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BULLETIN *of the*

Sydney

University

Speleological



Society

S.U.S.S. President's Report

The last 12 months in SUSS has seen a large amount of activity in conjunction with members of other speleological groups. In July and August ten members of SUSS took part in the Atea '78 Speleological Expedition to Papua New Guinea. (Steve Bunton, Glen Campbell, Guy Cox, Geoff Francis, Malcolm Handel, Kathy Handel, Geoff Innes, Randall King, Peter Ruxton and Graeme Smith). This expedition succeeded in exploring and surveying Atea Kananda to a Southern Hemisphere length record of over 30 km of passage, and must be considered among the more successful and significant of activities in which SUSS has taken part.

Organization and training trips for the expedition occupied much of the time of some of SUSS's more active cavers prior to the expedition, so unfortunately the usual SUSS trips suffered. As a result there was not much of interest to newer members and the more established members may have been guilty of forming a clique.

The end of 1978 saw the publication by SUSS of the very important 2nd edition of the "Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave", largely through the efforts of Peter Campbell, Bruce Welch and Peter Winglee. This edition adds to previous knowledge of the work done in Mammoth by SUSS and other societies over the last six years. It is hoped that the slow but steady unfolding of this cave's secrets will continue in the coming years, since it is deservedly a traditional focal point of SUSS activities.

Despite the obvious advantages of inter-society activities in promoting co-operation and concentrating expertise it is also necessary to channel efforts within SUSS in order to maintain speleological projects and provide opportunities for those who wish to acquire caving skills. The beginning of 1979 had produced a new enthusiasm which will hopefully boost SUSS identity on the local caving scene. This has come from many newcomers at a successful Orientation Week and Field Day, followed by popular trips to Bungonia, Jenolan and Wyanbene.

It is hoped that SUSS develops more intensity for projects on the local scene, especially those aimed at cave conservation. SUSS began such a project with the cleaning of Oolite Chamber, Mammoth Cave early in 1978, and should continue this theme in view of the fact that South East Australia is a region in which new cave discoveries are rare.

Malcolm Handel

March, 1979

TRIP REPORT - CAVE RESCUE PRACTICE, BUNGONIA.

Present: Steve Bunton (Trip Leader?), Michael Lake,
Mathew Davies, Mark Twigg, Richard Mackay.

Despite the criticism of previous Cave Rescue Practises, those that were held on 10th and 11th March all seemed to be somewhat useful and interesting. Saturday was taken up by a series of lectures on topics ranging from Stretcher Techniques to what an Ambulance looks like. Some of these were quite informative, others, useless. Sunday was spent in putting some of Saturdays lectures into practice. All (except Mark Twigg who spent the morning "caving" in the boot of his car looking for his keys), were involved in a number of incidents. These included all types of caving accidents - an appendicitis attack, a broken pelvis, a broken jaw, and a poor lad whom Steve Bunton had sat on! In one incident Steve Bunton and I were stranded in Holland's (?) Hole while an appendicitis victim blocked the way out. Since we were both useless our overalls were commandeered to make a stretcher - we got very cold. On the whole Sunday's activities were handled well - probably as a result of Saturday's lectures. These were followed by a de brief and the drive home.

Richard Mackay

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Financial statement 1.3.78 to 15.1.79

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		\$	\$	\$
Balance brought down				79.45
Membership:	Full	130.00		
	Associate	40.00		
	Family	18.00		
	Corresponding	24.00		
	Prospective	108.00	320.00	
Sale of stock:	car stickers	15.00		
	publications	57.50	72.50	
Interest			4.26	
Total receipts 1978/79				<u>396.76</u>
Total turnover				<u>476.21</u>

PAYMENTS

Orientation week:	Hire film	3.00		
	Photo prints	1.50		
	Wine and Cheese	17.00	21.50	
Bulletin postage			24.03	
Library purchases			13.50	
S.R.C. Liaison Council levy			10.00	
Administrative			10.00	
Printing of car stickers			62.50	
Miscellaneous			5.00	
Total payments 1978/79				<u>146.53</u>
Balance carried down 15.1.79				<u>329.68</u>
Total turnover				<u>476.21</u>

IAN CARPENTER EQUIPMENT FUND

Balance 1.3.78	\$53.14	\$	Less Forestry compass	\$200.00	\$
Trip fees	11.40		2 torches	7.84	
Grant from S.U. Union	200.00		other equipment	16.55	224.39
Miscellaneous	7.11	271.65			
			Balance 15.1.79		<u>47.26</u>

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Society for the period 1st March 1978 to 15th January 1979. Having regard to the explanation given, I am of the opinion that the statement is a correct record of the Society's transactions as contained in the books.


