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SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Edited by the Hon. Secretary

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Volume 6 Number 2

1st May, 1966

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Details, Page 4

April		
23-25	Jenolan Tuglow	John Dunkley 854333 Harley Wright 461196
30-1st May	Search and Rescue at Bungonia	Illawarra S. S.
5	GENERAL MEETING	Usual Place 7.30p.m.
14-15	Abercrombie &/or Mid-West	Rick Crowle 447415
14-?	Colong	John Dunkley 854333
21-22	Jenolan	Glenn Hunt 495784
June 11-12 ?	Surveying Trip	Details to be announced
16	GENERAL MEETING	Usual Place 7.30p.m.
January 1967	Tasmania caving/walking	John Dunkley 854333

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* GENERAL MEETING \*  
\* \*  
\* The 61st General Meeting of the Sydney University \*  
\* Speleological Society will be held at 7.30p.m. in \*  
\* the usual place, top floor of the Geography Bldg., \*  
\* University of Sydney. Further details, Page 4. \*  
\* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Details of trips planned for June should reach the Editor by May 23rd.

SECRETARIAL OBSERVATIONS

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION. As some of you have heard, my car, the "Yank Tank", suffered a serious mechanical breakdown near Berridale during the Easter trip. Attempts to flag down passing motorists were quite fruitless, no-one even bothering to slow down (except a Pioneer bus driver who offered to take us to Cooma) until a Victorian motorist with two passengers stopped. He said he was "going down the road towards Adaminaby" and offered the four of us transport. Actually, as it subsequently transpired, he was going only a relatively short distance, but nevertheless drove an extra 44 miles (there and back) solely for our benefit. The driver's name unfortunately I don't know, but one of his passengers was Mrs Wiles of Burwood, Melbourne. To these Victorians I am most grateful on behalf of my passengers and myself. Once in Adaminaby I was able to bribe a couple of the local "lads" into driving us right into camp at Coolemon. That their "lowered" Holden survived the pot-holes, gutters and dips was more due to good luck than any suitability of the vehicle for such tracks. To these gents I also owe thanks. Finally, I must thank Don Yates and party who assisted me to effect temporary repairs, until time necessitated their departure for Sydney. The trip into Cooma was inevitably slow. Have you ever driven along the open highway at 20m.p.h.? Try it. You'll never feel such a fool in your life!

SEARCH AND RESCUE. The experience of a real search, not just a practice, during the Coolemon trip convinced several of us present of one thing: although this search ended successfully and happily, this was solely due to the intelligence of the lost person, not because of any efficiency on the part of the searchers. 90% of the "searchers" did no more, I stress NO MORE, than walk in the proximity of Cave Creek down towards and through the Gorge. If for the sake of argument, the fisherman had stumbled and fallen, and lay unconscious, I suggest he would NOT have been found that night. Few of the searchers bothered to point their lights in the direction of long grass, rocky outcrops, or along the creek except when necessary to cross it. There are two basic procedures that members should learn: organisation of the search as a whole, and organisation of the individual searcher. In the case of the former, unless this is properly (if roughly) done, the entire search could possibly be fruitless. In the latter case, any searcher who is not prepared to be systematic and thorough is letting down the team as a whole and might as well not participate. Again using this search as an example: the organisation was scant. True, searchers were recommended to follow the "buddy" system so that individual searchers would not be lost; and that the searchers as they left were counted (to my knowledge they were not counted on their return). Both these precautions, I am pleased to say, were at S.U.S.S. members' instigation. However this was the extent of organisation. Groups should have been allocated areas to search, especially as this would have been easy in this area. Some to go to the first bend in the creek and work back, some further afield; some to the waterfall; etc. Thoroughness of the individual's search would inevitably follow with some definite goal. These criticisms apply as much to the A.S.S., C.S.S., and H.C.G. contingents as much as to the S.U.S.S. participants, the result was a 50-person totally unco-ordinated search.

NEWSLETTER. Subject to the availability of material, it is hoped to publish the Newsletter once a month. Why not help - write short items, no matter how brief or world shattering. Keep an eye out for appropriate newspaper excerpts. Give it/them to me or drop into the letterbox. You can use the letterbox method if you wish to remain anonymous (Charlie already has). With such an increased regularity of publication it is quite feasible for you to have your trips advertised on the front page. PLEASE notify you planned trips adequately in advance for details to be included in a Newsletter prior to the trip (and so give others a chance of participating). It is anticipated that the Newsletter will go to "press" at the beginning of the last week of the month.

