

Volume 20 Number 2

June 1980

# BULLETIN *of the*

## *Sydney*

## *University*

## *Speleological*



## *Society*



DIRE WARNING !

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UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

WILL GET !!

# Lobotomy boys in keen form

By ALISON STEWART

The Lobotomy Brothers have Kings Cross in stitches. Three nights a week, two of Sydney's brightest buskers deliver their scalpel-sharp performance at the corner of Darlinghurst Road and Roslyn Street.

And regularly at least 300 people gather to watch the "brothers" perform a spicy act that has a certain flavour of Reg

Livermore, Paul Hogan and Lenny Bruce.

If their material seems unusual, it is true to say that George Smilovici and Mike Lake had unusual beginnings.

Mike Lake was born in the working class London suburb of Tooting.

Although discouraged from pursuing his musical talents by an axe-wielding grandmother who chopped up his piano, Mike persisted dramatically, working at fringe theatres around London and even doing a stint with Reg Livermore.

When he left London eight years ago it was only because IRA bombs made him nervous. Mike had a few near-misses, so he made for Australia.

The other half of the Lobotomy Brothers had a more cerebral upbringing. George Smilovici was born into a talented, artistic family.

His British father met his Transylvanian mother in Israel and they sailed to Cuba, where George was born.

The Lobotomy Brothers — so called because they both claim to

someone had stolen my car. All in one night."

Mike and George met one another two years ago and formed the brotherhood when George threw in his job teaching high school drama students and Mike gave up his Randwick restaurant.

They disliked one another when they first met, and at times it is uncertain whether they still do.

"This is one of the reasons we call ourselves the Lobotomy Brothers — we aim to give one another scars," explained Mike.

They have already appeared on 2JJ and television.

They have played in every NSW university and have gathered a large student following.

But their appeal does not stop there. They have had equal success doing the country pub circuit, starting their act before a sceptical, jeering mob and finishing it with encores.

suffer from acute paranoia — have not been together long, but already they have a strong cult following.

Many of their adherents turn up regularly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to hear them perform.

Their black-humoured songs, poems and dialogue, which they term "existential nausea," appeal to people who appreciate a humour-laced message that never gets too lurid.

George recalls a recent eventful night at Kings Cross.

"Our audience was blocking the entrances to various strip clubs, so the proprietors got heavy and emptied two garbage bags of water on top of us," George said.

"After that, someone objected to part of our act, and punched Mike. Then a drunk lunged at me during our performance. I made a good takedown, he made a good bull."

"Finally, I discovered



The Lobotomy Brothers — Mike Lake (left) and George Smilovici — deliver a scalpel-sharp performance.

## ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

### Developments in Bungonia State Recreation Area.

As you are probably aware, sweeping changes have already occurred at Bungonia and even more drastic changes are proposed. The most controversial of these, with arguments for and against, are as follows:-

#### 1) Camping Fees.

- FOR \*help pay for maintenance of facilities.  
\*allow accurate estimate of the amount of overnight use.

#### AGAINST

- \*maintenance costs exceed possible fee revenue anyway (Lands Dept. letter)
- \*estimates of overnight use can be done by a head count.
- \*not all will use facilities but all have to pay.
- \*difficulties in collecting fees as many will be elsewhere - caving, bushwalking, swimming, etc.
- \*difficulty in proving who stayed overnight because of late night and early morning arrivals and departures.

#### 2) Facilities Now Provided-Water, Kitchen, Showers, Toilets.

- FOR \*help to keep things (people and immediate environment) clean.  
\*kitchen will help in times of total fire ban and can be used in search and rescue exercises.  
\*running water good since no natural water supply readily available.  
\*proposed on-site Ranger's Hut should allow the area to be well looked after - a very good idea but it should be given higher priority.

