

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

Once again the winds of change blow about S.U.S.S. The Society at its Annual General Meeting in April acquired its fourth different secretary and its fifth Assistant Secretary in the last two years. Your new Secretary hopes to maintain the high standard of efficiency of the previous Secretariate. Ted Anderson has passed on to more fertile pastures as A.S.F. Publications Officer and on behalf of the Society I extend my congratulations/commiserations. By a systematic process of elimination the lot then fell on the only available bunny left and having disposed of this explanation, we shall proceed with the dissemination of information and friendly advice etc.

It seems that at some time in the distant past when trip reports and other means of padding newsletters were not readily available, someone thought of "The Editorial". So to mark my debut, may I bring to your attention the matter of dirty campsites. The Society has received a complaint about the state the Jenolan campsite was left in after the Easter trip. This has now been satisfactorily adjusted but members must be quite sure that no visible evidence of their visit to an area remains after their departure. In general I feel that members do dutifully respect this ethic but this latest complaint is not unique--the Cliefden campsite was left in a regrettable condition after a visit a few years ago and we cannot blame bushwalkers et al. for all of the 220 odd cubic feet of rubbish buried at Bungonia during the recent clean-up.

There's a hackneyed but pointed old screed that gets plastered all over national parks and reserves that goes something like this;

"Let no-one say, and say it to your shame,
That all was beauty here until you came."

Let this apply both above and below ground level.

sydney university speleological society

53rd. General Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 1964

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7.30pm on June 11 1964, in the top floor lecture room, Griffith Taylor (Geography) Building. The speaker will be Mr J.N. Jennings who is reader in Geomorphology at A.N.U. and a well-known speleo. He will give an illustrated talk on Wee Jasper.

52nd GENERAL MEETING and 16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING --- 16th April, 1964

The following Committee was elected for 1964-5:

PRESIDENT	John Lotz
VICE-PRESIDENT	Tom Landecker
HONORARY SECRETARY	John Dunkley
HONORARY ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Elizabeth de Burgh
HONORARY TREASURER	Glen Hunt
FULL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Dick Roberts
ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE MEMBER	John Steele

The election was marked by a regrettable lack of volunteers for any position involving a little work; the first five positions were filled unanimously.

Reports of the various Officers and Subcommittees will appear in the forthcoming Yearbook. In passing let it be recorded that the Convenor of the Sub-Committee for Remote and Inaccessible Places reported a most profitable and progressive year, activity being well up to the level of previous years. It was felt that the Sub-Committee had continued to justify its existence. The report was received with acclamation. More precise details of the Sub-Committee's activities have not yet filtered through the grapevine.

TRIP REPORTSJenolan22 February - 1 March, 1964Glen Hunt

Considerable effort was expended in attempting to enlarge a crack in the wall of Oolite Cavern, Mammoth Cave, with the aid of a crowbar and sledge-hammer. Progress was stopped about 10' in by a difficult squeeze. A dirt dig in Smirnoff's Passage was attempted unsuccessfully and the end of the passage was investigated with a view to using mountaineering gear to climb a high, wide chimney. Part of the SSS extensions in J41 were looked at briefly as an SSS party had ladders erected in the deep shafts in this part of the cave.

Jenolan7-8 March, 1964John Lotz

Thwarted again in an attempt to reach Tuglow, the President and a party of freshers descended on the old stand-by again. More time was spent in and around Oolite Cavern and the Railway Tunnel in Mammoth Cave, introducing the uninitiated to the joys of Mammoth mud. J41 was visited in passing.

Wombeyan18-19 April, 1964Barbara Dew

The Basin Cave was explored for bat roosts in the lower level, with considerable success. General exploration in this area resulted in one well-decorated passage being entered for the first time. Photographs were taken in the Palace Cave and the Fig Tree yielded a small collection of bats banded at Bungonia in March. Due to the low water level it was possible to walk from the Fig Tree to Victoria Arch direct. A large variety of spiders, beetles, moths and the like was retrieved from the caves.

BUNGONIA14-15 March, 1964Tom Landecker

51 members and sundry others, including 17 freshers, combined to make this a traditional freshers trip. The Drum, Fossil, Grill, and B31 were assailed and abseiled; at least 10 descended the Drum by ladder or abseil, but it appears that most of the activity occurred on the surface after dinner. Hot pies were plentiful at the Lookdown.

COOLEMAN (-ON, -INE etc.)27-30 March, 1964

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Uncounted hordes of SUSS members joined with SSS, UNSWSS and HCG, also trout fishermen and sundry sloths and bludgers to make a total of 150 or so at Cooleman for a traditional Easter-type trip. Most known caves were entered and two new discoveries were made by Dick Crowle at al. Gibborology was enjoyed by the less intelligent and it is believed that hot pies were plentiful here also.