#### GENERAL MEETINGS:::PARKING WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS.

Members of the Society and Visitors attending General Meetings will probably in future be permitted to park their cars within the University for the duration of the meeting. The University authorities will be notified of the date and time of meetings. BUT PLEASE NOTE -- the Administration has informed me the Constables may not permit you to enter without some evidence that you are, in fact, attending the meeting in question. Accordingly I have advised them that the S.U.S.S. passport shall be the latest issue of this Newsletter i.e. the one advertising the meeting, and if questioned you should show this to the Constable. You should ONLY enter by the Parramatta Road (Main) Gates, and don't be surprised if you are refused entry before 6.30p.m. for a 7.30p.m. meeting. If we don't comply with these regulations we may not find the Administration willing to be co-operative in future.

#### THIS 'N' THAT

STUNT SPELEOLOGY. It was reported in the Sun-Herald of 3/4/66 that one David Lafferty is attempting to break the world underground isolation record of 126 days. The attempt was to be made (he's possibly still there) 340 feet down a cave in Somerset's Mendip Hills. With him he took  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton tinned food, 14038 candles, 2800 cigarettes, and 200 books. (Let's hope the mess is cleaned up). Apparently a prize of \$1250 has been offered if he outlasts the French-held record. It is pleasing to see that Australian speleologists don't seem interested in indulging in such futile past-times.

FOR SALE. One (1) SOLIDAJR camera. Uses 120 film. No need to join the Pentax-club to record your subterranean experiences. This unit is competitively priced at \$4. Interested? Ring Rick Crowle 447415.

FOR SALE. One pair of spring uplifts, suitable Holden, etc. Used on only one trip. i.e. as new. Geoff Butlin 462213. Price \$2.50

S.U.S.S. TIEPIN. You'll find the lapel badge is ideal. 50c from Glenn Hunt.

NOTICE. This notice is inserted to advise you to take notice of the notice at the foot of the last page.



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JOURNAL JOURNAL

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Believe it or not ! S.U.S.S. Journal 7:1 should be available at the next meeting unless there is a strike in the printing trade, etc. You can have yours for a special pre-sell-out price of 50c each.

#### DETAILS OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING - 5th May 1966 at 7.30p.m.

At this Meeting it is hoped that Major Copley, a South African speleo visiting Sydney briefly, will talk on caving conditions in South Africa. There will be no slides accompanying the talk.

Also the following Amendment to Section 4 Paragraph (a) of the Constitution will be moved by John Dunkley:

"In addition, the Librarian, Equipment Officer, and Safety Officer shall be ex officio members of the Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote except on matters relating to their respective duties." Supper will again be served. (Leslie please note).

ABERCROMBIE &/OR MID-WEST - 14/15 May 1966 - Rick Crowle 447415

This trip is planned to visit one/some of the area(s) less visited by S.U.S.S. Pending further planning, no more definite details are to hand. Interested persons should contact Rick Crowle.

COLONG - 14-? May 1966 - John Dunkley 854333

This trip is somewhat in doubt because of an apparent lack of transport. Intentions are to visit Woof's Cavern for the first time since the gate was recently installed, and to explore the system generally. If you have transport, and/or interested contact John Dunkley.

JENOLAN - 21-22 May 1966 - Glenn Hunt 495784

There is no intention for this trip to visit Mammoth. However surface exploration is contemplated, and perhaps compass and tape surveying will be conducted in the vicinity of Wiburd's Lake; intending persons should contact Glenn Hunt.

SURVEYING TRIP - Probably Wombeyan June - Richard Roberts

Initiation of the new Survey Instrument and commencement of the Surveying Program will be the features, probably at Wombeyan examining the link-up of Fig-Tree and Junction. Details will appear in the next Newsletter. Persons interested in learning and participating in the Surveying Program should mention this to Richard Roberts, Ted Anderson, or Graeme Jessup at the next Meeting.

#### REMEMBER::::----

GENERAL MEETING 5th May, 7.30p.m.  
Journal 7:1 @ 50c.  
Lapel Badges @ 50c.  
Cloth Badges @ 25c.

1000 YOUTHS FOUND LIVING IN CAVES ! !

GIRLS, 12, "MOCK WIVES" ! !

London, Thursday, AAP -- Young girls, some aged only 12, are living as "mock wives" with drug-addict cave dwellers in Derbyshire.

Up to 1000 people are believed to have formed their own society in the cave-ridden Peak district, near Matlock.

They call themselves Troggs, an abbreviation of troglodytes (cave dwellers).

