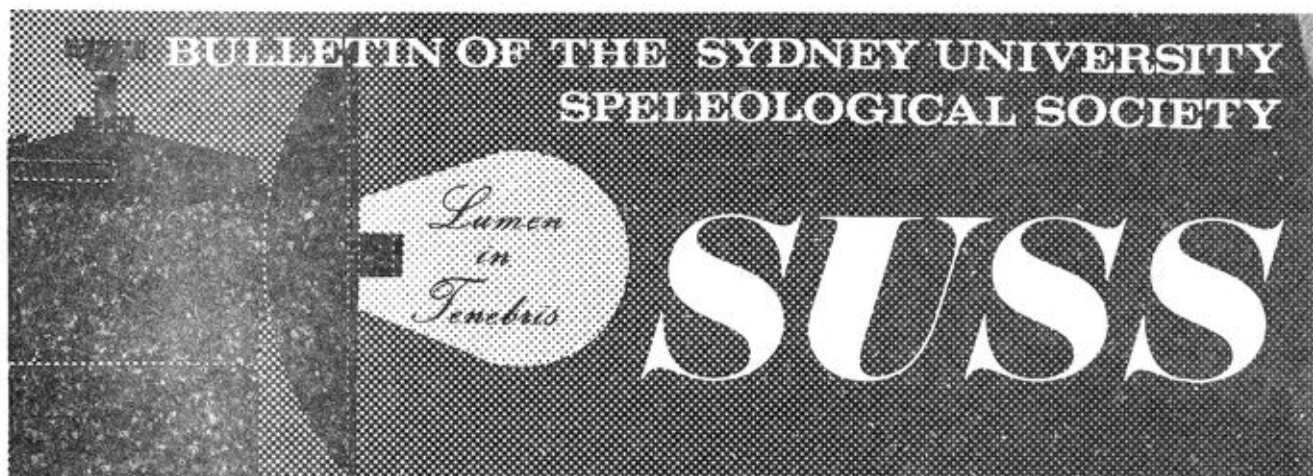


This months circulation is 19 feet.



COMING EVENTS

June

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER will speak on the N.Z.S.S. expedition in Mount Arthur Range 1971/72. During which the second deepest cave in the Southern Hemisphere GOIGOROTH was discovered and pushed to over 1100 ft deep.

- 3,4 or Jenolan
18,19 trip lead by Jim Seabrook 746004

- 10,11 Cliefden
12 this trip is already full and is lead by John Dunkley 7599956

- 10, 11 Wyandene (tentative)
12 trip lead by Ludwig Muenzenreider as alternative to Cliefden 4282034

July

- 6 GENERAL MEETING
Cullen Room Old Union

- 8,9 Jenolan (tentative)
trip lead by John Dunkley 7599956

- 20 SUSS ANNUAL DINNER
Its to be held in the Old Union this year for information ring John Holliday 541922

August

- 24 Nullabor
lead by G.Paterson U.N.S./S.S. information ring Tony Culberg 571309



FOUNDED 1948

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THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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	7599956	463517

General meetings and all that

It can be seen from the enclosed list of members names and addresses, put in to make contacting other members easier, that we have about thirty four full financial members and from orientation week alone we signed up seventy five prospective members giving us a grand total of about one hundred and ten (probably more) so called active members. From this one could expect a fair crowd at the general meetings. At the last general meeting the large crowd of 30 to 40 people turned up (about 35% of members) and the annual general meeting before that had about the same number.

'BUT GENERAL MEETINGS ARE BLOODY BORING' is the usual excuse or 'I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS ON'.

Anyone who has been to the general meetings this year will have noticed that the formal part of the meeting has been reduced to a minimum and that some interesting caving extras have been added.

Last meeting there was a talk and showing of slides by Warwick Cousell on effect of the proposed mining of Dungonia. Warwick is involved in the law-suit against the mining company.

Most people who were not there will probably think that this sounds boring too but the 35 people at the meeting who donated 33 dollars to the Keep Bungonia Gorgeous fund obviously didn't think so.

As for people who don't when the meetings are held the golden rule is the first thursday of every month.

Bill Smith

Maps

Maps and drawings can be reproduced by means of an electrostatic stencil BUT must be drawn in either indian ink or sharp pencil as the drawing must have a carbon base. As the maps are to be printed on a quarto page please draw them small enough to fit on the page and include a scale and north direction.

