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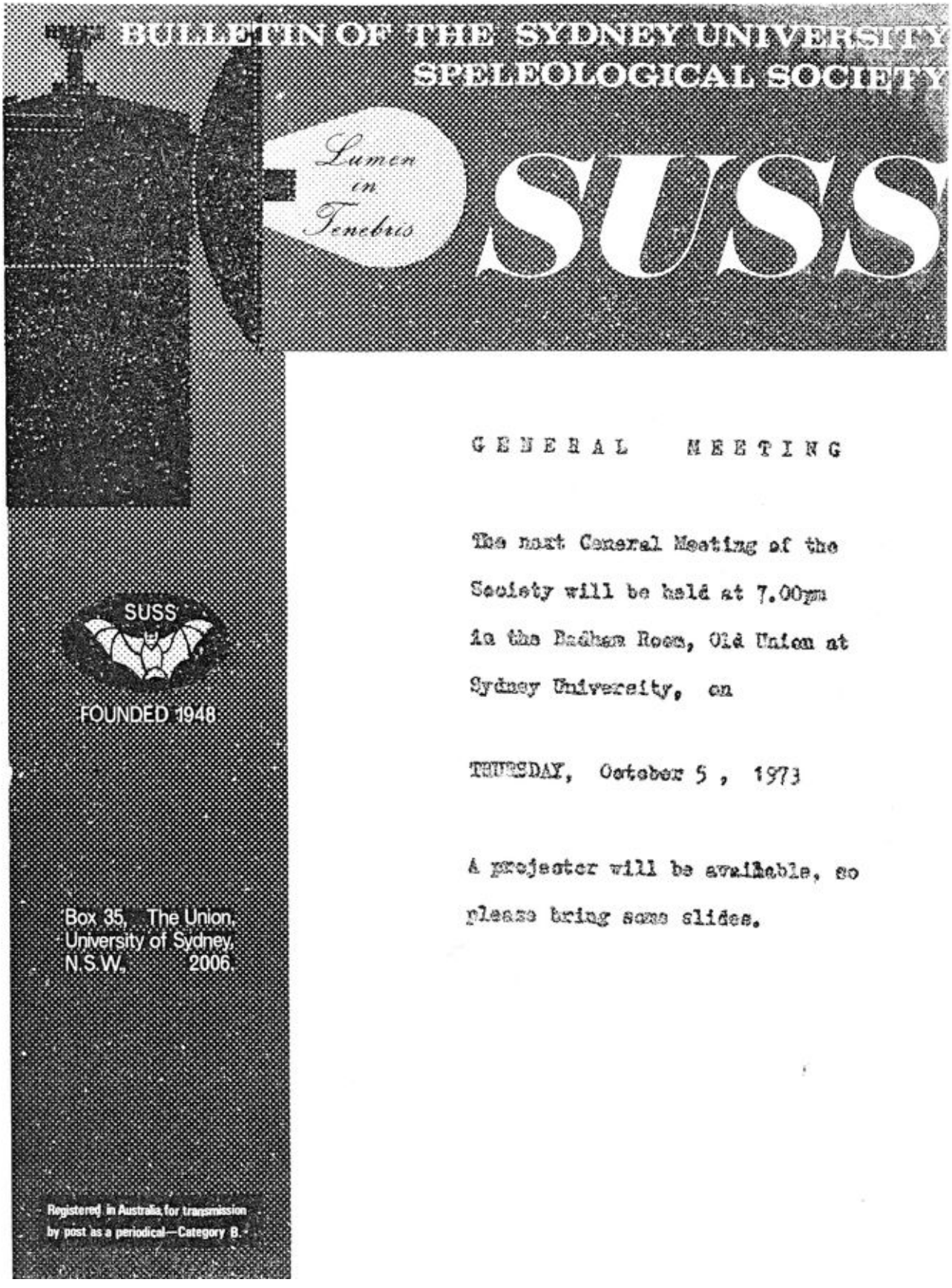


GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7.00pm in the Badham Room, Old Union at Sydney University, on

THURSDAY, October 5 , 1973

A projector will be available, so please bring some slides.

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

September 29 - Oct. 1	CLIEFDEN	Denis Ward	6442497
	A bash on finishing the survey of Taplow Maze Cave, and diverse other activities		
September 30 - Oct. 1	YARRANGOBILLY	Keith Oliver	6231768
October 5	GENERAL MEETING in usual place, Badham Room, Sydney University Union (the Old Union) at 7. pm		
13-14	TUGLOW	Jim Seabrook	746084
	Gating trip with plenty of time for inspection of this most interesting area. The cave is over half a mile long.		
13-14	CLIEFDEN	Keith Oliver	6231768
13-14	JENOLAN	Rick Tunney	
20	(CANBERRA) meeting to discuss future speleological work at Yarrangobilly. All welcome, enquire at next SUSS meeting.		
27-28	CLIEFDEN	Keith Oliver	6231768
November 3-4	WONDERLAND (tentative)	Denis Ward	6442497
10-11	YARRANGOBILLY	Rick Tunney	
10-11	CLIEFDEN	Keith Oliver	6231768
10-11	JENOLAN	Bruce Welch	991013
	Mammoth Cave - attempt to follow up Waterfall Passage in northern section of the cave. Possibilities of big discoveries here as there is some evidence of another entrance in the area.		

NOTE: There will be no meeting in November, due to examinations, nor in January.

The Cliefden trips led by Keith Oliver are not SUSS trips, but we have received an invitation to come so if you are interested you are quite welcome, but contact Keith in advance.

Members are reminded of the necessity to let the trip leader know well in advance if you wish to come on a trip, as numbers are limited on all the areas to which the above trips are going. If after saying you'll be going, you decide to drop out, please give the trip leader a ring so that late starters can then be accommodated in your place.