#### AGAINST

- \*2 showers/2 toilets per sex (no coarse jokes, please) very inadequate for a large weekend "population".
- \*kitchen facilities (2 stoves only) are clearly inadequate.
- \*loss of social benefits of traditional campfire.
- \*because of the very limited kitchen facilities provided, properly constructed fireplaces (+firewood) should be provided around the camping area, at the Lookdown and at Adam's Lookout (+ picnic tables at the lookouts).  
- this should not only ensure safety - but also ensure protection for vegetation from firewood collection.

- 3) Total Fire Ban Between December and March (possibly all year)  
FOR \*risk of fires during the Dec. - March danger period  
is considerably lessened.

AGAINST

- \*everyone is forced to use the extremely inadequate kitchen facilities (only 2 stoves + limited space).
  - \*during Search and Rescue practice anyone else will find it very difficult to cook with the very limited available facilities.
  - \*restricts food, will need shorter cooking times.
  - \*difficult to justify a fire ban in such a localised area - especially one which hasn't an extraordinarily high fire danger.
- 4) C.R.G. Restricted to a Maximum of 250 at S&R Practices  
FOR \*area can't comfortably accomodate any more.

AGAINST

- \*important that all interested speleos (not just 250) gain some expertise in S & R techniques.
- \*previously, the area has had over 1,500 people in the one weekend. (Aug. '73. (pen W'end)

There are certainly other arguments - both for and against - which can be raised; however the above points should provide a solid basis for informed discussion and allow you to form your own opinion on these issues.

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSERVATION AND  
SAFETY IN BUNGONIA S.R.A.

1. Cave Conservation.

\*Odyssey and Phoenix Caves be kept gated - for preservation and to allow scientific study to continue.

\*Drum Cave (B13) be gated and access heavily restricted during November - February period (Miniopterus Shriebersi : breeding season - Drum is a "maternity" cave.)

\*Chalk Cave (B26) be gated and access heavily restricted during winter (May - September) since used by Miniopterus during this time.

\*keys to the above gated caves to be kept by ranger, who will, in consultation with those groups conducting the studies control access and keep a log of visitors.



## 2. Visitors Books - Caves.

- should fulfil the following roles:

- \*reduce or eliminate graffiti.
- \*provide a record of cave usage.
- \*allow easier tracing of missing parties.
- \*provide a record of rise and fall of CO<sub>2</sub> (i.e. where encountered.)

- placement would be :-

\*at the entrance of "major", often visited, deep, difficult, long or "dangerous" caves.

\*deep within the cave - at a major rest spot at "Safe from the Russians", for example.

- inclusions could include (for entrance book).

- \*a plan of cave e.g. on a sign.
- \*details of level of difficulty, possible dangers and equipment required.
- \*spaces for party number, purpose, group/ individual names, contact address, estimated trip time and signing in and out columns.

## 3. Visitors Books - other.

-again to reduce vandalism, provide a record of usage and allow easier location of parties.

-these books to be located at the lookouts and also at the kitchen/ Ranger's hut (when built).

## 4. New fencing.

\*replacement of wire cable above the Big Ladder in Grill (B44)

\*new fence or reflective shields on existing fences + warnings of danger to unsupervised children, at the two major lookouts.

## 5. General - Safety and other things.

\*Warning signs about dangers (and penalties - cite appropriate by-law) of throwing objects off cliffs or down caves.

\*Scientific studies in the area to be promoted (and possibly finance by the Lands Dept.)

\*the highest priority to be given to safety and the availability upkeep, and expertise in use of rescue equipment

\*a representative of N.S.W. speleos, elected by the N.S.W. Speleo Council, be included in the Bungonia Trust.

## 6. Alternate Cooking Facilities (see page 1 of report)

### POSSIBLE ACTION YOU CAN TAKE:

\*Leave a note with the ranger everytime you don't use the facilities.

\*have a code of ethics not to use any facilities (except water and ranger's house and possible visitors books.)

\*Write to the Minister for Lands and Environment and to the Premier, as well as Local Government, State Members, -your own and the Bungonia areas - and the Bungonia Caves Trust.

\*Push to have Bungonia included in Morton National Park.