-----oOo-----

Fluorescein tests at Cooleman, carried out by Ludwig have established the connection between the eastern influx, Frustration (Rebellion) Cave New Year Cave and Z Cave. This connection has been confirmed by C.S.S. The area of the caves is that immediately north of the limestone from the Blue Water Hole.

CREDITS

Stephen Firkin, Arthur Jenkins, John Holliday, Jack Vaughn, John Dunkley Merlin, Thingy, Gus, Cinzano.

-----oOo-----

TRIP REPORT -

Jenolan - April 22-25th 1972"Nudist Cavers' Discovery Brightens Wet Weekend"

Present: John Holliday (TL), Andrew Happ, Jim Seabrook, Ian Callander, Colin Mathers, John & Jeanette Dunkley, Ludwig & Joy Muenzenrieder, Ted Anderson, Ron Murray, Jeff Francis, Brian Spilsbury, Rick Tunney (M's); Bryan Barnett, Peter Blackwood, Ross Franklin, Noel Partridge, Alec Watt, Paul Stokes (P's), Rosie and Leonie (V). (all for varying lengths of time).

Rarely does a weekend have such an inauspicious beginning. Not only was one of the most vicious cold fronts that Alan Wilkie has ever drawn about to clobber the east coast, but as well some old codger had decided that he was going to spend his weekend in the great outdoors rather than cooped up in the Queen Victoria Hospital at Wentworth Falls, thus causing a Bushwalker S & R callout, which some of our bods were obliged to attend. I myself, arrived lonesome at Jenolan at 2am after dropping Bryan and Rosy at the S & R. Foolishly I stretched out under the stars only to be forced into the car by the full fury of Wilkie's Wopper at 3am.

Anyways, things seemed to shiver into action next morning when Dunkley & Co. arrived from their distant retreat at Hampton. John led a party up McKewen's Valley where they apparently poked around and surveyed in Serpentine and Bushrangers etc. Ludwig led a party down from the freezing tops near Mt. Wiburud to the Southern Limestone near J48, where a little bit of surface surveying and exploration ensued. Some fluorescein was dumped in J48 and up a side gully nearby, and charcoal bags placed for collection on the Tuesday.

Later, back at the campsite, we found that our S & R bods had arrived from W. Falls. The search had been called off at 10am that morning when the old fella was found, much to everyone's surprise, comfortably enjoying a fag not far from the hospital.

Sunday saw Jim and John surveying and what not up near Wiburud's. Ted had arrived with all his technological gadgetry to give them a hand. Meanwhile I led an 8 man party into Mammoth where, despite the general wetness of the cave, we found the Dry Siphon quite low, and thus pushed on to the North Tunnel in a reasonably dry state. Bryan, Peter, Brian and myself went into Can't Get Lost Section to continue trying to climb the aven, whilst Ian, Andy, Ross and Noel continued on to the Great North Cavern. Ian relates the story of their entry into what they thought to be a new section, and of the taking of the first ever nude photos in the G.N.C., in the second part of this report. The passages they entered off from the Formation Squeeze are now known to have been first entered approximately 12 months ago by Sandy Halbert of SSS (pers. comm.), so it appears that Ian's crew were actually second. Ian has produced a map (grade CRG 1-2) which appears with this report.

The climb in Can't Get Lost proceeded slowly thru dozens of cigarettes, bars of chocolate, and even a packet of vegie soup cooked over a choofer in a muddy "Mountain Maid" pie apples tin (yes, someone forgot the billy), the contents of which had earlier been devoured using the latest in Chouinard eating utensils. New bolting techniques were tried with eventually some success, but the top, which for most of the time was obscured in fog, is still a long way up. Coldness, and the risk of light failure forced us back to the entrance, where after much stirring of the belayer (poor, old Jim), we emerged into the elements at about 1am.

While we spent our evening in Mammoth, John, Ted and others went with Guide Noel Rawlinson to the Barellan Cave (described by Henry Shannon in SUSS 11(8):85). A grade 3 survey was done and the cave found to be of considerable length.

On Monday the weather reached new heights of fury and we were glad to get into Wiburd's and sloth about on the mudbanks. That night we evacuated Mammoth Flats for the warmth of the Caves House bar. We were certainly good for business, for what was an empty bar when we entered soon filled, although all the other drinkers seemed to sit around on the opposite sides of the room. Hmmm!!