 G. J. F. Po
 A.M.S.A.

9/13 Ocean Street, Woollahra.

Dated 19 January, 1979.

SUSS Bull. 18(4) : 45

TRIP REPORT : BUNGONIA Jan. 6-7 th

Present: Geoff Innes, Graeme Smith (SUSS), John Hugman (Pom), Noel Plumbley (SUSS, England), Xavier Goyet, Richard Maire (FFS, France).

The word had spread. Cavers from around the world had gathered to pit their wits and muscles against the best Australia had to offer. Yes! It was the first international expedition to Bungonia!

Xavier and Richard were on their way home to France having spent two months on a caving reconnaissance expedition to PNG. Noel had also just arrived in Australia having spent five months in PNG on the British Expedition to the Hindenberg Wall.

The weather was hot, the flies had heard we were coming. We procrastinated in Marulan trying to buy some sun tan lotion; for Saturday would be spent lilo-ing the Shoalhaven River.

Abandoning the cars at Jones' farm, we set off with canyoning gear for Spring Creek. With the aid of a map, Graeme and I easily determined the quickest way to our destination, (unlike the previous time when we relied on our memories, it took us three hours to find the canyon!)

A pool of water was reached on the creek and we all took the opportunity to cool off and remove the burrs from our sox, legs, beards and any other part that happened to come in contact with the dry grass. Graeme gave the French a nature lesson. Richard and Xavier thought canyoning was much better than caving, and compared with Australian caves, it is! However, they thought that some of the belays were very dubious.

They never ceased to try and persuade us to use French rope techniques, (there were only three caving deaths in France last year!) but we respectively declined their offer.

Lunch was eaten on the beach at the junction of Spring Ck. and the Shoalhaven. We covered ourselves in suntan lotion, launched our air beds and lazily floated downstream to the junction with Bungonia Creek, 7.5km away.

Mt. Ayre spur quickly drained what energy we still possessed.

As Sunday dawned we readied ourselves to escape the flies and heat by heading underground. Our objective? The "Berger of the Australian mainland" - B24!

We bottomed it quickly. The French were unimpressed by the cave after the description they'd heard. They didn't like our rigging techniques; rope protectors were alien to them.

We escaped from the cave and migrated to the swimming hole to cool off. and to eat lunch. Richard recorded the event on film to show other cavers in France. The scene - 6 cavers sitting up to their necks in water eating salami, oranges and drinking claret from a wine bladder!

What a way to end a hard (?) Australian caving trip!

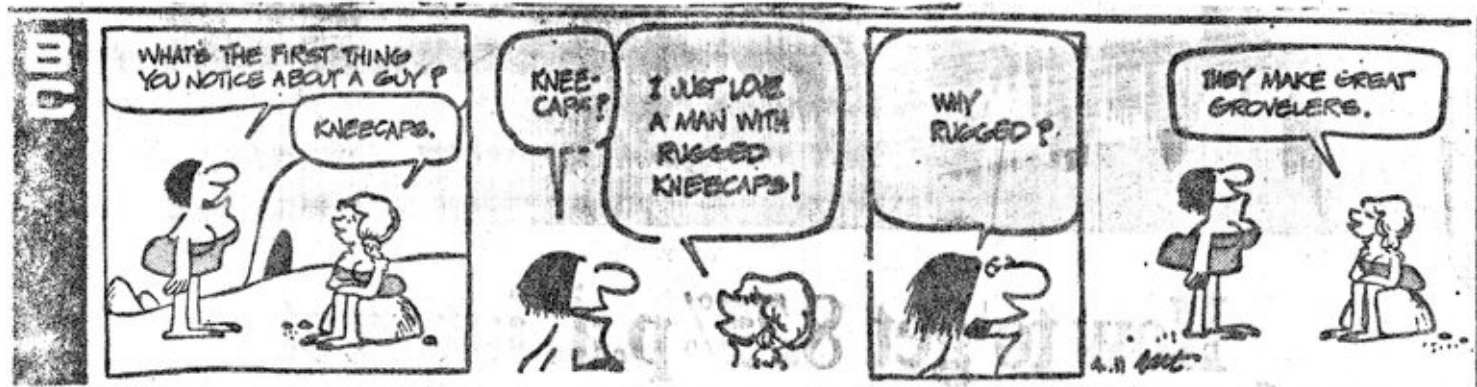
TRIP REPORT: December, 1978

Present: B. Cleaver, G. Innes, P. Wilson.