Rumours of trips to Tasmania have been heard for the Christmas period and January. Further details, perhaps, at next meeting.

WELLINGTON

During a New England University field school (27/8/73 to 5/9/73 I.Hannam,K.Dietrich and the writer did geomorphological research on the Wellington Caves area. Previous work on this area has been carried out by Colditz(1943) and Frank(1971). Colditz has suggested that the lag quartz gravels present on the limestone about 1 km. south of the caves represent remnants of a late Pliocene base level of the ancestra Bell River. Frank has argued that in the Pliocene or early Pleistocene,the Bell River shifted from its course on the limestone, into an "alluvial Corridor" to the east.It was then captured by the ancestral Catombal Creek or a tributary thereof, and has since occupied the valley to the west of the caves.

Our study does not support these conclusions. Pedological investigations indicate that the depp mantels of the corridor are of colluvial origin,derived mainly by lateral sub-surface movement of finer particles. Only a few scattered surficial gravels are present, almost certainly transported by slope processes from the limestone above. The abrupt right angled bend in Bell River near the Catombal Creek confluence ,also cited as evidence of capture(Frank,1971) is explicable in terms of structural control. The folded Palaeozoic rocks of the area strike slightl east of north, and the major valleys and ridges follow this alignment.The more westerly flowing reach of the Bell River downstream from the Newrea appears to be fault guided.

Lag stream deposits on the highest part of the limestone ridge,include both ferruginous sandstone and conglomerate, as well as loose gravels. They closely resemble fluvial deposits underlying probable Miocene basalts on the hilltops near Newrea, 4km southeast. These Tertiary basalts and sediments extend discontinuously for a distance of at least 10km.,parallel to,and 1-2 km. north or east of the Belll River.The evidence suggests that during Miocene times,basalt flowed down the valley of the ancestral Bell River,forcing the river south or west to one side of the valley floor,and protecting the sediments from further fluvial action. Subsequently a new valley has been incised, leaving relict valley floor deposits on the interfluve.

In view of the similarities between sediments under the basalt caps and sediments on the limestone , the possibility that the latter represent a continuation of the basalt filled valley must be seriously considered. The highest parts if the limestone appear to be at least 20m. below the base of the Newrea sediments, but this discrepancy could result from differential uplift or persistence of sediments on the limestone during denudation.It is hoped to carry out further field work, including surveying, later in the year.

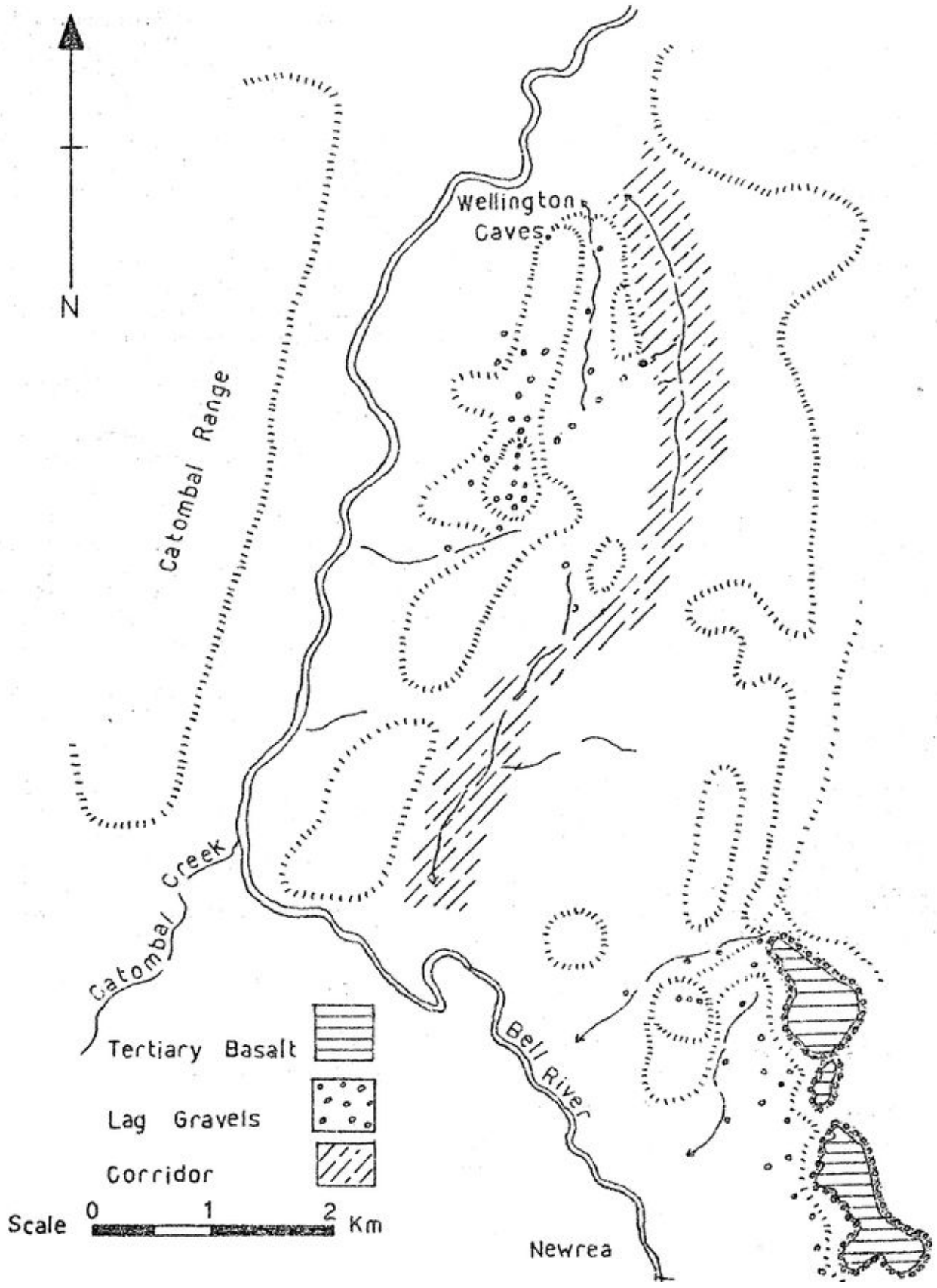
Geoffrey.Francis

References.

