

# BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Lumen  
in  
Tenebris*

# SUSS



FOUNDED 1948

Box 35, The Union,  
University of Sydney,  
N.S.W. 2006.

Registered in Australia for transmission  
by post as a periodical - Category B.

## GENERAL MEETING

Cullen Room, Old Union,  
Thursday, May 3 at 7 pm

Please note earlier meeting time and  
be prompt.

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Julia James

Dr James will speak about speleo-  
chemistry with particular reference  
to work she and other speleologists  
have been carrying out recently in  
the Bungonia Caves.

This talk is being arranged jointly  
with University of NSW Speleos and  
will commence promptly at 8pm after  
the general meeting.

-----

If there is a cross in the square  
below, you are unfinancial at the  
next meeting. PLEASE PAY ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTIONS WITHOUT DELAY TO THE  
TREASURER, Keith Brister. RATES  
ARE UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR →  
\$3-50 Full and Associate Members  
80¢ Prospective Members (6 months)



## F O R T H C O M I N G      A C T I V I T I E S

- May 3      GENERAL MEETING      7 pm in the Cullen Room, the Old Union  
PLEASE NOTE EARLIER COMMENCING TIME. Following the General Meeting, there will be a talk at 8 pm by Dr Julia James on Speleochemistry
- 5-6      CLIEFDEN      Denis Ward      6442497 (H) or 20248 x 233 (W)  
Exploration and surveying in Taplow Maze Cave. Good, easy trip
- 12      Meeting of Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society  
8pm, The Ballroom, Caves House, Jenolan. There will be a guest speaker, Mr K. Moffitt, Manager, Research Div., Dep't of Tourism
- 12-17      JENOLAN      John Dunkley      7599956 (H)  
Extensive surveying in Jubilee, Skeleton & Barellan Caves, (limited numbers)  
General exploration in non-tourist caves on the weekend.
- 26-27      JENOLAN      Ludwig Muenzenrieder      4282034 (H)  
Descent of Bottomless Pit (200ft pitch) and general exploration in area
- June 6      "Living and Caving in Puerto Rico"      - illustrated talk by Dr  
Graham Nelson, includes the fabulous Rio Camuy Cave. This is the Second Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture, so SUSS has a special interest. Venue is the Womens College, University of Sydney, Carillon Ave, Newtown at 8 pm
- 7      GENERAL MEETING      - 7 pm in the Cullen Room, Old Union
- 9-10-11      CLIEFDEN      John Dunkley      7599956 (H)
- 9-10-11      Skiing Trip      Denis Ward      6442497 (H) or 20248 x 233 (W)  
Weather permitting, downhill or crosscountry. Costs etc from leader
- 16-17      WOMBEYAN      Denis Ward      6442497 (H)      20248 x 233 (W)  
Surveying and General exploration
- 30-1      TIMOR      Ian (Spike) Milligan      6601508 (H)  
General exploration in this seldom visited area
- (sometime) TUGLOW      - gating of Main Cave, volunteers expected, details later
- July 5      GENERAL MEETING      - 7 pm in the Cullen Room, Old Union
- 7-8      JENOLAN      Ludwig Muenzenrieder      4282034 (H)  
Blitz on the Southern Limestone he says. Good prospects for exploration
- 10-11-12      First Australasian Conference on Tourist Caves (details J, Dunkley)  
Organized by the Australian Speleological Federation at Jenolan Caves House.  
All transport and accommodation arranged, or \$5 for non-residents.
- August 2      GENERAL MEETING      - 7 pm in the Cullen Room, Old Union
- 28      EISRIESENWELT      Jeanette Dunkley      7599956 (H)  
Quick flight to Munich thence by train. Limited numbers only
- 30      CZECHOSLOVAKIA      Jeanette Dunkley      7599956 (H)  
Tickets on sale at next general meeting. Plenty of caving following  
Sixth International Congress of Speleology
- Sept. 1-2      JENOLAN      Ludwig Muenzenrieder      4282034 (H)
- 30-31-1      CLIEFDEN      Denis Ward      6442497 (H) or 20248 x 233 (W)  
Taplow Maze Cave again? Or lilo bashing?  
- - - - -

Members are reminded that only limited numbers can go on trips to Jenolan, Cliefden and Wombeyan, so it is essential to advise the trip leader promptly if you wish to go.