The purpose of this mid-week trip was to do the usual caving and to excavate the entrance of an old gold mine visited on a previous trip.

The mine was located on the southern side of the Tolwong Road, approximately half-way along it. The collapsed adit was according to the Mines Department records, supposed to have connected with the deepest of 3 (now collapsed) shafts found further up the hillside. Well formed but damaged quartz crystals had previously been found in the vicinity of the shafts. It was hoped that better samples would be found upon entering the adit. Three or so hours of digging provided further evidence in support of a law related to Murphy's. The adit contained 2' of water, nothing but waste rock and didn't connect with either the shaft or mined out stopes.

We returned to the camping area and visited Bungonia Creek for a swim and wash. The following day we visited the Right Hand Branch of Grill Cave which was surprisingly free of CO₂.



TRIP REPORT - New Zealand, January 20th-28th, 1979

Present - G.C. Cox, Glenn Campbell (SUSS), Chris Pugsley (NZSS)

This wasn't really a caving expedition at all. Glenn & I were visiting Auckland for the ANZAAS conference, to tell the world about our respective marvellous discoveries in the realms of science. Naturally enough, though, through the speleo-mafia, we were bludging accommodation from a local caver. The first chance for some caving came on the Sunday before the conference, when the biological section organized a trip to Rangitoto Island, a recent volcano in Auckland Harbour. Glenn and I duly tagged along and botanised, until we got up towards the rim of the crater, where there were reported to be some lava tubes. This was a new style of caving so far as I was concerned, but definitely fun. We found a tube about a quarter of a mile long, virtually straight, but around 50% unroofed so that lights were barely necessary (just as well as mine barely worked).

More serious caving came along mid-week, since Chris had to do his regular count of the Waitomo Cave glowworms on Wednesday night - we were willing enough to help so long as Chris would do a serious trip as well. Thus on Wednesday afternoon, along with a local resident whose name I've forgotten, we headed down Gardiner's Gut, NZ's longest cave. The entrance is a wooded doline, leading down rapidly to a shaft, down which we hung a ladder. We didn't climb down the ladder, however, but traversed across the pitch to an obvious passage a few feet lower down on the opposite side. This leads to a superb high-level series, with legendary decorations - helictites such as we had rarely seen, and the famous 'Viviennes Needle' stal. Rather disconcertingly, this huge dry passage suddenly just stopped, and we had to negotiate a distinctly small squeeze on the left, which popped us out straight back into a continuation of the big passage. From here, a series of completely irreversible moves led us down to the level of the main streamway, and we followed a pleasant clean stream passage, dotted with glowworms, down to the resurgence. Here we exited, and walked about 200 metres across a wooded hillside to the Zwiehollen entrance. This leads back into some dry passage, with huge formations and the relics of some old show-cave fixtures. A long straddle-traverse, quite wide in parts, provides a very entertaining way to get back to the streamway without using any tackle, and we headed upstream again. We soon passed the point at which we had joined the stream going down, and headed onwards through more of that clean, high vadose stream passage. Eventually we found our ladder hanging down to meet us, and some climbed it. This seemed a bit unsporting, though, and the local caver and I freeclimbed out, which was really quite an easy chimney. A first-rate trip - probably about 3 miles of caving, though less than half of the total cave.

After a visit to the local chippie for some greasy food, it was back to the Glowworm Cave for some serious science (which has to be done after the tourists have finished for the day). This cave has absolutely nothing going for it as a cave, but the glowworms are superb. Even they begin to pall after five hours acting as a field assistant (or dogsbody) and slowly freezing. We left the cave about 2 am and slept very well in the Auckland Speleos hut. Next back to Auckland via some hot springs and sundry other volcanic manifestations, and on Friday we had to play at being serious scientists again.

Guy Cox

WYANBENE TRIP

24th - 25th March

Group Leader: Tony Austin

The convoy met at Jerry's place at Minto at 7 pm Friday and left almost immediately after, at 8.30 pm. So we arrived at Wyanbene rather late with Peter Winglee sandwiched between Tony and Ivan Desailly (their cars, that is) due to lights failure.