Colditz,M.J.(1943) The Physiography of the Wellington District, J.Roy Soc. N.S.W. 76 pp.235-251

Frank,R.(1971) The Clastic Sediments of Wellington Caves Helictite. 9 pp 3-26

SOME GEOMORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE WELLINGTON CAVES AREA



BUNGONIA

(22.5.73-27.5.73)

Tony Austin

Those present were:C.Lawlor,S.Warrell,G.Byrne,J.Warrell,D.Coles & J.Lawlor

The main objective of this trip to Bungonia was to do some digging in B22 (see previous report of trip to Bungonia-19.4.73).A secondary aim was to explore some of the smaller caves which so far have aroused little or no interest due to their size and lack of decoration. It is hoped that some of these may prove to be rewarding digs as they often drain large areas which belies their present known size.

Unfortunately we did not have any S.U.S.S. gear with us as it was being used on another trip but we were able to borrow 140' of ladder and 240' of rope from Mr. Rik Foster who had accompanied us on a previous trip. We are very grateful for this as without it we could not have done more than a fraction of what we did.

As the main body of the trip was not arriving till Friday night it fell to Steve, Cathy and I to do most of the prelimimary work. We arrived at the reserve late on Tuesday afternoon. After setting up camp there was little time nor inclination to go caving though we did meet two cavers from Bendigo, and arrange to do one of the larger caves with them the next day. We would have liked to do Drum but had insufficient gear to get any further than the second pitch so it wasn't really worth the time and effort of laddering and descending the 150' first pitch. It was eventually decided to do College Cave (B84) as it usually has bad air which should have dissipated somewhat with the colder weather. The fact that it looked like rain in the immediate future tended to favour the choice of a large cave where sudden flooding would be less of a hazard. Though no rain fell in the time we were there, and there were no signs of recent rainfall of any magnitude we found all the caves visited to be surprisingly wet throughout their length.

Wednesday 23rd May.

B84-T.A., C.L.,S.W. et al.
B22-T.A.,C.L.,S.W.

B84-College Cave.

The party entered this cave at 9.20 am with 20' of ladder and 40' of rope. As this was a new cave for all of us we had a bit of trouble in finding the best way to reach the head of the pitch- it being a nasty climb if tackled from the wrong point. The pitch was quickly laddered and descended, the party pressing straight on into the main passage after noting a number of inviting passages branching off the chamber into which we had descended.

The cave was particularly wet throughout its length and mud was oozing from all the cracks and joints in the walls. This mud had, in many cases formed some large and attractive formations. We reached the dig at the end of the cave at 10.25 am. It looks particularly promising though much work would be required as the mud is quite thick-a considerable amount of it already having been removed. It has been reported that a cool breeze can be felt blowing through the dig although we did not notice it ourselves. After a short rest at the dig the party returned to the chamber below the pitch and explored the passages we had noticed earlier. cont'd

We noted four main passages- all joining the chamber between ten and fifteen feet above the floor level. Three of these were explored to the end (in all cases this being an unnegotiable squeeze); we could not reach the fourth. The general trend of these passages was upward - one through a suspect looking boulder pile. A bat was seen near the end of this particular passage though no signs of others were noticed in the main portion of the cave.

I doubt that any of these passages could lead into significant extensions of the cave though they could afford an"easier" entry to the chamber by by-passing the pitch. We left the cave at 12.00am.

On the way back to camp we stopped to have a look at the Serpentine(B34).This is a small cave in a very big doline and thus could prove to be an extensive system. One of the cavers from Bendigo free-climbed down the entrance pitch and reported that the cave ended in a squeeze so the rest of the party did not bother descending.

The afternoon was spent at the cliffs overlooking Hogan's cave showing the Victorians how to abseil and getting a bit of practice ourselves.

B22-Acoustic Pot

Cathy Steve and I spent 30 mins. in this cave rigging the main pitch in preparation for the dig which we hoped to start the next day. The air was found to be really good to the head of the pitch - though this is not usually indicative of the air at the aend of the cave. This cave was also found to be surprisingly wet-a disadvantage as some moron had dumped some not-so-spent carbide just before the belay point of the pitch. We also noticed some new arrows at various points of the passage.

May 24th.

B22.T.A.,C.L.,S.W.,
B80.S.W.

B22. Acoustic Pot

We entered the cave at 9.20 am with 120' of rope and various digging implements, (i.e. 3 coal chisels and a hammer!). We tied off the rope at the top of the first climb after the main pitch and used it as a hand line for all the climbs to the end of the right hand branch where we intended to dig. At the junction of the two branches Cathy and Steve rested while I continued to the end to check the air.It was really good as we had expected. I then returned to rest of the group. After a quick snack Steve and I took the tools to the end. The passage is extremely tight in places though it is consistently high enough to stand up in until the end where it closes down to a very small.awkward chamber. Unfortunately the dig proved to be more difficult than we had anticipated. The end of the cave is a squeeze dipping down at about 30-45 deg. through water worn limestone. The passage continues down for about six feet before turning to the right.Unfortunately,due to the small size of the pagsage, it would be very dangerous to attempt the squeeze as it would be impossible to reverse out and a fellow caver could be of very little help. Steve and I spent some time trying to chip away enough rock to either afford an easier working position or to break through to the false floor of the

squeeze. As the rock is quite thick it will take much heavier tools that we had before a significant impression can be made.

