

S Y D N E Y UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL S O C I E T Y

Circular

Box 35, The Union
Sydney University,
March - April 1960

Dear Speleo,

Well Easter has come and gone, and the smell of carbide lingers no more about the P.N.R. Quadrangle and the Botany Lawn. SUSS members were busy in three areas but trip reports are slow in coming in.

At Jenolan ... Andy White and his crew continued work on the recently found extension but did not exhaust its possibilities. It has been suggested that this be named the "Northern River Extension", if you can think of a better name, see Ian Williams. No prizes will be awarded. Henry Shannon et al. completed the map of Ian Carpenter Cave and Hennings Cave was photographed and further explored. The names of "Simmonds" and Lucas have also been found in this cave.

At Yarrangobilly some surface mapping was done by Ray Smith, Tom Landecker and others, one of many such trips by which these members are putting together the map of Yarrangobilly. Eighteen odd miles away at Cave Creek other members were investigating the caves which occur in the unusually coarse marble of the area. None of the caves are large, a contrast with Yarrangobilly where the limestone has not had such a disturbed past, so, after two days spent in a thorough examination of the outcrop, the party left for home with specimens of garnets and various odd minerals, a skull from one of the caves and some peculiar insects. Although we may now write off this area's caving potential, its examination has proved very instructive, demonstrating clearly the likely field occurrence of caves in this type of limestone.

ANZAC Weekend... The keen geologists went to Wombeyan, leading S.U. Geol. Soc in the way that it should go. Others worked on the new SUSS journal or writing this circular.

STOP PRESS!!

Your new Publicity Officer is Elizabeth de Burgh. Congratulations may be presented on the Botany Lawn at lunchtimes or by ringing JJ2531. When ringing Elizabeth also tell her that you are coming to the BARBECUE on May 20th. Those who attended the last SUSS barbecue at the house of Elizabeth's parents, "The She-Oaks", down at Bayview, will remember how enjoyable it was. For the sake of those who've only heard about it, or can't remember how they got there a map is drawn over the page. Please let Elizabeth know definitely and speedily whether you are coming and how many other bods you are bringing with you. It is suggested that you rustle up your own steer, sheep or whathaveyou and the hat will be passed round to pay for other comestibles. But naturally the whole thing requires a bit of organising, and those who aren't in on it early may miss out.

UP-AND COMING EVENTS

General Meeting on TUESDAY, 10th May, in the Third Year Laboratory, New Geography Building, beginning 7.30 p.m.
Jenolan trip 7th-8th May led by Alex Jones (XL1471(H)).
Colong 28th-29th May. leader Dave Shatwell (JW1189(H))
Queen's Birthday Weekend - Yarrangobilly. Ray Smith is the leader and he intends to visit the Copper Mine area and do some more surveying.
!2th Annual Dinner tentative date is 17th June.

Now that you've entered all that in your diary, don't throw out your circular, but read on.

A Continuous event seems to be Committee Meeting. President Doug Miles suggested that it would be a good idea to hold Committee meetings during the day when more members could get to them and so get more of an idea of how their society ticked. The meetings were to occur once a fortnight during term and be held on Thurs. 4.00pm in the small lecture room in the Geology Department. An excellent idea this, and judging by the number of members who turned up, a popular move. But, it seems, an hour is too short and the meeting of last Thursday must be continued this week. Originally, this Thursday meeting time was arranged to discuss trips and trogging,

not minutes and subcommittees. It would be a pity if these informal discussions and slide shows were to be swallowed up, as the evening General Meetings have been, by general business. Important as the mechanics of running SUSS efficiently and effectively are, we must decide whether SUSS is to be a tugging or a debating society and our membership will doubtless shape itself accordingly.

LOST COLUMN

SUSS library once had a copy of British Caving. The catalogue says so. Anyone knowing the past movements, or present whereabouts of this book please contact me immediately. "British Caving" is scarcely a pocket edition being a weighty tome some 10" x 5" x 1½" so you'll surely know if it's in your keeping. It is required urgently for loan, a loan which is in the best interests of SUSS, and it should be available to members anyway. It will cost approx. 68/- to replace if the original copy does not come to light. It is reputed to be going out of print.