## P R E S I D E N T ' S      R E P O R T      1972-73

John Dunkley

It is a great pleasure to present this, the 25th Anniversary report for S.U.S.S., a report on a year which was, in many respects, one of the most successful we have had. It was a year highlighted by our successful co-hosting of the first Sydney Convention of the Australian Speleological Federation, which turned out to be the biggest and most successful ever held. I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of the Society, all those people from many speleological societies who helped so much to make NIBICON unforgettable.

Caving: Jenolan was again the main attraction, as indeed it always has been, there being at least 12 trips in addition to the innumerable NIBICON field trips. The work, coordinated by a small subcommittee, centered on the following:

- a) Wiburds Lake Cave: under the enthusiastic leadership of Jim Seabrook, this was the year's major project. Surveying, levelling, water tracing, exploration and conservation were carried out, and papers were presented at the ASF Convention outlining the work here.
- b) Barellan Cave: Encouraged by the Jenolan guiding staff, our two major vacation trips enabled us to install a gate, survey the cave, lay a path through the decorated section, and assess the future possibilities.
- c) Southern Limestone: Ludwig Muenzenrieder has begun to thoroughly map and explore this area, which promises to be one of the major projects for the coming year.
- d) Beyond Wiburds Lake Cave: A preliminary report on limestone deposits and karst and cave development beyond this area has been published in the Bulletin. Henry Shannon (UQSS) and John Dunkley have taken most interest here.
- e) Mammoth Cave: SUSS had a hand in the exploration of Twiddle-on-Pom, a major new discovery in this cave, which has otherwise not received a great deal of attention this year other than by NIBICON parties,
- f) Chifley Cave: Some exploration and surveying was done with some guides in the Flitch of Bacon area.
- g) Minor Caves: Several of these were explored and mapped by a number of interested people. I draw attention here to the potential in Henrys Hole.

Hydrology and geomorphology work was continued at a reduced pace.

Other Areas: At Cliefden, 1700ft of Taplow Maze, including several hundred feet of new discovery was mapped, bringing the cave over the one mile mark.

At Cooleman, 2 trips carried out more surveying in New Year Cave, fluorescein testing in Frustration, New Year and Z caves, and surface work. This project is continuing under Ludwig Muenzenrieder.

At Kybean, there was what the leader called 'an exercise in trivia for five days'. From what I heard and read it must have been a great convivial gathering, and I can only regret that there are not more such trips to relieve the tedium of the Jenolan circuit.

Other areas visited during the year included Yarrangobilly, Ettrema, Colong and of Course Wee Jasper. John Dunkley and Peter Radcliffe went on the Precipitous Bluff expedition to the south coast of Tasmania.

SUSS BULLETIN: A special vote of thanks must go to Brian Spilsbury, who volunteered to take on this difficult task, and while working under considerable difficulties managed to produce the largest volume for 6 years. It is to be regretted that he is unable to continue this year.

Meetings and Functions : Undoubtedly the event of the year in this category, other than NIBICON, was the Annual Dinner, which we shared for the first time with the University of NSW speleos. About 80 people certainly had their money's worth from Miss Mary Gaudron, and our reputation was damaged only by the cold-blooded shooting down at point blank range with a Union bun (deadly weapon!!) of a waitress by a certain Vice President of UNSWSS. We regret to report, too, that Miss Gaudron's husband was unable attend, due to circumstances genuinely beyond his control. There were also some gatherings at Ludwig's place, about which the less said the better perhaps. I do hope that there will be more field days and barbecues this year.

The Coming Year: 1973 promises to be another great year. I predict that the focus of activity at Jenolan will move away from Wiburds and Mammoth to Jubilee Cave, the southern limestone and perhaps more in the Barellan. However, there has been some concern, quite rightly I think, about the lack of trips to areas like Tuglow, Bungonia and so on, and I urge people to think and consider a trip to these less often visited places. It is time some people applied to be a trip leader, too.