By the time we decided to return the air was starting to become quite stuffy and the moisture present formed a fog which reduced visibility . We had some trouble at the 15' chimney/squeeze as Steve had a lot of trouble getting up due to his large size. Even with a knotted handline it is particularly difficult for people of more than slight build. The rest of the return trip was eventful and we left the cave at 3.00 pm.

I should add that we found a fair bit of fresh rubble at the junction of the two branches which had either been taken from where we had been digging or had come from the left hand branch which we did not visit. It certainly wasn't there when we visited the cave at Easter.

At 4.00pm Steve and I walked over to Beck's Gully to have a quick look at some of the caves there, The first cave we found was B70 though we did not enter as we had left the ropes and ladders back at camp. The next visited was B80. Steve entered and found it just as tight and unstable as ever. We then had a look a B61 and B62 before returning to camp due to the rapidly fading light. We arrived back at 5.15pm.

May 25th

B.21 T.A.,S.W.

Steve and I spent about 10 mins. looking at this cave. It is about 8' long and 8' deep. It is full of spiders,mosquitos and other such creatures. There are a few small holes around the entrance so the cave may be much larger than is presently assumed.

B17 T.A.,S.W.

The entrance to this cave is under a 10' cliff in the side of the B15 doline There is a slight passage leading off from the main chamber to a much smaller chamber where there is a small dig - probably aimed at joining B15. B15 entrance is still closed due to silting up between the cliff face and the shoring.
In all Steve and I spent about 15 mins in the cave

B42

I tried to enter this cave but found that the entrance squeeze was now impassable due to the large number of small boulders covering the floor and slope.

BUNGONIA (cont'd)
25th May.

B23 T.A.,S.W.
B23 is'a dug out cave, with shoring logs at the entrance.It is located in a broad shallow doline and consists of an 8 ft drop to an impassable squeeze beyond which a boulder filled rift can be seen'- or so it says in the 'Bungonia Caves'put out by S.S.S. last year. Thus I was somewhat surprised when I entered the cave to find that it descended considerably more than the expected 15 ft.

My descent was arrested not by a squeeze but by a 15ft chimney which I decided would be considerably easier ascended by ladder. Up to this point the cave descends through an unstable boulder pile which is tight but not difficult. Unfortunately nearly everything you touch seems to move which can be a little unnerving. Steve and I returned to the cave with 14ft of ladder (yes-14ft!) and rigged the drop-finding that it can be easily free-climbed both up and down. We then descended an 8 ft drop into a small chamber which had developed vertically and horizontally ie forming an 'L' shaped cross section. The horizontal portion formed a bedding plane slot descending at an angle of about 30 deg. We were unable to proceed further as the air in the chamber was quite bad.

We spent 1½ hours in the cave and hope to return when the air is better to explore it further.

B126. T.A.,S.W.,D.C.

B126 is a small cave about 60ft north of B43. It consists of a vertical solution tube about 15ft deep (which can be easily chimneyed) and two small non-negotiable passages perpendicular to each other. The cave looked as though it had been dug down from ground level though there was a natural mud level in one of the passages- We had been in the cave for about half an hour deciding how to go about the dig.

B43 UNSWSS Hole

T.A.,S.W.,C.L.

Before returning to camp we decided to have a quick look at this cave. We reached the 13ft drop with no difficulty and noticed that the passage past this point, though not negotiable, is probably at the same level as the mud filled passage in B126- they must be seperated by only a few feet horizontally. We did not descend the drop as the rock walls of the chimney are particularly sharp and uncomfortable. We were in the cave about ¾ hour.

B43 Part II

TLA.,S.W.,C.L.

We returned to this cave at 2.00pm taking 14ft of ladder with us for the 13ft. pitc It certainly isn't necessary but it can save much skin and clothing!

We reached the point where the cave trifurcates with no difficulty-finding the cave very wet and muddy. I tried to continue along the gravel floored extension but was stopped by bad air. We left at 2.45pm.

B126

T.A.,S.W.,D.C.

We spent a little over 2½ hours digging in this cave. We were able to remove a fair of dirt and rubble which was blocking the entrance to the more promising passage. We were then able to have a look at it and assess more accurately its 'diggability' The passage is tight and at present partially blocked by rocks and rubble. To remove this would be quite difficult due to the restricted working space available. Nevertheless it could well be worth the effort as it looks as though this cave carried a lot of water in the past.

B50

T.A.,S.W.,C.L.,D.C.,J.L.,

As Jenny and Duncan had done no caving before it was decided to show them through this cave first-it being extremely easy yet quite interesting due to its digs, fungus,fossils and the draft which blows through a slot in the south wall. We spent about half an hour in this cave.

B22-Acoustic Pot

T.A.,S.W.,C.L.,D.C.,J.L.

This was the next cave that the group visited after dinner. We only descended as far as the main pitch though some time was spent looking around the top end of the cave- to the left ffom the chamber after the entrance squeeze. We saw one bat though this area is often host to many more. We found many small passages though they were all either too small to negotiate or would require breaking through decayeing formation. We spent about ¾ hour in the cave before leaving at 8.15pm.

A NEW ROPE FOR CAVING

There is a new rope in the experimental stage,being developed by a German chemi: firm.It has fibres that overlap in one direction only, something like the scales on a snake.Thus it will slide through an opening in one direction,but will jam tight on the return pull.The effect is pronounced even on a smooth surface,as when sliding over an edge.The rope will not,for example, slide off a table over the edge in one direction.

This new material described in a U.S. Gov. report is reportedly about 2.3 times as strong as nylon with less elongation than nylon.It is reported as being rot,water and fire proof. Called "Polydolt" byy the American firm negotiating for the U.S. manufacturing lease, the test rope samples were both braided and laid.Although flexible like nylon, the ropes were extremely abrasion resistant.

