

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY(S.U.S.S.)

CIRCULAR FOR JUNE 1960

Box 35, The Union, University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S. .

Dear Speleo,

Welcome back to the delights of second term! Because so many people were away during the vacation, we skipped the May circular and have a larger one for June. Vacation trips were organised to Jemolan, Colong, Timor and other places, three of them during the last week, and these were successful and not without event. It is suspected that this term will see the pace maintained before the exigencies of Third Term make slogging rather than tugging the order of the day.

THE NAMING OF THE IAN CARPENTER CAVE AT JEMOLAN

The May edition of "Communications"(S.S.S.) contains inter alia an objection to the name Ian Carpenter Cave on the following ground "No cave shall be named unless a detailed investigation is made of possible previous discovery", and that "the name should have some connection with the previous discovery, or content of the cave". SSS are using (according to "Communications") 'The second entrance cave to the Rho Hole' to designate the Carpenter Cave. No legitimate objection to the name of "Ian Carpenter Cave has yet been brought forward and the very clumsiness of the alternative name applied by SSS is a good argument in favour of the retention of the original name. Incidentally, SSS first visited the Carpenter Cave (using information obtained from SUSS members) nearly three years after SUSS commenced work there, two years after the name was applied, and some months after all possibilities had been thoroughly explored and the cave was in process of being mapped by SUSS. The name has been recognised by the N.S.W. Department of Tourist Activities.

For the information of anyone who takes the objection of SSS seriously, a brief history of Carpenter Cave is as follows:

- (1) Early in 1957 Ian Carpenter re-discovered the cave.
- (2) An exhaustive search of all literature failed to reveal any details of the original discovery or the name (if any) applied by the discoverers or by subsequent explorers.
- (3) In 1958, SUSS named the cave in memory of the late Ian Carpenter, who died at Bungonia in November 1957.
- (4) In 1959, after demolition of obstructions, SUSS members forced a squeeze at the end of the cave to gain entry to an extension, the furthest part of which had been visited by another route.
- (5) In 1960, a way into the Rho Hole from the Carpenter Cave was found by SUSS and the first round trip made.

SURVEY SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCY

At the last General Meeting Jon Minwood notified that he would be unable to continue as Survey Subcommittee Convenor. Any takers for this interesting and important pastime?

CONGRATULATIONS. . .

to the Kempsey Speleological Society which has joined the other more vocal Speleo Groups with its monthly bulletin "TROG". Those of us at the Jan. ASF Committee Meeting who heard something of Kempsey's extensive programme have been hoping to hear more. With over 60 miles of limestone almost at their front door, the Kempsey speleos have been very busy in the two years of their existence, mapping and clearing out rediscovered holes. In addition, something new seems to be cropping up each month and there's rich potential in the Macleay valley. Happy birthday, "TROG" and good caving to all at Kempsey.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO

to Peter and Gail Knowland, who were married last month and to Jon Minwood and Marion Carpenter whose wedding is next month. They join the ranks of the married members - Don and Margaret McLean and Laurie and Robin Bishop all of whom were carefree young trogs last year. We wish them every happiness and hope that this will not mean a cessation of their caving activities.

YEAR BOOKS

If you weren't at the last meeting and don't receive a Year Book with this Circular but you are a financial member, please contact us . . . besides the various reports on last year's activities, the year book contains an up to date library stock list and all those telephone numbers . . . well, if it hasn't got yours, tell us that too. The following should be added to your Membership List.

STATUS	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
F	COURT, Chris	32 Countess St. Mosman	XN 7322
A	GOADBY, Geof	Dennis St. Indooroopilly, Brisbane.	
Prospective:	BEDFORD, Lynne	376 Victoria St., King's Cross	ext. 388
"	De FERRANTI, Raoul	7 Gala Ave., Croydon	UJ 4948

Please transfer from Prospective list the following new Full Members: Dave and Ted Anderson, Dave Jordon, & Ross Fraser, Associate Member.

We welcome back Geof Goodby who was an active SUSS Member in 1953-54. Unfortunately he lives in Brisbane, but we hope his visits to Sydney will coincide with some trips in future.

