

# BULLETIN *of the*

## *Sydney*

## *University*

## *Speleological*



## *Society*



news headlines

SUSS SCORES AT IUS CONGRESS. The International Speleological Congress was held at Bowling Green, Kentucky, in July. In the sporting side of the Congress, SUSS member Tony White stunned the Yanks by winning the 100m prusik race, and knocking HALF A MINUTE off the previous record! Well done Tony! In the survey competition, Steve Bunton's isometric of Odyssey was pronounced unjudgeable, and a certain well-known survey of Spider Cave was Highly Commended.

editorial

This is the last SUSS Bulletin that I shall edit, at least for quite a while, as I am going overseas for 6 months. Mark Twigg will be taking over for the remainder of the year, and I presume that a new editor will be elected by the usual democratic (/? /) process at the next AGM. It is rather sad that my last Bull should be coming out over a month late, but on the official printing date in August we had NOTHING to print, and only a little has come in since then. Please put pen to paper, and get some copy to Mark, so that he can start off with some first-rate issues!

In spite of the gripes, I have greatly enjoyed editing the Bulletin for the last year and a half (and helping Bruce edit it for a while previously). We have had some good articles, and some good issues. I hope Mark has as much fun from it as I have!

oo

THE CUSS DINNER IS COMING UP AGAIN !

FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER IS THE DAY, AND THERE IS A FULL-PAGE ADVERT, WITH ALL THE DETAILS, ON PAGE 50.

DON'T MISS IT !

oo

FULL - SIZE PRINTS OF THAT MULTIPLE PRIZE-WINNING SPIDER CAVE SURVEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR ONLY \$5 IN SPIE OF INFLATION !  
SEE MIKE LAKE OR PAUL GREENFIELD.

## THE KIMBERLEYS

9th - 23rd May

During the May holidays Roy Winstanley and myself partook in a V.S.A. trip to the Kimberleys in North West Western Australia. The general aim of the trip was photography and familiarization of the area.

The planes were leaving Melbourne on Saturday morning so Roy and I drove down on Friday after the SUSS meeting.

We left Melbourne at 6 a.m. and flew to Ayres Rock for the night after refueling at Leigh Creek. Sunday saw an early rise to take photos of sunrise on "the Rock" and also to climb it before leaving for Fitzroy Crossing.

Arriving at Fitzroy Crossing we were met by a local caver (Simon Jolly and the rest of our party who had driven up during the previous week. Following Simon's recommendations we decided to head for Brooking Springs Gorge (about 1 hr's drive from Fitzroy Crossing) where he said the limestone had not been fully investigated but showed good potential. It also had plenty of water and was a good camp site.

Monday saw us searching the local terrain for cave entrances. This revealed about 6 caves and some aboriginal paintings but none of any magnitude. The following day we turned our attention to the gorge area itself with one party exploring the grikes above the gorge while another, the gorge itself. A few caves were found on the water level and also a few holes on top about 100 feet deep. We noted that this area required further attention and if possible we would fit it in later in the trip.

On Wednesday we had a tourist trip to Geike Gorge which revealed some spectacular scenery and some interesting wildlife.

The following day we moved down to Caves Springs where we visited Nardji, Network and Mimbi Caves which are all extensive walk through systems. This is a well visited and documented area and as such was a tourist trip on our behalf.

Leaving Caves Springs we proceeded to the Pillara Ranges which lie just off the road back to Fitzroy Crossing. Here there are some nice galleries of aboriginal paintings and a few small caves.

Next stop on our magical mystery tour of the Kimberleys was the Napier Ranges which lie north east of Fitzroy Crossing and require a long day's drive from the Pillara Ranges. First stop here was Tunnel Creek. Here the creek has eaten through the range forming a cave known as "The Tunnel". This is a walk through cave with a sandy floor and high ceilings.