The implication for cavers is enormous. A breakbar would be just a breakbar going down but turn the rope end for end and the same breakbar becomes an ascender.It will slip up but not down.Other wierd effects can be visualised.No place to tie off off? Simply lay the rope (in the right end-for-end configuration) against a rock, pile some breakdown on it to keep it against the rock,and it cannot be pulled free. A whole new set of knots has to be learned because once a conventional knot has been tied in it, it is virtually impossible to untie.Simple loops in this rope become prusiks when used on ordinary rope.
You can dream up unlimited uses.Further information from the rope's developers; Nichtderhandt Uberhanden Gmb.H., Schweisund.W.Germany

George Burdell
Huntsville Grotto Newsletter
Vol.VI No3 P.21

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON.

Louise Holliday has obtained some Christmas cards from Derek Barthow depicting scenes from two New Zealand caves.

Helictite Cave: Christmas Tree.
Waipuna Cave(at Waitomo): The Sea Dragon.

Photos by Derek Barthow. 25c. each or $2.40 per dozen.

See Louise or phone her at 463708.

FOR SALE.

Two(2) Oldham- Wheat Type 'W' Batteries with wire attachment for belt.
One unit JUNE 1970, the other March 1971. $4.00 each.
(N.B. These are batteries only - no cap or headpiece.)

Get in touch with Rik Tunney.

SPELEO SPLATTER.

The Society regularly recieves journals and newsheets from all the larger Speleological societies throughout Australia. These frequently contain information of interest and value to members of other clubs but few people can be bothered wading through a large number of back issues of some obscure magazine on the off chance of finding something of use.

To facilitate access to this material a review of current journals received by the Society will appear in each copy of the Bulletin. As this is the first time that this section has appeared in the Bulletin I will review all the magazines received, in future issues only those containing noteworthy information will be covered.

Needless to say all material reviewed can be seen in the Society library though it cannot be borrowed.

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SYDNEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The July edition of the S.S.S. Journal is devoted entirely to trip report of the Southern Caving Society Precipitous Bluff Expedition 1973. The report, written by Greg Middleton and Neil Montgomery, is extremely interesting and comprehensive. They give a summary of the conservation problem facing the area and then proceed to cover the trip chronologically, supplementing the report with maps, photographs and yet more maps.

The August edition contains a report of some original research carried out at Bungonia by Jane Dyson and Julia James entitled "A preliminary study of Cave Bacteria.". Not only does the article study the effect of bacteria on the chemical equilibria of the caves but also points out the possible use of bacteria in the tracing of underground water connections. The results so far obtained appear to confirm the connections indicated by Julia's research with dyes and speleochemistry.

Also included in this edition are trip reports from Jenolan, Walli, Lannigans Creek, Bungonia and Wyanbene.

U.N.S.W. SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The June edition of 'SPAR' contains notes on Nuigini, Bungonia, and Kempsey followed by an article entitled "Cave Arthropods of Camooweal Caves" written by Kerry Williamson(ex-UQSS,WASG). Then follows a series of articles and reprints on the cave diving deaths earlier this year in South Australia. A reprint from N.S.S. 'NEWS' 31(2) February 1973 tells of the linking of the Mammoth system with the Flint ridge system in Kentucky, U.S.A. to form the world's longest cave:144.448 miles in all! The next longest cave in the world being Holloch in Switzerland at 71.8 miles. The longest cave in Australia being Exit Cave (Tas.) at greater than 10 miles.

Also included are trip reports from Bungonia(4), Wyanbene(1), Jenolan(1), Limestone Creek, Vic.(1), Cliefden(1), Whale Beach(1) and the North Sydney drains(1) !!!

The July issue contains further articles on cave diving along with the usual pre-annual general meeting material. Following a breif history of the discovery and exploration of NIBICON (CL43), written by Keith Oliver (H.C.G.), there are trip reports from Tuglow, Cliefden, Kempsey, Wyanbene, Cooleman, Jenolan (Diving in Mammoth).

PENINSULA SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP.

The July issue of 'psg' contains a short article on webbing knots by Bruce Welch folloed by an article entitled 'Safety Helmets - How safe?' by D. Welch. The main feature article is a report of the Groups submission to the A.S.F. N.S.W. Liason Council on sea cave numbering, written by Phil Toomer and Bruce Welch.

There are also trip reports from Tathra Beach, Black Rerry/ Caves Creek, North Coast(Sea caves - two reports) and the Far South Coast(also sea caves).

The August issue contains an article by p. Toomer on the care of ladders. Also included are trip reports from Walli, Cliefden and Mudgee.

METROPOLITAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Apart from some internal news the No. 2 (February) issue of the Newsletter contains trip reports from Wyanbene/Bungonia, Bungonia, Byaduk Lava Caves(with maps), Cliefden, and Abercrombie (with maps).

The No. 3 issue has trip reports from Bungonia , Abercrombie and Church Creek.

KEMPSEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The July issue of 'Trog' contains two trip reports; one from Kunderang and the other fromSebastopol.

CANBERRA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The June issue of 'The Very Latest' contains four trip reports from Yarrangobilly, one from Cooleman and one from Tasmania. There is also a very good article entitled 'Safety Rules for Abseiling' by Julia James and Neil Montgomery of S.S.S.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB.

The July issue of 'Speleograffiti' contains some maps of Yarrangobilly by John Brush followed by trip reports from Yagby, Wyanbene(2), Mt. Fairy, Buchan and Rosebrook.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The No. 2 (May) issue of 'Down Under' contains so much news

and information (over 40 pages!) that only a very brief resume can be given here.The main feature of this issue is the very comprehensive article on the I972-73 USS New Britain expedition.It is very well written and covers all aspects of the trip,including the logistics which are all important for trips to remote areas.
an article on survival on report on the development at Pikes Creek, an article on survival in caves and a useful equipment review on screw-gate karabiners.

