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July 1972

Due to the impending metric conversion we will  
in future quote our circulation in metres  
This months circulation is 5.791 metres.

# BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Lumen  
in  
Tenebris*

# SUSS

## SUSS ANNUAL DINNER

This year the dinner will be a joint  
SUSS/UNSSS venture.

Mary Goudron, this years guest  
speaker, has defended such controversial  
conservation cases as Warwick Cousell's  
Bungonia campaign.

The dinner is to be held on Friday  
28th July, starting at 7.00 pm  
in the Holme and Southerland Room  
in the Old Union.

|          |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|
| TICKETS: | \$4.00 | Single |
|          | \$7.50 | Double |

Tickets should be purchased at least  
one week before the 28th to allow  
for the ordering of food, prog and  
seating.

Tickets can be obtained from;  
John Holliday 54.1922

Ludwig Muenzenreider 428.2034

Ian Good U.N.S. 7.9.S.  
only



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# COMING EVENTS

July

6 GENERAL MEETING  
 Cullen Room Old Union at 7:30 pm or earlier at  
 the Forrest Lodge.

8,9 Jenolan  
 trip led by Jim Seabrook 746084  
 22 Jenolan (tentative)  
 trip led by John Dunkley 7599956

August

3 GENERAL MEETING  
 Cullen Room Old Union

6 Jenolan  
 trip led by Jim Seabrook 746084  
 24 Nullabor  
 led by G. Paterson U.N.S.W.S.S.  
 for information ring 571309

September

1st week Jenolan  
 trip led by John Dunkley 7599956

August

16 Albert Goede, President of I.C.C. and lecturer at Uni of Tas, will  
 give a talk on Exit Cave and other Tasmanian caves.

Lost & Found: Praktica Camera manual found at Cliefden, ring S. Firkin 552185

New Members: Philip Toomer (Associate), Steve Firkin (Full), Arthur Jenkins (Full)  
 Brian J. SPILSBURY is now trip leader.

THE EDITOR'S IMPERIAL ORDER OF MERIT goes to:-

Dunkles for producing pages 23 through to 26  
 also 'Spike' Milligan, Arthur Jenkins, Merlin, and of course Cinzano  
 for services above and beyond the call of duty.

SUSS has received its cheque for \$100 from the S.R.C. .

A. Jenkins thanks the secretary and the committee for the personal letter.

## "CLEANING GOES UNDERGROUND"

(reprinted from Sunday Telegraph, April 16, 1972 pp 43-44)

Cleaning a huge system of underground caves is the sort of job to give a housewife nightmares. You cannot very well run a vacuum cleaner or a mop over them so how do you get rid of the accumulated scum of years?

This was the problem they faced at Jenolan Caves, one of New South Wales' most popular tourist spots. And the solution? Steam cleaning, the same process used to smarten up old cars and stone buildings.

The Caves, cared for by the New South Wales Tourist Bureau, are about 70 miles due west of Sydney in the main Dividing Range.

The Caves' manager, Mr Victor Onorato, believes it is the first time steam cleaning has been used on any cave system in the world. But why was the cleaning necessary in the first place. Mr Onorato explained:

"The lustre of the formations was due to the dust and grime accumulating in the caves", he said. "Scrapings were taken from the Orient Cave, the oldest cave on the south side of the Jenolan Grand Arch, and after this was analysed it was found that a great percentage of the scrapings consisted of animal fibres from peoples' clothing"

So it was necessary to clean the cave back to its original state, returning the lustre to the stalactites (the formations growing down from the roof), the stalagmites (those growing up up from the floor) and the helictites (those growing sideways). The problem was how to do this without harming the cave's beauty.

"Originally we tried scrubbing down the cave by hand but this proved tedious and difficult," said Mr Onorato, "An engineer then suggested steam cleaning. The next problem was how to get the steam into the cave. A kerosene boiler was tried but this presented soot problems, the combustion was not good enough and the fumes were dangerous. We then got hold of an electric boiler which needed a 415 volt power supply. The power supply to the caves is only 110 volts so a transformer was set up outside the cave with a special circuit breaker as well as other safety devices."

Outside contractors could not be used for the work as there was the risk of damaging the delicate formations. So, in February 1968, the work was begun by the guides of Jenolan. Two guides in particular, Ron Newbould and John Pope, have done most of the cleaning and the Orient Cave should be open to the public again by June of this year.

