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TO BE USED ONLY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY -- PENALTY FOR IMPROPER USE £5

At the end of November last there occurred the third of a series of "incidents" at Bungonia which in one way or another involved cavers. Early in 1964 there was a fatal accident in the gorge when an inexperienced young climber fell to his death from a rope. It was reported that the victim had spent some time exploring caves in the vicinity, though not apparently a member of a society. Later in the year Marulan police were informed that a quantity of clothing had been found near the entrance to the Grill. The SSS Search and Rescue crew made an all-night trip to the cave but found no-one inside. Finally in the last incident a member of a party walking and climbing in the gorge fell a short distance, suffering mild concussion (the circumstances were much more dramatic if we are to believe the press). As it was, press and radio were on the spot long before police or S & R.

This time the people involved were members of this Society, however this was only incidental as they were at Bungonia in a purely private capacity and were not in any event caving; nevertheless it was felt that this provided an ideal opportunity to strike while the iron was hot and do something about Search and Rescue procedures. Accordingly at a specially convened meeting of the four Sydney societies, it was agreed that an inter-society hierarchy of co-ordination be instituted, with police and other contacts at the top of the pyramid so to speak. The mechanics of the arrangement are rather too lengthy to explain here although the system is basically quite simple. Suffice it to say that should you feel the need for a proper Search and Rescue, the procedure is to contact any one of the SUSS co-ordinators, who are Tom Landecker, John Lotz and Bill Crowle. It should always be possible to get in touch with one of these cogs, each of whom will then set in motion such other cogs as he sees fit. Before you know it there will be an army of eager-beaver searchers and rescuers just dying to rescue your limp corpse. Perhaps we shall never need such a system, but although SUSS has never had a serious accident, much less a fatal one, there have been occasional near-misses. Such a body will also be useful in such cases as the second incident mentioned above. So make a note of the following

John C. Lotz: usually at Mona Vale Hospital. 994271

Tom Landecker: Home 353931. Also Sydney University Department of Electrical Engineering - 680522

Bill Crowle: Home 484628. Work- MWS&DB (Water Board) 20648ext776

A General Meeting of the Society will be held in the usual spacious quarters of the Geography Department, at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th February, 1965. Business, if any, will revolve around a discussion of certain bureaucratic irresponsibility in respect of the reserve at Wombeyan and attendant matters.

Entertainment will be provided in the way, it is hoped, of a slightly dead kangaroo rat, ten thousand feet of string recovered from a certain cave, one diprotodon and numerous slides and assorted anecdotes of the Nullarbor and Western Australian Caves

TRIP REPORTS and SPACE FILLERS

Leaders of trips to Jenolan are hereby informed that there is at present a total ban on open fires in the reserve. Check en route as to whether this is still operative next time you go; fines are stiff.

Anyone who has been on the playing fields at Jenolan in winter could have told the authorities responsible for the koala cage that it is in the coldest, windiest pocket of the surrounding country. I remember one morning in 1963 when the air temperature at 5' was measured at 18°F i.e. 14° below freezing. Well, needless to say, the koalas, which have been imported from the north coast of all places, weren't rated much of a chance at surviving the coming winter. In fact, one died of exposure in December, in summer. If the rehabilitation program must proceed in this particular place, it is to be hoped that the TB and the Fauna Preservation (?) Panel move their charges elsewhere for winter.

On two recent trips to Jenolan held under the auspices of Henry Shannon, substantial extensions to Wiburds Lake Cave were discovered when it was found that the lake had completely vanished, leaving high, wide, walk-through chambers. Further attempts to gain the Woolly Rhinoceros Cave from here proved abortive. A refresher trip to the Northern River section of Mammoth resulted in penetration of a formerly gravel-filled overflow passage exploration of which has not been complete.

A trip to Yarrangobilly 25-28 December served only to scratch the surface so to speak of the Eagles Nest system. There appears to be not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of passage in this complex cave with three entrances. The purpose of this trip was to try and locate the passage from the Eastern entrance to the lower Western entrance. This proved unsuccessful but it is thought that the passage from the Upper to the Lower Western Cave has been located. An as yet unidentified species of beastie was found in the latter.

The SUSS Journal rides the waves again!! This highly esteemed eagerly sought-after publication allegedly appears twice yearly. There have in fact been 4 issues in the last 5 years, with none at all in 1964. However there will very likely be at least three, possibly 4 issues in 1965. Contributions for the fourth are invited by the editor in the guise of the secretary in the guise of John Dunkley. Contributions can be in the way of just about anything connected with caving. No fees will be paid for reproduction etc but you may have the thrill of seeing your name in print.

