BULLETIN of the

Sydney

University

Speleological





EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of SUSS Bulletin that I have edited - I hope it meets with your approval - all comments (& contributions) will be gratefully accepted. For those of you who have missed out on developments in the production of the SUSS Bulletin I will outline the set up.

Editor Bruce Welch 2/19-21 Tunks St, Waverton. 929.0432 (any hour)

Typiste Lizette Heness (plus others from time to time)

Duplicating Prue Kirby & Bruce Welch

Collating / Kathy Handel & & Wrapping Paul Greenfield

Addressing Paul Greenfield

As I don't have the time to do the whole job I have only taken on the position of Editor - I need the support of the whole Society if the Bulletin is to maintain a good standard. My thanks go to those members who have volunteered their services - don't forget, it's your Bulletin - not mine.

I also take this opportunity of thanking Tony Austin who has slaved away as editor for some years now. He was assisted in the production of the last 4 issues by Keith Murray - thanks Keith. I have some material in hand for future issues but not nearly enough - there are numerous trip reports still outstanding and many other projects & research which need writing up - so get to it all you SUSS Members. If you want your writings to appear quickly please give the copy to me or post it to me (address above).

Peter Campbell has started two continuing series-type articles:- the first is a series on SRT which you should find useful; and the other is a "Whats happening interstate & overseas" which will keep you up-to-date on recent developments. He has also supplied some cartoons - if you have a good caving cartoon please send it to me.

Future issues of the Bulletin will include reports on the ASF Conference, pre & post Conference field trips, articles on Bungonia, Jenolan Caves book review; and there will be a Special Jenolan Southern Limestone Issue of the Bulletin.

Bruce Welch.

ERATUM

The rope calls published in SUSS Bull 16(4):45 are wrong - please disregard them - an article will be published soon setting out the correct rope calls.









ON SAFETY AND SOLO CAVING

Bruce R, Welch

ABSTRACT

Some thoughts on the practice of caving alone with particular reference to a similar article by Kevin Kiernan (October 1976).

(The views expressed in this article are not neccesarily those of the Society.B.R.W.)

Recent suggestions that solo caving may be removed from the "banned" list(Kiernan'1976) will no doubt draw comment from many sources, perhaps this will be the first.

Solo caving- it strikes terror into many a heart, including my own. But lets consider, why does A.S.F. say no caving alone, desirable minimum size four? (A.S.F. 1975). This mainly results from the theory that if a member of a party is injured then one person can stay with him, while the other two can go for help. This is sound caving practice and I would recommend that people do not depart from it.

On Reading Kevin Kiernan's article, one's point of view does change somewhat. Okay, we all shun solo caving with cries of "unsafe", "dangerous"; but haven't we all, at some time or other, gone into a cave alone- I know I have. I weighed up all the factors first and came to the conclusion, in that particular case, that it would be quite safe for me to enter the cave alone. The cave in question was Wiburds Lake Cave, Jenolan and I was putting some wall detail onto a map- not the job for huge numbers of people. Before I left the campsite, I told other members "If I'm not out bypm, come amd get me". Was this practice dangerous, I don't think so, but then what about other caves.

We all have read Casteret, with his classic "do as I say, not do as I do" attitude, but then was his solo caving safe- we will never know. Another solo caver who comes to mind is Floyd Collins who was trapped by the leg in a cave in America, and subsequently died. But it wasn't because he was caving alone that he died, in fact hiswould-be rescuers found him in a short time and in good condition. Without going into detail, Floyd would have died just the same even if he was with a large party.

People who are not thoroughly experienced and who go solo caving

are findeed foolhardy, but what of the experienced caver who goes caving alone? Is he really foolhardy? Is going into a cave alone going to increase the chances of an accident- perhaps not.

Okay then, if the chances of an experienced caver having an accident in a cave are the same whether he is caving alone or with a party, what if he does have an accident? If the accident is a serious one he will probably die if aid is not forthcoming quickly, and if he is caving alone he is unlikely to receive this aid. So if he dies- if he was an experienced caver I think that we would all accept it - take a philosophical approach perhaps.

