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Hon. Secretary

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Page 1

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## EXCITING CAVE DISCOVERY AT JENOLAN

For sketch map and full report of exploration turn to page 2.

### EDITORIAL

There has been a lot of talk recently, about a trend in S.U.S.S.: a trend towards a new era, in which the more serious and sober (perhaps in both senses) aspects of speleology are being forced to predominate. Perhaps then this is an appropriate time to ask ourselves, "Why do I belong to a Speleological Society?"

Despite the current emphasis of the 'ology' in our title, I suggest that few members would spontaneously reply, "Because I am devoted to the advancement of scientific knowledge in subterranean regions". Although many would not consciously admit to it, a sincere reply would probably include reference to those aspects of speleology which are not suggested by the title: the adventure and excitement of caving, the personal satisfaction of accomplishing something unusual, the enjoyment of discussing trogging experiences, or simply the friendship available in such a Society. Incidentally, in the special case of a University Society, this latter aspect is possible of greater consequence than we realize.

In an attempt to become dissociated from the supposed evil of mixed business and pleasure, which has been a dominant feature of our past activities, the Society is frantically trying to cultivate a more respectable form of speleology. In so doing let's not become buried in scientific research to a depth which completely denies the probable basic reasons for our being speleos. Certainly scientific speleology in Australia is in need of greater advancement, but surely we can combine with this the opportunity to relax and enjoy ourselves, both above and below ground, without losing any respect for this Society or speleology in general.

"...Above all we are here for the joy of exploring a cave with no preconceived object in view." ---Casteret.

JENOLAN, WIBURD'S LAKE REDISCOVERED

At Jenolan on 19th May, 1963 John Foster found the entrance to a cave which contains a sizable lake. John's description of the cave, and particularly the lake, indicated that the almost legendary 'WIBURD'S LAKE' had been rediscovered. Now, here is a report, by our president, of the extensive exploration of this cave begun on a recent trip.

Report on Trip to Wiburd's Lake Cave, Jenolan - June 1st, 1963.

The two entrances are quite small and close together. They are situated near McKewen's Flat. (A sketch map of the location of the cave is given in the trip report) The cave is moderately large and quite roomy inside. There is little in the way of decoration and most of the passages are muddy and quite obviously the site of massive flooding in the past.

The lake is about 50 feet long in each limb and up to 30 feet wide. The average depth was 12 feet and there is a shallow bar separating the two parts. There can be little doubt that this is indeed Wiburd's Lake. Its whole extent was explored by rubber dinghy and the most promising possibility for further exploration would appear to be by diving, though further extensions may become apparent if the water level falls during a dry season.

Also some batting work was carried out in three areas of Jenolan during this trip. A total of 20 female and 15 male bats were banded, (*Miniopterus Schreibersi*) and 4 recoveries were made. Two of the recovered bats were banded at Jenolan, and the other two are quite unknown. However it is hoped that the C.S.I.R.O. will be able to identify them.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1963

The usual large number of members turned up for this year's A.G.M. which was held on 7th May in the Geography Building. After a brief but complicated technical discussion concerning the financial status of recently approved new members, the election of the 1963 Office Bearers and Committee was begun.