## Wedged

Mountaineering rope was imported from Austria so that the cleaners could reach the higher formations and a telescope scaling pole was wedged to the ceiling. To clean the high areas, the guide climbed a small, shaky ladder and then spun a web of rope around him so he could move from formation to formation with the steam-gun.

A comparison of sections that had not been cleaned and those that had showed just how dirty the formations get. The slightly coloured and waxen surfaced treated stalagmitic masses were far brighter and more dazzling than the formations that had not yet been cleaned. The lustre of the limestone formations was fantastic and the lights set up in the chamber to highlight some of the formations gave a beautiful and mystic effect.

## Lighting

There is only a little steam cleaning left to be done before the Orient Cave is washed down to remove any trace of detergent. After this, a general cleaning-up process will be undertaken in the cave and then it will be reopened. While the Orient Cave has been closed the guides also have repaired the tracks, rails and netting. New viewing platforms have been built and the lighting has been checked. Mr Onorato explained that after the Orient Cave is cleaned he hopes to continue the process in the other caves. The finance for the cave cleaning has come in grants from the Government and, if these continue, the whole system will undergo a facelift. "The whole process, after all the initial problems, has been very successful," he said. "The lustre in the cave is far better and more like what it must have been when the cave was discovered in July 1904, and when the public saw it first in 1917. The other caves need to be cleaned as much as the Orient but this cave was selected because it is one of the best at Jenolan. And people who have studied limestone caves consider it the best in the world," Mr Onorato said.

Trip Report = C L I E F D E N

June 10-11-12

Present : John Dunkley, Jack & Judith Vaughan, Graeme McGown, Bev Riley,  
Grahame Cox, Roger Lyle, Bruce Welch, Tony Culberg, Andrew Pavey

John, Jack and Judith arrived Saturday morning after staying overnight at Hampton House to deliver cappets - everyone else was up and ready to go. The weather was superb all weekend, though it was very cold (in the twenties) every night. Transmission Line campsite is vastly superior to Taplow Flat at the moment as the former has been cultivated somewhat.

Mr Dunhill was not at home so we were unable to get the keys to Boonderoo and Cliefden Main Cave as planned. So while Tony and Andrew wandered off to have a look at Wareemba Cave, a re-familiarisation proceeded at Taplow Maze. John and Bev began adding to the map across the top of the first 'well' inside the cave entrance. This ran quickly via a descending dusty tube to a 15ft drop into a large cavern which proved to be just inside the so-called danger section. Further exploration in the floor of this led us into a series of maze passages not previously known to SUSS, and not often entered by anyone. We called it a day, rejoined the main party which had been on a general exploration tour of the southern parts of the cave, and returned babbling to general disbelievers about, thousand foot 'goers' - the general reaction was "... oh, yeah ...".

Sunday it was decided to concentrate on pushing Taplow, and immediately the dreaded Cliefden lurgy struck several prominent sloths. This disease is alleviated by long periods of horizontality under the influence of ultra violet solar radiation. Roger drove us over in the van and we opened up with all tapes blazing.

The main party, later breaking into two, pushed around the innermost reaches of the new section, surveying out. Meanwhile, Jack and Bruce discovered a whole new section looping behind the entrance to rejoin the southern maze section in the aptly named Calcite Cantilever Cavern, where a huge slab of flowstone juts out 5ft from the wall with little support and several cracks.

Next morning, John to Andrew : "... and how many feet, then?" - "oh, no more than a couple of hundred metres" - pause for calculations - "er, would you believe 360 metres?". Added to that done by John Dunkley and Bruce Welch, some 1700ft for the weekend brings Taplow Maze Cave into the top ranking in this state, well over the mile mark, with plenty still unsurveyed and exploration prospects galore ... one needs an eight-inch microbod ... any starters?

Queens Birthday Holiday Prizes : The Julia James Enthusiastic encouragement Medal goes to Miss Beverley Riley for believing the story about thousand foot 'goers'. The Ron Murray Memorial for Weak Puns - Tony Culberg, who also shared with Mr McGown the humour department (?).

N I B I C O N IS COMING - are you ??



# First known cave dwellers found

MANILA, MONDAY

A PHILIPPINE-sponsored scientific expedition reported today the discovery of the first known living cave dwellers.