Lets consider an experienced solo caver with minor injuries which prevent him from making his own way out of the cave, or is trapped by a rockfall, or lost. If fellow cavers do not know where he is then he will no doubt die a slow and agonizing death; or will it be agonizing?

Before one goes caving alone, one must consider this possibility. If one goes cavingalone, then one must accept the fact that you reaaly are on your own; from experience this does make one a much more careful than if caving with a large party. There is nothing more calming to the nerves than to be with a big jolly party. Think back to some of the trips you have had-would you do all the things that you did if you were alone; how often did you check to make sure that you could find the way out, what about the "little" jump down that "small" drop, or that hairy climb you did with little more support than the eager voices of the onlookers. Yes- we all tend to do more foolhardy things when we are in large parties than when we are alone. Perhaps then, it is safer to cave alone. Certainly in unstable rockpile areas there is less danger from being hit by a rock displaced by yourself.

I have digressed slightly. I was discussing the possibilities of a solo caver receiving a minor injury. What if his fellow cavers have to look for him, what if this solo caver has to be rescued? Lets stop for a minute and consider— is there someone in your club who you would consider thoroughly competant to cave alone— would you mind having to rescue him if he was injured while solo caving?

As one who is involved in cave rescue in N.S.W., and whois almost certainly going to be called out some time in the future, I have given this matter

Considerable thought. I suppose it's easy for me to sit back at home and say that I wouldn't mind having to rescue a solo caver, but Well, it's only my personal view, think about it yourself.

Not for one minute am I advocating solo caving, I am simply discussing a rather philosophical point of view. To sum up. I can do no better than to quote from Kevin's article:-

"That doesn't mean wholesale encouragement or even encouragement at all. Just a breach in the wall and a lack of enforcement. Discretion. A blind eye to those generally considered competent, at one level or other. Tempered by common sense rather than arbitrary rules." "...there is just a need to admit that caving can be risky." "...anyone competent enough to feel up to solving a major cave would have a pretty fair idea of the dangers involved and of his own capabilities."

"....solo caving should at least be tolerated when under-

Kevin's article will go down in my books as one of the best pieces of literary writing that I have ever seen in a caving journal, and I suggest that sceptical cavers read Kevins article in full.

REFERENCES

A.S.F. 1975 Cave Safety Recommended Code of Practice A.S.F. Newsletter No 67 Kiernan, K A Long and Boring Article Southern Caver 8 (2); 2 OCT 76

SRT I

Peter Campbell

During the next few issues, I am going to discuss various aspects of S.R.T. Although I practice this technique fairly frequently, my experience is limited to only a few aspects of the subject and so will depend on the literature written on the subject, and interested readers to produce a broader view of the subject.

What I want to produce on each aspect is how it works, what

is known about its strength and where you can purchase that particular item of equipment. The next issue will deal with rope and I want to find out about as broad a range of these as possible.

what is S.R.T.? Common to all forms of single rope techn que is the most explanatory title. I suppose Casteret 1* was one of the earliest exponents of the art when he did his first pitch (about 100ft; 70ft free fall) hand-over-hand on knotted cord. I don't wish to discuss this form of S.R.T., other than to point out that it is one of the more popular forms of committing suicide in a cave. In general S.R.T. today is abseiling and prussicking using synthetic ropes and mechanical ascenders. The technique is used by the big mountaineering expeditions of the 70's 2* and is widely used by cavers. S.R.T. originated from Dr. Prussick who invented the first k not.

Why Guse S.R.T.? 1 Safety - correctly practised, S.R.T. is accepted generally as at least as safe as laddering. Some people go as far as to suggest that it may be safer, due to the reduction in fatigue, exposure, extra calls and other human error involved.

Incorrectly practised, S.R.T. is only marginally safer than jumping.

2Speed- In ideal conditions, 30 secs for 30m 3* is possible for ascending pitches using S.R.T. This is as fast as any laddering. On a given pitch, laddering may be faster, but it is limited by the belaying time and time. 4*. In overall time through a cave with many pitches S.R.T. is undeniably faster, often more than twice as fast.

3Convenience- 1 rope per pitch plus personal gear for the whole cave instead of 2 ropes plus a ladder per pitch or 1 rope and a ladder plus a person per pitch.