There are also maps of caves at Texas along with trip reports from Texas,Bunya Mts,Bungonia,Wyberba and Riverton-Texas.

The No.3(August)issue contains a report on the submission for Mt.Etna-Limestone Ridge along with an account of explorations in the Barfield area.Trip reports are from Flagstone Creek,Pseudokarst,Texas Kempsey-Stockyard Creek(2),and Warrick.There is also a report on a flying fox colony on Indooroopilly Island.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.

The June issue of "SPELEO-SPIEL"contains Part II of an article on Tasmanian cave fauna by Albert and Therese Goede.

There are also trip reports from Loons Cave,Ida Bay,Khazadum,Hastings area,Bungonia,Mole Creek,Exit(6 day trip).

The July issue contains the following articles:'Bolts as Artificial Anchors','Description of JF4-5-I4(Dwarrowdelf)-836' ', 'Marie Island'.TRip report from Hasting,Florentine Valley,Exit Cave and Cunners Quoin(SRT practice).

The August issue contains an informative article on abseiling and prussicking by Peter Shaw.In it he outlines a 'new'method for very versatile prussicking-using 3 jumars.

There are also trip reports from Sphinx Rock,Exit Cave(2),Wolf Hole and some maps of Khazad-dum(JF4-5-I4).

SOUTHERN CAVING SOCIETY.

The July issue of 'Southern Caver'contains articles on Precipitous Bluff,the Montagu Karst,Lake Pedder,and area reports on Maria Island,Frankistown,Ida Bay,Precipitous Bluff,Blackmans Bay,Junee-Florentine,Hastings and Sphinx Rocks.

There is also a trip report from Mole Creek.

The society also receives copies of the C.E.G.S.A.Newsletter, the V,S.A.'Nargan',the W.A.S.C.'The Western Caver'and 'N.S.S.News' from the States.We also receive journals from Greece and Spain but they are not in English. Tony Austin.

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"Chastity is much a virtue as malnutrition".

(SPAR 27)

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FOR SALE

Limited numbers only

CEGSA Occasional Paper No.4.

----MULLAMULLANG CAVE EXPEDITIONS 1966----
Editor: A.L.Hill.

47 pages + 1inch:200ft. map of Mullamullang(in 5 fold out sh

Valued at only $1.50

Although produced in 1966 so little has been done in Mullamul since then, that it is still quite up to date.Get yours now there are still a few left.

Order through:- John Foulds
The Secretary CEGSA
% S.A.Museum
North Terrace
Adelaide.

* * * ******* * * *

New associate member: Ian Frazer
22 Cook Tce.,
Mona Vale."2103 Ph. 992059

****** * * * *****

A Quotable Quote.

"Caving makes a cold bed-mate" (Committee meetingSept.1973)

# # # # # # # # # #

CONGRATULATIONS.

There was a note in Speleo Spiel (No.81,July 73) congratu SUSS on its 25th. Anniversity.

"Best wishes SUSS,us oldies have to stick together"

# # # # # # # # # #

Latest news from South Australia is that a little hole known Corra-Lynn(or Corrells)Cave is at least 3.5 miles long and sti going strong.Makes our NSW holes look a bit puny,eh!

& & & & & & & & & &

Cautionary Tales.

Rawbolt Bill was a careful lad,
A caver to be admired,
He never was bettered in sumps and rifts,
And never appeared to get tired.
Alas,one day he had a mishap
Whilst descending a difficult pot.
For though grannies and reefs came easily,
Bowlines they did knot.

Moral:Practise your bowlines blindfold.

Chelsea Speleological Society Newsle
Vol.No.14 No.2 (Dec.)

THE NOMENCLATURE OF BUSHRANGERS CAVE AND DIGGINS DIGGINS, JENOLAN

John R. Dunkley

Although the two caves described in this article have been known to SUSS by the names given them for over 20 years, there is some confusion still, and anyone with further information either refuting or confirming the proposed nomenclature is invited to contact the Society or the author.

BUSHRANGERS CAVE, J68-69-70-71

There is a legend that the bushranger McKeown from time to time lived in or hid in a cave in the Jenolan area, from the entrance of which he commanded an excellent view of the valley, and therefore of approaching search parties. The legend continues that, when holed up in the cave by a posse, he was able to escape by another entrance.

There is, of course, some doubt and dispute as to the existence of McKeown, never mind the truth of the legend (G. Francis, pers. comm.). However, about 22 metres above the alluvial terrace in front of Serpentine Cave, Jenolan, there is a commodious cave with 2 large and 2 small entrances, containing perhaps 300ft of passage in all, and numbered J68-69-70-71. This is the cave which has always been known to SUSS, apparently since formation of the Society, as Bushrangers Cave. The two large entrances are separated by a small ridge of outcrop and are suffiently far apart for a person to emerge from one entrance without being seen from the other. Both command an excellent view up the valley.

At about the same level above the valley but opposite Mammoth Cave is another cave, numbered J88 which is the one referred to by SSS as Bushrangers Cave. This cave is equally suitable for camping but its view is <u>down</u> the valley when in fact any posse would approach from the other direction. Furthermore it has only one entrance. On the other hand it is well hidden by vegetation and could be the one illustrated in White (1890).

The evidence placing J68-69-70-71 as Bushrangers Cave is

1. The statement by Trickett placing it further upstream from Mammoth Cave when J88 is downstream (APPENDIX 1).
2. The excellent view <u>up</u> the valley.
3. It is closer to the hut near Wiburds Lake Cave, allegedly built by McKeown, and in which he was allegedly caught.
4. It has been known as Bushrangers Cave since organized speleology began in NSW. (APPENDIX 2, 3)

The evidence favouring the claims of J88 may be summarized as:

1. Excellent camping site, marginally better than J68-69-70-71. (However, one wonders whether McKeown would have used it for any long period)
2. Well hidden by scrub.
3. Could be the one illustrated in White (1900) expert on bushranging, not caves.

