

BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



SUSS

FRESHERs'.

See inside for dates of meetings
and trips.



FOUNDED 1948

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FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY

24-28 Orientation Week Stall open.

MARCH

- 1-2 JAUNTER Peter Dykes 5248723
This is a large area of limestone to the SW of Jenolan with a number of small caves.
- 6 GENERAL MEETING
7.30pm Badham Room, Old Union (near Union Theatre), Sydney University.
- 15-16 JENOLAN Randolph King 9694543
The best caving area in the state.
- 28-31 Easter
JENOLAN Randolph King
- Sometime FIELD DAY
Cliff Ave Wahroongah (I hope I spellt that right)
Learn to climb ladders, drop down rocks and other seemingly scary things (quite easy really). Barbeque somewhere afterwards.

APRIL

Well we should be going somewhere sometime during April.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Sydney University Speleological Society is the second oldest caving society in Australia, being first formed in 1948. Since then, and particularly in recent years, there has been a surge of interest in this sport - cum-science. Australia now boasts of having thousands of people involved in speleology, with NSW people making up a large proportion. The many clubs are joined together under the auspices of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF), which has been most vocal in areas of Conservation and general policy.

This is not going to be a discussion of the usual technicalities and equipment involved with caving trips, but it is rather to give those interested an insight into the politics and organisation of SUSS. Having just graduated from being a Fresher (dreadful word! - often used to demoralise new members), I feel qualified to comment upon some of the perplexities with which the new prospective is confronted.

Firstly, the organisation of SUSS. Anyone and everyone are free to join the society as a prospective, the only qualification being that you must be insane enough to go caving. Initially, a sixth month subscription entitles you both to receive the Bulletin for six months (wow!) and to have Prospective membership status with the society. However, after 30 hours underground (usually about three trips), you are now qualified to (joy upon joy!) become a Full member of the society. This automatically means you are a member of the ASF and receive it's journal (when it gets printed). Two classes of membership exist: Full membership and Associate membership, the difference between the two being that you can't be the President if you are an Associate. A Full member is a graduate or an undergraduate of an Australian university, whereas anyone may be an Associate.

After an amount of caving experience, and after making gambits into speleopolitics (the art of steering your way to being a heavy), you may even have become mad enough to apply for (thrills!) Trip Leader status. The Committee is the organisation which deals with these applications and the day to day running of the Society, and consists of 11 elected members of the mob. Their major decisions and other policy matters are brought before the general meetings once a month to be ratified. These General meetings are important, as it is here that trips are arranged, the newest developments noted and the latest gossip gossiped.

Caving does, most unfortunately, tend to develop cliques. The reason for this is rooted in the shared experiences of hard (or lethargic!) caving trips. Obviously, the best way for the new member to break through this is to go away on caving trips until you begin to see bats in your sleep! The way to do this is to consult the list of trips advertised in the Bulletin, notify the Trip Leader, usually at the meeting or by phone, and then pack up and go!

points to note are:

* You don't need to have a car, so don't worry if you are poor and penniless. Car bludging is a highly developed and accepted sport in all speleological societies. I didn't have a car for most of last year! (and probably not this year at the rate it is falling apart). The Trip Leader will try and arrange this for you if plenty of notice is given beforehand. Passengers are, of course, expected to contribute equally towards petrol costs. However, people with their own transport are naturally a lot better off than those without.

* Anyone is welcome to come along with you on caving trips. Friends, brothers, sisters, boyfriends and girlfriends are all welcome. Restrictions on this are placed by the fact that parties to NSW Tourist Dept. areas (Jenolan, Yarrangobilly) are restricted to 12, and most other areas around Sydney to 15. Since we hope that visitors will wish to become Prospective Members (it only costs \$1), an overlarge number of trips as such is not encouraged. Don't worry if your friends or girlfriend aren't as enthusiastic about caves as yourself - there's always plenty to do on the surface and there is invariably someone to keep them company. Priority on trips is, naturally, given to members

If you are by yourself, please don't feel that you'll be left out. People often have second thoughts about coming to a meeting or going away on trips when they are alone. Most of the people in SUSS originally were in this position and have made friendships in the club. So it is advisable to go away on a trip as quickly as possible before you are stricken with doubt. The first steps are up to you.

Initially, most of the specialised equipment will be loaned, although there is certain basic inexpensive equipment that you will no doubt want to buy after the first few trips. You can't use lack of equipment as an excuse for not coming away!