4Aesthetic values- the cave can be quieter with no ladder calls. Abseils into large caverns are spectacular with time to enjoy the view 5*

<u>j Conservation</u>- The need to camp in caves is reduced. Less gear is dragged through passages. There are fewer people sitting around with nothing to do. Hopefully yobbos will have a go at S.R.T. in the future and thus be culled from the herd.

6 <u>Miscellaneous</u> - You no longer have to worry about being struck by lightning on entrance pitches.

Who should use S.R.T.? Not everyone should use S.R.T. Only those people who are prepared to spend a lot of money should. Suitable rope is not available for much less than \$1.20 per metre. Personal gear costs about \$50-60.

Money isn't the only thing. If you are not prepared to read all you can about S.R.T. and learn from other peoples mistakes you will probably end up dead. So, if you aren't really keen, S.R.T. is not a casual past-time. I you are keen, there are few limits to where you can go underground.

REFERENCES

1* Casteret N 10 Years Under the Earth

2* Bonnington 6 Anapurna South Face

Everest The Hard Way

3* N.S.S. News Oct '76

4* James J and Montgomery N

JSSS 18(6): 164-165

5* Shaw p Speleo Spiel 88 p4

Suggested reading on the faults of S.R.T.:

Kiernan K The Ethical Basis of SRT Southern Caver 5(2):3-5



Late Mr Rod Murdoch

Mr Ř E Murdoch, who died in Sydney on 8 September at the age of 52, had been Director of Tourism from December 1968 until his death, and held other important positions in the tourist industry.

His distinguished career included war service, long service with both the Department of Education and Department of Tourism, and association with community service organisations.

Mr Murdoch was a Bachelor of Arts (Sydney University) and Master of Arts (University of California, Berkeley, USA), and held the Diploma of Physical Education (Sydney University).

He served with the AIF in World War II (1942-46), and was in the Citizen Military Forces (1947-61) with the Sydney University Regiment, where he rose to be second-incommand.

Important positions in the tourist industry held by Mr Murdoch were: Member of the Australian Tourist Commission 1973-75; Board Member of the Australian National Travel Association (ANTA) from 1969 until his death; Member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Area Travel Association from 1972-74 and Chairman of PATA's Australian Chapter from 1973; and Member of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) and Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Society's 1971 Congress, held in Sydney.

He was also a member of the Sydney Rotary Club, the National Fitness Council of New South Wales, the Imperial Services Club and the SKA1 Club of Sydney.

There were a number of very important developments within the tourist industry in New South Wales while Mr Murdoch was Director.

These included the subsidy scheme to assist Regional Tourist Associations in the State; the appointment of Regional Tourism Liaison Officers in various Regions of the State; legislation to because travel agents, and pending legislation to assist with tourist development; and the opening of the NSW Government Travel Centre in Adelaide and the NSW Government Tourist Information Centres in Albury and Tweed Heads.

Mr Murdoch is survived by Mrs Murdoch, four children (three of them married) and two grandchildren:

WHAT'S HAPPENING INTERSTATE & OVERSEAS

PETER CAMPBELL S.U.S.S. Librarian .

B.C.R.A. Transactions: Vol 2 No 2 Aug '75

Describes some medical aspects of speleology. Of interest in cave rescue are hypothermiaand its treatment by the use of air warmers and a neoprene zippered bag. Warnings against the administration of I.V. glucose in hypothermic patients is mentioned. Analgesia from Entonox (N₂O and O₂) and Fortralare discussed but no mention of Trilene is made.

The problem of diagnosing death in hypothermic patients is dealt with and it is pointed out that hypothermia increases the time from whicha person which may recover from cardiorespiratory arrest. Absence of breathing and heartbeat for the 4 minutes usually quoted may be considerably extended. The possibility of extension of this time to 60 minutes cannot be ignored.

Cave Diving, CO₂ caving, explosives, biological clocks, medical care on expeditions and burns are also considered. In all, the most recent advances in cave rescue seem to be entirely British.

N.S.S. News Sept '76 has a picture of cave vandalism on the cover, something not often published, and of considerable importance. Its advertisements show that specialist caving shops are flourishing. There are now at least 5 groups making a living out of caving books and equipment.

