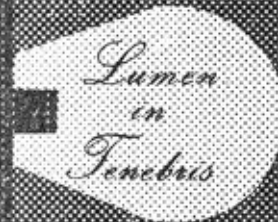


BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



SUSS

GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST

The next meeting of the society will be held
in the Badham Room (hopefully), Old Union,
Sydney University
at 7.30 pm
on THURSDAY
the 1st AUGUST, 1974.



FOUNDED 1948

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP

This expires in August and costs \$1-50
to renew for 6 months.

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

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

Price: \$2-50 per year.

LIST OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- JUL 13-14 BUNGONIA Break-neck Week-end Tony Austin 4393688 Ex22 (W)
For trip leaders and potential trip leaders to compare standards.
- JUL 24 Wed Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture. See P40 for details.
- JUL 27 ASF NSW Liason Council Meeting.
- AUG 1 GENERAL MEETING
- AUG 3-4 BUNGONIA Rik Tunney
Very little will be done.
- AUG 10 Opening of Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society museum at 2.00pm by Mr Lewis and Mr Coates.
- AUG 10-11 JENOLAN Rik Tunney
Opening of museum and work in Mammoth.
- AUG 24-25 JENOLAN Rik Tunney
More Mammoth.
- SEP 5 GENERAL MEETING
- SEP 13 SUSS ANNUAL DINNER AND BUN FIGHT (Tentative date)
- SEP 14-15 JENOLAN Rik Tunney
Recovery from Dinner plus some more Mammoth.
- SEP 21-22 SEARCH AND RESCUE WEEKEND See page 39.
- OCT 3 GENERAL MEETING
- DEC 28-29 74 ASF CONFERENCE
Field trips afterwards. See pages 45-46.

Suss Uncovers Sneaky Slander.

Rik Tunney

Some Underwater explosionS and Splashes at Wee Jasper recently gave rise to Certain Underhand SayingS in a recent issue of the newsletter of NSWITSS concerning "Some Unmentionable Speleo Soc".

Not knowing what society they were talking about SUSS has formed a team of Select Undercover SearcherS to seek the perpetrators of this foul crime.

New Full Members:

Randolf King

9 Wyong Rd., Mosman 9694543

Andrew Smith

St. Andrews College, Carillon Ave., Newtown

Tony Austin has a phone (at work): 4393688 Ext 22 or 23.

"THREE EXPEDITIONS INTO THE INTERIOR OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA"

-Major T.L. Mitchell Vol II

P. 354

Limestone occurs of different ages and quality, presenting a considerable variety.

1st. A light coloured compact calcareous rock, resembling mountain limestone; at Buree and Wellington, rising, at the former place, to the height of about 1500 feet above the sea.

2nd. A dark grey limestone appears, at perhaps a still greater height, on the Shoalhaven River; in immediate contact with granite.

3rd. A crystalline variegated marble is found, in blocks, a few miles westward of the above, near the Wollondilly.

4th. Another variety of this rock is very abundant in the neighbourhood of Limestone plains, on the interior side of the Coast ranges, and near the principal sources of the Murrumbidgee. This contains corals belonging to the genus FAVOSITES; CRINOIDEAE are also found abundantly in the plains, and distinguish this limestone from the others above-mentioned.

These rocks present little or no appearance of stratification.

A remarkably projecting ridge on the banks of Peel's river, contained limestone of so peculiar an aspect, as to resemble porphyry, and it was associated with a rock having a base of chocolate-coloured granular felspar. (See page 38, vol 1.)

A yellow highly calcareous sandstone, apparently stratified, occurs near the banks of the Gwydir. Large rounded boulders of argillaceous limestone have been denuded in the bed of Glendon brook; and an impure limestone is found in the neighbourhood of William's river, both belonging to the basin of the Hunter, and not much elevated above the sea. Calcareous tuff or grit, may be observed in various localities - and calcareous concretions abound in the blue clay of almost all the extensive plains - on both sides of the mountains.

A soft shelly limestone, most probably of recent origin, though slightly resembling some of the oolites of England, occurs extensively on the southern coast, between Cape Northumberland and Portland bay, where it forms the only rock, with the exception of amygdaloidal trap.