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### A Note From The Secretary :

During the first six months of this year members have been actively caving at various areas throughout the state but there have been a few problems which have been brought up by members which need mentioning.

Firstly the Bulletin: We apologize to all members who have not received recent editions of the "Bull". This has been due to a few factors which hopefully have now been remedied. If anyone requires back-copies (of issues not received) or have changed their address recently, please notify me and I will deal with it.

Secondly in regard to trips. Recently a number of members have expressed their desire to go on trips only to be told the trip is full by the trip leader, but when the trip eventuates the leader finds that only half the party has shown up. This is not fair to those members turned away so I suggest that in future anybody who has put their name down for a trip should contact the specified leader on the Monday proceeding, in order to confirm the trip or to withdraw from it. This will give the leader time to contact other willing members. Also if anyone requires a permit for a particular trip, contact me and I will arrange it.

Finally subscriptions. A notice appears elsewhere in the "Bull" concerning this matter. If members are unfinancial by the time the next "Bull" goes to print (early August) then they will receive no future copies.

With love,  
from  
Ian Mann.



N.S.W.I.T.S.S. OPINION SURVEY

re BUNGONIA STATE RECREATION AREA.

As proposed in the February General Meeting, this survey is being conducted in order to find out what action, if any, we should take as a group about the recent and proposed changes to Bungonia S.R.A. Please read the environment officer's report then complete the following.

Name:

ITEM	Agree	Disagree	D.C.*	Comments, suggestions, etc.
<u>A. Developments</u>				
1. Camping Fees				
2. Facilities				
a) Running H <sub>2</sub> O				
b) Kitchen- 2 stoves				
c) H&C showers				
d) Sept. toilets				
3. Total Fire Ban				
a) Dec.-March				
b) all year				
4. C.R.G- max of 250 per practice (applies to other groups)				
<u>B. Recommendations</u>				
1. Cave gating				
a) Od. & Ph.				
b) Drum				
c) Chalk				
d) Keys with Rang.				
2. Visitor's Books - caves				
a) at entrances				
b) deep within				
c) inclusions				
3. v.bks-other				
a) lookouts				
b) kitchen/Hut				
4) New fencing				
a) Grill-Big ladder				

\* D.C. - Don't care

Recommendations (cont.)

ITEM	Agree	Disagree	D.C.*	Comments, suggestions, etc.
b)lookouts				
c)children's				
warn. signs				
5)General				
Safety				
a)Throwing of				
objects,				
warn. signs				
b)Promo. Sci.				
Studies &				
c)Financing of				
Sci. Stud. (by				
Lands Dept.)				
d)Rescue Equip.				
e)Speleo Rep.				
on Trust				
6.Alt. Cooking				
a)Fireplace at				
camping area &				
b) at lookouts				
c) Picnic tables				
d) Firewood				
C. Possible Action				
a)note with rang.				
b)code of ethics				
c)letters to Mins.				
d)Incl. in Morton.				

Anything else you want to say about Bungonia.

Please return completed surveys to: Roman Ilichacz, 269 River Ave.,  
Carramar, 2163; Ph. 7286352(H)  
or, if it's easier, drop into Brian McQuillan, at work.

Thank-you

SUB TRIP-LEADER'S REPORT

(To be read in conjunction with main trip report.)

Railway Tunnel - Unsurveyed connection - Ice Pick Lake - Naked Lady Chamber - Hill Hole - Northern Railway Tunnel round trip.

Members Present: Anne Gray, Mike Lake, Paul Greenfield, Mark Twigg, Ross Franklin.

- - - - -

This exploratory trip was organised as a diversion to our main aim of formation cleaning in Oolite Cavern.

After concluding the cleaning, the group split into 3; our own party; another lead by Henry Shannon going to Slug Lake; whilst the remainder returned to the surface.

Initially we headed to the Railway Tunnel via Conglomerate Cavern. Paul was the only party member who had been to the unsurveyed connection before and many holes were checked off the central Railway Tunnel area before the appropriate passage was found. The connection leads eventually to Ice Pick Lake.