Conclusion: Many thanks to members of the Committee for their hard work in the last year, especially to Bulletin editor Brian Spilsbury, to Secretary Graeme McGown, and to Ludwig Muenzenrieder for assistance on many fronts. I have been President of SUSS for 4 of the last 5 years and that is more than enough for anyone. This is SUSS's 26th Anniversary Year, and I strongly urge the new President and Committee to make it, like the last one, another year to remember.

#### RESULTS OF ELECTIONS AT A.G.M.

PRESIDENT	- Ludwig Muenzenrieder	EDITOR	- Arthur Jenkins
VICE PRESIDENT	- John Dunkley	SAFETY OFFICER	- Bruce Welch
SECRETARY	- Ian (Spike) Milligan	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	- Wendy Mackenzie
TREASURER	- Keith Brister		Jim Seabrook
LIBRARIAN	- Terry Fardouley		Phil Toomer
		EQUIPMENT OFFICER	- Wendy Mackenzie
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR REMOTE AND INACCESSIBLE PLACES	- Ron Murray, Henry Shannon, & Norm Poulter		



## SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Financial Statement for the Year 1/3/72 to 28/2/73

Membership - Full	110.44	Publications - stationery	25.72
- Associate	42.30	- duplicating	51.15
- Prospective	61.10	- postage	29.45
Trip Fees	43.45	Secretarial expenses	10.00
Annual Dinner	266.00	Subscriptions - A.S.F.	35.00
Sale of badges and cards	5.15	- 'Helictite'	2.50
Bank Interest	4.63	- National Parks Association	4.00
Sale of publications	.60	- NSW Film Council	8.00
Grant from Students Representative Council	100.00	Annual Dinner	259.79
Donations collected for Bungonia Committee	33.00	Purchases - aluminium staff	52.00
=====		- Brunton compass	44.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	666.67	- ropes	47.20
Balance brought forward 1 / 3 / 72	123.74	- track markers	24.37
=====		- ladder parts	40.54
	790.41	- fluorescein	25.00
=====		- map copies & aerial photos	6.89
		- tin for protection of forestry compass	1.25
Jeanette G. Dunkley		Donations for Bungonia Committee	33.00
TREASURER, 1973		Purchase of Mammoth Book	2.75
		Hire of movie projector	4.00
		Cheque book	3.00
		Payment to L. Muenzenrieder for post-dinner damage	5.00
		=====	
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	714.61
		Balance carried forward 28 / 2 / 73	75.80
		=====	
		Balance carried forward	790.41
		=====	

I have examined the Books, Accounts and Vouchers submitted for Audit of the Society's activities for the year ended 28th February, 1973. As established by your Treasurer there is an amount owing (by Gestetner Pty Ltd) of \$22-98 which the Society should collect as soon as possible, simply by writing and asking for a cheque. This would augment the Balance, \$75.80, carried forward. In my opinion the above Statement is a correct record for the year then ended, and as shown by the Books

Killara, 21st March, 1973

EDGELL HUNT, A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Brian Spilsbury

1972-73 was not actually a great year for the Bulletin. Stereotype fillers such as advertisements for NIBICON and the Mammoth book appeared far too regularly. Most issues were not balanced, in that some were all trip reports and others mostly club chatter.

As editor I do not think I edited one article; in fact I wrote pages of fillers to fill blank holes and half pages left by the all too few articles. You may have noticed that the articles were all written by a handful of members and trip leaders who had to supply reports.

To get one issue of the SUSS Bulletin out, reports have to be written, stencils typed and pages printed and collated. Usually all this work was left to a few people every month and I would like to thank those people.

If you would like to help with the Bulletin, all you have to do is to write one article, type a stencil or just come along to a printing and collating night; it does not take long with a few helpers.

The Orientation Week issue was the only bright spot in the year, and more than the usual number of people contributed towards it. This should be the monthly standard of the Bulletin and it is available if more people help.

## REPORT ON MAP COLLECTION

John Dunkley

During the year the map collection was reorganized into several large folders stored flat instead of folded, which makes recovery and copying much easier. The Committee determined that no originals of maps are to be taken out, but copies may be borrowed, and more are being obtained. A catalogue of our map holdings, totalling about 150 items was prepared and supplied to the NSW Coordination Committee of the Australian Speleological Federation, who published it in a comprehensive list of NSW Cave Maps. The SUSS list can be obtained free from me (only a few copies), the NSW Map List costs only \$1 and is recommended to avoid duplication of other work. An incomplete list of our maps was supplied earlier to another society as a matter of courtesy in good faith, and it is a matter for regret that they saw fit to plagiarise this work without acknowledgment and against our express wishes.