Hoping to See You On a Trip Soon - Randall King.

"GOING ON A CAVING TRIP?"

-Rik Tunney

This article is designed to help new prospectives to set out on the most important step of their Caving careers - their first trip with SUSS.

Step 1 Decide on your trip. A list of future trips is printed in the inside cover of the newsletter. Other trips are announced at General Meetings. As a special introduction trips may or may not be run to the following areas:

(a) Jenolan Caves. This area, 150Km W of Sydney is controlled by the Tourist Bureau. The main cave visited is Mammoth Cave with some very "interesting" passages. Other caves in the area contain sights of wonderful splendour. Drive right to the campsite where there is running water. A truly beautiful area.

(b) Bungonia. Bungonia is 45Km E of Goulburn. There are over a hundred caves here, ranging from simple walk-in ones, to caves with drops of over 30m. This is a good area to learn the techniques of descending and climbing ropes and ladders. Drive to the campsite, but take all your water.

(c) Wyanbene. This is about 50Km S of Braidwood about 300Km from Sydney all together. A single cave with a stream in which you get very wet. Highlight of the cave is the 100m+ high Gunbarrel Aven. Major access hazard is driving across the Shoalhaven River ford. Big Hole, a truly spectacular feature nearby, 373ft deep and 100ft diameter, is usually visited.

Step 2 Contact the trip leader. As the numbers allowed in some areas are limited, we work on a first come first served basis. The trip leader often has a telephone which is noted beside his name on the trip lists. The TL will also try to arrange transport for you, or if you have a car, passengers so that petrol costs do not become prohibitive. The TL may also be able to loan you some gear.

Step 3 Attend the General Meeting. Get to know your Trip Leader and other members of the society. At the General Meetings reports of previous trips are made, gossip is bandied about and last minute arrangements are made for trips.

Step 4 Get your gear together. How much you take will depend on your transport. You need:

(a) Camping gear and food. You may care to share with others for these. The standard of food and cooking on SUSS trips is very high. (BUSHWALKERS BEWARE - dehydrateds are frowned upon as being too grotty for our high-class trips.) Bring something for an underground snack.

(b) Booze. Wine, cider, etc for an enjoyable evening around the campfire singing and talking.

(c) Clothes. Three sets, one to wear to and from the caving area (i.e. reasonably presentable clothes), one to wear around camp (not presentable) and your caving gear (see below).

WHAT YOU WEAR UNDERGROUND

- i. Safety helmet. Failing this some form of hat.
- ii. Overalls (boiler suit) or old grotty clothes. They will be basically ruined and will be unsuitable to wear in public again.
- iii. Boots or sandals or old shoes. They need to have a gripping sole.
- iv. Light - a. Preferably a miners light (very expensive). or.

b. a carbide light (also expensive), or,
c. a reliable, bright, hand-held torch. Bring spare batteries and globe.
Remember, your light is the only light in the cave. If it goes out you cannot see.

Step 5 Go on the trip and have fun.

And if you have any questions see one of the trip leaders, they have a wealth of good advise.

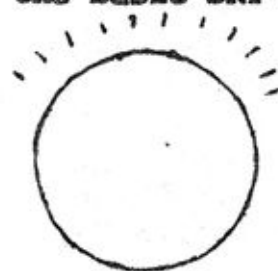
THIS MONTHS TECHNICAL FEATURE *****

LUMINOUS SUPERBALLS & SRT

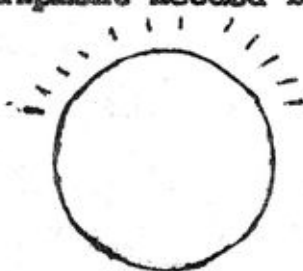
Yes! This is the latest "in-thing" for all us modern cavers. Imagine your friends surprise when you begin bouncing your luminous superballs around the cave!

Hundreds of uses exist for these latest technical innovations. When you are caught in the dark without light you will be safe in the knowledge that your luminous superballs will see you through. Cave exploration will reach new bounds using these devices. SRT (Synthetic Rubber Technique) is sure to start a modern revolution within the speleological world. It is for this reason that I am featuring them in this month's technical article.