By Tuesday (Anzac Day?) peace reigned over Mammoth Flats. Jim and Peter went with some bushwalker visitors to do a canyon and Ron led a party to Sthn. Section of Mammoth. Jeff, Andy and myself went to the Sthn. Limestone and strolled in the sunshine down Camp Ck. from J48 to the carpark. We collected the charcoal bags, disturbed a large (25 approx.) herd of goats, and dropped rocks down the Bottomless Pit on the way. Jeff also showed us a deep, yet little known pothole on the Nthn. Limestone which I hope to survey on a future trip.

John Holliday

Here's what happened on our trip to the Great North Cavern. After leaving John at the Gravel Grovel we blundered on, taking the odd photo, until we reached a spot where we had the choice of three unpleasant squeezes. Not having recognised any of the passages from last years 15hr romp (SUSS 11(1):8-9) I didn't recognise it as the Formation Squeeze. Andy found the righthand one impossible, didn't bother with the middle one as it looked no better (and besides it had a puddle in it), and just managed to get thru the lefthand rib crusher. Both he and I found we could only inch our way thru this squeeze with battery and helmet off, with breath exhaled, and with much hard pushing. Once thru, Ross and Noel followed with less sweat, and together we found the passages shown on the map. Virgin mud and Ted Andersons opinion indicate that it's unlikely that anyone else has visited these parts (and no wonder!!). The question marks indicate the extent of our exploration and may well link up with some of the unpushed (or unpushable) holes around the Cycloidal Passage in the G.N.C. This new section may be able to answer some of the hydrological questions about Mammoth. Any bod who's interested in checking it out had better make sure his chest to back measurement is less than 8.3" (fully exhaled).

More difficulty was had getting out thru the squeeze than in, and after Ross had done the righthand Formation Squeeze I managed the lefthand alternative, which was comparatively a push-over. All four of us grunted on until the passage enlarged and I was surprised to find we'd stumbled upon our destination. Only then did I actually realise that the squeeze was the Formation Squeeze.

We promptly lit the candle which someone had left there, demolished our food, photographed a caver in the bare minimum of caving gear (?) as planned, huddled over the candle while Andy explored and photographed the Cavern, then shot thru.

Wouldn't it be beaut if there was a hole in the G.N.C. straight up to the surface!!?

