

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Circular.

Box 35, The Union,
University of Sydney,
SYDNEY.

March, 1959

Dear Speleo,

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Department of Geography, at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 2nd April, 1959.

At the conclusion of this meeting, which will deal with all the outstanding business of the year 1958-9, supper will be served. This will be followed at 9 pm (approx) by the ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, with reports by office bearers, and election of office bearers for 1959-60.

As a result of Constitutional Changes at the last General Meeting, the new Committee will consist of :

President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Full Committee Member
Associate Committee Member.

After the meeting, it is proposed to screen a film starring some of the greatest comedians of our time.

2. ORIENTATION WEEK, 2-6 March, 1959.

Doug Miles was responsible for Orientation Week this year, and with many willing helpers, put on a programme of displays and lectures that have aroused the interest of some 40 freshers. It is hoped that members will have an opportunity of meeting many of these prospective members on several Freshers trips in the next few weeks, and at the Annual General Meeting.

SUSS received very favourable mention in the Sydney Morning Herald of Tuesday, 3rd March, where a photo shows a group of Freshers absorbing culture from circulars and journals being distributed from the table. What a pity they used a photo of the Evangelical Union over our caption!

3. EQUIPMENT POOL.

The Ian Carpenter Equipment Pool is taking shape, and a quantity of helmets, lamps, torches, groundsheets, boots, etc., is now available for loan to prospective members on their first trips. Many more items are required, and members are asked to bring any broken or unwanted equipment in to the next meeting, so that it can be repaired and made available to the pool.

4. MAPPING.

With the purchase of some new surveying equipment, the Society is now in a strong position to proceed with its mapping and survey programme. Jon Hinwood, convenor of the Survey Subcommittee, is holding a meeting of the group during the week. Those seriously interested in the production of maps should see Jon at the Uni., or ring him at JW 1175.

5. JOURNAL.

The next Journal will go to press in the next few weeks. Kel Stillman, XB 1761, still awaits a few more articles. Please rush them in.

6. NEW BY-LAW.

At the last General Meeting, the Following By Law, A.6., was carried.

"Prospective Members may receive the Society's circulars and other information for a period of six months after the payment of a fee of 2/-. If a prospective Member becomes a Full or Associate Member within six months of paying the 2/- fee, then 2/- will be deducted from his appropriate membership fee."

7. ARCHIVES SECTION.

In a recent clean up of SUSS records, the Secretary discovered a pile of roneoed forms, yellowed with age. Does anyone remember their ever being used?

"This is an acknowledgment by the undersigned that all ventures undertakings descents ascents explorations and other excursions are taken with full knowledge of the risks involved and after inspection and approval of the plans specifications and materials to be used therein or thereon and thatfor himself his Executors and Administrators and the parent and Legal Guardian of the said do expressly covenant and agree that he they and each of them do hereby absolve free and discharge the Sydney University Speleological Society from all claims suits actions and demands whatsoever which may or shall arise from out of or by reason of or during any venture undertaking descent ascent exploration or other excursion undertaken by the Sydney University Speleological Society wherein or whereon the said may or shall suffer any damage injury or loss of any kind whatsoever including the death of the said....."

ARCHIVES (Cont)

Not many members realise that the Society has a motto. Not many know it, and the last time it was used seems to have been on the "Caves Programme No.1" printed in November, 1948.

Stop guessing: its "Ad augusta per Angusta."

8. TRIP REPORTS.

20 - 22 February Jenolan, led by Noel Fraser. A visit to show a distinguished guest, Lt. Cdr. Trevor Shaw, RN, as much as we could in one weekend. It was found that a small hole discovered some years ago by SUSS had been enlarged, presumably by the use of explosives, since our last visit to the Serpentine.

28 - 29 February, Jenolan, led by Adrian Hunt. Full examination of damage to Serpentine.

9. TRIPS PLANNED.

14 - 15 March. BUNGONIA FRESHERS TRIP, leader Jon Hinwood.

This trip, designed to introduce Freshers to caving, under the capable guidance of many old faces, will leave Sydney this Friday night, i.e., next Friday 13th March. Transport, including at least one truck, has been arranged, at a cost of approximately 25/- per head, and it is guaranteed that the cost will not exceed 31/- per head. The starting point is outside the Engineering School at the University, and the time, 7 pm. Projects include exploration of the Drum, and adjacent caves, Foul air work, and further surface investigations. As there are already over thirty going on this trip, anyone else requiring transport should contact Jon immediately at JW 1175.

21 - 22 March. CLIEFDEN FRESHERS TRIP., leader Ian Williams.

The second Fresher's trip of 1959 will leave the next weekend for Cliefden. Similar arrangements are being made for this trip, and anyone interested should get in touch with Ian Williams at JY 1694.

EASTER promises to be a busy time for members. The following trips have been listed

COOLAMON, leader Ian Williams.

Caves Creek, Talbingo area, leader Adrian Hunt.

Yarrangobilly, leader Ray Smith

Jenolan, leader Jon Hinwood.

Limestone Creek, Victorian/N.S.W. border, arrangements by Victorian Cave Exploration Society. Either a pack-horse trip or if unavailable, a 15 mile walk. All SUSS members cordially invited.

10. THIS MONTHS QUOTATION.

From Men of Pierre Saint-Martin, by Jacques Attout, (page 140).

"Accidents happen every year, sometimes with tragic consequences, in spite of the precautions taken. But I do not feel that this is any reason for banning speleology. I say that advisedly because death will always hover near adventure ---- were it not so it would no longer be adventure.

Is mountaineering to be banned because falls happen often enough? or bathing and swimming, because scores of unfortunate people are drowned every year? And what of motoring; shall we stop that because accidents happen? Put like that it sounds silly enough.

Perhaps we give too much thought at times to our physical safety. Let a man harden his heart or lose his soul; there will be no protest. Perhaps it would be better if there were. Ask me to choose between a man who dies in the darkness of a cave, but with joy in his heart, and the man who takes good care of himself but destroys his moral being, and my choice is already made."

And so to bed,

Yours sincerely,

Noel Fraser
Hon. Secretary.