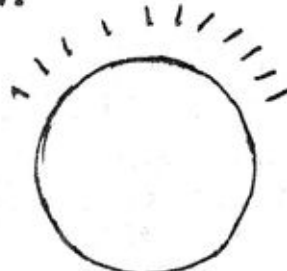
At great personal expense, I have drawn the plans of the basic SRT equipment needed below:



Plan



Developed
Long Section



Cross
Section

CRG 7D

Drawings of a Luminous Superball

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR LUMINOUS SUPERBALLS YET?
(About 50c for 4 at some selected BP stations)

R.K.

THE 1975 CAVING DIRECTORY

It has struck me that one of the reasons why so many prospectives leave during the year is the lack of identification with the caving fraternity. So, as part of my campaign to combat this freshers syndrome, I decided to write this in the hope that by getting to know some of the personalities, the novice will not feel so left out. The older speleologist will immediately note that some well-known names have been left out, particularly some from SSS, CEGSA, WASG and the Tasmanian scene. Unfortunately, there is only time and space to name but a few, so I have only included those I have come into contact with, I have heard about, or those which people from 1st Year Uni joining SUSS are most likely to meet. Well, here it goes....

The International Scene,

- * Norbert Casteret - also known as Nobby. A pre1955 French Cave Explorer. Renowned for squeezing, crawling and reptation feats. Pushed exploration in many French caves and has published some books, the most famous being "Ten Years Under The Earth" and "My Caves". Some Australian caves are named after him.
- * E.A. Martel - The French father of caving. Was responsible for initiating much original interest and enthusiasm for caves in the 1900 to 1930 period in France.
- * R. de Joly - Another of the Frenchmen, Responsible for much of the technical development of caving equipment prior to the modern period.
- * The Cave Research Group - This is a British organisation which has been responsible for much initiation in the caving field. They originally developed the six grades of cave mapping, and this is virtually standard throughout Australia. Ranging from a Grade 1 sketch map, to a Grade 6 theolodite standard type survey, the letters CRG stand next to the grade number of all cave maps.
- * The International Union Of Speleology - The organisation which co-ordinates, organises, liaises and standardises caving on a worldwide basis. Australia is well represented on its councils and at its meetings.

The Australian Super - Heavyweights

- * Ben Nurse - Sydney businessman. Originally with SUSS in the 1950's but has been President of the Sydney Speleological Society (SSS) for the last umpteen years. Responsible for helping to finance the SSS book "Bungonia Caves". The leading Australian speleopolitician.
- * John Dunkley - Teacher. Past president of SUSS for 4 years. Renowned for editing the SUSS book on Mammoth Cave, Jenolan. He is also editor of the Australian Speleological Federation Newsletter. Presently involved with the Canberra Speleos, since he is living in Canberra.
- * Julia James - Lady caver extraordinaire. She is a senior Chemistry tutor at Sydney Uni., has a Ph.D, and her full time job is chemical cave research at Bungonia. Refuses to dabble in caving politics. Member of SSS and led the 1973

Niugini Speleological Research Expedition to New Guinea. Leaving for Britain and the Continent on Sabbatical Leave in 1975. Her name and Neil Montgomery's seem to be synonymous on trip reports, as some people have pointed out to me.

- * Andrew Pavey - An UNSWSS (Uni. NSW Spel. Soc.) mainstay. Also known as Pentax Pavey. A leader in the field of cave photography. Cryptic initials "AJP" turn up in the most unexpected places. Joint editor of SPAR, the UNSWSS publication. A capable organiser. Works as a senior physics teacher at the Uni. NSW.
- * Andrew Skinner - Tasmanian personality in TCC (Tasmanian Caverneering Club; the oldest speleo club in Australia). An active caver, he has done much pioneering work in the exploration of the Tasmanian scene. Has just published a conservation report on the development of Exit Cave, Ida Bay in Tasmania.
- * Ian Wood - Another UNSWSS personality. Famous for high grade surveying. Presently engaged in a high grade professional type survey of Jubilee Cave, Jenolan.
- * Henry Shannon - Ex SUSS, now in the Uni. Qld. Speleol. Soc. (UQSS) Noted for hydrological work, particularly in Mammoth Cave, Jenolan. On the SUSS Committee for remote and inaccessible places. (Correction - he is a member of SUSS but is not currently active due to his geographical position)
- * Norm Poulter - Member of the new "Speleological Research Group of Western Australia". A SUSS member with the same status as Henry Shannon (above). Involved with cave conservation work in W.A. Much has been heard about his Poulterised Dipprodoton, a magnesium powder lighting device; - useful for cavern photography.
- * The Australian Speleological Federation - The organisation to which all true speleopoliticians aspire. It's job is to liaise between all the Australian societies and to act as a national body. e.g. for conservation.