++++++

SEARCH AND RESCUE WEEKEND

20-21 September 1974

A Search and Rescue Practice weekend sponsored by the Australian Speleo. Federation NSW Liason Council will be held at a venue to be announced on the weekend of 20-21SEP74.

Organiser is Don Matts (Sydney Speleological Society) Tel. 700374 (H)
6481030 (W)

The emphasis will be on RESCUE and your attendance may save a life - YOURS!

All SUSS members should make an attempt to get there. Details of the SUSS contingent will be available soon.

"Written Long Ago"

-Louise Holiday

The recent historical descriptions by Major Mitchell would no doubt have thrilled the speleo-historians among us. From recent reading of other "history" the Bible (relevant in all aspects of my life), I enjoyed the poetry and meanings in Job.

Here is part of Chapter 28, for any culture-vulture readers:

"Men put an end to darkness, and search out to the farthest bound
the ore in gloom and deep darkness.
They open shafts in a valley away from where men live;
They are forgotten by travellers,
they hang afar from men, they swing to and fro.
As for the earth, out of it comes bread;
but underneath it is turned up as by fire.
Its stones are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold.
That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it.
The proud beasts have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it.
Man puts his hand to the flinty rock, and overturns mountains by the roots.
He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing.
He binds up the streams so they do not trickle, and the thing that is hidden he
brings forth to light."

-sounds familiar doesn't it!

1974 BARBARA DEW MEMORIAL LECTURE

"THE GOUFFRE BERGER"

This will be given by FRANK SALT of the Cave and Crag Club (U.K.) who was the leader of the 1961 British Expedition to the Gouffre Berger.

The Gouffre Berger is the second deepest cave in the world and is situated on the Sornin Plateau above the French town of Grenoble.

Women's College, Sydney University.

8 p.m. Wednesday 24JUL74 Parking in Carillion Ave.

Barbara was once a member of SUSS and this lecture is given annually in her memory. The lecture is sponsored each year by the A.S.F. NSW Liason Council. Further details from Julia James 5192110 (H) 6608741 (W).

NEW ADDRESS-

Tony Austin
10/23 Wemyss St
Marrickville.

Institute of Medical Research
The Royal North Shore Hospital of Sydney

Dear Sir,

I am engaged in studying the distribution of and the diseases caused by a fungus, Histoplasma. This fungus is found in soil and appears to be distributed in the faeces of bats. Dust and soil from caves are therefore likely to contain fungal spores. A number of cave explorers were found, at this hospital, to have a chest infection due to Histoplasma. At this hospital tests showed that 25 out of 80 spelaeologists in Australia and New Zealand had previously been infected with the fungus, which rarely causes a serious illness.

In order to carry out these investigations I require samples of soil to be examined for the fungus. The fungus is most commonly found in soil containing the droppings of chickens, starlings or bats. It grows best at a temperature of 20-30degC and high humidity. I would like soil from caves, especially caves in which birds or bats roost; soil samples should be taken both within the cave and around the entrance. Other suitable sites from which I would be grateful for samples of soil are abandoned houses, fowl yards, underneath roosting trees etc. A sample should consist of, say, a couple of cupsfull of soil (surface soil) including any bird or bat manure in it. This can be placed in a plastic bag. I am happy to supply bags for mailing samples and to refund postage to anyone who assists me.

If you can assist me in collecting samples I will send you further details of the method of collecting and bags for collecting and mailing the samples.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,
D.Frey
Mycologist

'The "New Chum" in Australia'

Anon Perry Clarke, London 1886

From Mount Victoria you may also go to the Fish River Caves, said to be the most wonderful stalactitic and stalagmitic cavern in the world. I came across many tourists who had gone, and from their conversation should fancy that the Government had better supplement the present caretaker, or or the beauties of these vast underground caverns will very soon all be in the possession of the visitors who go there. One New South Welshman, as is usually the case, assured me that it was the only place really worth seeing, and as I had not seen that I had come to Australia in vain. I may mention as a species of blood-wite or an act of compensation for his widow, that she is now open to re-engagement. She has opened an establishment for the sale of petroleum coming from Hartley Vale, and promises to give any one having my recommendation a "warm reception". This is founded on fact!