N.S.S. News June '76 Uranium mining threatens a 20 mile system on the Wyoming-Montana border. A publication "Caves of Wyoming" is discussed with particular reference to the rights and wrongs of releasing it to the general public and the form it should thus take.

From Jugoslavia this year comes <u>VolVII of Acta Carsologica</u>. This is a heavy geological book which discusses the development of the Postojna Cave System with reference to "geological, morphological, speleological and sedimentological analyses" and relates it to the geomorphological development of the Piuka Basin, Polje of Plonina, and Karstic Ljubljanica River Basin, thus enabling interpretation of the geological evolution of the NW part of the Dinaric Karst caves in the Quaternary period.

This is largely (98.) in Jugoslavia along with other similar articles but the photographs are interesting.

Speleologia Emiliana 2 A glossy Italian publication deals with the problem of illegal waving in a private cave, and outlines progress in Lorchia Cave which is now 1000m+ deep. One article seems to deal with a motorised ascending device with a speed of 0.3-0.5 m/s which will lift 150kg, but I will have to find an Italian to translate. Photographs range from this ascending device to mammoth tusks being excavated and to wet caving and scuba gear advertisments.

TRIP REPORTS

FERRET AND FELLOW FESTERERS FOUND FREELOADING AT UNCONIA
4-5/12/76 G.INNES

Present: B. Welch, R. Kay, G. Innes

After a late start on Saturday we headed south to conquer some deep (?) caves at Bungonia, but not before making a slight detour to take in the sights of the rail museum near Thirlmere, and to geomorphologize at the sandstone cave at Hilltop.

This cave, which has been formed entirely in sandstone, is about 40m long. It is a bedding plane controlled cave formed by a small stream eroding a thin bed of calcareous shale.

Enlargement of the passage is due entirely to mechanical erosion by the SUSS Bull.16(5):59

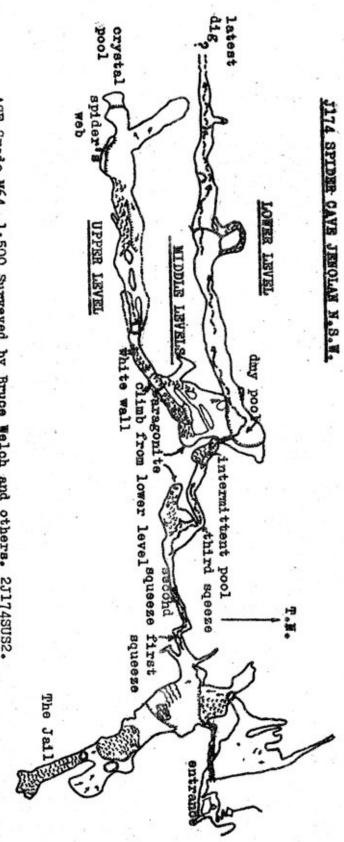
in small patches on one wall below the shale bed. A pool occurs near the downstream end of the cave.

After arriving at Bungonia at about midday, we were confronted by Bob Holland (S.S.S.) and after exchanging pleasanteries for a few hours, we decided to go caving. We had with us about 750' of rope, but unfortunately in only 4 lengths. This reduced the number of caves we were able to do since a lot of the underground pitches were under 70' in length.

so we headed off to do B24, aimed with a 120' and 80' rope as well as various lengths of tape. After festering around in the rockpile, during which time I got hopelessly lost in a squeeze at Confusion Corner, it was a straight forward trip to the bottom. Rob was complaining about suffering the effects of CO₂, even though the concentration was only about 1.5'/. After coming out we agreed that Odessy Cave is not the epic trip that it's cracked up to be.

We called in to see Grahame Smith, Steve Bunton and their band of merry men from ST.G.A.C.T., who were also round there on the weekend. After bludging their campfire we called it a day, (a day).

Silent sunlight soothed the serenity of Sunday, and festering was the order of the day. This was done in true tradition and with great enthusiasm. However, we did manage to get underground before noon to do Acoustic Pot(B22). The 106' pitch has remarkable acoustic properties which were tested at the bottom by singing a few Christmas Carols. After this mammoth effort, a swim in the creek was a fitting end to a relaxing weekend.