Despite the efforts of some misguided members, who know nothing and care less about the SUSS Library, to give it away to the Fisher Library for "safeguarding", the collection continues to grow, as does the rate of borrowing. In recent months there have been a number of additions to the hard-cover books in the library. Thanks to the generosity of the Geography Department, these are now housed in special lockers conveniently close to our normal meeting place so that the books can be borrowed at meetings. The books reviewed below are the recent additions, both by purchase and by negotiation with recalcitrant borrowers. Still missing, presumed lost, are Cook's "Australian Wonderland", J.Cadoux "1000 Metres down" and "British Caving", 1st edition.

W.L.Havard: The Romance of Jenolan Caves . J.Royal Aust.Hist.Soc., XX, 1934, pp. 18-65.

This is a photocopy of the standard reference on the history of the Jenolan area. Appeared mysteriously after absence of two or three years.

"Grottes de Roumanie"

This valuable collection of 150 or so quarto size photos was recently retrieved after an 18month absence in Canberra. Although the reproduction could be a little better, the composition and subject matter of this volume of Roumanian caves is superb.

Roy Pinney: "The Complete Book of Cave Exploration" Van Rees, N.York, 1962.

This is one of the "Complete Book of ..." series, a series which introduces the seeker after exotica, triviality and generally obscure branches of knowledge to such diverse activities as Rug Braiding, Dog Training and Care, and Cave Exploration. In common with most series type books, by the one author, it gives a broad coverage at shallow depth, so that there is not and cannot be any pretence to authority. However an adequate and not entirely superficial treatment is given to geology, physical attributes, fauna, archaeology, palaeontology and photography of caves, as well as to more practical aspects such as equipment and techniques. There is a section on famous American and overseas caves, a note on the nature and functioning of NSS, numerous Biblical references to caves and a section, largely of theoretical interest, on "speleological engineering".

There are a number of minor errors of fact or unclarified opinion. There should be some reservations about the stated danger levels for CO₂ on p.47. On p.143 the famous New Zealand cave is repeatedly referred to as Waimoto, and the picture of Empress Grotto, Orient Cave, Jenolan, is upside down, something that should be obvious even to someone who hasn't seen it. The adage that one sketch etc speaks more than a thousand words should apply to the laboured explanation of knots and ropes.

Two Charles E.Mohr photographs of a blind fish and a small crustacean relieve an otherwise generally uninspired collection of posed and tourist type illustrations.

EXPEDITION TO GO TO NEW GUINEA
TO EXPLORE CAVES

"An amateur cave explorer will leave Sydney this month to join an expedition to investigate previously unexplored caves in Papua-N.Guinea.

"He is Mr Paul Symons, 34, a psychologist who conducts assimilation surveys for the Department of Immigration.

"He will leave Sydney next Friday for Telefomin, New Guinea, to join four other men who plan to spend three months exploring the caves in the rugged Star Mountains near the border between Papua-New Guinea and West Irian.

"The others are David Cook, a geologist and palaeontologist (one who investigates evidence of life in previous ages), Michael Shepherd, an Englishman working under a scholarship at Sydney University, Barry Craig, a mission schoolteacher at Telefomin, and Tom Hallyar (sic), a Sydney schoolteacher.

"Mr Symons said the expedition, which would cost £2500, would leave Telefomin on February 17. It would set up a base camp near Mt Sirin, one of the highest peaks in the Star Mountains.

"We will also attempt to cross, for the first time, the eastern section of the Star Range," he said.

Mr Symons said that although the area was restricted, the Administrator of Papua-New Guinea, Sir Donald Cleland, had approved the expedition provided it remained on the Australian side of the West Irian border. Mr Symons said most of the cost of the expedition would be met initially by the members. 'Although we will be collecting information and specimens for the South Australian Museum and the CSIRO, there will be little financial return from these,' he said. 'Our chief means of offsetting the cost would appear to be from the sale of specimens to American commercial interests'.

(from the Sydney Morning Herald,
Monday 8th February, 1965)

SUSS now has an interest in this expedition, as a SUSS member, Mike Shepherd joined at the last moment. We also have a financial interest to the extent of £5 donation and the SRC is up to its neck in the trip following on a grant of £50.

It is expected that communiques will be received from Telefomin from time to time as part of the deal.

If you're wondering why the hell these last few pages are somewhat better printed than the first two, its because Moby Dick was disinterred and the pages one and two were an experiment to see whether it was going again. It wasn't. It has been discretely buried again.