SUSS proposes to continue using the traditional naming.

DIGGINS DIGGINS, J38

In 1953 one Fred Diggins of Kurrajong Heights contacted SUSS following publicity of the first diving trips in the Imperial Cave, with a story of a large cave containing a lake which he had seen many years before in the company of J.C. Wiburd. The cave was apparently quite some distance up McKeowns Valley and the lake was allegedly big enough to float a battleship. Subsequently Diggins accompanied two SUSS trips to the area in 1953, one led by Ben Nurse without result, the other apparently by B. Cobbin. Neither party located the large cave (which we presume was Wiburds Lake Cave, not rediscovered until 1963), but the latter did explore a cave, thereupon dubbed Diggins Diggins, which Mr Diggins said he had entered in 1914 (APPENDIX 2). Some excavation was carried out in this cave by SUSS and a survey has been done, and it has been known as Diggins Diggins ever since. There appears to be no documentary evidence refuting this appellation.

REFERENCES

BURKE, D.T. (1956) : Report of the Jenolan SubCommittee SUSS J. 3 (1) : 10

CROOK, A.P. (1957) : New Extensions of the Serpentine Cave, Jenolan. SUSS J. 4 (1) : 6

SHANNON, C.H. (1965) : Trip Report (Wiburds Lake Cave) with comments on historical aspects. Unpublished report, SUSS/UQSS.

TRICKETT, O. (1899) : Guide to the Jenolan Caves. Gov't Printer, Sydney.

WHITE, C. (1900) : A History of Australian Bushranging.

APPENDIX 1 (Trickett)

"From the Grand Archway the limestone belt extends northerly for about 3 miles, and is dotted here and there with caves. . . . The most distant are the Bushrangers Cave and McKeown's Hole, which are small, and have little beauty, but are of historical interest, as they were used as hiding places by a Bushranger named McKeown, and thus led to the discovery of the more important caves.

APPENDIX 2 (Burke)

"The publicity attendant upon the first diving trip in '53 led to Fred Diggins of Kurrajong Heights contacting the Society about an extensive cave upstream from the Mammoth Cave, which had been discovered in 1908. The cave entrance was in the foot of a prominent bluff on the western side of the creek, and the cave was said to be very extensive and to contain a large lake.

A SUSS expedition led by Bruce Cobbin found an entrance leading from a depression at the edge of a silt plain about 150 yards from the Bushrangers Bluff. About 40 feet along a horizontal passage was a 12 foot drop, and the cave then branched into two, one section ending after 150 feet, the other after 200 feet after Ian Driscoll and Dottie Neill had excavated three squeezes. Further excavation has been done, but with little success (the site was, of course, very soon dubbed Diggins' Diggin's). Mr Diggins has stated that this was the cave he entered in 1914 thinking it was the "very extensive one" but it need not be the one discovered in 1908.

APPENDIX 3 (Crook) - mentions Bushrangers as being directly above Serpentine

PROBLEMS IN NUMBERING AND TAGGING OF CAVES AT JENOLAN
(being a Report on a Joint SUSS/SSS trip, 17/9/73)

John Dunkley

Since 1970, SUSS has surveyed to Grade 4 or better about 3½ miles of cave at Jenolan, including nearly 2 miles to Grade 6. Use has been made of such modern equipment as automatic levels and electronic distance measuring apparatus in carrying out this continuing work. It rapidly became evident that there were a great many caves at Jenolan with no identification tags, including some well known for 20 years or more. The last published list of cave numbers was in Speleo Handbook in January 1968. Only 34 non-tourist caves appeared on the last surface map supplied to SUSS before this trip, although we understood that more had been tagged.

Apart from untagged holes, a number of anomalous cases in the system had to be considered, and the action taken on each is recorded in brackets:

J23 - Some published SSS trip reports refer to this as Bonwicks Dig, placing it in the gorge near the Coach-House. In fact it is the Bottomless Pit in the southern limestone. (no action yet)

J35 - SSS map marks it on J41 Bluff. In fact it is innthe next bluff upstream, (latter appears correct).

J46 - SSS map has two of them, one in southern limestone, the other on J41 Bluff (former appears correct).

J55 - Two caves had this same tag (one was changed to J131)

J65 - SSS map has two of them, one high above Mammoth Cave, the other near Serpentine Cave (latter is tagged, former not seen, not resolved)

J66 - Could not be found, marked on Bushrangers Bluff. There are no untagged caves left in that area. (could not be located)

J81 - Two caves had this same tag (one, the upper entrance to Serpentine Cave, was changed to J125)

J82 - An old description of a SSS trip describes this sufficiently for it to be recognised as what is known to SUSS as Little Canyon Cave, which is now tagged J61. (not resolved)

J90 - SSS map has two of them, one near Wiburds Lake Cave, the other near Mammoth Cave (not resolved, latter appears correct)

J91 - Marked on SSS map on Bushrangers Bluff. Could not be found, no untagged caves remaining in that area (could not be found, probably now replaced).

J93 - An old description of an SSS trip to this cave mentions a 120ft shaft and decoration. The cave currently tagged 93 is all of 3 metres long and 1 metre high. (not resolved)

In summary, we spent most of the day trundling up and down McKeowns Valley, pointed out 24 unidentified caves known to us and waited while Ben Nurse duly tagged them from 110 to 133. This was probably more than had ever been done in a day before but still leaves many on the SUSS Unnumbered Caves List, particularly in the Wiburds and gorge areas. If the second edition of ASF Speleo Handbook is to be correct for Jenolan, possibly 50-60 more caves remain to be numbered and tagged. We propose further joint inspections as soon as practicable.