SPELEOWORDS

ACROSS

1. Recent addition to life members of SUSS
6. A hum-dinger of a room at Wee Jasper
8. ncle am (You need it!)
12. Initials of area director at Cooleman during Nibicon.
13. The 9th chance to trog a lot
17. The time of day that only a few SUSS members have seen.
19. This is interrupted when a bout of caving is decided upon.
20. First name of president of SUSS Committee for Remote and Inaccessible Places (from MA)
22. Especially when buttered, a lethal weapon provided at SUSS Annual Dinner.
24. .. major caving area - Apple Flat
26. That some speleos have been compared with after leaveng Dog Leg Cave (but who ever goes in)
27. Surname of a very hydrophilic caver.

DOWN

1. Grotty cave at Jenolan.
2. One of the 'top' clubs in NSW
3. That dreaded 3-letter word which means work in any speleo's language
4. An honorary member found at most SUSS social functions
5. A bird which is somewhat irrelevant to the context of this bulletin.
7. A cave where dry-cleaning the underground way has recently been completed.
9. Sometimes attempted but not usually recognised as such around campfires.
10. The (proverbial) _____ Book
11. Guess what this word is (then try to define it).
14. A permanent member of the caving scene
15. Found in bellfries, but not caves.
16. Scientific name given by cavers to a creepy-crawlie found in a cave.
18. _____ in Tenebris
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
21. at finks ally of ustralia and thiopia (since nothing else would fit)
23. ncle's lcer
25. An often necessary liquid refreshment after a SUSS social function.
28. Inevitable answer to the question of night caving.

Devised by Terry Fardouly

(So blame him for the clues)

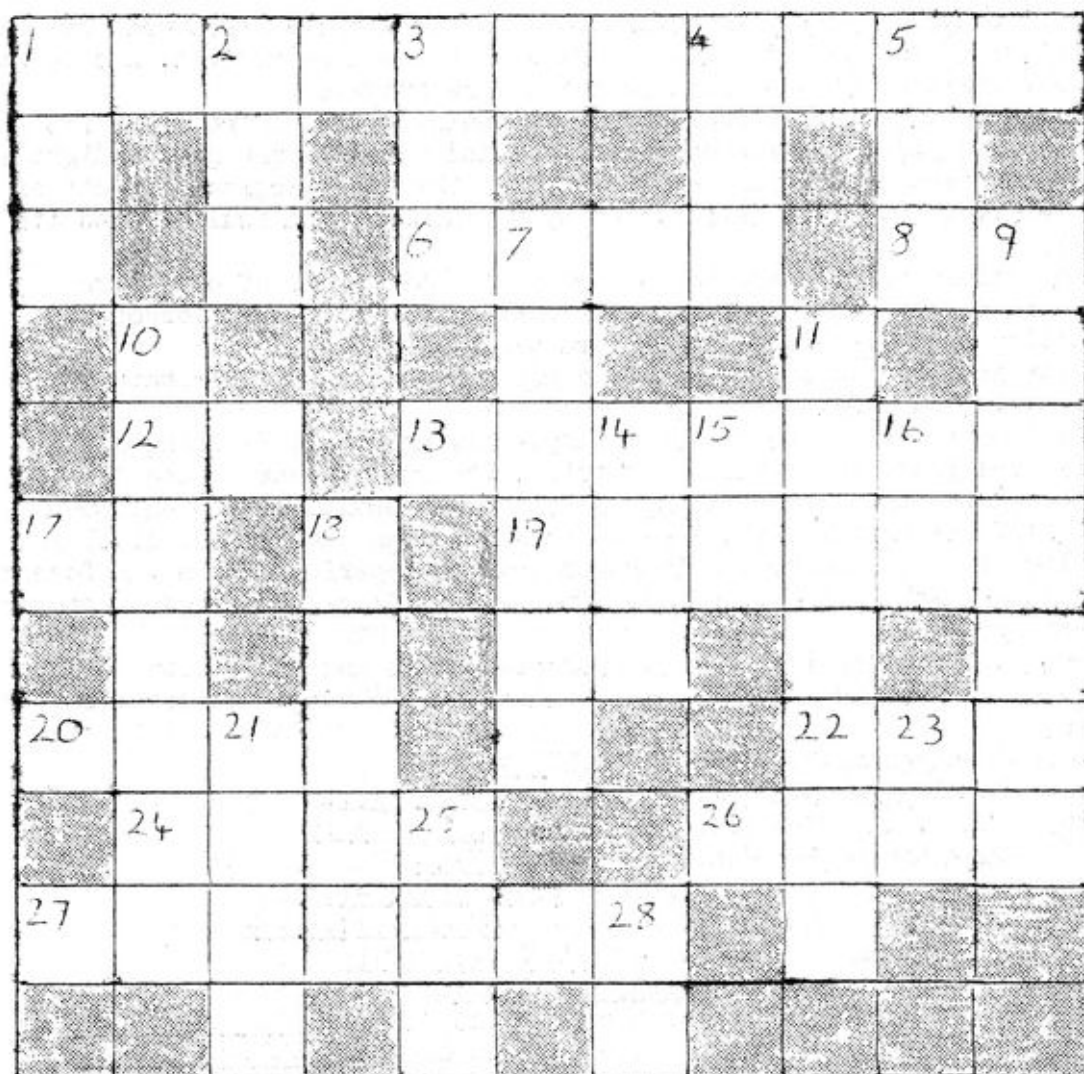
Answer next month (suffer)

