

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35,
The Union,
Sydney University.

Price Five Cents

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Edited by the Hon. Secretary

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Volume 6 Number 1

1st April, 1966.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

April

8-12 (Easter) Abercrombie
Coolemon
Yarrangobilly

CANCELLED

Geoff Butlin 462213
John Dunkley 854333

14 GENERAL MEETING

Usual Place 7.30 p.m.

30-1st May Search & Rescue at Bungonia With Illawarra S.S.

5 GENERAL MEETING

14- ? Colong

John Dunkley 854333

January 1967 Tasmania

John Dunkley 854333

* GENERAL MEETING *
* *
* The 60th General Meeting of the Sydney University *
* Speleological Society will be held at 7.30 p.m. on *
* 14th April 1966 in the usual place, top floor *
* Geography Building, Sydney University. It has been *
* convened for the specific purpose for Ted Anderson *
* to talk on his recent trip to New Caledonia, *
* together with colour slides. It is hoped the *
* newly-purchased Survey Instrument will be on *
* display for those interested. *
* *

Are there any other trips in the offing ? Please let me know as soon
as possible.

SECRET R.I.L. OBSERVATIONS

At the recent AGM a veritable revolution occurred in the final choice of your Committee and Office-Bearers for 1966-7. Half the members of the Committee were not committeemen last year; and only one of those who was is serving in the same capacity. Whether this show of new faces is an indication of the radical members of the Society gaining control, or the Conservatives losing theirs, or whether the refusal to accept nomination of the Immediate past President and Vice-President set the pace for the ensuing positions one can only guess. John Lotz is about to depart from these fair shores, and Tom Landecker now suffers from the restraints of parenthood. Above all we must be all grateful to John Dunkley, who as Secretary 1964-6 carried the burden of the Society's problems. I only hope I can live up to what you have come to expect from your Secretary.

Of the Office Bearers elected at the AGM, the Equipment Officer is technically appointed by the Committee. However when I raised this point at the Meeting no-one raised any objections to the immediate election of this essential person. I can see no reason why at its next meeting the Committee should not ratify the appointment of Harley Wright especially as 1] He was elected by popular vote at an AGM and the Society as a whole, not just the members of the Committee, feel he would carry out his duties to their satisfaction; 2] He is at the University daily, with a car, and so can make equipment easily available to members at the University; and 3] He lives on a main road and is therefore easily accessible at home.

The other somewhat unexpected turn was the tacit approval on the part of virtually all members present, that certain membership subscriptions should rise. The new membership rates, WHICH ARE NOW DUE, are listed elsewhere herein.

TRIP FEES. You will note elsewhere herein that Trip Fees are now 25c., not 50c. as previously. But this is not the only change here. They are going to be collected. Any non-member or non-prospective member who is present on a SUSS Trip is required to pay this amount to the Trip Leader; it is the duty of each Trip Leader to collect these fees and remit them to the Treasurer.

TRIPS. It is hoped that when a member plans a trip, he immediately informs me of this. This way the trip can be properly advertised and consequently efficiently run. Those of you who were present will realise the problem: Alison's comment on the Publicity Officer -- "It doesn't work. Nobody tells me anything." Don't let this situation exist this year.

NEWSLETTER. It is hoped and anticipated that the Newsletter will appear more frequently this year. But for the Newsletter to exist the Editor needs copy, he shouldn't sit down in front of a typewriter and scratch his head. So give me personally, or drop into the letterbox any news, information, gossip --- anything, absolutely anything, that is a potential Newsletter item. If you wish to contact me at work come (don't phone) to the Fisher Library and ask the person at the Closed Reserve window where I am to be found.

Geoff Butlin.

