it should have received especially from new members and prospective members. The field day was designed to acquaint the prospective members and the not-to-skilful full member with ladder climbing, several types of abseils, prussiking and belaying.

The barbecue was excellent and SUSS would like to thank Mr and Mrs McGown and Grahame for their hospitality in staging the barbecue at their place.

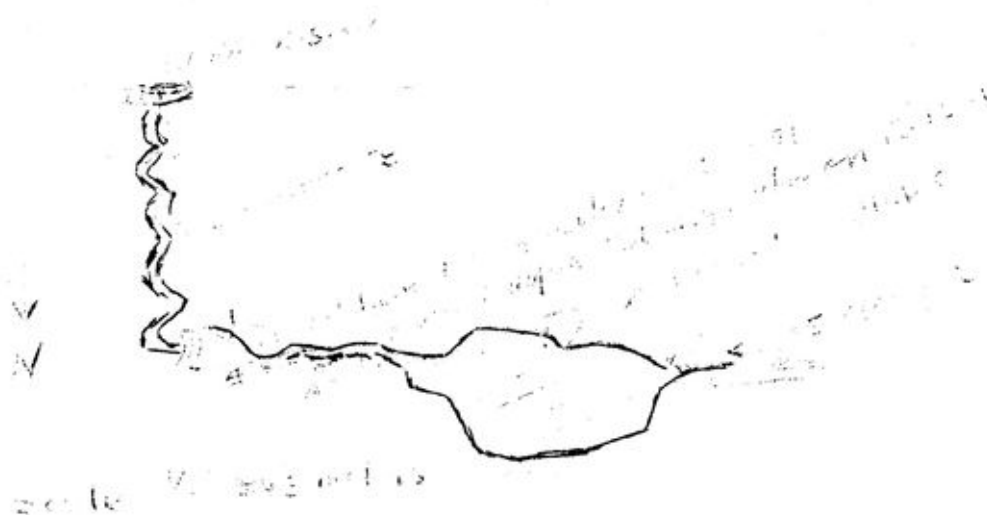
HELP SAVE LAKE PEDDER

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE HYDROLOGY IN AND AROUND THE SURFACE  
AREA OF THE CLIFF RISING AT COOLEMAN.

Ludwig Muenzenrieder

While the December visit by the Society to Coleman (SUSS 11(8):90) concentrated its attention on the northern section we also managed to look at the more extensive Southern Section with particular emphasis on the Cliff rising and the very large water-filled doline not far away.

The pool and the rising were first visited on the weekend of 5-6th Dec. and the following hydrological pattern was observed:



Here is an opposed drainage pattern, i.e. one flows north from the Cliff rising and one flows east from the large pool. Seven days later a collapse occurred and was observed to widen, in the creekbed (see A on the map). Water now flowed down this new collapse and began flowing underground in a northerly direction down a slope of about  $35^\circ$ . In profile from west to east the collapse appeared as follows:



When the area was initially looked at the lake was assumed to be an open manifestation of the water table, as it appeared to be the lowest point in the area excluding of course the Blue Waterhole area which is lower. Yet if this were so then one would expect a hole 8' below the level of the lake, and some 150' from it along its bed to completely fill with water, particularly since the base is a limestone aquifer, thus any free space below the water table would be flooded. Again the influx of water from the Cliff rising is at a point some 10' lower than the level of the lake, again suggesting that we have not reached the water table. The observation of the new collapse indicates that the water was flowing along an unobstructed passage despite the collapse of large quantities of alluvium which was washed away.

Under the circumstances it appears that the lake is the result of blockage of drainage systems underneath it, causing subsequent infilling and overflowing until it reaches a point where it bypasses the blockage and thus returns underground.

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BOUGHT YOUR COPY YET ??

"The Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan"

Only \$2-50 plus 25c. postage if applicable

ask for a free, no obligation inspection at the next meeting

### The Straight and Narrow

The Ranger at Jenolan, Mr Norris, has complained about people driving off the car track around the fauna enclosure. This track was constructed, largely by Mr Norris, specifically for the benefit of speleos wishing to camp at Mammoth Flat. The least we can do is to stick to the marked wheel tracks and not wander on to the grass.