ASF Grade M64 1:500 Surveyed by Bruce Welch and others. 2J174SUS2.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Ian Carpenter Equipment Fund was not checked by me.	the	Society's t	ransactions	as conta	ined in	the book	S
					s not ch	ecked by	me.

14 Albyn Rd. Strathfield
May 2nd 1976.
hanged on advice from the A.G.M.

FRANK ZIONS (signed) A.A.S.A.

⁺⁺Headings changed on advice from the A.G.M.
Only the General Fund (901-001) is conventionally audited.

S.U.S.S. MEMBERSHIP LIST.

Key: LM Life Member (2)FM Full Member (24)AM Associate Member (13)CM Corresponding Member (5) PM Prospective Member (those who only paid for 6mths are now unfinancial.) (16 have been seen) You are nfinancial and these bulletins are complimentary. Please rectify the situation! MA Mailing address, normally parents' home. If you have been unfairly excluded or know of someone who has, please notify the Treasurer. Austin Cathy 7/1-3 Bellevue Ave., Lakemba, 2195. 7507785 Austin, Tony AM Brister, Keith 5/62 Solander St. Monterey, 2217 FM Bunton, Steven 4 Chamberlain Ave., Caringbah, 2229. 5248116 CM Campbell, Peter 5 Marion St., Strathfield West, 2140 768855 FM Cleaver, Bryan 2 Macleay Place, Sylvania Waters, 2224. 5227190 PM Coles, Duncan 6/1 Woodford Rd, Longueville, 2066. AM Cox, Guy Electron Microscope Unit, Syd. Uni. FM 180 Short St, Balmain. Creed, David 11 Clifford St, Panania, 2213. 775563 AM D'Arcy, Peter 17/1 Lauderdale Ave, Fairlight, 2094. PM Dunkley, Jeanette* Stops Place, Chifley, A.C.T., 2606 062-810664 LM Dykes, Peter* 538 Port Hacking Rd, Caringbah, 2229. 5248723 CM Fenson, Trevor 70 Wycombe Rd, Yagoona, 2144. 6448411 PM Francis, Geoff Robb College, Uni. of New England Armidale 2351 FM Greenfield Paul 32 Leopold St, Croydon Park, 2133. 7976975 FM Handel Kathy(MA)65 Links Ave., Concord, 2137. FM 732028 FM Harris Wayne current address unknown PM Hayes, Judy 41 East St., Hurstville Grove, 2220. 576496 PM Healy, John St Johns College Syd. Uni., 2006 511240 PM Heress, Lizette 72 Myrna Rd., Strathfield, 2135. 6421840 PM Hopkins, Geral AM 4/7 Nagle St., Liverpool, 2170. Hopkins, Jenny AMHunt, Glen 23 Hipwood St., North Sydney, 2060. 9296875 FM Hyde, Brendon 10 Park Ave., Gordon, 2072. 4983520 FM Innes, Geoff 4 Warburton St, Gymea, 2227. 5254871 FM PM Jones, Paul 153 Rose St., Yagoona, 2144. 9694543 AM King, Randall 9 Wyong Rd., Mosman, 2088. Kirby, Prue (MA)1 Cobah Rd., Arcadia, 2159. 6531464 FM Lawrie, Martin 1 Parsonage Rd., Castle Hill, 2154. 6341361 PM 257 Abercrombie St., Chippendale, 2008. Lyle, Roger* 6994088 FM McCann, Stuart (MA) 12 William St., North Sydney, 2060. MA McMaster, Des St Johns College, Syd. Uni. 2006. 511240 PM Mee, Marilyn 9 Margaret St., Roseville, 2069. PM Milligan, Ian (MA) 7 McRae Ave., Taree, 2430. FM

Box 432, Carnarvon W.A., 6701

62 Old Castle Hill Rd, Castle Hill, 2154.6341116 PM

838510

6659946 FM

PM

AM

CM

CM

5 Lionel St., Ingleburn, 2565.

c/- Guides Office, Jenolan, 2786.

Box 158, Wentworth, Syd. Uni., 2006.

c/- Guides Office, Jenolan, 2786,

5/7 Neptune St., Coogee, 2034.