A Roman Catholic priest, Father Frank Lynch, chief anthropologist on the expedition, said the discovery of the cave dwellings of the 24 surviving stone-age Tasaday tribesmen in a rain forest in the southern Philippines was "of major scientific importance. I know of no other such discovery and my friends in anthropology agree. Some people have used caves for storage purposes but this is the first time we know that a natural cave is used for basic dwelling purposes," Father Lynch said.

The cave dwellers are members of the Tasaday lost tribe in South Cotabato Province, about 500 miles south of Manila.

The Tasadays were first found in dense forest last June but their cave dwellings were not discovered until last Thursday.

The expedition was led by Manuel Elizalde, a millionaire philanthropist who is president of the Panamin Foundation concerned with Philippine cultural minorities. United Press International

## ON THE CONTRARY

### Caveat emptor

MICHAEL SIFFRE, a French scientist, has spent the past three months living in a cave in west Texas. He is attempting to prove that if men lived underground they would fall into a 48-hour living cycle of 36 hours activity and 12 hours sleep.

Apparently Mr Siffre is in good physical condition and is eating well, though reports say he is "getting very bored with being tethered to a cable carrying wires that record his heartbeat, respiration and brain activity."

I am not surprised. Most of us would become bored, but even a little resentful, if we were tethered to a cable. Even goats, I should imagine, get tired of being tethered.

But only a scientist would be silly enough to spend three months tethered to a cable in a cave to prove something which commonsense tells us might be so, but which is of absolutely no practical use to humanity.

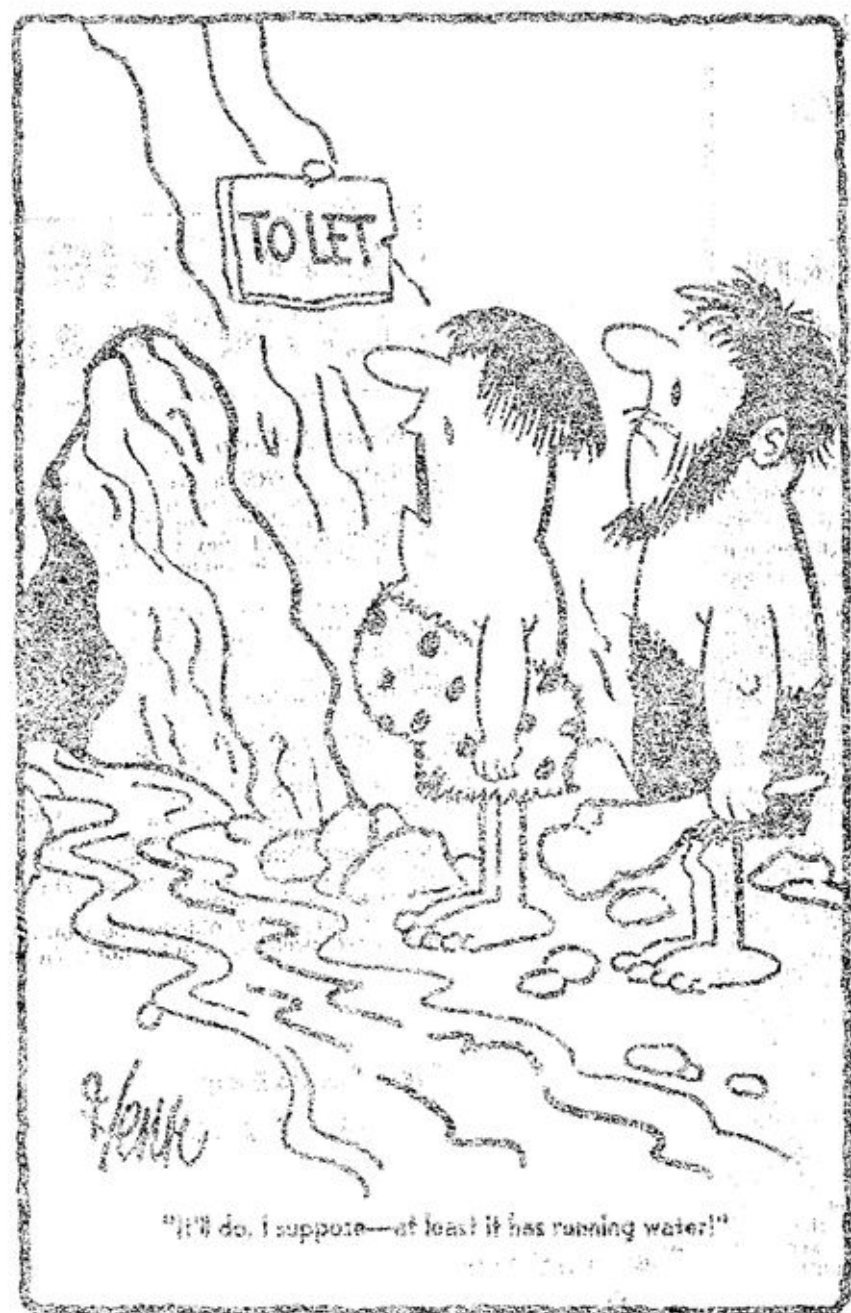
There are many hideous possibilities facing us. Alas, cave dwelling is not among them.