Our discovery that the cave would be shared with Brussel-Sprouting-type venturers, win TV crew, camera, generator and light - was rather disappointing. We set up camp around the farm house and decided to ford the Shoalhaven to the cave area in the morning, in Ivan's 4WD (Cruiser). We woke up Jerry and Jenny who had gone right through later on in the night (Nissan Patrol) and not seen our camp.

We returned to camp, waited for Jerry and set off to see the Big Hole (350 ft.) - largely to give the scouts time to finish with the cave - it would be rather crowded.

Then with trog gear, the whole group at last and Tony's pseudo - 4WD Subaru (Peter having decided to leave his non-aquatic car at camp), we attempted to cross the river.

After towing Brian out (Kombi) and after towing Tony out - and it was very heavy because it always carried about 2½ feet of water and 3 or 4 wet bums (to be abbreviated here after as ATTO, just to save space, you understand - this is a bulletin and not a six-volume edition, ok?) - we entered the cave at 3 pm, just as the scouts were about to leave. However, we did get to use a wire ladder (which we didn't have - and arranged for the owners - Macarthur caving group, to leave there for our return) and entered the first drop chamber to find it lit up by 240 V.

We soon came to realise that a large part of travel in this cave consisted of water - up to your knees when you could stand and up to your chin when you had to lie down and grovel (the Keyhole).

Excessive wet grovelling proved unnecessary at times because there were occasional ways of going above for a while - but

Tony thought this unsporting - so most everyone grovelled away, except when he wasn't looking.

From the Rock Pile we tried unsuccessfully, to find Caesar's Palace - we didn't quite make it to Diahorrea Pits - but we did find the Gunbarrel (a huge vertical shaft - an aven - of unknown ceiling height - and Malcolm Handel's rope as a permanent fixture). Peter took photographs.

There were occasional moments of inactivity, but being wet through everyone soon started stomping about and swinging their arms and sharing sweets (jubes travel through squeezes better and impart less agony than barley sugar, I believe).

There were some pretty good mud walls to climb up and down and a beautiful Ridge Pool system.

The party returned - with more wet grovelling and attempts to find Caesar's Palace - to the first chamber and were happy to see that the wire ladder had been left for us. We emerged from the cave at 8.30 pm and packed wood around each other, poured petrol on, struck a match and there by got warm and dry.

We set off back to our camp, and ATTO everybody crashed for the night. (Michael Lake slept with chocolate in his pocket). We returned in the morning (ATTO) to Jerry and Brian's camps and decided to make it a short day. So we went back to pack up our camp. (What no ATTO - yes, that's right - a bit of plastic sheet over the front end and he got across!). We headed for Thirlmere, where there is the deepest railway cutting in the Southern Hemisphere (70 ft 23 m). After checking with the rail museum manager - they would not be using the track that day, but couldn't guarantee that no one else wouldn't - Tony secured a rope to the guard rail on the edge of the road over-bridge and some of us abseiled down and prussiked back up, with Tony White belaying. This demonstration amused those touri who stopped to look at the cutting.

Then we packed-up and returned to Sydney.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday April 24th. Committee Meeting. Geoff Innes' home.

NOTE CHANGE OF DAY!

Thursday 3rd May. SUSS General Meeting. Common Room, Holme Building (Old Union), 7.30 pm.

12th - 20th May . JENOLAN. 9 days of caving, including a trip to Twiddly-Om-Pom (Mammoth); surveying upper Central River (Mammoth); pushing various caves in Wiburd's Bluff; prospecting in the Southern Limestone. Contact: Randall King - 428 1367 or Peter Winglee 713 1980, well in advance as numbers are strictly limited.

26th - 27th May (and possibly longer). JENOLAN again. Contact: Mike Lake - 524 5229

~~AND for the heavies or would-be heavies:~~

5th - 19th May. ~~TASMANIA~~ Exit Cave, Junee-Florentine area, Mole Creek area. Contact ~~Steve Dunton~~ - 524 8116.

Tuesday May 29th. Committee Meeting, place to be announced.

~~Thursday~~ June 7th. SUSS General Meeting, Common Room, Holme Building, 7.30 pm.

~~SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW~~

OVERDUE !

IF you are a full, associate or corresponding member and have not yet paid your sub for 1979, send \$7

IF you are a prospective member and have paid only \$1 for the first term of 1979, send \$3

TO the Treasurer, S.U.S.S., Box 35, Holme Building, University of Sydney, 2006

OR this will be the last Bulletin that you get !



SUSS

BULLETIN
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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