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ANNUAL

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GENERAL

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MEETING

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The 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Sydney University Speleological Society will be held in the usual premises, Room 403, top floor, Geography Building, Sydney University, on Thursday, 10 June, 1965.

Business to be transacted will consist of reports from Office-Bearers for the year 1964-1965 and election of a Committee and other officers for 1965-66. Any or all of the following positions are to be filled:

COMMITTEE: President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary (and/or Publicity Officer) Hon. Treasurer, Full Committee Member, Associate Committee Member.

SubCommittees: Bat Research, Cave surveying, Remote and Inaccessible Places, Dinner etc.

Hon. Auditor, Librarian and Records Officer, Equipment Officer, Safety Officer, Area Directors, Australian Speleological Federation New South Wales Co-ordinating Committee Standing Committee Representative from Sydney University Speleological Society (occasionally abbreviated to ASFNSWCCSC Rep.)

There are quite evidently positions for one and all and a little more interest in filling ~~XX~~ them than was so last year would help to pull the Society out of the doldrums into which it seems to have fallen lately.

THE SITUATION AT WOMBEYAN - SUMMARY

1. The lease is held by Industrial Rock Minerals Pty.Ltd.
2. The Glass Cave is in fact inside the lease and not on the Caves Reserve.
3. The lease allows both drilling and blasting, subject to an upper limit on the size of explosive.
4. The lease expires in March, 1966
5. It provides that mining activity will not in any way affect the stability of the Wombeyan tourist caves.
6. A seismographic test in 1961 revealed insignificant vibration in tourist caves, but then the tourist caves are 2 miles away while the Glass is only a few hundred feet.
7. Lease provides that activities must interfere as little as possible with natural flora and fauna.
8. The bats are being driven out of the cave, so we are told.
9. The lease provides that the original ground cover shall so far as possible and practicable be returned when quarrying activities cease.
10. The area looks about as natural as the south-east part of the quadrangle of the University and there is as yet no indication as to when the mess is to be cleaned up.
11. There are allegedly some genuine aboriginal rock drawings or paintings in the entrance to the cave.
12. The Mines Department is (reading between the lines of their letter to Barbara Few) not going to do anything about it at this stage. Any application for extension of the lease beyond March 1966 would if granted however be very possibly subject to being limited to drilling only.
13. The tourist Bureau is genuinely interested in conserving this cave.

Because the Glass Cave is not in the Reserve, it may be visited at any time without Tourist Bureau acquiescence.

SUSS JOURNALS 6.3 & 6.4

Some time ago I collected money from several members on the pretext of reprinting these Journals. Subsequent enquiries revealed that Dave Drummond, editor of this Journal, found that the stencils were so badly mauled by Nobby Dick that humane reasons compelled him to destroy them.

Prospective purchasers may either collect a refund from the Treasurer, or help him balance/juggle his books for 1964-5 by donating the 1/6 to the Society.

It was pointed out a couple of months ago that this Society from time to time produces a Journal which is distributed in about 20 countries throughout the world, and that a number of issues were pending.

The Editor of the most imminent of these is our esteemed President, John Lotz, who advises that only some 15 pages of material is available for his effort so far, while a decently clad Journal needs at least 30 pages.

You don't have to be a literary giant to contribute to the Journal, nor need you submit a lengthy treatise on Post-Pleistocene changes in the Mammalian Fauna of Borneo, or a report on a New Species belonging to the Genus Gymnoplectron Hutton, 1897, from the Poor Knights Islands. Australia has plenty of learned journals for such gems of erudition. No, the SUSS Journal will accept anything connected with caving, and though welcomed, originality is not essential. Trip reports of an unusual nature, humour, cartoons etc are suggestions. Other topics would include foul air (revisited), new techniques, biology of cave-dwelling insects and other fauna and so on.

Finally it should be mentioned that the fine (and so seldom used) Library possessed by the Society was built up over the years by exchanging our Journals for literature from overseas. If our Journal collapses for want of contributions, so will the supply of Speleo Digests, NSS Bulletins and so on.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new prospective members:

Karen Heagney	24 Cudjee Road, GYMEA	5242321
Tim McCormack	61A Crown Road, Queenscliffe	719598
Phil Eather		
Terry Perkins	1/4 Cowper Street, Randwick	393921
Bruce Pearson	66 Flinders Street, PYMBLE	
Don Yates (about time he joined)	29 <del>XXXXXX</del> Victor St. CHATSWOOD	20648
		x484 (W)
Konrad Böhssen	1 Anzac Avenue, COLLAROY	XW8468
Annabel Wheeler	c/o Women's College, S.U.	

#### TRANSITION

1. Sometime SUSS Secretary (1961-2) Jenny Anderson (nee Tomlinson) en route to USA May 10. Husband Dave (brother of Ted Anderson) is taking up an appointment at Harvard University, Boston, Mass. Joins expatriates O'Brien and Hinwood.
2. Notable SUSS personality Bill Crowle, leaving to join another SUSS member Ian Williams in W.A., May 15

13 May, 1965

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### OUR MAN IN NEW GUINEA

Except for a rather vague report in the Sydney Morning Herald a few weeks ago to the effect that an Australian team had succeeded in crossing the Star Mountains in central New Guinea, the only written communications were dated 19th March and were conveyed out by natives to Telefomin.

"Things are all going very well here, as I expect the others, have told you already. The people in the district, although extremely primitive, are very friendly and it is hard to imagine any of them as prior cannibals or even warring tribes. At the moment we are living in opulent luxury in a spacious guesthouse built in three days when we arrived here in Fukutu. However, we expect to move up to the plateau in a couple of days and do not know what to expect there. The climate, although humid is not unpleasant, and we usually get between half and one inch of rain every day, which falls in the afternoon or evening. The geomorphology isn't going too badly, but I shall not be starting in earnest until we get to the caving district. Everyone seems to be happy with the way the expedition is turning out, so here is hoping our luck will hold out"

MIKE SHEPHERD

"If you could see us in our bark and leaf rest house at Fukutu you would believe that it was a Gold Coast holiday- we worry mainly about the menu and the wash-wash water. We have done some walking as well and next Monday we head off for the Stars proper...at vast expense we have had one airdrop and spent two days finding the sacks...lost two in the jungle...sometimes we think we have lost Tom (Hayllar) as well when he disappears on his beetle-hunting jaunts. This will probably be our last chance of writing before we return to Telefomin"

PAUL SYMONS

"Will not keep you long as our bush hut is reeking with beetles and other game...so far we are all in good health (Except that Mike attracts all sorts of monstrous fleas etc.) and going native a la Nawok. Soon we will stir ourselves out of this lethargy by going up into the Stars..."

TOM HAYLLAR

The expedition is due to arrive at Telefomin on 21 May, 1965, leaving the Stars proper on the 19th. They should be back in Sydney presumably early in June.