Ian Callander

June 1972

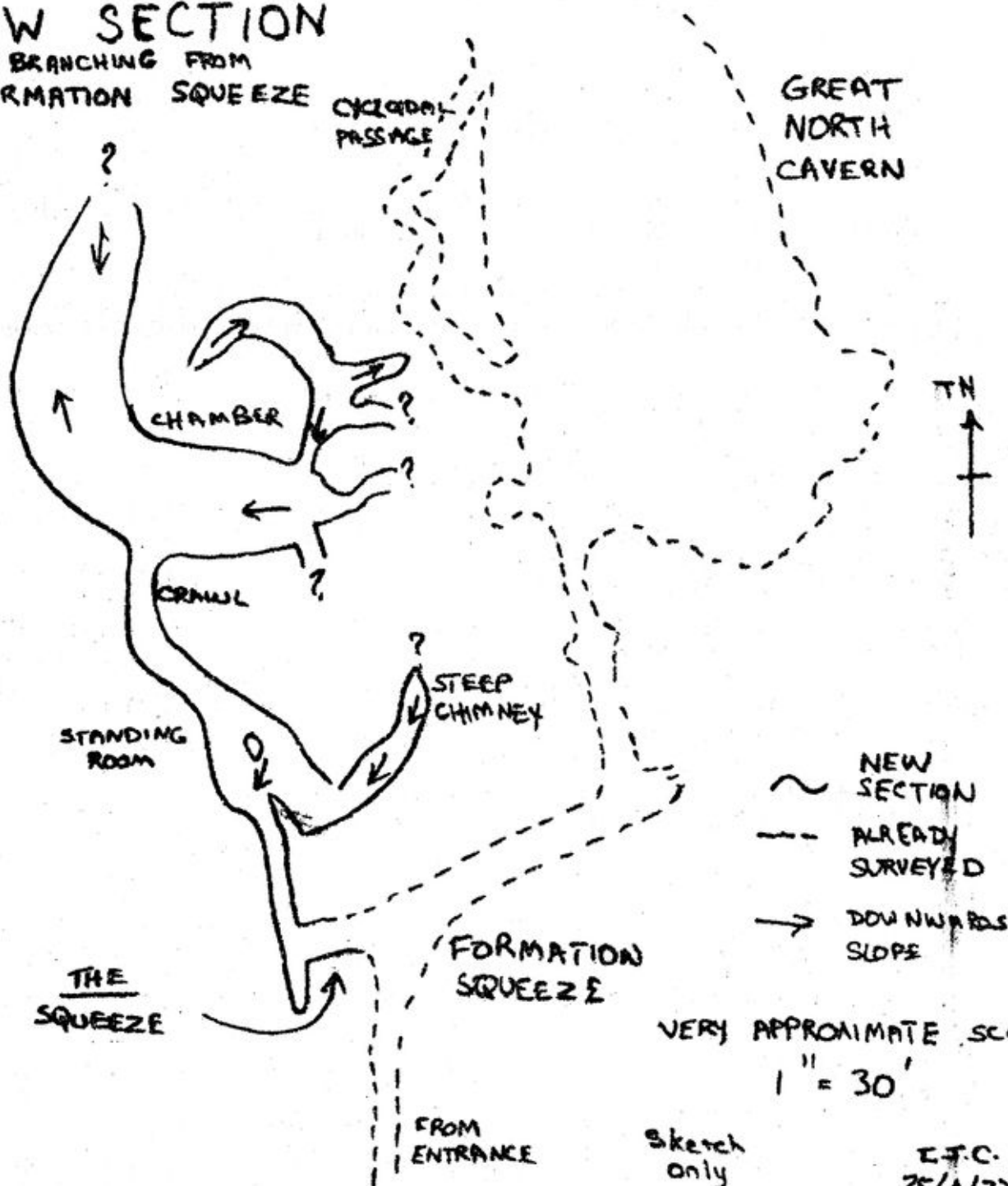
S U S S

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MAMMOTH CAVE, TENOLANI

NEW SECTION

BRANCHING FROM
FORMATION SQUEEZE



Recovery of Charcoal Watchers from Mammoth Cave

JENOLAN

leader: Henry Shannon

Present: Henry Shannon, B. Riley (SUSS/UOSS), Julia James, Neil Montgomery & Tony Dowling (SSS)

All arrived late Saturday night after a party at Tony Culberg's. In the morning I checked Bow Cave - it was operating with a big flow going in ($3\frac{1}{2}$ cusecs) and a slight trickle going past (0.1cs). While heading off to the guides' office I checked the flow at Mammoth Flat and Playing Fields. A trickle started in the bed of McKeown's just down from the camp and continued undiminished over the Adrians Folly submergence. The tributaries at the Playing Fields kept the creek going down to False Frenchmans. The doline on the flat was empty.

The entrance pitch was rigged quickly with terylene abseil rope. Water had recently flowed over the 40' and rushing water noise was audible just up Sand Passage. Some water had run in to Horseshoe Cavern but only a puddle had formed in the lake bed.

The 50' pitch at the end of Railway Tunnel (i.e. "Ninety Foot") was rigged with a thin terylene rope of Julia's which I found uncomfortable on piton/brakebars. A surprise was waiting for us at the bottom. Neil spluttered something about water at the bottom of the pitch. It proved less serious in that the landing was no sloppier than usual but the river was only 10' away. The water level was 1' below the pool at the foot of the "aven dripping water" (p. 37 in the Mammoth book). One of the charcoal packets we were supposed to recover was thus 30' below water level and through 100' of siphon. It was left there.

This record level of Central River made me worried about getting through the Dry Siphon. However it was OK but might not have been but for the drainage work done on the other side on the last trip. Once through the Great North Cavern visit was vetoed due to lack of time. The Bypass was running strongly (0.7) taking half the flow at Ohmenez Squeeze (1.5). The Overflow was running, so it was seen for the first time running its length (0.5 at start).

The flow situation in the North West is very complicated indeed and I was not able to comprehend all that was going on in the time available. If I ever get another go at it I will have to take notes on the spot. The area of the flood passages could do with an exact survey of the detail.

With all packets in hand we came back through the Dry Siphon and had lunch. Getting back up the 50' with Jnars on muddy ropes presented some problems; Julia had some trouble with her Jumar slipping, attributed to a combination of worn cam plus mud on the rope. The lip proved very difficult and Julia now considers it should be done on ladders.