The passage began as a boulder-pile climb downward - tight in places (for Mark). This gave way to a fairly extensive vadose stream passage, very reminiscent of lower Serpentine Cave. The floor here was gravel and the passage was fairly narrow but high enough to enable easy walking.

The Snakes Gut puts an end to this. It is a typical sump-type gravel - steeply dipping down on both sides. Once this obstacle has been passed it is but a cat walk (on hands and knees) to the more engaging Micromancer Bedrock Squeeze which is very aptly named, and delightfully tight. With varying degrees of difficulty we all displayed the various techniques of contorting the human frame. Even Mark gave it a go and would still be there trying in his "oh - so - cool" manner if we hadn't convinced him to by-pass the squeeze via a much easier grovel, which appears to have been dug out.

All together again on the other side we faced a T - intersection. Down and to the right leads to Ice Pick Lake whilst up and to the left leads to Naked Lady Chamber.

We went to Ice Pick Lake first. The passage to the Lake is a large river passage with some good flowstone and decoration. Ice Pick Lake was quite low and we all climbed through a formation window to the muddy lake chamber beyond. Mike showed us his ability (or should I say inability) as a skater by involuntarily repeatedly sliding in the mud whilst approaching the lake's edge (Oh you show-off Mike). Despite what you hear about our beloved El Presidente, he can't walk on water, or even a thin mud crust!

The return through the window was somewhat slower due to our muddy boots and lack of holds. Various climbing techniques

were displayed. Eventually we retraced our steps up past the T - intersection; climbing up through and around some boulders we finally emerged into the not - often - visited Naked Lady Chamber. Unfortunately no nymphs could be found although there were pockets of oolites in many of the dry gour pools in the floor of the cavern.

Under normal, wetter conditions this chamber would appear much more impressive. The flowstone and calcite crystals of the floor and walls at the moment are dry and so do not reflect the light as well as those in places such as the Oolite Cavern. Although just ordinary oolites are rare in N.S.W. caves the cavern also contained interesting blue-white oolites.

Naked Lady Chamber is divided in two by a large rockfall down the centre. The way on leads up and to the right over large boulders and via a tricky climb, and gives access to some large joint-controlled rift passage. Eventually one leads down through Rockfall Passage to Hell Hole. From here it is but a few minutes' scramble and stroll out to the Northern Railway Tunnel.

We emerged from Mammoth at approximately 7.30 p.m. to be confronted by miserable drizzling rain. I knew I should have put up my tent. Oh well, another contortioning night across the back seat of my V.W. Although I may have been uncomfortable that night, there was that feeling of well-being associated with a top caving trip to keep me warm.

Ross Franklin.



TRIP REPORT: Buchan, Victoria,  
26 - 27 - 28 January 1980

Present: Walli Sadi (V.S.A. Trip leader)  
Eddie Sadi (V.S.A.), Mike Iake,  
Rik Tunney, Janine McKinnon

#### Saturday

While Rik attended the A.S.P. meeting Walli took Janine and myself to his recent discovery, RAGNAROK.

This splendid cave is well decorated with speleothems and mud formations including glop holes. Unlike Spider Cave at Jenclan, these glop holes have rims such that when the mud is when the mud is sloping steeply, the top of the glop hole is still horizontal. Great potential exists in the cave for digs and further extension via the terminal sump.

Ragnarok has a few ladder pitches and superb walk through passages.

The word "Ragnarok" is possibly derived from the Scandinavian words "regin", gods, and "rökr", darkness, hence "the darkness of the Gods". (ref: Ragnarok: by Ignatius Donnelly)

#### Sunday

Scrooge's Cave was also discovered by Walli some months previously and requires a wetsuit to explore the lower levels, so I waited on a muddy rock [poor Pike] while Janine and Walli swam on further.