CHECKLIST OF CAVES TAGGED 17/9/73 (all now positioned except 110-112 & 126)

110 - South of 53, just above 111, small hole

111 - another entrance to 26-27-53

112 -- 25ft above 26-27-53, slightly north, rift about 8ft deep, 2-3' wide.

113 - Small fossil stream inlet cave, 20ft long

114 - Fossil stream outflow cave

115 - Near 114. Glorified wombat burrow.

116 - fossil stream outflow cave, pointed out originally by Steve Opper.

117 - High level cave under cliff, about 3 metres long

118 - small entrance to fossil cave high on hill

119 - main entrance to 118

120-1-2-3 - Bushrangers Bluff Cave, 200ft long (SUSS name)

124 - Near 62

125 - Upper entrance to Serpentine Cave. Replaces duplication of 81.

126 - The Roost - hole in cliff face in gorge. Not yet tagged

127 - Rift near first bridge in gorge

128 - Hole in cliff face near Frenchmans Cave.

129-130 - Another set of holes in cliff face near Frenchmans Cave.

131 - stream level rift at base of cliffs. Replaces duplication of 55.

132 - (SUSS) Camping Cave (traditional name). Not tagged

133 - Henrys Hole (traditional SUSS name ca. 1960)

134 - Playing Fields Cave (traditional name ca. 1952)

CHECKLIST OF APPARENTLY UNNUMBERED CAVES

This is a preliminary checklist of caves known to SUSS which are apparently unnumbered and untagged. Except for the 24 listed above which have now been tagged, this list is correct as at 11/8/73. though more may since have been identified by SSS. Each has been positioned unless otherwise noted. Arbitrary numbers have been allocated to assist in future identification in reports etc. and until such time as SSS affixes a tag.

1001 - In rocks near Carlotta Arch

1002 - Holes in top of Carlotta Arch

1003 - Wombats Retreat (Traditional SUSS name) after H. Shannon)

1004 - Peter Lambert Cave (H. Shannon name)

1005 - Dreamtime Cave (proposed name, H. Shannon), large cave overlooking Devils Coach House.

1006 - No details, inhabited by animals, base of cliff near pinnacle

1007 - Old very small cave choked with decoration, high above Playing Fields.
1008 - 35ft deep cave off Alladin track
1009 - Not checked, off side Alladin track, said to go down steeply.
1010 - Small horizontal cave above creek near 84
1011 - Fire Pit - 35ft hole (SUSS name 1973)
1012 - Twin Shafts (Speleo Handbook name)
1013 - Cubby Hole Cave (name proposed Steve Newbould)
1014 - "YMCA Kids Cave" (identifying name only, suggest Kids Cave)
1015 - Hairy Bunyip (A.J.Pavey name). Hole in gorge wall.
1016 - Toad Hall (Guides name) also called Coronet Cave (MSS)
1017 - Dig on hillside with visible tailings
1018 - "Guides Cave no. 1" (identification only), possibly J45
1019 - "Guides Cave no. 2" (identification only?), fissure at base of cliff near 1018
1020 - small cave on west side upstream of car park
1021 - small hole in rocks opposite school
1022 - Hole allegedly 90ft deep, could be same as 1018 or 1019, not checked
1023 - Hole 67ft deep, not checked
1024 - Cave above Binoonea Cut, drains water in wet weather, could be same as 1023
1025 - cave running under Lucas Rocks. Not checked
1026 - Original entrance to Lucas Cave.
1027 - "Wards Mistake Cave"
1028 - Warbo Cave (SUSS name, ca. 1966)
1029 - Windslot (SUSS)
1030 - Cave near main submergence, about 25ft passages.
1031 - Cracks in rock on slope of re-entrant near 92
1032 - an original entrance to 92 (Wiburds Lake Cave)
1033 - Cave in doline
1034 - Large open cave even higher than 1005. Very ancient fossil stream sink.
1035 - small cave above 1005.
1036 - a rising in the southern limestone, near 48

The names suggested above are those which have been used by SUSS for identification purposes and most have appeared in the literature from time to time. The list is not exhaustive and is based largely on memory and checking trip reports rather than systematic field searching. Maps exist of some of them.

SUSS will be glad to supply further particulars of these caves to anyone interested, and we invite additions and amendments where appropriate. Thanks are due in particular to Jim Seabrook for much of the material in the list.

REPORT ON COCO (COKO) CREEK CAVE, 14/3/71

Phillip Kidd

The cave is situated in the Capertee Valley belt, about 35 miles north-east of Bathurst, and about 3½ miles NNE of Hiehn Station (owner Mr Davis), on the Capertee - Glen Davis road.

The cave is formed on a fissure between shale and limestone beds (dipping at about 60° ttc the rear of the cave) by collapse and resolution, with a reported main passage and two side passages totalling about 400 - 500ft (ref. A.S.F. Speleo Handbook, 1968)

On solution of the limestone, a soft and very unstable shale is left. The entrance to the cave, while seeming stable from outside, is merely loose rocks with a covering of topsoil on the surface.

Due to this sloping, further surveying beyond a pool (marked on the map prepared) was impossible, only some 260ft of passage being surveyed fully.

Formation is very scarce, being found to any extent only at a few places marked.

Guano (large mesh marked 'guano' on map had covering of approximately ½" in depth) indicated a reasonably large bat colony, but only one was observed during survey.

WARNING: This cave is extremely unstable

(Ed. Note: Apologies for this for omitting to publish this report earlier. An excellent map has been prepared and a copy is available in the SUSS Library of Maps for consultation. It would be among the finest maps prepared by SUSS in recent years)

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Supplies of metal badges are strictly limited.