At Easter, 200 young church workers entered the caves to work among the Troggs.

They found drug addicts, prostitutes and young girls living with the men.

The Troggs held mock marriages with the girls before sleeping with them, they were told.

The crusaders met 500 of the Troggs in the darkness of the caverns.

Some of the church group stayed overnight. [Wonder why ?]

Crusade official, Mr Ken Terhoven, said, "The Troggs have created a tremendous social problem. They are young tramps on the run from home. They hide away in those damp, dark caves because they feel Society is against them, and most of them have become addicted to their strange way of life. They move around the country but Matlock seems to be their headquarters. Some are intellectuals who write poetry." [Could be certain S.U.S.S. members].

The girls and the boys they slept with in the caves, came from the big cities of Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham, Manchester, and Stoke-On-Trent, he said.

"We made contact with a girl of 14 who admitted to being a prostitute, and girls of 12 and 13 who were sleeping with boys," Mr Terhoven said. "Few people know what the conditions are like in the caves because the Troggs will not let strangers enter. But they have come to trust us. We take them food and organise meetings for them. They are generally outlawed in the towns where cafes have "NO TROGS ALLOWED" signs. These youngsters beg food from the cafe kitchens at night and resort to confidence tricks to get money. They are in desperate need of help and guidance. We have managed to persuade some of them to return home and we shall continue our work amongst them."

A Matlock policeman said that the invasion by the Troggs had been going on for about two years. "But there is little we can do unless they cause trouble," he said.

---- Report from The Sun, 14/4/66.

#### LATE NEWS

"27 Days in Caves" -- See item page 3.

London, Saturday, AAP-Reuter -- David Lafferty, 28, who has been 27 days in the Cheddar Caves, Somerset, in an attempt to beat Frenchman Antoine Seni's 126 days underground record, has lost his sense of time. If he stays down 100 days he will win \$1250 from Lord Weymouth, owner of the caves, and \$12.50 for every day after that.

---- The Sun-Herald, 24/4/66.

A.S.F. NEWS

RESIGNATIONS ? It is believed that the Port Moresby Speleological Society has broken up, and the continued existence of the Northern Territory Speleological Society is in doubt.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB. The Committee of T.C.C. is believed to be strongly in favour of the Club applying for re-admittance to the A.S.F. As to whether the Club as a whole has approved of the decision, we do not know as yet.

A.S.F. HANDBOOK. Current estimates are that this publication will be available towards the end of the year. Price approx. \$1. Meanwhile get your S.U.S.S. Journal 7:1 for 50c.

SIXTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE. Provisional arrangements have been made to hold the Conference at Anglesea from about December 27, 1966. An expedition-type field trip is to be organised probably to the Limestone Creek area near the Murray River's source. Further details will be published as available. Enquiries should be directed to the S.U.S.S. Assistant-Secretary, John Dunkley, 854333, who is also A.S.F. Secretary.

MYANBENE. Provided the landowner agrees, C.S.S. will remove one of the steel ladders from the one-time tourist cave to impede the entry of unequipped parties to the decorated areas.

COLONG. As previously stated, a gate has been installed by the S.U. Rover Crew. The Colong Caves Trust has issued S.U.S.S., among others, with a key. Persons wishing to gain access should apply to the Secretary. Don't bother unless it is an official trip.

THE JASPER. Again to be carried out by C.S.S., Eddie's Hole between Punchbowl and Signature is to be blocked, to restrict the extension of vandalism from Signature.

MT. ETNA, QUEENSLAND. Recent news regarding the conservation of the caves indicates that further destruction has been contained, and that this will be written into the lease when it is renewed. Efforts are being made to have the lease revoked completely. S.S.S. reports that Johannsen's Cave had not been further damaged at the time of their visit in January.

WOMBAYAN. The N.S.W. Mines Department had not cancelled the mining lease and apparently believes that Theiss Bros. will not go ahead with the lease as the marble in the area is not suitable for their purposes. FOOTNOTE - the marble used in the magnificent new Reserve Bank Building in Sydney is exclusively Wombeyan marble.

The Longest Caves Known May 1965 Stop Press March 1966.

The Largest Cave Systems in the World by Anton Droppa, Slovensky Kras, October 1965.