From Tunnel Creek we moved to "Winjara Gorge" for an overnight stop and a quick look around. From Winjara we headed for the northern most stop of our trip, Napier Downs Station and "Old Napier Downs Cave". This cave must rate as one of the most exciting of the whole trip. The entrance chamber is dry containing some nice pools and old formation. After this is the inner section which consists of 3 ducks, a couple of roof sniffs and about 3 hours of swimming, quite a sporting cave.

By now time was running out as the planes had to be back in Melbourne by 3 p.m. Saturday, so we decided to have one more days exploration at Brooking Springs.

The party split into 2 groups, one went joy-fighting (taking aerial pictures of the limestone areas we had visited) while the other did further exploration in the Gorge. The second group returned at about 10 p.m. that night having discovered an efflux with crystal clear water flowing from it about 12 feet deep.

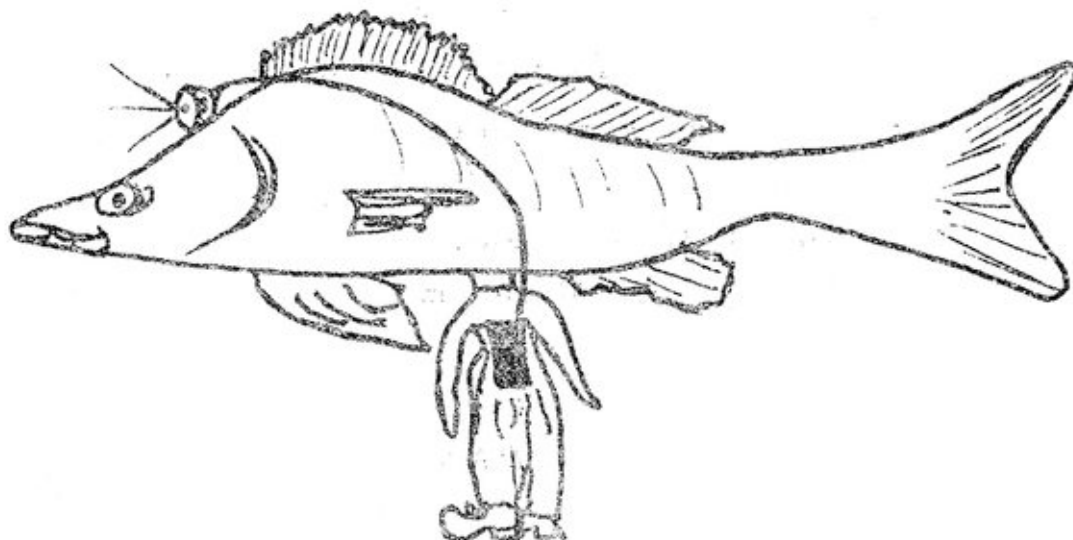
Being unable to gain entry from this entrance they decided to attempt entry from higher up. Three shafts were found with possibilities but insufficient time and tackle prevented further exploration. Later one of these shafts was descended to 50 metres ending with a mud floor and possible future extension.

Leaving Brooking Springs we flew back to Melbourne via Alice Springs and Leigh Creek thus concluding a very enjoyable and well organised trip,

Ian Mann

\* \* \* \* \*

IDENTIFY THIS WELL-KNOWN SUSS CHARACTER.....



COMBINED UNIVERSITIES SPELEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETIES' DINNER

Friday 9th October

COST \$13.50 per head  
(drinks extra - bar service)

MENU

Florida Cocktail  
Roast Lamb or Pork  
(+ vegetables)  
Wine Trifle  
Coffee

PLACE: JAMES CRAIG TAVERN  
Birkenhead Point  
(\*\*11 Roseby Street, Drummoyne\*\*)

Park in second level of car park and  
enter directly from there.