Later in the afternoon we descended a 50' ladder pitch down a rift into a cave only discovered the previous weekend! The cave ended in a rockpile which did not go, but apparently we lost a ladder down the rockpile when climbing out, so undoubtedly it will be pushed again.

#### Monday

Baby Berger is situated in a large doline on mining company property and begins with 15 minutes of rockpile which leads to the 140' pitch. The shaft is circular with a shallow flute down one side and some fine flowstone. Eddie free climbed this, I am told. The floor is of boulders and presently does



not go any further. Walli had never tried Jumaring before but picked it up quickly. We were informed that the mining company has intentions of using this great sporting cave as a sludge tip. I sincerely hope that this will not eventuate.

Thankyou from Janine, Rik and myself to the V.S.A. and especially to Walli and Eddie for guiding us through such fine caves and making our stay so enjoyable.

Michael Lake

TRIP REPORT: Kalang Canyon, Kanangra Walls,  
March 22nd 1980

- OUR ROPE WAS CLEAVED IN TWO ! -

Present : Mike Lake (Trip Leader), Ian Mann,  
Ivan Desailly, Judi Strickland

From the car park at Kanangra, 10 minutes of easy walking leads one to the first abseil pitch. As with many other canyons the belay points were obvious and dubious to say the least.

The canyon only contained a trickle of water, just enough to sustain the algae, and make the rockface slippery, and all went well until the third pitch. Ropes were lowered over the edge but a 10' ledge lower down precluded us from seeing if the rope ends reached terra firma. Ivan singled down first on a harpoon, and when he reached the ground back came the unforgettable words:

" There's three ends down here" !

The rope that he didn't abseil down on was 60' short of the ground with the remainder of the rope lying at his feet.

The entire rope was hauled up and examined as it was fed down again. Apparently a rock had been knocked loose which, hitting the rope, severed it in two. The rope was retied and tied off at the bottom of each subsequent pitch for the last man down. The incident highlights the necessity for always checking that a rope end reaches the ground.

Another party, rovers from Gynea, passed us soon after. The climb up Murdering Gully was relatively easy and only takes around 2-1/2 hours before one reaches the cars again.

Michael Lake

# SPELEOSPORTS



WHO? Anyone who goes caving.

WHEN? 23rd and 24th August, 1980

WHERE? Macquarie University, North Ryde (a well known caving area).

WHY? To get all N.S.W. cavers together in a fun situation.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? Starting at 9.30 a.m. Saturday with registrations. At 10 a.m. Speleosports events will begin. This involves a team of four cavers running around a course in full caving gear, carrying equipment. The course includes laddering, abseiling, going through a few storm water drains, up slippery slopes, etc. The sports will follow the National Rules adopted by the Australian Speleological Federation.

At 1 p.m. Speleosports will recommence. At 2 p.m. workshops will commence, running simultaneously to Speleosports. Topics include Knot Tying, Single Rope Technique and Surveying.

These practical workshops will last approximately 3/4 of an hour and will be held twice.

Speleosports will finish around 4.30 - 5.00 p.m.

On Saturday night will be a three course sit-down dinner.

Tickets will be available on the day but only a limited number.

To ensure that you won't be disappointed, order your ticket with your entry form over the page.

CATERING & ACCOMMODATION - Steak sandwiches will be available for Saturday and Sunday lunch, along with refreshments. A Snack Bar is available in the University Cafeteria.

Overnight camping is permitted in the Uni. for this occasion, bring your own tent etc.

COST: There is a registration fee of \$2.00. Each competitor receives a cloth badge and the winners a Pendant.

TO: THE ORGANISERS, SPELEOSPORTS

NAME: ..... PHONE: .....

ADDRESS: .....

I will/will not be taking part in a speleosport team.