Morand, Vince

Murray, Keith

Oliver, Keith*

Opper, Steve

O'Rouke, Katy

Parle, Andrew

Murray, Ron

P.O.

Poulter, Norm 81 Hamersley Ave., Morley, W.A. 6062. Rice, Ray 258 Burns Bay Rd., Lane Cove, 2066.	AM pM
Rieder, Ludwig* 20 Figtree St., Lane Cove, 2066. (H) 4282034 (W) 20579 X464	FM
Ruxton, Peter (MA) 15 Parker Ave., West Pymble, 2073. 4492303	AM
Seabrook, Jim 5 Cheltenham Rd., Croydon, 2132. 7471818	FM FM
Shannon C Henry 44 McCaul St., Taringa, Qld., 4068.07-3708959	LM
Smith, Graeme 37 Vista St., Caringbah, 2229. 5246447	FM
Smyth-King, Ros 195 Annangrove Rd, Annangrove, 2154.	PM
Sweetnam, Tony 35 Neerim Rd., Castle Cove, 2069. 4064933	FM
Szpak, Brian 72 Loftus St., Bundeena, 2230.	CM
Toomer, Phil 2/19-21 Tunks St., Waverton, 2060. 9290432	AM
Tunney, Rik P.O. Box 176 Fairy Meadow, N.S.W. 2519.	AM
Walker, Micheal Dept. of Anthropology, Syd. Uni., 2006.	FM
Warrell, Steve 6/130 Fredrick St., Ashfield, 2131.	FM
Welch, Bruce 2/19-21 Tunks St., Waverton, 2060. 9290432	AM
Winglee, Peter 73 First Ave., Five Dock, 2046. 839182	FM

Please notify the editor in case of error in this list or change of address.



FUTURE EVENTS

24 January SUSS Committee Meeting. Peter Minglee 83.9182

22-23 January Katoomba - NSI Cave Rescre Group Annual Luncheon - 3 Sisters

29-31 January Jenolan - Peter Campbell 76.8855

8 February NSU Cave Rescue Group General Meeting - Police Rescue Squad HQ,

35-41 Addison Rd, Marrichville. 7.30pm. All velcome.

February New Zealand - Randall King

12-13 February Jenolan - caving & JCHAPS Heeting - Peter Winglee 83.9182

21 February SUSS Committee Meeting - Tony Austin 7/1-3 Bellevue Avenue,

Lakemba 750-7785 7.30pm

28 February - CETHITACION WINK - don't miss the films at 1 or 2pm on Monday

28 February & 'ednesday 2 March - probably in Carslaw.

6 March SUSS Field Day - (Sunday) at 10am at Wahroonga Rocks (at end of

Cliff Avenue, 'ahroonga.

10 March SUSS CHNERAL MEETING - 7.30pm in the Gladys Marks Room, Manning

House, (above the Manning Bar) - please note the unusual date.

12-13 March ASF MSU Liason Council Cave Rescue Practice - Bungonia Caves.

19-20 March Bungonia - SUSS Freshers Trip - leaders & transport required.

May sometime Jenolan - Eastern Limestone - B. Welch

7-12 April Jenolan - Easter Weekend - Peter Campbell 76.8855

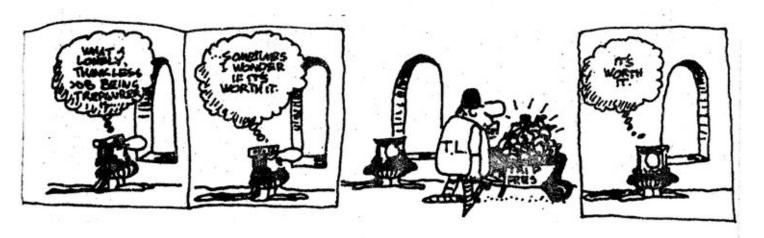
Hid June to

end of - Caving in Central England - Peter Campbell - trips every weekend September so he tells us (is the Treasurer going there to collect trip fees?)

SEPTEBER 7th International Speleological Congress - Sheffield, England.

Sometime SPAIN - in search of the deepest cave in the World - Guy Cox.

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BULLETIN of the SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEDLOGICAL SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY,

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