BAR OPENS 7 pm,  
DINNER at 7.30 pm

TICKETS FROM IAN MANN OR PAUL  
GREENFIELD

YARRANGOBILLY

5th-8th June

Present:

I. Mann.	G. McKanna
J. Strickland	M. Hunter
M. Lake	R. Winstanley
R. McNeal	J. Crass
I. Desailly	K. Young
H. Turton	

Roy and myself arrived at the Rangers office on Friday morning after a slippery trip down the Brindabella track due to recent rain. After having a talk with the new rangers and obtaining the key to Cottrills we headed off to do Y8. After finding the entrance we did quick trip with Roy saying it was like a miniature Pommie cave, dark, wet and cold.

Feeling a bit tired after our trip down we decided to have an early night and headed back to Cottrill's. About 8 p.m. Helen arrived from Wagga with Ivan and his crew getting in around midnight.

On Saturday we had arranged to meet the rangers and take them with us through East Deep Creek, the purpose being photography, checking on a reported bypass to the gate and also checking on the possibility of gating the the donkey-tail section. The bypass to the main gate was soon found and all went through this way (as the key to lock managed to break on us thus eliminating access through the gate). We pressed on to the pretty sections of the cave where Roy and Ivan took out the cameras and began their photographing. While they were doing this some of us accompanied Bob and Dave down to investigate the gating of the donkey-tail section. After this we all returned to the surface and back to Cottrills.

That evening saw the normal camp fire frivolity with numerous casks of wine and port bottles appearing from the cellars. Richard thought he was doing quite good in his drinking feats until he found himself locked outside in the cold in his "jocks".

On Sunday we split into two groups and headed for Eagles Nest, accompanied this time by only Bob. One party entered via the upper entrance while the remainder via the lower entrance meeting halfway. The others had an uneventful trip while Roy and myself (feeling slightly lethargic) became temporarily misplaced.

Monday saw a late rise with Mike Lake taking half the crew to Caves House and doing a tourist cave. They ended up having their own personal trip and quite enjoyed it. The rest of us went to the thermal pools for a dip.

Everyone returned to Sydney Monday afternoon after another successful trip.



176 William Street,  
Bankstown. 2200

1st September, 1981.

To the Editor,  
Bulletin of the S.U.S.S.,  
P. O. Box 35,  
Holmes Building,  
University of Sydney. 2006  
N. S.W.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you with reference to an article submitted by N. Poulter under the title of "Book Review", on page 42 of your June 1981 issue.

There are quite a few inaccuracies in this article making it impossible for me to let it pass without comment.

Firstly, "...the SSS publication..." is most offensive in tone as well as being quite inaccurate. The Sydney Speleological Society is in no way involved in the production of the book. This false statement is repeated.

"....SSS for distribution..." once again, the Sydney Speleological Society was no way involved in the distribution of this book.

"....SSS will be laughing all the way to the bank..." As treasurer of the Sydney Speleological Society I only wish we had had the foresight to become involved.

Besides these blatant falsehoods in the article, as a member of SSS who adheres to the ASF policy on inter-club relations (as stated at an ASF committee meeting I attended in Sydney following NIBICON some years ago) I deplore the tone of the article which is just plain nasty, and, I feel, quite unnecessarily so, e.g., "Nurse with a smirk..." It makes me wonder what some member of SSS has done to N. Poulter to make him so bitter??

How unfortunate that this article should have been published uncut as it will only do harm to the caving fraternity by extending and strengthening petty differences.

Just to set the story straight, L. Robinson was approached by a publishing company which wanted to publish such a book on caving. He was unable to see his way clear to do it so referred them to Ross Ellis who had the time, went ahead and put the book, "Australian Caves and Caving", together. As a citizen of Australia he is entitled to write and publish whatever the publishers will accept. The first the members of SSS knew of the book (except those persons who had had photos included) was when it appeared at a meeting for sale.

I would be obliged if you could see your way clear to publish in your magazine some (or all - Editor's prerogative) of this letter so that your readers will be accurately informed.

Yours truly,

*G. Matthe.*

(Mrs) Grace Matthe, J. P.  
Hon. Treasurer, The Sydney Speleological Society.