I will/will not require meat for Saturday lunch (around a \$1),

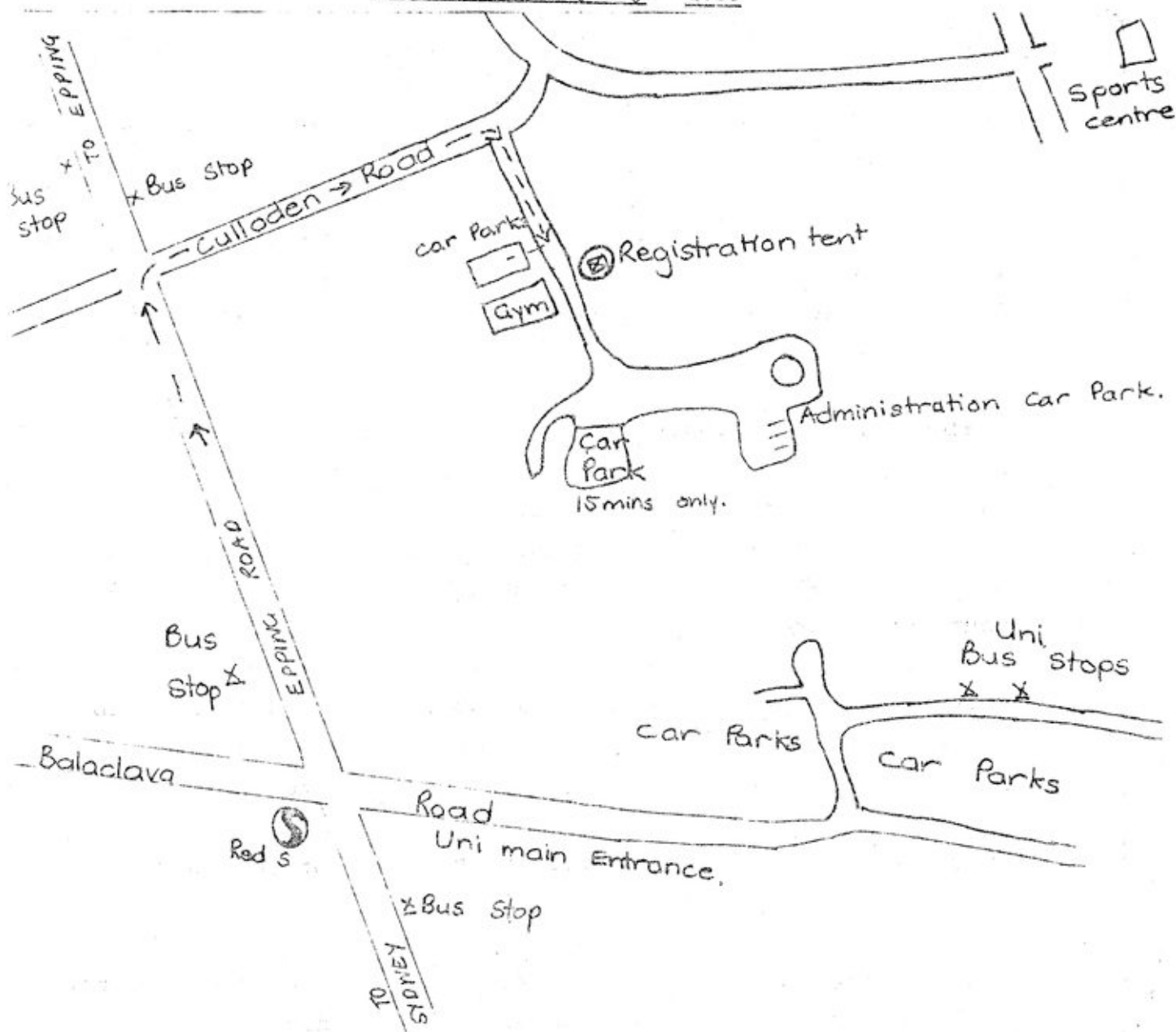
I will/will not require meat for Sunday lunch (around a \$1).

I will/will not be attending the Saturday night dinner.