Please take note . . .

### Ladders and all that !!

The ladder making day at Bruce Welch's place last Saturday 29th April was a great success due to the large numbers that turned up.

Four ladders were completed and the four members present enjoyed themselves immensely.

Bill Smith.

CONSERVATION

Imagine, if you will, a small lake - about four square miles in area, set among majestic glacial mountains on all sides; add a two mile long by six hundred yard wide beach of the purest pink/white quartzite sand you can imagine. Behind the beach imagine a low series of sand dunes stabilised by a miniature woody glade straight out of "The Lord of the Rings". On the other side of the northern end of these ridges are half a dozen small lakes and in each one a reflection of Mt Anne and the imposing Mt Solitary. Imagine a warm bath and you come close to the sensation you feel when you swim in this lake. Imagine an abundance of wildlife as tame as those that you find in any sanctuary. As well as these add several patches of rainforest to form a green and mossy canopy with a carpet of leaves and ferns. Intersperse these patches of quiet forest with tracts of button grass plain like a garden in flower.

Imagine the lake in the early morning with a thin band of mist obscuring the bases of the mountains, with the peaks, the mist and an occasional cloud reflected in a mirror better than the finest crystal. Imagine the lake at sunset where a fan of the sun's rays over the mountains gradually deepen in colour from white to deepest red setting the lake afire with a crimson blaze and turning the beach into pure gold with trees and people becoming mere silhouettes and long shadows. Imagine a place of deep peace and intense beauty where ever you look. Imagine a place that you could only describe as 'friendly' a place that strikes you the moment that you see it with the feeling 'I have come home'.

Imagine all this and you will be thinking of LAKE PEDDER - the most beautiful spot in Australia. I say IMAGINE as this will be all that you, your children, grand children, sisters, brothers, parents will be able to do, for, if the Tasmanian Government has its way it will destroy for all time the beauty that is Pedder under fifty feet of water. Forever.

'Why perpetrate this destruction of such beauty'? you ask.

'To attract industry with cheap hydroelectric power', comes back the answer.

'But', you say, 'You have the most beautiful state in Australia, no pollution to speak of, large areas of unspoiled wilderness, and the friendliest people. Why attract industry and people and ruin all this?'

And the answer comes back 'Peculiar'.

Again you try, 'you have more power than you can use without this scheme. The Mersey-Forth scheme isn't yet operating, Boatina is idling one generator for maintenance only, and the big thermal station has been shut down indefinitely and a second station there is under construction'. And you add, 'Apart from the lack of need for more power, do you think with transportation costs added you can compete with hydro and natural gas power offered on the main land.

'Well', they say 'It will cost too much to drop the idea'.

'But', you scream, 'there is an alternative scheme - lower the proposed Lake Serpentine fifty feet and pump it dry when needed. It saves 1-2 million dollars for only 12% of the 90% of the total proposed L.Gordon/L.Pedder storage.

This they ignore!

**LAKE PEDDER MUST BE SAVED FOR AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD !!!**

Jim Seatbrook



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1971-72

I suppose the logical point to begin a report of this nature is to chronicle the Society's caving activities over the past year. Without a doubt this has been a most significant 12 months, with detailed work in several areas.

Caving

Once again Jenolan was the most visited area with about 15 trips. Major achievements were:

1. Wiburds Lake Cave - several new extensions discovered. Over 5600ft of passages mapped to CRG Grade 6. Prospects still excellent.
2. Mammoth Cave - rediscovery & mapping of Cant Get Lost Section & Sewer Slide.
  - mapping in the Overflow, Ice Pick Lake area and beyond Lower River; lower grade checks elsewhere.
  - continuation of work on geomorphology and hydrology.
3. Surface surveying - high grade tacheometric traverse plus levelling.
4. Water tracing using fluorescein, congo red and sodium chloride
5. Mapping of some minor caves

Other areas in which work was done during the year:

Coolemon : surface topographic surveying, underground mapping and water tracing in the Rebellion Cave area.

Cliefden : Further mapping in Taplow Maze Cave and elsewhere proceeds slowly.