NOTICE is hereby given that items borrowed from the equipment pool and subsequently lost must be replaced by the loser.

PASSING PARADE

Recent travellers through Sydney were Peter Aitken (Vice-President of C.E.G.(S.A.)) on his way up to Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria to while away the winter wrestling with Taipans, Bugs and Beasties, and our old friend Stainless Jim Jackson, who now does his tugging down a mine in North Queensland. Good hunting!

FILMS

On Friday, 20th May at 8 pm, Outdoor Films of Australia will be screening a further series of bushwalking and canoeing films at the Assembly Hall, Margaret St. Sydney. Members are invited to attend.

READING MATTER

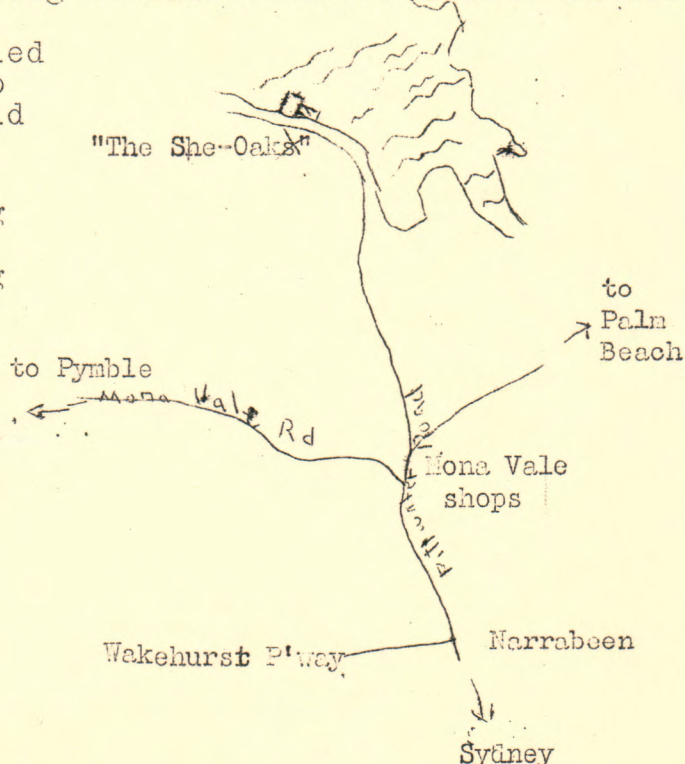
In the March issue of the Australian Museum Magazine, an article appears on "one of the fellest and most destructive of predatory beasts" Thylacoleo, the Marsupial Lion, whose bones turned up in sand deposits at Lake Menindee N.S.W. associated with aboriginal remains dated as between 6,470 and 6,670 years old. Modern scientists believe Thylacoleo was a staid enough animal who devoted his life to guzzling melons or eggs or such other ovoid oddities as he could find. However, the interesting point is that a complete skull was noticed by Bob Sexton in the Town Cave, Curramulka in June, 1958. For several trips this skull, the first to be recovered whole, had been used as a stepping stone by the party. This illustrates clearly the need to keep our wits about us in a cave, who knows what we may miss blundering blithely through. Often, of course, in N.S.W. caves we are only too painfully aware of what is under our nose as we try to keep it out of the mud. We shall return to the subject of bones in our next circular.

Now, here are directions for getting to Elizabeth's Barbecue on 20th May.:

Get a 186 bus from Wynyard, labelled Bayview, or Churchpoint. The trip takes about 1½ hours. There should be enough cars to return you to the built up areas later.

If you've a car or are trusting the luck of your hitching thumb, turn left just after the shopping centre at Mona Vale, and follow this road for a mile or so. The white gate and driveway of "The She-Oaks" is opposite Williams Boatshed and the swimming pool. As usual, "You can't miss it", and further, You'll be sorry if you do. . . .

Ask Elizabeth about bus times when you ring her at JJ2531.



See you, Tuesday fortnight,
Yrs sincerely,

Margaret Innes
Hon. Secretary