Enclosed is \$....., being for (a) Registration \$2  
(b) Dinner \$6

Fill in the application form and post it to:

Secretary,  
Sydney University Speleological Society,  
Box 35,  
Holme Building,  
University of Sydney. 2006



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Correspondence Secretary & Equipment Officer

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Minutes Secretary

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Gracie Smith, 37 Vista St., Caringbah. 524 6447 (h); 666 9841 x319 (w)

Chris Dunn, 114 Woodlands Rd., Taren Point. 525 8469

Randall King, 36 Marian St., Enmore. 519 5296 (h); 439 2566 x35 (w)

### SUSS T-SHIRTS

YOU supply the T-shirt & we will print the SUSS emblem on it for only \$1.00. OR - tell us your size and we will supply the T-shirt & print it for \$5.00.

### CARRY MATS

We have arranged a discount deal on closed-cell foam mats

cost: 50 x 150 cm - \$6.00

50 x 175 cm - \$7.00

Contact Bryan Cleaver on 522 7190

### SHEEP ROAST

WHEN: Saturday 19th July

TIME: 4.00 pm onwards

PLACE: 7 Eddie Ave, Panania

COST: \$5.00 per head, to be paid by 5th July

MENU: Roast lamb, cooked on the spit; salad,  
jacket potatoes; pavlova, coffee. BYOG

CONTACT: Ivan Desailly, 773 3861

### SUSS BADGES

Car Stickers - \$1.00

Enamel lapel badge - \$1.00

Cloth badge - .50c

Contact: Bruce Welch 569 9928



### FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday 3rd July. SUSS General Meeting, 7.30 pm, Common Room  
Holme Bldg. The ATEA FILM will be shown.

July 4, 5 & 6. YARRANGOBILLY. Contact Ian Mann 631 4321

Saturday 5th July FIELD DAY, Kelleys Falls, followed by  
BARBEQUE at Mike Lake's. Contact Mike Lake 524 5229

July 12th & 13th. JENOLAN - Southern Limestone, Mammoth &  
Spider; also KALANG canyon. Mike Lake, 524 5229

Saturday 26th July. OPEN DAY at Sydney University. Helpers  
needed for the SUSS display (including abseiling  
demonstration). Contact Ian Mann 631 4321

### AUGUST

August 23rd & 24th. SPELEOSPORTS, Macquarie University.  
Entry form in this issue. Contact Ian Mann 631 4321

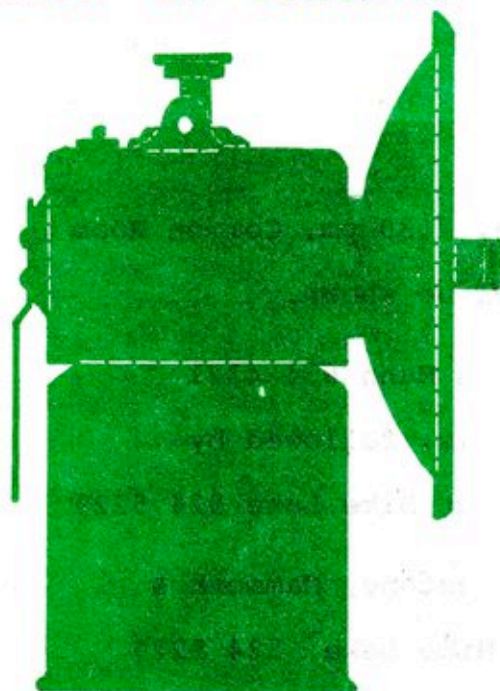
Last Week of August. BUCHAN, Victoria. Contact Mike Lake,  
524 5229 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

### SEPTEMBER

September 6th & 7th. JENOLAN Cave Rescue Practice.  
Contact Guy Cox 818 1896

September 12th to 14th. Skiing in the Snowies. Contact  
Ian Mann 631 4321

DON'T FORGET THAT TRIP FEES ARE NOW 50c.



VOLUME 20 NUMBER 3

JUNE 1980

# SUSS

BULLETIN  
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOX 35, HOLME BUILDING,  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY,  
N.S.W. 2006

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