COMMITTEE 1966-7

President	- Richard Roberts	484365
Vice-President	- Edward Anderson	933157
Immediate Past President	- Tom Landecker	
Secretary	- Geoff Butlin	462213
Assistant Secretary	- John Dunkley	854333
Treasurer	- Glenn Hunt	495784
Full Committee Member	- Graeme Jessup	444016
Associate Committee Member	- Michael Shepherd	

OFFICE BEARERS 1966-7

Equipment Officer	- Harley Wright	461196
Librarian	- Glenn Hunt	495784
Publicity Officer	- John Dunkley	854333
Jenolan Area Director	- John Dunkley	854333
Bungonia Area Director	- NONE	
Wombeyan Area Director	- Barbara Dew	575890
Yarrangobilly Area	- Tom Landecker	
Remote & Inaccessible	- Alex Jones	
Areas S'committee	(A welcome return !)	
Bats S'committee	- Barbara Dew	575890
Surveying S'committee	- Graeme Jessup	444016

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 1966-7

Full membership, graduate)	\$2.00
Full membership, undergraduate		
Associate membership		
Prospective membership (6months duration)		50c
Corresponding membership		\$1.50
Trip Fee for non-members	25c	
Metal lapel badge	50c	
Cloth badge	25c	

FIELD DAY 26 th April

Report from Harley Wright

Despite doubtful weather, an encouraging attendance of about 25 people rolled up at Wahroonga rocks, transport being provided from Turramurra station for those requiring it. With a ladder down a 45-foot cliff and numerous abseiling ropes ample opportunity was available for practising ascents and descents. Every couple of minutes people were seen to disappear over the edge, sliding down by various means --- Classic, Conventional, Abseil and "Twisted Knot".

Although a lot of belaying was done there is room for improvement in the use of standard calls --- climb when ready; climbing; that's me; up rope; more slack; falling. Especially in caves where acoustics are not good, it is essential to have a simple system of communication which avoids confusion and misinterpretation, with possibly disastrous results.

Ctd.

An automatic belaying device, purchased in England for about \$30 and supplied by Jeff Hinwood --- it was displayed at the AGM --- was tested. This device, clipped on to a waist sling, has the belay rope running freely through it at normal rate of ascent or descent. However under a sharp downward motion (eg. if the climber fell), the unit locks on to the belay rope. People throwing themselves off ladders were brought to a halt after falling a few feet. The unit should be available in Australia soon. Belaying of a falling body (in the form of a 56lb. rock) met with dismal failure and only succeeded in hastening the processes of erosion by converting the rock into sand when it fell out of the sling supporting it.

Towards the end of the day Alison gave a demonstration of prusicking.

It is believed that those present agreed to hold a continuation of the Field Day on Saturday 2nd April.

REVIEWS

From the Librarian

"Animals in Art: Mosaic Art" by Hans Kruuk. Animals Vol. 6 No. 18 1965

The author reports the discovery of abundant cave paintings in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. The paintings are found in small rock shelters formed under or between masses of large granite-like boulders. The paintings are largely of valued beasts, such as cattle, and of admired ones such as elephant and lion. The drawings generally bear a striking resemblance to those of antiquity in the famous art-caves of France and Spain. The author hopes that some interesting cultural comparisons can be made between the present and the past. 6 pages, 9 interesting colour plates.

"Cave Baby" Sun-Herald, Sunday 27th March 1966

Photograph shows a well-equipped caver holding his four-month-old son above some murky pool 60 feet underground somewhere in Yorkshire. His three-year-old daughter complete with bash-hat looks on, as the lad was christened "cave-man style".

Is Jim Landecker going to meet the same fate?

For the next two pages, including cutting the stencils, I have to thank John Dunkley.

BY THE WAY :: Would all those who have transport, that is some to spare, and are going to Coolemon, contact me, 462213, or Harley Wright 461196. Anyone who can't seem to arrange transport for himself should also address his/her enquiries to one of us.

EASTER AT YARRANGOBILLY OR Much ado about nothing?

One of the facts of speleological life in this state is the delicate relations which we enjoy with the Department of Tourist Activities and the Kosciusko State Park Trust. In particular, any trips conducted by us to areas controlled by these institutions must be limited to twelve persons, of whom not more than four may be prospective members of the Society. These prefatory remarks repeat something that is only too well known by members of the society, but they are repeated once again for the benefit of prospective members who may otherwise imagine that there is some conspiracy to keep them out of these areas.