Yarrangobilly: Surface surveying Eagles Nest area, plus general exploration.

Wee Jasper : The Freshers Trip was the usual unqualified success.

Members were also caving actively outside NSW, notably in Tasmania and New Zealand. In the latter, members joined the NZSS Expedition to the Mount Arthur Range near Nelson, and also looked briefly at Waitomo.

Meetings and Functions

Meetings throughout the year were well attended, especially the usually sparse December meeting, and the problem of a satisfactory venue has been overcome, for this year at least. The Annual Dinner featured a distinguished former member, Alex Jones, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and as expected was a riotous success. The post-dinner conviviality at Jack Vaughan's place was equally successful.

Finance

Despite the fee rise last year, expenses continue to rise, especially the newsletter and for equipment. It is pleasing to report that the Students Representative Council has approved a grant of \$100 for equipment, though we have yet to see the cheque. This is the first time the Society has ever received any money from a university body and it will barely cover the replacement cost of ladders and ropes. Also during the year we managed to obtain on long-term loan from the Speleological Research Council Ltd, a forestry compass and a duplicator. SUSS will be responsible for maintenance of these items.

### SUSS Bulletin

It is a pleasure to record the continued high quality of the Bulletin under John Holliday's enthusiasm. Both typing and duplicating problems have been overcome and it should be another good year. We could use a few more short articles.

### Other Publications

Over 20 years of persistent work by SUSS culminated in publication of "The Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan". This work has been very well received, especially the painstaking map presentation which set several precedents for Australian speleology. Virtually all of Mammoth Cave was explored and mapped by members of SUSS, and this could be borne in mind when judging the ill-founded and irrationally informed criticisms emanating from certain quarters about this book. I personally have spent some time recovering much of SUSS's very extensive archival material which spans nearly a quarter century of caving. It is our responsibility to see that this does not continue to gather dust in an attic but is published at a standard doing justice to the many past and present members who put so much effort into obtaining the information over the years. The criticism should perhaps be that this was not done earlier - perhaps 10 years ago - before other groups began work.

### Australian Speleological Federation

Most NSW cave areas are visited by more than one club and coordination of work is absolutely essential. Fundamentally this requires a viable, active Federation structure and this Society has continued therefore to give the A.S.F. physical as well as verbal support. We believe that wherever possible the Federation should be directly involved in projects requiring extensive multi-society support. A commendable trend developed in the last year or so, exemplified by such projects as Jenolan hydrology, towards close cooperation with UQSS and UNSWSS and other groups and individuals. Furthermore, we are proud that after our long support of A.S.F. since its inception, we are at last involved in organization of the Ninth Biennial Convention this year.

### The Future

Undergraduate societies are notoriously unstable, though SUSS has had better luck than most. Consequently I do not propose to speculate on imponderable future glories. But in the Presidential report last year, I noted that "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."

I can only say that this hope has been admirably fulfilled and the best exhortation I can make for the coming year is simply to repeat this declaration of faith.

John R. Dunkley,  
PRESIDENT

12-11-74  
C1100

Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement for the Year 1-3-71 to 29-2-72

RECEIPTS

Membership-	full	99.00
	associate	15.50
	prospective	60.00
	corresponding	9.00
Trip fees		74.00
SUSS Annual Dinner		149.75
Sale of goods and publications		24.80
Donations		19.42
Sale of badges and cards		11.20
Bank interest		2.57
Sale of duplicated sheets		4.50
Payment from A.S.F. for paper placed on our account		33.25
A.P.C.M. dividends		0.06
Total Receipts		<u>503.05</u>
Cash in hand at 1-3-71		5.00
Cash in bank at 1-3-71		<u>80.48</u>
		<u>588.53</u>

PAYMENTS

Publications	- stationery	105.75
	duplicating	51.00
	postage	17.73
Secretarial and treasurer's expenses		15.00
Subscriptions-	A.S.F.	34.00
	'Helictite	2.50
	National Parks Association	5.00
S.U.S.S. Annual Dinner		141.90
Hire of Orientation Week Stall		15.15
Purchase of ropes		45.20
Purchase of measuring tapes		21.00
Purchase of drills and drill bits		8.39
Copies of maps		2.00
Stamp duty		0.17
Total payments		<u>464.79</u>
Cash in hand at 29-2-72		0.00
Cash in bank at 29-2-72		<u>12.74</u>
		<u>588.53</u>

Jeanette G. Dunkley - Treasurer  
1971-72

Audited by E.Hunt



Well, another volume of the Bulletin has now ended -- volume 11 of 8 issues. The volume contained, a greater number of feature articles (the Cave phallicite) than have appeared for some years in the Bulletin.