THE WHO'S WHO OF SUSS

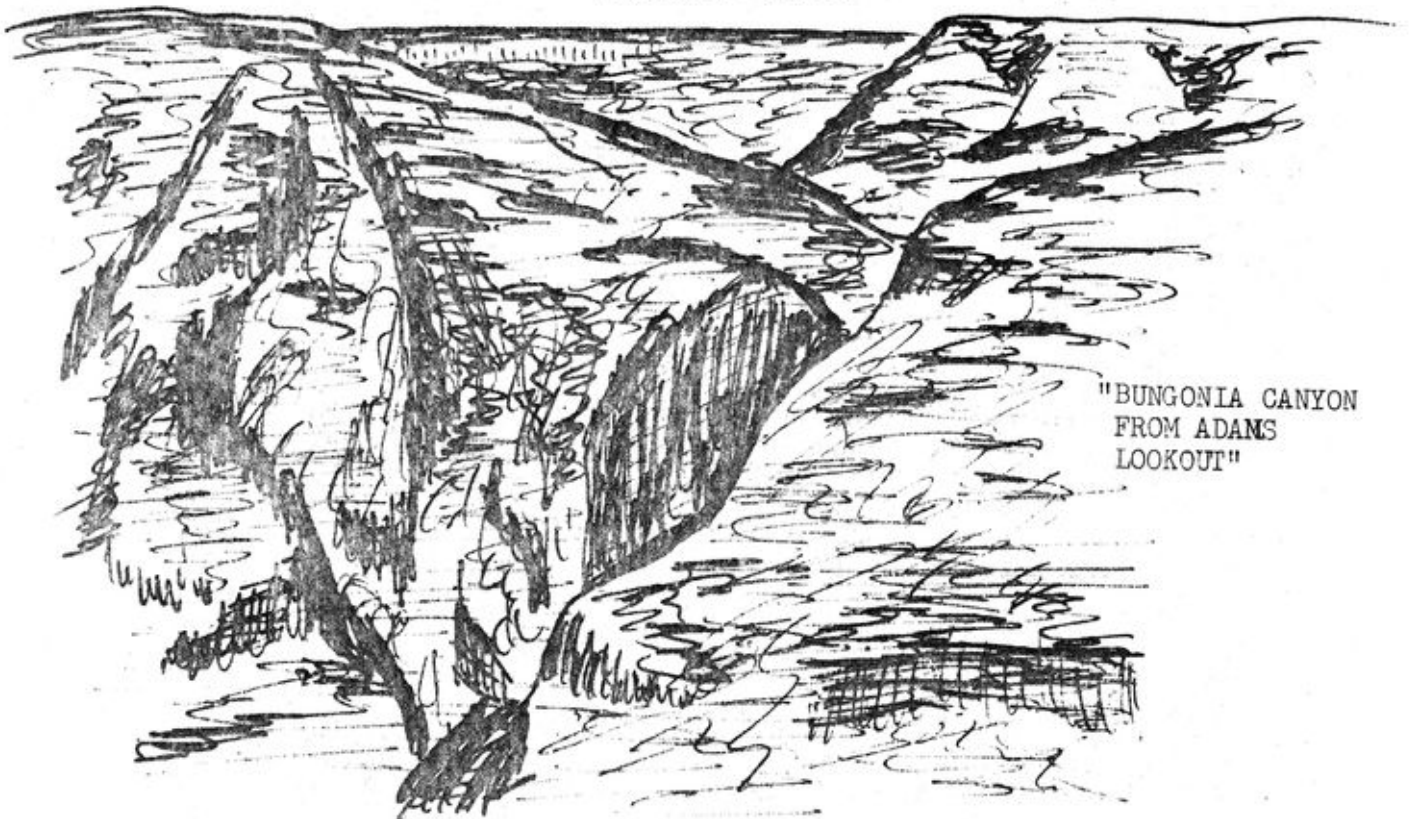
- * Jim Seabrook - Famed for caving in pubs. The 1974 President of SUSS. Current project is the surveying of the Wyburd's (also affectionately known as Seabrook's) Cave, Jenolan. - One of these days he'll get it finished.
- * Ludwig Rieder - Main work is, as usual, at Jenolan, and, the mapping of the caves at Cooleman. Instrumental on the organisational side of SUSS, and 1973 president of the Society. He works in the NSW Tourist Dept. and gives us all the inside info.
- * Rik Tunney - Chemistry student. Lives in the College at Wollongong (Yes! Wollongong). Editor of the SUSS Bulletin. Likely to be seen speeding past in a GTR Torana at 2AM. Never goes caving before midday, if it can be avoided, which he usually successfully does. Leads trips mainly to either Bungonia or Jenolan. (Thank God this is offset printed - if he wants to edit this he has to write out the whole page).