From then on, getting out and derigging was routine. Julia and Co. retired to wash gear. I insisted Bev get a photo of Bow Cave in action, and then went up the creek to get more flow measurements, taken rather hurriedly.

I got back to find Beverley waiting for me and the others gone. Had a cup of tea and left. Called in on Ernie (Holland) who had collected the charcoal bag from Imperial Cave River. Ernie also gave some further information on the flood. It followed a fall of 170 points with a follow-up 30 points. Water ran through the Devils Coachhouse for approximately 50 hours.

It started to rain at Mt Victoria so my rainmaking record remains intact.

- Henry Shannon

SUSS At Large In Tassie

On December 19th 1971 five members of SUBW and SUSS left Sydney for Tassie. The trip was to be a combined walking and caving trip. The walking (yes, I did say walking, there are still some SUSS members capable of walking even if they are in need of a good head-shrinker) part of the trip was to be a leisurely stroll over the Eastern Arthurs to Federation Peak, via the yo-yo track. Then into and through the Western Arthurs, to Scotts Peak Dam. To cut a long story short we did climb Federation Peak on Christmas day. We then ran into a week of bad weather culminating in a rather 'memorable' New Years Eve in a small tent in the teeth of a blizzard, in an emergency camp site, on the Crags of Andromeda -we bailed out by the shortest possible route to the dam and cascade house.

In Hobart we were to be recipient to the legendary hospitality of the Kiernan household. With Kevin as guide four of us went on a day trip to Exit Cave to show the other rainmakers the glories of Tassie caves. They were suitably impressed. Incidentally there is much to be said for the trip without the inconveniences of a heavy pack and the after effects of the cave-man's dinner - we did the round trip to the east grand Fisher from the cars in less than half the time that it took some of us to make it to Camp 2 (about half way) last year.

If anyone wants to Tassie I recommend that they take a flight over the South West. We went on a flight with Jim England of 'Tasmanian Aviation Services' which took the following route:- From Hobart west to Mt Anne, a flight around Lake Pedder with a landing on the beach and about twenty minutes there, then up and over the Eastern Arthurs, over Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour, and a landing at Cox's Bight. We had about twenty minutes there and returned to Hobart via Precipitous Bluff (great sunsets along the south coast and on the luff) and the Huon valley. All for £16 each. Jim certainly gave us our moneys worth, as well as the enjoyment of flying with a pilot who has a deep and real feeling for the South West.

Unfortunately the flight was marred by the tragic news of the death of Olegas Burbanas awaiting us on our arrival.

A trip to Mole Creek followed, where we went through Wet Cave which is a magnificent river cave replete with some excellent decoration, which if you are careful does not involve getting wet above the chest. This cave is unfortunately adjacent to a council picnic area and has recently been included in the tourist bureau's publication 'Lets talk about Deloraine'. As a result I can not see this cave remaining undamaged for long.

The following day we were trying to find the upper entrance to Kubla Khan and wound up in a small gully about 60' below and 200' to the left of the actual entrance. Inspection revealed a draught and digging ensued. Soon an entrance was uncovered leading into a new cave. This cave consisted of a passage leading down into a large chamber with a pile of large rocks composing the floor. On one side the cave has a low flat (4') extension the back wall of which forms the side of a narrow sloping rift in the floor. At one end, this rift leads upward in a chimney about 40' or 50' high, in this chimney was the skeleton of a wallaby in such a position as to indicate the existence of another entrance.

Towards the top the chimney widened and the rock became very powdery and rotten so investigation was not pushed. A passage along what appears to be the main joint line of both Kubla and this cave could be pushed but damage to formations would result. Such exploration would be vandalous. In all this cave has a large amount of very fine formation as well as a good quantity of the more massive variety. We named the cave Genghis Khan and it was mapped by Peter Lake and Trevor Catterall with a Silva Ranger and Tape (CRG Grade 4) Roger Lyle was the first to enter. Photos were taken.

As for the rest of the trip I managed to spend six glorious days at Lake Pedder and came back via the east coast of Tassie.

Present: Jim Seabrook(TL), Peter Lake, Trevor Catterall(M's), Roger Lyle(P), Kevin Kiernan, David Kelly, Peter Hatherly & Meridith Brown(V's).

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AT LEAST, ONLY £ 2.50

Yarrangobilly at Easter - March 30-April 4.