## THE EDITOR REPLIES . . . . .

First, I had better point out to Grace that I am an Editor, not a censor! The views expressed in all articles in the SUSS Bulletin are those of their authors, and not of the Society.

Naturally, I accept Grace's assurance that SSS was not involved in the book. However, this is certainly NOT the impression given by the book itself, and that is the only information that was available to Norm Poulter (or me). Perhaps Grace should be complaining to Ross Ellis, not the SUSS Bulletin! However, since SSS was not involved, it seems doubly unfortunate that other member societies of ASF were not mentioned in the book.

As to Ben Narse's smirk, or otherwise, I hardly think that this is the making of an international incident! Surely a harmless quip like that doesn't make Norm "so bitter"? I await Ben's comment on whether or not he was smirking in the photo in question.

If Grace wants to know what I thought of the book, she will have to buy the current issue of Helictite, in which I have reviewed it. So far as Norm's review is concerned, it seems to me that he made some valid and important criticisms, in his usual semi-facetious style, and was not in any way trying to jeopardise inter-club relations. It also seems to me most unfortunate that the book should give the impression that it is an official SSS publication if in fact it is not - but that is a matter between SSS and Ross Ellis, and is no concern of SUSS or the SUSS Bulletin.

Guy Cox

## School's in for six at Jenolan Caves

Jenolan Caves teacher Mr Michael Lipscomb rings in the school day for his six pupils (from left) Joanne (Year 3), Bradley Brown (kindergarten), Michelle Hearn (Year 1), Joan Muino (kindergarten), Rebecca Bramstam (Year 1) and Robert Richard (Year 6).

from the  
Sydney Morning  
Herald

Jenolan Caves is one school which has no problem with teacher-pupil ratios.

Jenolan Caves Public School is so small that it normally would have closed years ago. A spokesman for the NSW Education Department said yesterday it is probably the smallest school in the State.

The teacher, Mr Michael Lipscomb, 25, has only six pupils — and that's twice as many as he had at one stage during his two years there. At the time,

there were no pupils in kindergarten and years 1 to 4.

The department considers that an enrolment of 12 and an average attendance of nine is the smallest justification for keeping a school open.

But Jenolan Caves is a special case. The nearest alternative school is about 30 km away at Oberon, and the road is rough and unsealed. Mr Lipscomb knows — he drives over it every school day.

## LATE TRIP REPORT

Abercrombie 21-22 February, 1981

Present : Mike Lake  
Judy Clarke  
Richard McNeall  
Guy McKanna

Ken Keck from the Metropolitan Speleological Society had invited us on one of their trips to this area. Abercrombie was now host to a considerable quantity of water in the river which sometimes necessitated wet feet in order to cave.

All of us helped out in some speleological projects. At a high level in the main arch a paleontological dig is in progress. Sieving through the dry dusty soil with an M.S.S. member revealed sometimes a few dozen small bones from one bucket of earth. Most bones were from small rodents and about a few centimetres long or less.

An air tracing experiment had us all up at 5 a.m. on Sunday morning. A handkerchief, soaked in paint deodoriser, was suspended at the end of one cave which was inspiring air into a long narrow passage. This passage is the scene of a 50 metre long dig at present. In another cave, through which air is expiring, were positioned olefactory detectors (assorted M.S.S. and S.U.S.S. members with a keen sense of smell!). Within a short time it was reported that the smell of paint deodoriser had been detected emanating from an area of rockpile.

There are many areas at Jenolan where work of this kind may prove useful.