For those interested in Cave Diving or associated problems such as communications, contact men are Russ Kippax (625-8533) Karl Neubauer or Harry Cotton (UA 8242)

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The attention of all members, particularly Committee Members and those intending to lead trips is drawn to the following. Only trips for which approval of at least two Committee Members has been gained may be called Official Trips, and the Society's name may not be used to gain privilege on any other trip. Except where a quota is involved or the special nature of the trip renders it inadvisable, any member may join an Official trip, and while on it, shall obey the reasonable requests of the Trip Leader. Full details of all proposed Official Trips are to be given to Elizabeth de Burgh (JJ 2531) who will arrange appropriate publicity, 14 days before trip departure date. After the trip a trip report (form obtainable from the Secretariat) and any trip or equipment fees shall be handed to the Secretary within a fortnight.

With reference to trips to Tourist areas, the following hold in addition:

- a) The application, endorsed by two Committee members is to be lodged at least 10 days before the proposed departure date.
- b) Applications are to be made on the Society's letterhead.
- c) The dates of the proposed trip together with details of the trip's purpose must be clearly stated.
- d) The maximum number for any trip is 12 of which no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ may be Prospective Members. Only those on our list of financial members are eligible for inclusion.
- e) The names and membership status of participants are to be listed.

Recently, failure to observe these regulations resulted in rejection of an application for a trip to Yarrangobilly. In order to prevent any future misunderstanding or disappointment, Mr. Best has requested that all applications for trips to tourist areas be submitted formally through the SUSS Secretariat to ensure completeness before presentation to the Department of Tourist Activities. It is to be noted that only Mr. Best or his Deputy, Mr. Gavin, has the authority to O.K. a trip application, and that only written approval is valid in the eyes of officers-in-charge at tourist areas. Permits should be presented to the appropriate officer as soon as the trip leader arrives at the caving area. All Members are also advised to carry their current membership cards as these may be asked for on any trip.

TRIP LEADERS' QUALIFICATIONS

At the last G.M., a by-law was passed stating that after 1.10.60, no-one can lead an Official SUSS Trip unless he has participated in a Search and Rescue Field Trip to the satisfaction of the S&R Subcommittee. Accordingly the first S&R weekend will be held at Jenolan on 25th-26th June under W. Peck's leadership (Ring WM 3756).

NEWS FROM AMERICA

On June 11th, Dr. Brian J. O'Brien, Hon. Life Member and Past President of SUSS and inaugural President of the A.S.F., now living in the U.S., will be presented with a citation for - as Brian puts it - "his speleological shenanigans" by the N.S.S. Awards Committee, for which he must drive 1200 miles to Carlsbad Caverns. Congratulations Brian. On request, we sent over a full set of SUSS PRODUCTIONS slides to Brian, plus slides of recent trips to Tasmania and Nullarbor in which SUSS members took part. With them go greetings from the targs Down Under.

ON THE HOME FRONT

VISITORS TO JENOLAN are advised to camp in the open as much as possible. During the last month 4 large trees apparently in the best of health have come down in the most frequented sector of the Playing Field. The first to go spectacularly missed a SUSS camp by some 10 feet, falling across an area where cars had been parked about an hour previously. There was no wind at the time.

TIN CAN ADDICTS would be more popular if they burned, bashed and buried their tins before breaking camp. This is not only vital in areas where stock may be injured. Recently at Jenolan, a (SUSS) party had to borrow a shovel from the Guide House to dispose of litter left by another SUSS group who had departed without a backward glance. These bods must have averaged about 9 tins each, or else like their Neolithic counterparts preferred to camp on the midden-heap. It is good camping manners to leave "nothing behind but your thanks" and much pleasanter for the next party. Apart from any other consideration, it is a little inconsistent to strive to preserve the beauty of natural subterranean areas while turning the natural surface above them into a rubbish dump. It would also be rather inconvenient if targs were requested to camp back at the camping ground because we can't keep the playing field clean.