A number of maps of great importance are nearing completion, notably those of Taplow Maze Cave at Cliefden and Wiburds Lake Cave at Jenolan, both of which total over one mile in length. A number of maps are being redrafted to metric standards and members are strongly requested to use in future only the standard metric scales and standards recommended by the Australian Speleological Federation. It seems likely that agreement will shortly be reached on standard sheet sizes and that preprinted drawing sheets will be available from the A.S.F. in A2 and A4 sizes. Members carrying out surveys are especially requested to xerox the survey readings and notes and place a copy in the library.

## LIBRARIANS REPORT 1972 / 1973

Generally the usual stream of periodicals and publications were received and catalogued. Nevertheless, a good deal of cataloguing still needs to be done and the new librarian will have this task before him or her. A new system of recording periodicals has been suggested based on standard library periodical cards.

No further books were received during the year but the use of the library has increased considerably over previous years. Some books are still on loan and reminders have been sent. Members are reminded that books, periodicals, etc, may be borrowed or perused on any subject relating to speleology. Trip reports and maps may also be seen subject to suitable arrangements.

All in all, the year has seen a steady increase in the size of the library and it is anticipated that greater use will be made of it over coming year. Finally, a cataloguing day should be organized by the next librarian so that members can both help and see what the library is all about.

LUDWIG. G. MUENZENRIEDER  
LIBRARIAN S.U.S.S.

## BREAKTHROUGH U.S.A.

Great news!! MAMMOTH CAVE and FLINT RIDGE SYSTEM connected.

Total surveyed length over 144 miles.

The connection between the systems was discovered on August 30 th 1972 by members of the Cave Research Group. The name of a famous Mammoth cave guide was found on the wall of a low water passage in the Flint Ridge cave system. On September 10, 1972, a party surveyed 5500 feet of passage heading towards Mammoth cave. After pushing through a low river passage with 12 inches of air space, they emerged next to the old tourist trail in Mammoth cave.

The portal to portal trip covered 7.149 miles underground. The party was led by Dr J Wilcox.

The surveyed length of the FLINT-MAMMOTH CAVE SYSTEM as of September 30, 1972 is 144.448 miles.

N.S.S NEWS, Vol.30 No 12, December 1972.

## WANTED.

Information on your favourite cave Area, or en route to cave area restaurant for a planned booklet. Let others know what delectable eateries you have discovered. Contact Joy Muenzenrieder, 20 Figtree St, Lane Cove.

DESCRIPTION OF A SMALL CAVE ON THE SOUTHERN  
LIMESTONE OF JENOLAN.

In September 1972, a number of caves were examined in this region some of which are well known. This short article deals with one of the less well known caves in this area.

This cave is located about 400 metres south of the end of the third car park and while small, it offers a good example of structural control in cave development. The entrance was found after a lead from some of the Guides at the foot of a cliff in limestone of Silurian age. This cliff, like the valley follows the line of the strike. The initial entrance is between bedrock and a rockpile but after about 2 metres it lies entirely in bedrock.

Three main sections of this cave can be described based upon the depositional features and levels present. After a drop of 6 metres, there is a narrow and elongated passage trending S.W. for 10 metres which divides and joins again after a bend. The second section begins at this divide and lies about 2.5 to 5 metres below the former. This leads in a northerly direction until an obvious sink is seen on the floor which marks the beginning of the third section. The first and second contain some coral like formation on the walls with some breakdown material on the floor and a good deal of soil debris and gravel which suggests the presence of an old stream. The final section lies below the sink which is 12 metres deep and leads into a chamber which contains large limestone blocks up to 5 by 2 metres in size. These appear to have slumped down the dip slope of the limestone. A very obvious gravel bed is present on the western side of this chamber and suggests that this whole system was probably an old resurgence point for Styx creek.

L.G.MUENZENRIEDER.