Extract from "Histoplasmosis in Caves" W.C.Lewis M.D.

From NSS News Vol 32 No 2 Feb 1974

"In September 1972, a group of cavers from the suburbs of Sidney (sic) visited Church Cave, Wee Jasper, near Yass, N.S.W., Australia. Because they lived some distance apart it was several weeks later that each learned that the others had been sick. Each had developed bronchitis with fever, blocked nose, cough and headache. When the illness became known, health officials were alarmed because the disease is almost unknown there. Soil studies were made and cave temperatures recorded. Nearby caves were also investigated. One cave is thought to serve as a maternity roost for bats from Church Cave. If the infection is confirmed, these caves will be closed to the public."

SPELEOWORDS



Out of the Past -- Reviewed by Rik Tunney.

SUSS Journal Vol 1 No 3 MAY 1953

There were five trip reports in this Journal. On a 1952 trip to Jenolan, a party tried to reach Ice Pick Lake but Snakes Gut was full of water. On the way out Sand Passage was followed for a considerable distance (1). An Anzac trip visited Oolite and Lower R was crossed (for the first time? ..Ed) and the party moved on as far as an 18" crack leading to water. A hydrogen balloon was used to give the height of the aven in Horseshoe Cavern as 141'6". A piece of string stretched along Railway tunnel was 688' long. An unsuccessful attempt was made on the syphon in Imperial. In an attempt to find the distance between Frenchmans and Jubilee Caves a line map was made of Frenchmans.(5)

A Yarrangobilly trip investigated a pot previously discovered by SUSS (2). The dimensions of the pot are given. Eagles Nest was also visited. A cave at Rosedale was visited. It was 500yd long and very muddy(4).

A survey was made of foul air at Bungonia. Samples were taken from the cave for analysis. Details of collection and analysis are given. Eight sets of figures are recorded. A personal account of the physiological effects of foul air is given (6). This is followed by a discussion on foul air and its origin (7).

An article considering the accuracy of estimations of cave size discusses the reason for the constant overestimation (8). Examples of overestimation from historical literature are given.

Bats are exposed as friendly lovable creatures and their natural history is detailed (10).

The construction and use of a simple diving gear (11) using a foot bellows is explained. Lower River was tried. The gravel bank on the far side was discovered and the syphon attempted with poor results due to equipment failure. A 12V car battery with 200' of flex powering a 6V car headlamp was used for lighting. Equipment was improved and the Imperial syphon was forced to a small chamber with a further syphon. Equipment failure prevented a forcing of the next syphon.

Much information is given on Tasmanian caves and their wetas (12). Croesus cave was visited and others at Mole Ck and Hastings are described(13).
References.