BARBARA DEW reports she has tee'd up identification of CAVE FUNGI. She has prepared the required collecting kits. Collecting fungi is very simple and involves no effort. Ring Barbara at the Tropical Medicine School: MW 1307, or better still, go and see her before taking off on your next trip. On the subject of BAT RESEARCH, last year a start was made on the study of bat parasites. It is hoped to continue this work with attempts to work out life cycles of some of the internal parasites, most of which are unknown for the Australian species. It is also intended to study the ecology and distribution of the chief cave dwelling bats. Plans are under way to arrange demonstration collections of bat skeletons, stuffed bats, and other bones commonly found in caves so that members have some idea of what they are looking for or at when caving. If interested, contact Barbara. Verbal or material contributions are welcome.

OVER 40 attended the Barbecue on 20th May, and several yokel locals evidently thought it well worth while gatecrashing. Thank you Elizabeth, for organising yet another success.

THE JOURNAL is about to go to press, and should be on sale at the next meeting. It is awaiting the ministrations of certain gentlemen with multilingual typewriters.

CARBIDE SALES: The system of having a carbide cache within the University, guarded over by Barbara Dew, is proving worthwhile. Anyone wanting small amounts of carbide when Barbara is away, is advised to consult the Secretary.

LIBRARY: Henry Shannon would appreciate anyone holding library material contacting him without delay. Recent additions to the SUSS Library include "A Geography of Cuba" containing details of Cuban Caves - in Cuban. and C.S.A. Reports No.3, containing interesting information on bats and ^{an} excellent map of lesser known sections of Colong.

At the last G.M. SUSS was presented with a large poster, being the impressions of Cliff James, an Adelaide cartoonist who attended the mammoth Cliefden trip while visiting Sydney. Cliff apparently enjoyed the experience and certainly captured the spirit of the occasion. His novel way of saying "Thanks" is at present being framed and will be displayed at the SUSS DINNER and on future festive occasions.

REMEMBER the 23rd JUNE is the date of the SUSS DINNER to celebrate our 12th anniversary. Tickets are £1 for Members, 25/- for Non-Members. Consult any one of the Dinner Organising Triumvirate: Doug.Miles, Doug.Denning, Ian Williams, for further information.

PAST TRIPS:- Jenolan 30/4- 1/5/60. Led by A.Hunt. This trip was made to allow Jack Mahoney of the S.U.Geology Department to examine bone deposits above and below an old ~~crystal~~ floor at the threshold of False Frenchman's Cave and bone breccia at Pinnacle Rock. Jack reports that some interesting bones are contained in the material but no fuller details are available yet. On the same weekend, a trip led by Ian Williams continued work in the Northern River Section of the Mammoth in conjunction with Newcastle speleos led by Roland Paine(snr.). Some work was also done in the Carpenter Cave.

Timor-Allston 31/5-2/6/60. Leader H. Shannon. Henry reports hopeful digging sites at Timor. Guano samples, bones and cave fungus were collected and have been distributed to various authorities within this University for comment.

Colong, 28-29/5/60. Dave Shatwell was the leader. Most of the events of this trip occurred in getting there and back. It is reported that one Old Oldsmobile minus one (old) front wheel remains as a new landmark some 18 miles from the caves.

Jenolan, 28-29/5/60. This trip, undertaken partly to give members of the Cave Diving Group trogging practice was highly successful.

← This medley of information is but a sample of recent activities, criterion of selection being the availability of trip reports →

FUTURE TRIPS:- Jenolan 25th-26th June, see page 2 for details. S&R Field Trip.

It is worth watching the SCIENCE ROAD NOTICE BOARD for future announcements.

BRITISH CAVING:- The Graham Book Company has recently imported a limited number of copies on our request. We have been advised that this book may soon be out of print.

NEW MEMBER: John Lotz was elected Full Member of SUSS at the Committee Meeting held on 8th June. An indication of his keenness is that he became a Prospective Member only in April, has done more than 30 hours caving since then and on each trip has concentrated on scientific photography, and collecting. Congratulations, John.

INFRINGEMENT OF BY-LAW D.5.

At a Special Committee Meeting in the last week of Lent Term the membership rights of Dr. E.A. Faunce and Mr. K.Stillman were suspended under by-law A7 for alleged infringements of By-law D.5 which states: "No liquor shall be taken on trips without prior permission of the Trip Leader".