The Australian

14 / 5 / 72

The Australian

28 / 3 / 72



"It'll do, I suppose—at least it has running water!"

JENOLAN 5-6/5/72

Trip Leader: J. Seabrook

The objects of this trip were to:-

- a) Draw an extended longitudinal section of Wiburds Lake Cave
- b) Complete the survey of Bushrangers Cave
- c) Water tracing in Hennings Creek
- d) Place the entrances in Wiburds Bluff so as to tie in with the H.G. SURVEY up McKeowns Creek
- e) Map Wombats Retreat
- f) Look at some little known caves in the Wallaby enclosure
- g) Place a gate in Barallen Cave

On Saturday an early start saw the members of PSG heading to J92 to draw an ELS along the HG traverse. The equipment that they used was a Forestry compass and tape. The job took two days. A second party using Bruce Welch's light beam inclinometer and tape levelled from the maze to Henry's Dig.

A third party set off to map and explore a small cave just above creek level in Wiburds Bluff. We believe (ref H.S. Cusec) that this cave connects with the rockpile in J92 (this means that the upstream section of the rockpile that we mapped may well be new cave).

Saturday afternoon saw the arrival of Henry and co, who then proceeded to set up camp and wait the arrival of DUNKLES (which occurred lunch time Sunday).

After dinner Noel dropped in for a look at Mammoth Cave and a party was organised. We went to the southern section - Mammoth squeeze, Lower River Piza chamber, and the Railway Tunnel as far as the Skull and Cross Bones. The party got out of the cave with no difficulty, with one exception Meg, who climbed the ladder in a most unprecedented way (thank God for Jumar belays). Some people found this night's exercise a very good cure for insomnia.

Sunday saw a continuation of work in Wiburds Lake Cave. Another party completed the survey of Bushrangers Cave. DUNKLES arrived after lunch (too late to do the water tracing) and joined H.S. and myself in a look at Playing Fields Cave. Later that afternoon we strolled up to Wiburds and used the theolite to position entrances with respect to a station in the creek. That night we went to the house at Hampton-tres couth-.

On Monday we worked with Ron Newbolt in putting a gate in Barallen Cave some 13 odd hours of hard work. John Dunkley I believe is writing a separate report on this exercise so I will say no more.

After a hard days work on the Monday we took it easy and only mapped Wombats Retreat on the Tuesday. All in all it was a very successful weekend (all four days). Will all those who still have maps, ELS and other items still outstanding from this weekend please draw them up and get them to me as soon as possible as the work is only of value if the club has a copy.

Jim Seabrook.

At the committee meeting, May 17th a Jenolan sub committee was formed to coordinate the work at Jenolan.

## O B I T U A R Y - Alan Hill

Alan Hill, a Life Member of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia), died after a short illness on June 21, 1972. Some of the older members of S.U.S.S. are not likely to forget the inimitable manner in which Alan led the underground party in the 7-day camp in "Mullamullang Cave Expeditions 1966" and greatly assisted in preparation for C.E.G.S.A. and S.U.S.S. of the book "Caves of the Nullarbor". However, it was probably not so well known over here that Alan had been caving in N.S.W. for many years. He grew up in Sydney and went caving at Jenolan Colong and elsewhere more than 20 years ago. Indeed, only a few weeks ago S.U.S.S. recieved from him an old forgotten map of Mammoth Cave, ca. 1952, and some photographs. He had been a strong supporter of the Australian Speleological Federation from the start, and was instrumental in making the Seventh Biennial Convention at Goolwa, S.A., the great success it was. In his death, S.U.S.S. has lost a friend of long standing, and Australian speleology has lost one of its best known and most colourful personalities.