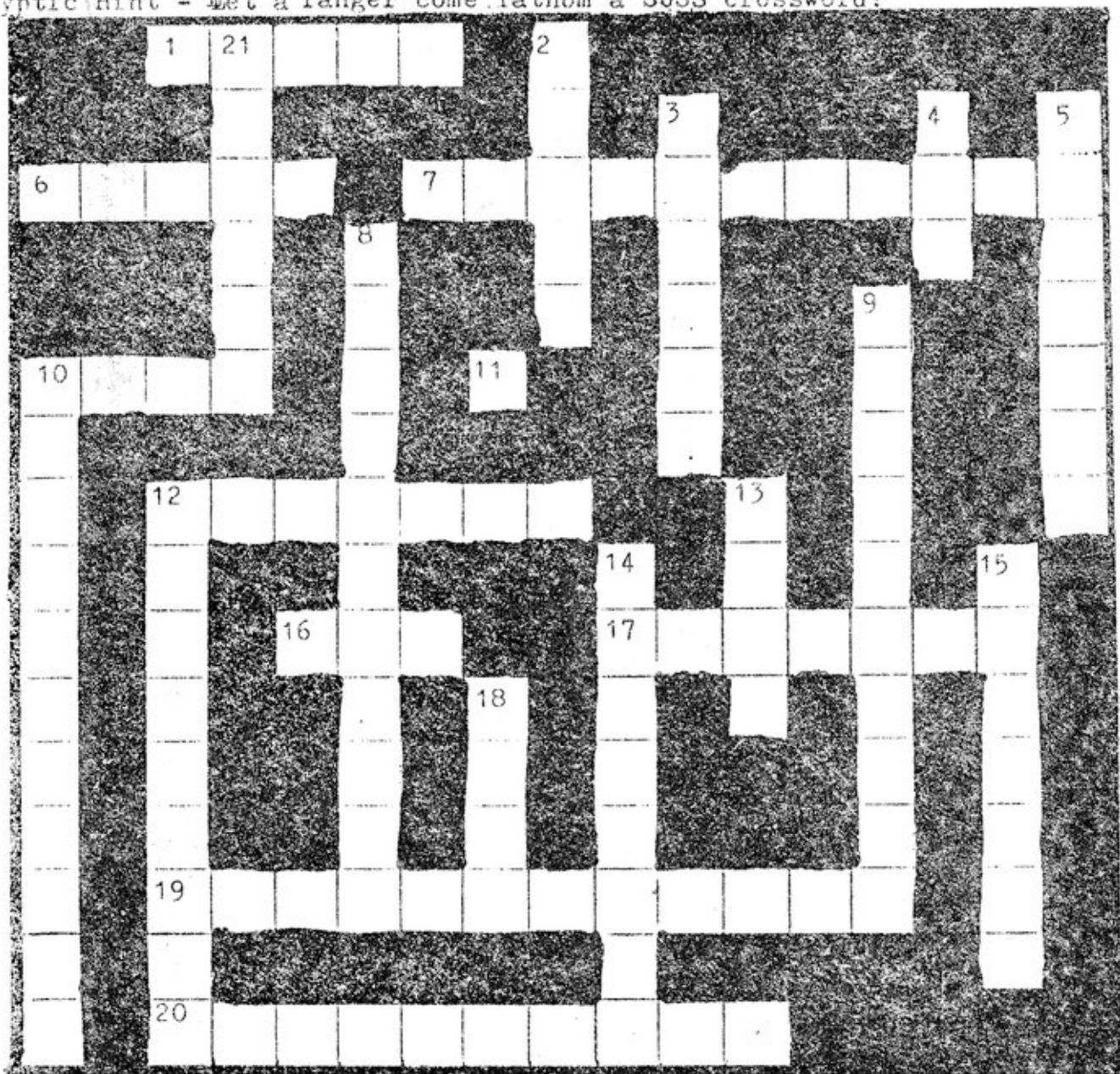
Late on Sunday we were led on a tour of a bat cave called The Long Tunnel. This was the first time that we had seen so many bats this close up before, and especially the experience of feeling how a bat can fly past so close as to ruffle ones hair yet not quite touch you.

Sonar is quite remarkable. I wish I had it myself.

Judy, Richard, Guy and myself wish to thank M.S.S. and especially Ken Keck for the opportunity to learn so much about the Abercrombie Caving Area and to have participated in their projects.