Present: Jack Vaughn (TL), Judith Vaughn, Murray Anderson, Keith Brister, Colin Mathers, Graeme McGown, Ian Milligan, Jim Seabrook, Rick Tunney, Rob Watson (M's); Michael Hintze, Lloyd Townley, Bruce Welch, Tony Sweetnam, Steve Firkin (P's); Plus visitors to the camp from S.U.E.W. Laura Antognelli, David Christian, Mike Hutchison, Roger Lyle, Mike Richter, Lindy Vadas.

With a few exceptions the members of the party arrived on Friday and caving was begun on that day, with parties to both East Deep Creek and the Eagles Nest caves. The second party which went to E.D.C. in the afternoon, spent some time trying to get frostbite while photographing the formations of the 'Donkey Tail' section in bare feet. (Only minor trouble was experienced in the rockpile, i.e. eventually everyone managed to get out.) We emerged to find that some had already left for the thermal pool, a practice followed on the Saturday also. On both occasions people from S.U.S.S. who visited the pool had the forethought not to wear frog gear and scare off the paying customers (i.e. tourists) there. This was appreciated by the rangers and will certainly not hurt our chances when applying for future permits in the area. After so much exertion the campfire was rather quiet. In fact, there was not a 'Lure of the Limerick' or 'Bazza MacKenzie' to be seen.

On Saturday the party again split into two; one group going to Eagles Nest and the other to Janus. Judging by the ability of Graeme and others to guide through Eagles Nest after only one visit the aim of familiarization was being achieved. Arriving back at camp the parties found the tell-tale tyre tracks and scrawlings of the 'Phantom Waffler.' These plus the date of the visit (April 1st) are a reliable guide to the identity of the visitor. That night's campfire was somewhat less subdued, especially around 11 o'clock with the return of the Kiandra pub group. It would have been even less subdued if a rock hadn't got in the way of Jim's flagon.

A subdued camp on Sunday found some taking their leave while a small photographic party visited Janus cave. The rest of the party departed on the Monday to make their various ways home after a storm broke our previously fine weather and forced the abandonment of a second photographic trip to E.D.C. The two basic aims of photography in and familiarization with some of the caves in the area in preparation for NIBICON was successfully covered. If people will bring along their slides from this trip I believe they should be worth seeing.

One point which was brought to the attention of several members of the party was the problem of conservation of cave formations. In all three of the above caves there was muddy evidence of the passage of

Cont page 20

SPELEOS OF THE WORLD UNITE COME TO THE SUSS DINNER

The social event of the year for the underground community
Its to be in the Sutherland-Holmes room at the Old Union
Big Pink Gus is coming in formals

cavers. some of the discolouration of formations can probably be attributed to dirt carried in by streams from the D.M.R. work. However, this does not cover the situation of mud over formations from people not prepared to 'de-trog' (both boots and overalls) before proceeding near or over formations. Jim said that there was noticeable dirtying of the formations in E.D.C. since last October and I could see some deterioration since last December. In Eagles Nest a crystal floor in a narrow meander has been very badly broken up in places despite the possibility of traversing this floor and avoiding damage to it (which our parties did). Also in this cave, in the chamber before the rockpile commences, there was mud on formations where it was clearly possible to avoid leaving any either by 'de-trogging' or walking around.

Much the same can be said for the main chamber in Janus cave, surely one of the most attractive sights, so far as formations are concerned, in any cave. Added to this we have the situation in Janus of a path having been marked out (which in itself may be desirable to avoid extending the damage) with heavy, ugly patches of green paint. This path also seems to offer people an excuse not to take off dirty clothes and boots as mud from the rest of the cave littered the path and formations on either side of it. It is likely that this mud will find its way eventually over the surrounding formations (especially if current practice continues) and thus there will be even less incentive to take care in the future.

None of these caves is past saving. Probably with some concerted work they could be restored to almost their original state. However, without some tighter control on access or the construction of paths along the lines of Henry Shannon's suggestions for Earellan cave, the current situation may well be reached again. That is, unless more rigorous standards for behaviour in caves are set and emphasized, either by the society or the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is not too outrageous to suggest that the entrance to Janus cave be gated; a task which would seem to be reasonable given this cave's entrance passage.

In conclusion let me say that the despoilation does not appear to be deliberate but to arise from the combination of fairly easy access and thoughtlessness. The aim of stricter standards for access would be not simply to reduce the numbers passing through (although this itself is desirable) but to emphasize to people who do cave here their responsibilities in the caves.

Jack Vaughn

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