Stop Press (the mouth-piece of S.S.S.) lists the twenty largest systems as given by British Caving 1965. Droppa's list, however, disagrees in some respects. The amended list is as follows:-

<u>Cave System</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Length (miles)</u>
Holloch Cave	Muotatal, Switzerland	48.7
Mammoth Cave	Kentucky, USA	44.5
Flint Ridge Cave	Kentucky, USA	40.5
Eisriesenwelt Cave	Saltzburg, Austria	26.3
Greenbrier Caves	West Virginia, USA	15.2
Dent de Crolles	Isere, France	14.3
Baralda-Domica System	Hungary and Yugoslavia	13.7
Palomeras-Dolencias	Burgos, Spain	13.3
Jewel Cave	South Dakota, USA	13.1
Demonova Cave	Czechoslovakia	12.7
Anvil Cave	Alabama, USA	12.0
Crystal Cave	USSR	11.6
Great Caverns of Saint Thomas	Cuba	11.2
Tantalhohle	Salzburg, Austria	10.0
Postojnska Cave	Yugoslavia	9.4
Agen Allwell Cave	South Wales, UK	9.0
Dachstein Mammoth Cave	Austria	8.7
Sullivan Cave	Indiana, USA	8.5
Carroll Cave	Missouri, USA	8.3
d'En Gorner Cave	France	)
Powell's Cave	Texas, USA	) 8.2

Rumour has it that Mammoth and Flint Ridge Caves, Kentucky, USA, have been physically connected, making the system a "whopper".

Mullamullang, Nullarbor, Australia, last Christmas stood at 4 miles of passages and still going. CEGSA made a lightning visit at Easter to continue the surveying of the Cave and re-entered a side-branch which comes off the main passage about 1 mile in near Oasis Valley. They have now surveyed 1 mile in this new section where some passages are 60 feet wide, and this too is still going. Mullamullang now stands at 5 miles, so we may get in the first twenty yet !

#### REVIEWS. ETC.

From the Librarian

The Earth Sciences and Speleology By W.E. Davies, N.S.S. Bulletin, Vol. 28, No.1, Jubilee Issue, 1966

A very interesting account of the early history of speleology from the time of the Ancient Greeks. Traces the development of interest in vertebrate palaeontology and in archeology, listing some of the more famous caves, especially those in the United States. Traces the history of "descriptive speleology". Davies gives an excellent summary of the theories on cave origin and the article is



well worth reading for this alone. He gives a brief, possibly too brief, account of advances in cave mineralogy, karst morphology and limestone hydrology. "Today the earth sciences in speleology appear to be building up to another boom, based on quantitative hydrologic studies of limestone terrain."

14pp., an interesting historical bibliography.

Recommended, available S.U.S.S. Library,. Less inspiring article on advances in cave biology in same issue.

Some Techniques in Cave Exploration, by W.T. Plummer, N.S.S. Bulletin, Vol.28 No.1 (as above).

Gives useful information on equipment, knots and belaying, though everything should not be taken for granted (See S.U.S.S. Journal 7:1). There is a lengthy account of abseiling (rappelling in American lingo) and prusiking techniques which the author considers preferable to ladder-climbing. Scaling poles, though used extensively in Europe and Australia, have not yet been adopted in America. The preference of the good old prusik knot to artificial devices, and the dangers of cave diving are emphasised. Dry suits are preferred to wet for long stays partially immersed in water.

Plummer finishes with an interesting note on underground camps (so dear to our hearts after Mullamullang) and sophisticated techniques (Eg. magnetic direction finding) in cave exploration, which, of course, includes mapping.

16pp., good bibliography on techniques of caving & exploration.

WHICH Rope ? by E. Hamilton-Smith, A.S.F. Newsletter No.31, March 1966.

An article which discusses the advantages of various materials used in ropes for caving (sisal, manilla, nylon, terylene, etc.). Sisal should be taboo, and the author is certainly in favour of manilla, while admitting that synthetics have advantages in certain characteristics. If you have not read this latest issue of the Newsletter, you should not overlook this article.

4pp. This issue of the Newsletter is undoubtedly the most impressive yet produced, but for a quarterly publication is sadly lacking in bulk.

Hand Paintings in Caves, by E.A. Lane & A.M. Richards, Helictite, Vol.4 No.2, 1966, pp33-50.

"Helictite" is to be congratulated on this latest issue. It has become a first class scientific journal. It is to be hoped we see many more articles and colour photographs of the same quality.

The paper discusses the occurrence and possible significance of hand stencils and imprints in caves and rock-shelters throughout the world. Special emphasis is placed on Australian sites, and while not a complete list, singles out those which are representative of particular areas. Particular mention is made of the possible causes of these mutilations.