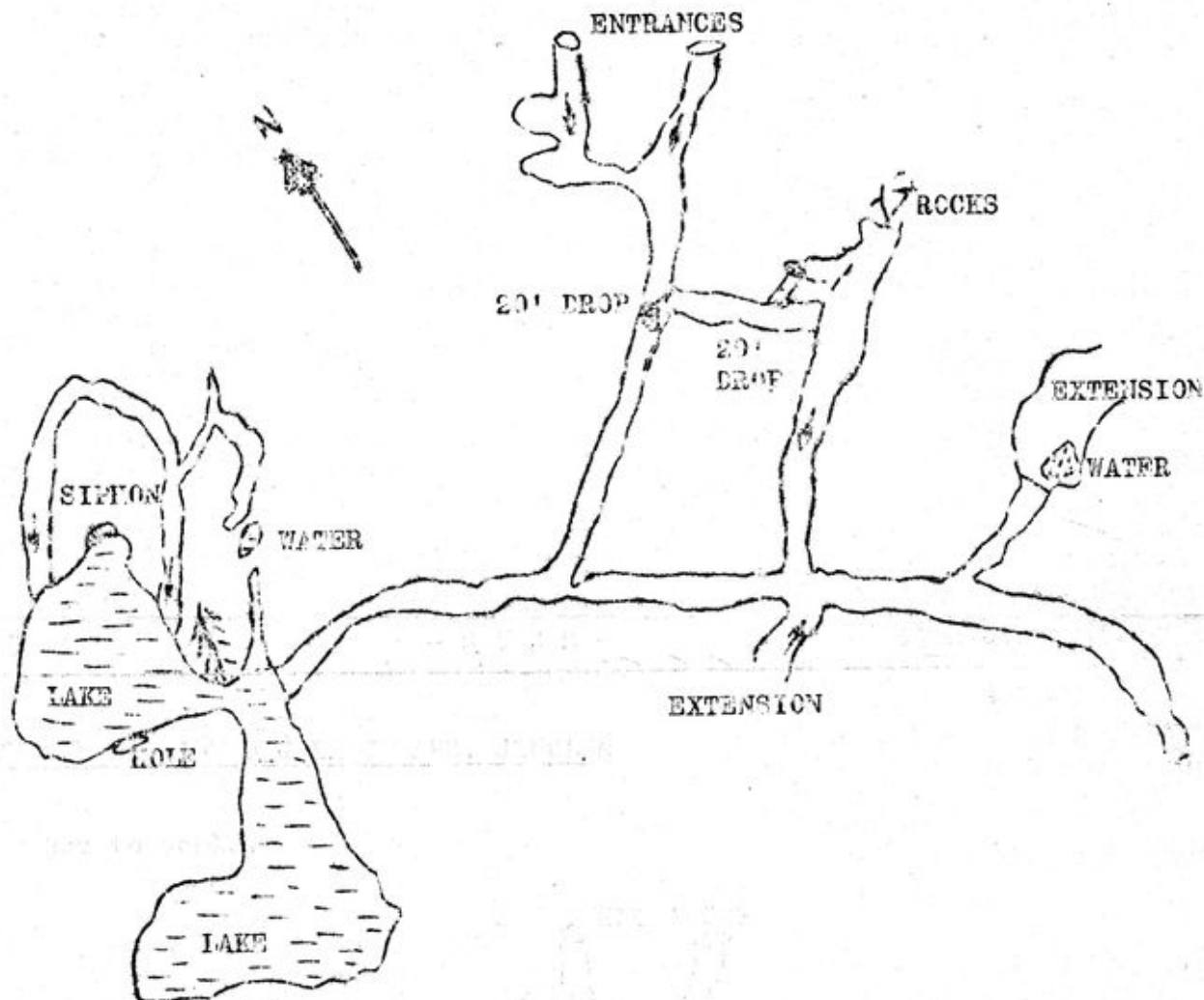
New Committee

PRESIDENT	... John Lotz
VICE PRESIDENT	... Tom Landecker
Hon. SECRETARY	... Ted Anderson
Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY	... Glen Chardier
Hon. TREASURER	... Glenn Hart
FULL COMMITTEE MEMBER	... Jeff Hinwood
ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE MEMBER	... John Steele

Congratulations to the selected seven! It was difficult to list these persons without including Peter Knowland as Associate Committee member automatically. Pete's successive election to this position in

SKETCH MAP OF WILBURD'S LAKE CAVE, JENOLAN

Not to scale.



past years must surely set a record for this sort of thing. We hope that, although Pete is unable to find the time to accept the considerable amount of work which he has handled for the Society for many years past, he will at least be able to continue his active membership.

Constitutional Amendment

Once again the battle weary S.U.S.S. Constitution found itself the subject of lengthy debate, when the proposed revision of Clause 3b - as set out in the formal notice of amendment contained in the April newsletter - came before the A.G.M. Following a discussion of the general

workability of the amendment and the date at which it should become effective, both subsections - 3b.i. & 3b.ii. - were voted on as a whole. The necessary two-thirds majority in favour of the alteration was found with an extremely small margin. The Membership Standards Subcommittee, called for in the amendment, has not yet been evolved.

### Annual Reports

#### Bat Research Subcommittee:

Barbara Dew presented a report which was indicative of the large amount of work performed in this field during the past year. A grand total of 1569 bats were banded by Barbara with the help of various other members. Some very interesting recoveries were made including one which indicated the flight of a bat from Sydney to Kempsey - a record distance of 220 miles. Now that confirmation of the use of the Drum Cave at Bungonia by bats as a breeding cave has been made, Barbara has requested that this cave not be entered during the period early December to mid February so that observations and banding can continue without disturbance. The full report of this Subcommittee will be published in the Year Book.

#### Safety Officer:

A brief and enjoyable report of the testing of the Society's equipment was given by Jeff Hinwood. No doubt Jeff's words of wisdom will mark the beginning of renewed interest on the part of members in the condition of our climbing equipment.

#### Subcommittee for Remote and Inaccessible Places:

Well Broken Hill must certainly be considered to be a remote area and its inaccessibility at certain times is readily acknowledged by the Geologists. A report of a trip to this area last year was presented by the Convenor - Alex Jones - which was received by the meeting with general approval. After all, it cannot be denied that an enormous amount of subterranean activity takes place at Broken Hill.

#### Office Bearers:

The reports of the various Office Bearers - including the financial statement for the S.U.S.S. financial year March 1962 - March 1963 - will be published in the Year Book.

### Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 1963 were fixed by the A.C.M. It was decided that last year's rates should be retained and these are as follows:

Full Membership	- Ten Shillings	Per Year
Associate Membership	- One Pound	"
Graduate Membership	- One Pound	"
Corresponding Membership	- Fifteen Shillings	"
Prospective Membership	- Two Shillings & Six Pence	Per Half Year

Tuesday, 28th May was the deadline for payment, and if your subscription has not yet been received by the Treasurer you are unfinancial. Technically, unfinancial members can only be readmitted to membership of the Society at the discretion of the Committee.