1. Fairlie-Cunninghame, H. "Jenolan" SUSSJ 1(3);3
3. Fairlie-Cunninghame, H. "Yarrangobilly" SUSSJ 1(3);4
4. Smith, John E.W.L. "The Rosedale Caves" SUSSJ 1(3);5
5. Fairlie-Cunninghame, H. "Jenolan" SUSSJ 1(3);6
6. Burke, D.T. "Foul air and Bungonia" SUSSJ 1(3);7-10
7. Moodie, Peter "The Dangers of Foul Air" SUSSJ 1(3);11-12
8. Fairlie-Cunninghame, H. "Accuracy" SUSSJ 1(3);13-14
10. Clyde, J. "A Little on Bats" SUSSJ 1(3);15-16
11. Burke, D.T. "Underwater Research at Jenolan Caves" SUSSJ 1(3);17-20
12. Fairlie-Cunninghame, H. "Wetas of Tasmanian Caves" SUSSJ 1(3);20-21
13. Fairlie-Cunninghame, H. "Caves of Tasmania" SUSSJ 1(3);23-27

+++++

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Rik Tunney "International House" Room L55
Princes Highway
North Wollongong
PHONE Wollongong 287410 or 299015 (I'm never home so leave message)

Postal address remains unchanged.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION
TENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

University of Queensland 27 - 29 December, 1974.

WHERE? The conference will be held in the Physiology Lecture Rooms 1 & 2, University of Queensland, St. Lucia... Accommodation from the evening of Thursday 26DEC74 at Union College, 100m away.

WHEN? Conference Sessions DEC 27 - 28 - 29
Caveman's Dinner DEC 28
Committee Meeting DEC 30

WHAT'S ON? A series of short consecutive symposia with discussion periods, films and slides, displays and demonstrations, and the new improved SPELEOSPORTS.

FIELD TRIPS

MT ETN. - LIMESTONE RIDGE: Central Queensland.
15 miles north of Rockhampton, the most densely cavernous limestone outcrop in Australia, close to coastal scenery. Individual transport at caves, but public transport to Rockhampton possible. Moderately civilised, come and go as you please.

KEMPSEY AREA AND OTHER NSW CAVE AREAS
Individual transport, trips as convenient for those returning south after the conference.

CHILLAGOE, NORTH QUEENSLAND
Wet weather may impose group transport to the area.

CAMMOOREAL, NORTH-WEST QUEENSLAND
Distant area, expedition level, group transport, possibility of substitution of Undarra Lava Tunnels if wet season closes access.

TEXAS CAVES, SOUTH QUEENSLAND
Self guiding as you pass by, reached by a detour off the New England Highway.

AND while in Queensland visit the Barrier Reef and Tropical Rainforests.

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

Friday 27 Opening ceremony, 10 papers
Saturday 28 Conservation symposia, Caveman's Dinner in evening
Sunday 29 6 papers, speleosports
Monday 30 Committee meeting

NO EVENING SESSIONS - instead films, slides, discussions around the keg.

INFORMATION - THE 74 ASF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
PO BOX 29
ANNERLEY 4103

The 74 A.S.F. Conference
Committee
P.O. Box 29
Annerley, 4103.

Dear SUSS,

While we regret that we are unable to write to you personally, the committee hopes that you will be able to assist us in presenting the 10th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation to be held in Brisbane at the University of Queensland from the 27th to 30th December, 1974.

The committee proposes that the following topics will provide broad guidelines for papers to be presented. Papers will be limited to 20 minutes, followed by up to 10 minutes discussion time. Audio-visual aids will be available, but only a limited number of photographs and maps will be reproduced in the proceedings.

The list of topics:

- Tropical karst
- Geology, geomorphology, hydrology, palaeontology
- Surface and subsurface fauna and flora of limestone areas
- Anthropology
- Expedition reports - overseas and local
- Conservation
- Pseudo-karst and lava tunnels
- Techniques - photography, surveying, caving, rescue

One whole day will be devoted to conservation papers with an emphasis on forward planning and concepts, rather than on specific issues.

If you are going to present a paper or require further information, would you please contact the committee as soon as possible, outlining your expected topic.

To facilitate early publication of the proceedings of the conference and precirculation of abstracts, text should be submitted, including an abstract of up to 150 words, by the 1st September 1974.

Yours faithfully,
Anne Graham

I hope SUSS will have a large representation ..Ed.