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Hon. Secretary

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# APOLOGIES, THANKS, AND THE S.R.C.

Before assuming the thin disguise of tradition and recommencing the condemnatory or commendatory composition so appropriate to the editorial of an academic society's newsletter, I want to use simple English (so appropriate, perhaps, to an Engineering undergraduate) to apologize for not producing the newsletter planned for January. My work unexpectedly took me from Adelaide to Woomera, upsetting most of my plans. For the same reason some people apparently found it difficult to contact me, and I apologize for this also. In addition, I owe my sincere thanks to the Committee Members who filled-in during my absence.

S.R.C. stands for the Speleological Research Council (Limited), which is a body, registered in accordance with the provisions of the N.S.W. Companies Act, enabling it, among other things, to wholesale colour slides of caves, under the "SUSS Productions" registered trade mark. The Speleo. Research Council is non-profit-making, and basically its aims are to foster and assist financially all aspects of speleological research. Because of the scientific nature of the Council, its income will be non-taxable. The members of the Council must be members of S.U.S.S. and they are elected to the Council by a General Meeting of the Society.

These are the basic, factual details of the operation of the

Council; but what about the less tangible aspects? To me the name "Speleological Research Council" seems to carry an inseparable image of a highly respectable body with a well developed ethical code and time honoured traditions. This is not surprising; the word 'research' - particularly when qualified by 'speleological' - indelibly brands the Council as scientific, and the respectability, ethics and traditions of science are well known and accepted. You can debate all day on the theme "Speleology - a science or a sport", but speleological research is undeniably a science. To adopt this name, then, is to adopt an enormous responsibility. If the Council does not live up to the image created by its name the whole project could well become a farce, and not without a tinge of fraudulence. With S.U.S.S. it is not as important that the Society should live up to the image created by its name (indeed, it hasn't), because there is flexibility in the image so that it can excuse its actions as merely a sport. The S.R.C. can't do this; it must accept the responsibilities and no matter how insignificant or inexperienced its activities may be in comparison with other sciences, it must pursue its aims with sincerity. This means the S.R.C. must be, as far as possible, uncommitted and free to assist and co-operate with anyone in speleological research.

*E. J. Anderson*

51ST GENERAL MEETING

Business was kept to a minimum to allow time for a talk and slide-show on the recent S.U.S.S. Nullarbor Expedition. The Secretary, as delegate to the A.S.F. Committee Meeting in January, reported briefly on the proceedings. Official Minutes of this meeting should be available shortly. Discussion on the proposed Constitutional Amendment providing for election of Associate members to any Committee position was noticeably one-sided, there being little support for the proposal. Such an amendment is not original and it is difficult to believe that Associate members will ever be happy with a Constitution which completely debars them from filling anything but a single representative position on the Committee. As usual, opposition was based mainly on two arguments. The first, a purely practical issue, alleges that Associates would be unable to properly perform the duties of an office bearer, because they are usually not at the University during working hours. But Graduates, working outside the University, can handle these positions fully. Non-student members can often devote more of their time to Society matters. The strongest opposition was concern for the individuality of the Society. The 'University' in our name is the only thing keeping the three "S's" apart, and to neglect its presence is a thought unbearable to most Full members. S.U.S.S. must - as far as possible - remain 'sui generis'! This argument didn't seem to be a just reply to the Associate members' claim, particularly when the facts that Associates are responsible for a considerable percentage of the Society's activity, and are equally

- and often better - able to fill a Committee position. After a suggestion that some thought should be directed towards arriving at a compromise, the amendment was put to the meeting and lost. This does not resolve the issue, and some more brain power needs to be expended on this matter. On the recommendation of T. Landecker, 8 inaugural members of the S.R.C. (Ltd.) were elected.

NOTICE

sydney university speleological society

52ND GENERAL MEETING

&amp;

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1964

Business will include: Annual Presidential address, Secretary's report, audited financial statement from the Treasurer, Subcommittee Convenors, and general officers' reports for 1963; election of office bearers in accordance with the Constitution, paragraph 5, section a., and paragraph 8 of the By-laws; fixing of subscriptions for the current year.

7.30 PM.

THIRD YEAR GEOGRAPHY LABORATORY

GRIFFITH-TAYLOR BUILDING

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

They are: Dr. J. Lotz, Miss B. Dew, and Messrs E. Anderson, D. Drummond, A. Jones, P. Knowland, T. Landecker, and J. Steele.

SUSS JOURNAL OVERSEAS

"The Netherworld News", Vol. X, Number 8, published by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the National Speleological Society (U.S.A.) displayed an editorial by Tom Landecker. The editorial, described as 'Further

comments on Spelunkers vs. Speleologists ...', was reprinted with permission from SUSS Journal Vol. 6 No. 2.

## TWO NEW BOOKS

Once upon a time, when the shining knights of anti-irresponsibility were trying to establish an 'ANTI-VICE Presidency' (i.e. late in 1960), the battle was temporarily halted to allow both sides to farewell a certain Margaret Innes, who was leaving for an extensive overseas tour. (By the way, Margaret, how's the primus?) Well Margaret is back, and at the last G.M. she quietly presented us with two books for the library. As it says on the front flap: "The Cave of Bouffignac (by Louis-Rene Neugier and Romain Robert) is not a scientific work; it is simply the 'record book' of the cave. It tells of the discovery of paintings of a time some 20,000 years ago, and it relates the arguments that arose over them." The book is illustrated by 24 pages of photographs. The second book is an extremely useful publication, issued by The Mountain Rescue Committee, and is a sort of 'handbook of Mountain and Cave Rescue' in the U.K. It describes the aims and activities of the Committee and the rescue

service. Mountain and cave safety and signals are dealt with, and a bibliography is given. Rescue procedure, methods, and equipment are described and first aid is clearly and concisely explained.

## TRIP REPORTS

Jenolan, 7th-8th March, 1964.

Leaders: John Lotz and Glenn Hunt.

The Oolite dig was re-entered but no further progress could be made. In the passage off the upper left side of the Oolite Cavern a chimney was re-climbed and declared to lead nowhere. However a strong draught, coming from a small hole at the top is said to suggest the possibility of an upper level. So called "grinning Monster Lake", (A name suggested by one of the cross-sections drawn during a survey-ed.) was further investigated and except for the possibility of a siphon, nothing new was found. Two specimens of Collembola were collected from two pools in the Oolite Cavern. Fresher members were introduced to the pleasures (?) of the Railway Tunnel slippery-dip. (All these locations are in Mammoth Cave -ed.)

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The following proposed Constitutional Amendment - moved by Mr. A. Jones and seconded by Mr. T. Landecker - was received by the Hon. Secretary on Thurs. March 19, 1964:

Amend clause 3b of the Constitution to read:

- (i) Before admission to any grade of membership, a candidate shall complete at least thirty hours caving in non-tourist caves and be approved by the Committee upon their being satisfied of the candidate's caving proficiency.
- (ii) Delete.
- (iii) renumber (ii) and amend the words following 'compliance' to: 'with such further requirements as the Committee may prescribe, subject to paragraph 3b(i) above'.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID BEFORE FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1964