

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Edited by the  
Hon. Secretary

Price Sixpence



Box 35,  
The Union,  
Sydney University.

Registered for transmission through the post as a periodical.

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Vol. 2 No. 8

Page 1

15 Feb. 1963

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EDITORIAL

Compared with its contemporaries, SUSS is in an unusual position. Not only is it a speleological society, but it is also a University society. This latter fact means that membership does an almost complete turnover on an approximately 3-4 year cycle. People who after graduation remain in SUSS for purposes primarily speleological are unfortunately few.

The majority of students who join at about 17, have by the age of 20-21, lost the underground urge; they either leave SUSS & caving altogether, or just drop caving but continue to use the society as a convenient social rendezvous. This second course of action is OK so long as it does not interfere with serious speleological endeavour. But as often as not, caving is obstructed both actively & passively, by activities which can be carried on just as well, if not better, outside an aura of pseudo speleology. If some people dislike caving, best they stay right away altogether, rather than come on trips with the object of deriding & obstructing those who do like caving. It must be realized & observed that the first function of SUSS is caving.

TRIP REPORTS

TUGLOW 1963 was started off in fine fashion; New Years Day saw the conquest of the Main Cave. One of the underground highlights was the execution of a brown snake which was encountered quite deep in the cave.

YARRANGOBILLY Jan 10-16. Biological trip to collect cave crickets for genetic research. On the plateau they were only found in Y 50 (Restoration). Following the advice of Mr Butler, further specimens were caught at the entrances to the tourist caves. A grand total of 9 (six male, three female) was obtained.

Jan 26-28 Work done in Y 50.

JENOLAN Feb 4-5 SUSS Productions; notable because of the 4.6 ins. of rain on Saturday night. Inside the Lucas the rain was almost as heavy as outside. Wonderful sight of McKeown's Ck flowing thru the Devil's Coach House; by 11 am Sunday this flow was fed only by the runoff from the sides of the valley as far north as Mammoth Flat; outside J 13 (Mammoth) the creek bed was dry.

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"HELICTITE"

The attention of SUSS members is drawn to "Helictite". We fully endorse the review by Graham Wallis in the current ASF Newsletter. The second issue contains articles on Yarrangobilly, Wyanbene, & speleogenesis, together with a number of abstracts.

Anyone requiring further information regarding "Helictite" should contact the librarian (Glen Chandler).

LIGHTING

The importance of adequate lighting underground cannot be overstressed. Firstly there is the question of safety -- getting lost &/or injured due to insufficient lighting is an ever present possibility; should such a misfortune ever occur, the resultant trouble & questions asked would be embarrassing to say the least. Then there is the convenience of other members of the party; carrying a passenger with your light can be most trying, especially in a difficult cave. And the practice of having more persons in a party than there are lights is foolhardiness in the extreme.

It is essential that every person venturing underground carry two or more independent sources of light, both of which being known to work.

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Our man in New Guinea: Chris Borough, at present doing a year's hard up north, has been caving near Goroka. Although speleological details are not to hand, we have learnt that a big feature of trips is the large numbers of native boys who go along to keep camp & gear in order.

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GENERAL MEETING: The next G M is to be held on Tuesday, February 26, at 7:30 PM in the Third Year Lab, top floor, Geography Building, University of Sydney. The agenda includes SUSS Productions, & finalising arrangements for Orientation Week. Meanwhile, persons wishing to help during Orientation Week are asked to contact the Secretary, John Steele, at XL4203.

NOTICE BOARD

WANTED: Takers for a trip to Nullabor about January 1964, to be led by Chris Borough. Enquiries to Robyn Beresford at 5234291.

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WANTED: The following library books:

"The Romance of Jenolan Caves" by Havard (a small orange covered pamphlet)

"Australian Wonderland" by Samuel Cook, 1889. Bound book with red cover.

Would the borrowers of the above books please contact the librarian as soon as possible.

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FRESHER'S INFORMAL --- Orientation Week. A table has been booked for SUSS. Those wishing to partake thereof are invited to contact the Hon Secretary at XL4203.

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PAY NOW !!

SAVE LATER !!

Members are cordially invited to pay their subscriptions now. By doing so now, the embarrassment of being unfinancial does not arise. It also eases the administrative side of things.

Pay now

and be

worry free

in 1963.