- * Tony Austin - SUSS's own Bungoniaphile. One of the clubs most active cavers. His main project which he has been doing is the Shaduf Cave dig at Bungonia. Married to Kathy, another enthusiastic caver. They are becoming more interested, along with Rik Tunney, in investigating the limestone of the Tuglow And Jaunter areas. An ex-uni student, he now works for Singer.
- * Malcolm Handel - Science student. Can be relied on to go down pitches first and do maniacal climbs. Has helped dig a 1ft wide by 1ft long by 10ft deep hole while having a tape tied to his foot and hanging upside down. Along with Peter W. and Peter C. and myself, he was in on the discovery of the Brittle Bazaar extension in Mammoth in Nov. 1975. Currently involved with aerial photography interpretation of the area around Jenolan.
- * Peter Winglee - Economics student. Interested in cave photography. Can be seen approaching in an enveloping cloud of dust from his 1100 Morris. Does unique abseils with an ammunition box.
- * Brendon Hyde - Civil Engineer. Intermittently decides to map a major cave at Jenolan. Tells everyone long, sick, jokes when bottled up going through a squeeze and there's no escape. Has ambitions to walk across the Himalayas next year.
- * Peter Campbell - A cautious caver, being a medical student, yet ambitious enough to push on when the going's hard. Renowned for locking his car with the keys inside, whilst running at full choke with a low petrol tank and the headlights on. Plays a piano accordion/flute/piano/organ.
- * Ian "Spike" Millagan - Geology graduate doing an honours year. Always has a supply of tinny's on hand after a hard day's caving. An experienced caver, he'll go anywhere and everywhere there's caves. Most people tend to underestimate his ability upon going caving with him for the first time.
- * Thea Seabrook - Leader of women's lib trips to Jenolan.
- * Randall King - Engineering student. Suave, intelligent, handsome, enthusiastic, diplomatic and brave. (You'd never guess who's writing this article). Wastes most of his time writing long, boring trip reports and articles which no one ever reads. (How have you gotten this far?) Now interested in mapping the new Brittle Bazaar extension and numerous small caves around the Jenolan area. Wants help for a dig in the Can't Get Lost section of Mammoth cave (advertisement).
- * The Bush Band - This consists of Malcolm Handel (recorder), Peter Campbell (piano accordion and flute), and myself (acoustic rhythm guitar) plus an all star cast of the SUSS singers. Anybody who plays any sort of instrument is invited to bring it along on a trip with us. Famed for scaring even the snakes (they're deaf, for all those slow dummies), the Band's greatest feat to date has been a concert in the train to Tenterfield and another in the Post Office at Jenolan.

- * Bruce Welch - Involved mainly with PSG (The Peninsula Spel. Group), but still leads trips with SUSS. Has been to Great North Cavern an incredible number of times and was involved in the discovery of Twiddly - Om & Pom. (For the uninitiated: GNC and T - O - P are the most northerly points of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan, and to get there involves crawling through one of the longest, smallest and definitely most enervating passages in Australia.) If you are passed on the highway by a maniac driving a VW whilst driving to a caving trip, don't worry, it's probably only Bruce. Sorry, but someone had to go last!

If your a SUSS member and your name isn't here, then it's because I haven't seen much of you this year. So get off your bum, tear yourself away from the pub and come caving, you lazy slob. Don't give me any of that crap about being a student and thus too busy with exams - what about at the beginning of term and during holidays? The prospective should no longer feel ignorant and that he doesn't know anyone, we are all happy to go caving (as someone once said, "go" caving is a lot better word choice than to "take" someone caving, as this implies an equal responsibility for your own safety) with you, it just requires the initiative to get up and talk to people at the meetings. So good caving in 1975.

Randall King



"BUNGONIA CANYON
FROM ADAMS
LOOKOUT"

S. Bunton