1. In line with the planned abolition of the SUSS Journal and the publication of all material apart from major works in the Bulletin, the former SUSS Bulletin was replaced in April last year.
2. A new classy front cover, designed by Ted Anderson, was bought into use.
3. 3,000 envelopes were purchased, approximately enough for 3 years.
4. SUSS now has, on loan from the Sociological Research Council Ltd., an Illiams duplicator. This has saved the Editor from having to put up with the time consuming delays involved in getting the Bulletin printed at university, and has also saved the Society the considerable expense involved in this. However, "Merlin", described by me once as "the monstrous, 'reserves a kick in the guts', 'needs a magician to work it' duplicator and frustrator", still needs a magician to make it work properly despite a visit by the repairman.

Finally, may I thank John Dunkley for his continuing support, Geoff Duttin, and all those people who provided articles and helped with collating etc. Keep those articles and trip reports rolling in to the new Editor, he can't do the job without them.

John Holliday  
(retiring Editor)  
April 1972

#### Safety Officer's Report

Another year of caving has past completely accident free due, as usual, more to good luck than good management. As S.U.S.S. visits few caves with ladder pitches (with Mammoth an exception) the lack of accidents indicates a high standard of personal caving technique.

It is where other peoples lives are in your hands, such as, setting up and belaying on pitches that the individual must be truly safety conscious and this area of safety can always be improved.

So practise tying knots, belaying etc and attend the S.U.S.S. field days. Lets keep our good safety record up for 1972.

Murphy Anderson  
Safety Officer 1971/72

### Librarian and Records Officers Report 1971-72

While holding this position I have tried as far as was possible to centralise this society's library and records. I should add that we have probably the largest collection in Australian speleology.

The following objects were achieved:-

1. The library was taken from the university and placed into my home;
2. Catalogueing was begun and one weekend was devoted to this by members of the society, with further efforts from time to time;
3. A search was begun for the many missing records in which I was reasonably successful with the exception of the Jenolan trip reports.

As a result some 75% of the library has been catalogued and it is hoped that the trip reports will soon be posted into a special journal.

Finally something like 30 trip reports were recieved during the year covering a wide range of areas. Given a few more days of attention the library will be fully catalogued and the search for the Jenolan trip reports which proves as elusive as that for the 'Woolly R' goes on.

Ludwig Muenzenrieder. L.&R.O. 1971-72

### Equipment Officer's Report

Equipment held as at 31-3-72

1 x30' Ladder	Various bat catching gear
2 x50' Ladder	1 Inflatable rubber raft
1 x150' Manilla rope (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " red dye	1 Scaling pole
1 x120' Manilla rope (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " blue dye	1 Star drill
1 x150' Nylon (No 4)-belaying only- red dye	2 Tapes (1x100', one shorter )
2 Carbide lamps (in need of jets)	1 Oil damped compass
1 Safty hat	

It has been tradition in S.U.S.S. that the equipment officer should be centrally located. I would suggest that the prime criterion for an equipment officer should be his activity (or lack of it ) in the society. An active member has the constant contact of fellow caver to chase up equipment not returned and if he is active enough (heaven forbid) he can make sure the equipment never leaves his greedy hands.

I leave this position to take up my new apointment as remote and inaccessible in Canberra.

Chris Fieldhouse.

Equipent Officer 1971-72

### Secretary's Report

I never know what to put in a Secretary's report so I will just describe what the job involves:

- taking minutes of General Meetings and Committee Meetings
- clearing the letter box
- answering letters and writing correspondence as required

There is a fair amount of work involved in the job

Jim Seabrook