COMMITTEE MEETING

The first meeting of the new Committee was held on 18th May. At this meeting it was decided that some of the Subcommittees should be disbanded and some new ones formed. Thus the following appointments were made:

Auditor	- Mr E. S. Hunt
Editors SUSS Journal	- Dave Drummond
	Tom Landecker
Librarian & Records Officer	- Glen Chandler
Safety Officer	- Jeff Hirwood
Equipment Officer	- Glen Chandler
Bat Research Subcommittee	- Barbara Dew
Cave Survey Subcommittee	- Ted Anderson
Membership Standards Subcommittee	- Dave Drummond
Subcommittee for Remote and Inaccessible Places	- Alex Jones
Area Directors	
Jenolan	- Glenn Hunt
Yarrangobilly	- Tom Landecker
Bungonia	- Glen Chandler
Wombeyan	- Barbara Dew

Consideration of the need to purchase a suitable surveying instrument led the meeting to appoint a subcommittee which will be responsible for the proper handling of the instrument and its maintenance.

Seven applications for membership were considered by the meeting and the following four persons were approved for admission to full membership of the Society:

Jennifer Campbell	6 Brennan St., Smithfield	UB 4977
Barbara Watts	29 Filcen St., Balgownie	XJ 6918
Robert Neil	26 Essex St., Millara	JX 1697
Paul Wood	81 Hawthorn Ave., Chatswood	41 3037

Hugh Jones and Hugh Hodgkinson's applications were deferred because the Committee was not satisfied that sufficient hours caving had been completed. Philip Mulhall's application for readmission to membership was rejected.

CAVE CONSERVATION

A letter from the N.S.W. Department of Mines, received on 7th June, marks a successful end to the efforts of this and other speleo. societies to have an application for the right to mine bat guano in the Punchbowl/Signature Cave System at Wee Jasper refused. No indication of the reasons for the Department's decision to refuse the application were given, but we would like to think that our contribution assisted in the conservation of such an important cave.

A.S.F. PRESIDENT - SYDNEY SOCIETIES MEETING

Elery Hamilton-Smith, President of A.S.F., addressed a large number of tregs from S.S.S., U.N.S.W.S.S. and S.U.S.S. at a meeting held on the 29th April in the Sydney Uni. Geography Building. I'm sure all who attended gained something by listening to Elery's talk, which covered

a wide range of subjects beginning with A.S.F. and branching into such unlikely items as fluorescent bats at Buchan in Victoria. A varied array of questions on A.S.F. policy and general caving subjects were put to Liery. As a result those who attended were provided with a clear picture of A.S.F.'s attitude to some of the important and controversial issues currently confronting Australian Speleology. An opportunity to become involved in technical discussion or debate on every conceivable subject was available during supper, followed by the screening of a series of excellent caving slides. All in all, a very enjoyable evening and we look forward to meeting the other Sydney Societies like this more often in the future.

#### RECENT (AND NOT SO RECENT) TRIPS

##### Yarrangobilly, Easter 1963

Leader: Glen Chandler

Due to a misunderstanding between Tom Jardecker and his two-wheeled flying machine, Glen had to fill-in as leader of the traditional Easter sojourn at Yagb'y. Apparently an emphasis on serious tugging was a highlight of this year's trip. Innumerable hours were spent below the surface introducing new members to the delights of exploring the many and varied Yagb'y Caves.

##### Pungonia, 4th-5th May, 1963

A.S.F.N.S.W.C.C. Clean-up Campaign.

Fifty persons from the three Sydney Speleo. Societies and two independent groups vigorously attacked the rubbish which had accumulated in the Look-down and Adams Lookout areas and the Grill Cave at Pungonia. At the Look-down area and surrounding campsites a staggering quantity of rubbish, amounting to 220 cubic feet, was collected and buried.

General caving, bat banding, and the inevitable shutter-clicking were among the other diverse occupations enjoyed by all and the evening was spent around a large fire with the usual merriment, singing, jokes and reminiscing.

##### Jenolan, 3rd-4th June, 1963

Leader: Glenn Hunt

Four bods went to Jenolan to continue enlarging a possible further extension of the Ocote Cavern, Lower Level Mammoth Cave. Four bods got very wet! Their report indicates that given sufficient wet weather the Mammoth Cave can become a suitable location for those interested in cave diving to obtain some practice. Photographic evidence of a torrent of water at the bottom of the '40 foot' was obtained and the passages beyond were flooded, thus thwarting any attempt to carry out the original aim of the trip. As an alternative an attempt was made to reach the North Passage in Central Level, but this also was prevented by the understandably high level of the Central Level Lake. The only recourse was to pay a short visit to <sup>the</sup> relatively dry and clean 'Ben's Blunder' Cave.

Extremely heavy rain overnight forced the members of the party to abandon their plans for the following day and they treated themselves to the luxury of tourist type caving in the Lucas Cave during the afternoon.

##### Caving Areas South West of Orange, 19th-23rd May, 1963

Leader:  
Glenn Hunt.

A wealth of information is contained in this trip report about caves at Borenore, Boree, Angullong Property, Cargo and Canomodine.