JD



ORA CAVE - NEW BRITAIN

When you see a sinkhole 1500' deep marked on a map and a fellow speleo has flown inside the lip of the doline in a helicopter (a certain Mr. Alan Keller), well, it is worth a look-see even if it is in pretty remote country.

The doline is a mile long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide and approximately 800' deep. The difference in height between the cave entrance at the bottom of the doline and where the water emerges a mile away would be 500'-800'.

The big doline is in the middle of New Britain, north of the Pomio patrol post on the south coast. The nearest village is Ora Village, marked as Timomo on some maps. The Kanu River wartime army map covers the area and is the one with "sinkhole approx 1500' deep" and another "sinkhole approx 1250' deep" on it.

To get to the area, I flew from Rabaul to Jacquinot Bay on 10th April, 1972 and then by tractor, launch, truck and walking to waterfall Bay. From there it is two day's walk into Ora village; three hours to the doline. I came out the same way but substituted a helicopter for the launch trip the entire trip covering eight days.

The doline is located on a range about 4000' altitude above the Ora village and the Esis River (pronounced Isso). The topography of the range consists of continuous dolines covered in tropical forest with some moss forest. Numerous small dolines were entered, all of which were blocked. The doline is a mile long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide and approximately 800' deep. It is difficult to estimate the depth as dense vegetation covers the near vertical sides. Nevertheless, it was an impressive sight. 200' down, I was stopped by cliffs and lack of time, but it appears possible to get down at the northern end. By hanging over a cliff, a large cave mouth at the bottom could be seen, perhaps 50' tall, and horizontal entrance with water flowing in. The roar of falling water was quite loud. The village people call the water in the doline "Ora number two", although they said they have no name for the doline or the cave.

The water emerges in a huge jet from a cliff about a mile away to form one source of the Esis River. The resurgence is approximately 1000' from the top of the cliff and 200' from the bottom (pers. comm. Alan Keller). The difference in height between the bottom of the doline and where the water emerges would be 500'-800'. Hopefully it is possible to follow the stream all the way. The size of the entrance and the volume of water emerging suggest that it might be possible. Potentially, the cave depth with avens would be 1300'-1500'. On the army map there are two cave entrances inside the doline, one at the north end and one at the southern end. I did not see the former.

There is an airstrip almost completed at Nutuve Mission so on any future trips one could fly Rabaul to Nutuve and walk to Ora village in one day thus saving 2-3 days travelling each way. The area itself is inhabited by the Kol people and is quite backward. A cargo cult is firmly established and, in fact, my trip was linked with the arrival of the cargo, so I received royal treatment. So if you would like to see a truly primitive area, and have a go at a potentially big cave get in contact. A trip is being planned to leave Rabaul about August, 1972.

R.M. BOURKE

ARE YOU INTERESTED? KEEN? BRAVE? NOT SCARED OF THE DARK?  
THEN TURN OVER FOR MORE DETAILS ON THIS FABULOUS TRIP !!!

TRIP DETAILS FOR ORA CAVE

The previous article Ora Cave in New Britain was sent to me by Bev Riely in order to promote the trip. Michael Bourke has already one taker from U.Q.S.S. and would like at least one other member on the trip. I have been given three dates for the trip and they are

|             |    |               |
|-------------|----|---------------|
| 7th August  | to | 19th August   |
| 20th August | to | 2nd September |
| 23rd August | to | 6th September |

Below is a copy of the letter accompanying the article

Ed

Dear Brian,

Could you place this article in the next S.U.S.S. Bulletin. It comes from Michael Bourke who is at present holidaying in Brisbane until mid July.

He wants another taker for a trip (three dates proposed) as he has already one - Alex Brown of U.Q.S.S. - but feels one other member is not sufficient.

Please note that starting are flexible (within the period mentioned) and that people interested can contact Mike at

16 Blackstone st. Indooroopilly 4068  
until mid July, then

D.A.S.F. Karavat, E.N.B.? P.N.G.

Bev Riley.

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PAPER IS WORTH MONEY !!!

S.U.S.S. needs MONEY...

T H E R E F O R E

S.U.S.S. needs PAPER

If every member, associate member and prospective member SAVES at least ONE AND A HALF YARDS of common, old everyday newspapers ( beg, borrow or steal some from your neighbours ) we should have a bloody lot of newspapers,

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N.B:-

One and half yards of newspapers is a stack of newspapers  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  yds) high. Help your neighbour get rid their old papers