This action was initiated not by Committee investigations but as a result of complaints laid by the Trip Leaders concerned.

Both Dr.Faunce and Mr. Stillman stated that the by-law was ambiguous in that the word "taken" could mean either "brought" or "consumed". Both assumed that it was the responsibility of the Trip Leader to inform Members whether the trip was to be a dry one, silence was interpreted as tacit approval.

The matter was considered at the Committee Meeting held on 8th June. The Committee agreed that the word "permission" implied the "requesting and gaining of approval" and found that the by-law had been infringed on the basis of permission not having been sought. It was moved that the suspended members be reprimanded and re-instated.

It was re-iterated that the onus of obtaining permission is definitely on the trip participant and that future infringements of any Society by-law will be dealt with more severely.

In an attempt to clarify the situation for those who believe the above bye-law to

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be ambiguous, it was rewritten as follows:

"No person shall be in possession of liquor on any SUSS Official trip without having first obtained permission of the Trip Leader." (D.5)

The question was raised as to whether the Trip Leader should be authorised to control the extent to which liquor is consumed on such trips as it is not prohibited. The Committee believes that this is covered by by-law D.6, passed at the General Meeting of May 10th: "Liquor shall not be consumed on any Official SUSS Trip to the extent that any person is unfit for safe caving". Members are also reminded that they are committed, on joining an Official Trip, to obey the reasonable requests of the Trip Leader, who should be aware of the capabilities and weaknesses of his party and of the risks attending the expedition. It is hoped that the commonsense of Members will render further Committee action on this subject unnecessary.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The Next General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Third Year Lab. of the New Geography Building, Manning Road, commencing at 7.30 on Tuesday, 28th June.

NOTICE OF MOTION: Financial Members of the Sydney Cave Diving Group who wish to become Members of SUSS and who comply with the Society's entrance requirements shall be exempt from subscription. Moved: T. Landecker, Seconded C.A. Court, D. Shatwell, D. Denning, A. Jones, T. Rodd, R.W. Smith, M.F. Foy.

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We have just been informed of the death of M. Jean Petrochilos President of the Greek Speleological Society, at Athens on 11th February, 1960. We offer our sincere sympathy to his Widow and the Société Speleologique de Grèce.

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TOPICAL QUOTES:- "... At the Anniversary Re-Union last October, it was mentioned by more than one member that our ten years without serious accident or fatality was a fair sort of record for a group of people who work necessarily in perilous places... But, is our record so good? ... though for good reasons details are not recorded, memory will serve to recall a surprising list of minor accidents, near misses, and escapes which, without luck, could have had serious consequences. It ill behoves us therefore to take a complacent view or to relax our vigilance in these matters. Organisers of trips particularly should ensure that precautions which were taken without question in our earlier years are not now neglected from a feeling of over-confidence that "nothing has happened so far," or worse still, the old Kiwi apologia - "She'll be right!" ... How often nowadays does one see ropes being tested before use, for instance? ... Other examples of familiarity breeding contempt have been noticed in the excessive number of people milling around near the edges of drops, novices being sent down long drops which they are not fit enough to re-climb, inexperienced belayers on life-lines, parties congregating in unsafe positions at the bottom of pitches, members who do not know their knots; in short, breaches of all the commonsense rules of safe caving. Who can say he is blameless in these things? ... let us each ask ourselves in which directions we have slipped, and resolve to give a thought to the consequences of relaxation. A slight injury can be dangerous underground; a serious one could bring unwanted and unfavourable publicity as well as destroying the good relations which we now enjoy with property owners ... Nature provides the hazards- let us not add to them by our own actions."

(From 'Safety in Caving' editorial by L.G. Watson in N.Z.S.S. Bulletin for March, 1960. Written after the death of Peter Lambert in Harwood Hole, N.Z. last year, this article should be read in full by every thinking Caver. The underscoring is mine but I was requested to circularise these rather extensive quotations by several SUSS Members who were strongly impressed by the original editorial.)

Yours sincerely,

Margaret F. Innes

Margaret Innes, Hon. Sec. SUSS