Apart from this, it seems that there will be only two members at Yarrangobilly at Easter who know both the caves and the surface in reasonable detail; in an area such as this, that is just not a large enough safety margin in the event (improbable but still possible) of the need for a search and rescue.

Accordingly it was necessary to reduce the number of potential takers for this trip from the 32 who enquired, to 12. The only fair way to do this was to take them in the order of asking -- first in first served. The lucky twelve therefore are

J.Dunkley (L)	R.Crowle	E.Halbert	D.Perkins
G.Jessup	J.Watts	C.Newbigin	D.Ward
A.Jessup	R.Roberts	J.Lotz	G.Bradley

The following prospective members are invited to ring me (854333), preferably next Monday evening after 6, to discuss possible alternative pursuits at Easter (if they have not already) :

Mr and Mrs E.Ongley	B.Allsopp	R.Murray
J.Cayzer	D.Pratt	

For those not able to be accommodated at Yarrangobilly there may be a few vacancies in cars to Coolemon, and there will certainly be a service provided from Rules Point or thereabouts to Coolemon for those who get there by their own means.

These people, if still interested, should therefore ring Geoff Butlin (462213) as soon as possible, or see him on the Botany Lawn at lunchtime, when the situation will be explained in some detail and arrangements for transport worked out.

REVIEW: CAVECRAFT - an introduction to caving and potholing
by David Cons, B.Sc., F.R.G.S. Harrap, London, 1966.
184 pp. pictures, diagrams, glossary etc. Price £2.80

With the graduation (in U.K. at least) of caving from a crackpot pursuit to a widely-accepted sport, the literature has graduated from accounts of special expeditions and descriptions of various caves to "guides" to the sport and "how-to-do-it" manuals. Last year,

for example, an American gentleman produced what purported to be (according to its title) "The Complete Book of Cave Exploration". It will, of course, be argued that caving is not something one learns by reading a book, only by practice, and there is much to be said for this view. Nevertheless the present author makes a good attempt at covering the technique of caving - ladders, ropes, various hazards, exhaustion and exposure, digs (the type which now constitute 'caving' in parts of the U.K.) and cave rescue. There is no speleology here, only caving. Some of the sketches bear a startling resemblance to those in SUSS Journal 6.3, 1963, in fact a suspicious resemblance. There is, an all-too-welcome emphasis on ladder and rope work and on elementary safety precautions. A curious omission is a section on elementary map-work; are there no caves left to be discovered or at least mapped in the U.K. ~~Without~~ all, not a bad introduction, but strictly only for novices.

Once More unto the breach dear friends ...

THE SUSS LIBRARY

Prospective members may be interested to know that we possess the largest speleological library in this country, containing material from about 30 countries. Of most interest are the several full-length books which we have on caving and speleology. You can borrow any of the following from the Librarian, Glenn Hunt, at the Botany Lawn, or at General Meetings :

U.S.A. SPELEOLOGY: the Study of Caves, Moore and Nicholas
SPELEO DIGEST, 1957., 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, N.S.S.

U.K. BRITISH CAVING, by the Cave Research Group
CAVING and POTHOLING

FRANCE Ten Years under the Earth, Casteret
More Years under the Earth, Casteret
Caves and Cave Diving, De Lavaur
The Caves of Rouffignac, Nougier & Robert

In addition there are of course the more than 1000 assorted journals and whatever, which are naturally of more specialised interest.

EXPLORING AMERICAN CAVES, Franklin Folsom, Collier, New York,
Revised(Paperback) Edition, 1962. 319pp, photos. etc.

The new edition of this useful and readable novel-type book was obtained at a downtown paperback shop for 65c. which sound like a mistake since the posted price in America is 95c. Even at that price, though, it is the cheapest around.

FOR

SALE

⇒ One PENTAX SV model camera, 1sec. 1/1000th, self-timer etc. 18mths. old. Join the SUSS-PENTAX Club. ←
Details and inspection from J. Dunkley