GOODRADIGBEE27-30 March, 1964Bill Crowle

Meanwhile, four miles downstream on the Goodradigbee, a small group led by Bill Crowle carried out some highly successful piccheering work. The results were, in summary:

- (1) A hole en route was descended, for the first time it was thought, to an alleged depth of 200 feet.
- (2) A known cave a few hundred yards downstream from the camping site was entered and a long extension discovered, consisting of an upper level crammed with formations, and an old stream passage at a lower level.
- (3) A tributary emerging past the first bluff of limestone was followed some way through muddy passages.
- (4) A vertical hole near the limestone north-west of camp was descended to a depth of 90 feet.
- (5) Further downstream an underground stream was followed for about 100 feet through passages about 6' high x 2'-3' wide. A side passage has possibilities.
- (6) One mile downstream the whole river flows through a limestone ridge. The influx was followed for about 30', the efflux for a similar distance. A large daylight chamber was found nearby.
- (7) A large fissure west of the efflux led into a 200' long river passage.
- (8) 200 yards up Cave Creek from the campsite several small caves were entered.
- (9) There is a promising cave in the last limestone bluff 1/2 m. further downstream.

It seems that the virtually unknown upper Goodradigbee area provides, despite its remoteness, the most promising caving at present available to S.U.S.S.

(I apologise for the vagueness of some of the above descriptions--this is due to the terms in which the trip report was coached.)

YARRANGOBILLY27-30 March, 1964

An ASEP-sponsored trip organised by Ian Wood (UNSWSS) made a diligent attempt to clean up the Restoration Cave, with partial success. A red plastic guide was laid through the cave and a start made on the fixing of a gate at the entrance.

YARRANGOBILLY9-12 May, 1964John Dunkley/Henry Shannon

This epic trip, which was mostly an introduction to non-tourist Yagby a certain conspicuous ex-patriate member of SUSS, must surely rank with past Colong ventures, in that it sampled all forms of precipitation and ranges of temperatures. Inspections were made of Restoration and East Deep Creek and Upper West Eagles Nest was descended to about -200' when time and lack of a rope halted progress. The party emerged at 5pm to find heavy snow falling. In view of this it was decided to retreat two days earlier than anticipated. East of Kiandra passers-by probably remarked on the mad Queenslanders sampling their first snow; the banana-bender had in fact been sweltering in Rockhampton barely a week before.

FUTURE TRIPS

Tom Landecker is rumoured to be mounting an expedition to Yarrangobilly on June 4-7. Only experienced veterans of Antarctica need apply.

SHOCK REVERSAL!! NURSE LOSES PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION!! STATEMENT ISSUED

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sydney Speleological Society held on April 23rd, Ben Nurse announced that he would not seek re-election to the post of President, which he has held since the formation of the Society ten years ago, since he felt that the Society had justified its existence and could now continue without his benevolent paternalism. After a long delay during which no-one offered to nominate anyone but Ben, John Bonwick was duly conned into taking over. (For the uninitiated, it was John who, as a member of SUSS some 10 or so years ago, discovered the Chevalier extensions to the Glass Cave at Jenolan.) At the meeting on May 28th Ben was elected to Life Membership of the Society. I think that SUSS members who know Ben and the tireless amount of work he has done in the name of speleology will join me in congratulating him most sincerely.

SUSS SOCIAL COLUMN

A contingent of SUSS members attended the wedding of Jeff Hinwood to Marilyn Slade on May 8th. On behalf of the Society I extend my best wishes, and hopes that matrimonial commitments will not prevent Jeff and Marilyn from attending at least an occasional caving trip in the future. The Society presented the couple with a collection of most appropriate (to some) steiner

SUSSKI ?

One of our newer members, Trevor Ethell, has arranged for the a house in Berridale (about 10 miles from Jindabyne) from 15th to 22nd August-the second week of vacation. With 12 occupants the cost will be an outrageously cheap 30/- per head and the all-inclusive cost for the week (accommodation, food, hire of gear, transport and ski-tow) should not run to more than £16 or so. Trevor can be contacted A L W 3452

SUSS LIBRARY

The Library is now located on the third floor (i.e. one up from where you enter the building) of the Griffith Taylor (Geography) Building, in greatly expanded shelving space. It is hoped to include an up-to-date catalogue in the next Yearbook. Among others, I note that the following are missing;

"British Caving" , "Australian Wonderland" , "1000 Metres Down" ,

All issues of BSS "Communications" , Some issues of "Cooranbong Reports"

Anybody knowing the whereabouts of these is asked to contact the Secretary.

The Library contains some excellent journals with articles on geology and geomorphology, and biology of caves, as well as general articles. Among those well worth at least a glance are the Bulletins of the National Speleological Society, the Proceedings of the Bristol University Speleological Society, the Transactions of the Cave Research Group of G.B., "Cave Science" (G.B.) and The New Zealand Speleo. Bulletin. There are also a number of full-length books on caving. To borrow from the Library, simply leave details in the book kept for the purpose by the Geography Department Librarian. Some of the best reading matter from the Library is being kept by the Secretary to guard against loss. These may be borrowed on request.



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