Mike Lake

Hint - most of the crossword clues are anagrams.  
 Cryptic Hint - Let a ranger come fathom a SUSS crossword!



## CLUES

## ACROSS

1. Darwinism, ithologically speaking, could refer to two in the club.
6. Some Bruce from Pommy land, come to God's own earth?
7. Hope I'll clip this climber's ropes someday? Nonsense!
10. & 3. dn. Some wear bright green for good fortune, but I prefer a lucky jader colour.
- 11., 2dn & 18dn. A trick clue!
12. Sounds like an Irishman being forced to Genuflect!
16. & 4dn. A Scungy ox, who's off to N.S.W., minus the New South.
17. An Australian man? Naturally.
19. Will silly Ava dine tonight? Or will she return to the harems of Egypt?
20. Feel reading books is good for you? Try them without the A's!

## DOWN

21. Get off the tarmac, Kay! There's a plane in from Nth. Queensland!
2. See 11 ac.
3. See 10 ac.
4. See 16 ac.
5. Fresh cave-in?
8. Buttons even have less hair!
9. Don't newly stain his lordship's overalls!
10. Sounds like the Jays fool the earth!
12. Ringbark parts of trees? The author wouldn't hear of it.
13. Y'u not saint? Forget Steve Austin
14. I'd like to make a hard clue here, but can't think of one
15. Our safety officer in his usual position for exploring holes
18. See 11 ac.

THE FOG  
IS REALLY  
THICK THIS  
MORNING.



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FRANKLY,  
I THINK PIKE  
HAS LOST HIS  
BEARINGS.



"ALL WE NEED IS TO FEEL SOMETHING FAMILIAR  
TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE."



AN YES... BUT  
WHICH FIRST OF THE  
ELECTRIC FORCE?



28-6



## FUTURE EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 19th-20th JENOLAN - Surveying in Spider and digging in the Southern Limestone. Contact: Mike Lake 524 5229
- 26th - 27th JENOLAN - Surveying in Spider and digging in the Heffalump Trap. Contact: Richard McNeall 46 1847
- Monday 28th BULLETIN PRINTING in SRC Printing Office, before the SUSS COMMITTEE MEETING at Paul Greenfields place (which is to be announced).

### OCTOBER

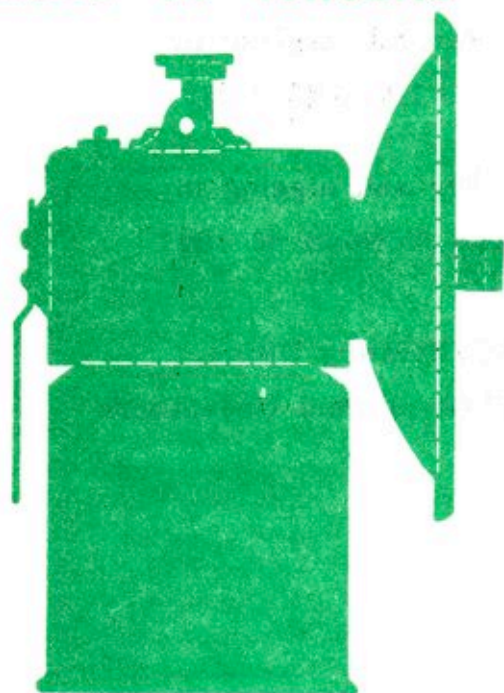
- 3rd - 5th NORDIC SKIING area to be decided.  
Contact: Mike Lake 524 5229 (especially if you have a car)
- Thursday 8th SUSS GENERAL MEETING. Common Room, Holme Building, 7.30 pm.
- Friday 9th. SUSS DINNER James Craig Tavern, Birkenhead Point, 7.30. Contact: Ian Mann 631 4321 and buy a ticket
- Sunday 11th. BUNGONIA Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321

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THERE IS SPACE HERE FOR YOU

TO ORGANIZE SOME MORE TRIPS !

\* \* \* \* \*



# SUSS

BULLETIN  
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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