Special reference is made to the hand stencils in the Murrawijinie Caves and Aburakurrie Cave on the Nullarbor. The Aburakurrie stencils are believed to be the deepest penetration of cave art in a cave in Australia. No art has been found near Dr Gallus' excavations in Koonalda Cave.



TRIP REPORTS

WOMBAYAN - 16/17 April - Barbara Dew

This trip made visits to the Bullio and Fig Tree Caves. The aim of the Bullio visit was to explore the river section in the lower level. This was done most successfully as there was very little water present. Downstream the waterfall pool was dry and a side branch at the base of the falls was found and followed. It looped back to the pool on the upstream side. The lake into which this stream empties was down about 15 feet and the efflux tunnel was only about 9 inches below the surface. This should be watched as the efflux to the Bullio is not really known and is only supposed to be the Forest Creek Cave. This tunnel is at least 20 feet high but would be hard to estimate as the water is so very clear and covered with floating calcite crystals. It would be well worth while diving. Side passages were not examined due to lack of time. Upstream the whole lower section was dry and one could walk along the river bed instead of going through the squeeze. The river section then continued in roughly an E-W direction. The passage was fairly narrow but high and except for one section was wadeable in shallow water or else was dry. This section of about 30 feet was deep and required swimming but after this it again became shallow and one was able to wade.

Bats were observed on the wing; one dead Miniopterus schreibsi was found on the water.

As one approached the surface tree roots became very obvious and the river siphoned again only a few inches below the water surface. This must be fairly close to the gorge and a drop in the water level may solve the problem.

Some side passages in this area were looked at but the rock pile looked most unstable. Surface location should indicate a doline of some size judging by the number and position of the rocks. Stable passages ended in impassable squeezes.

Surveying in this area at preset would be well worth while as I (B.D.) have never seen the river so low. It would be advisable to have some dry clothes at this station. The water was moving slowly as the mud stirred up cleared away.

Some other side passages were examined but by this time we were getting cold and we decided to call it a day. Time spent in this area was about 6 hours. [Quoted from Official Trip Report].

The Report on Fig Tree will appear next month, as will complete

Reports of Easter at Coolemon and Yarrangobilly.

COOLEMON -- SEARCH.

At about 11p.m. on Easter Saturday a message was received at the S.U.S. campfire to the effect that one of the regular fishermen was 4 hours overdue from a period down near the waterfall. About 12+ of those present immediately grabbed lights and headed for the gorge. After about 45 minutes ex-S.U.S.S. member Tony Rodd came upon the missing man. Apparently staying late, he tried to take a short-cut back to camp overland, but became lost. Luckily he had the intelligence to return to the gorge, but without a light his progress was slow. Despite his embarrassment that so many should be looking for him (50+), all returned to the fishermen's camp to enjoy a cauldron of soup, and for most Scotch and a cigar.

FULL MEMBER

Thompson, Julia 12 Surrey St., Epping 863584  
 was admitted as a Full Member at the last Committee Meeting.

OLD MEMBERS, NEW ADDRESSES

INNES, Margaret	249A Glebe Rd., Glebe	)	
KING, Geoff	11/8 Tintern Rd., Ashfield	)	Phone
NEUBIGIN, Celia	Box 378, GPO, Canberra, A.C.T.	)	Nos ?
PERKINS, Diane	5/7 Hereward St., Maroubra	)	

NEW PROSPECTIVES

We welcome the following new Prospective Members who have joined since the Orientation Week list was published:-

ALEWOOD, Max	120 Gungah Bay Rd., Oatley	5791167
BRONLEY, Mary	2/221 Birrell St., Waverley	?
HAPP, Andrew	43 MacKenzie St., Homebush	769570
HINWOOD, Marilyn	162 Shaftesbury Rd., Eastwood	856862
McSHARRY, Phil	1 Bourmac Av., Northbridge	953475
BELLOR, Ron	54 Gungah Bay Rd., Oatley	508249
NIELSON, Robert	Landsdowne Cres., Oatley	574877
PALING, Cora	31/151 Smith St., Summer Hill	5208429
SHERWIN, Lawrence	186 Sylvannia Rd., Miranda	527763
TURNER, Janine	115 Bridge Rd., Glebe	680522ext2514 (work)

HAVE YOU EXPIRED ?

If a cross appears in the square on the left, your Membership Subs. is now overdue, and until you are again financial this will be the last Newsletter you will receive.

Membership rates for 1966/7 are:-

Prospective (6 months)	50c.
Full (Grad. & Undergrad.)	\$2.00
Associate	\$2.00
Corresponding	\$1.50

Tick indicates your grade of membership and the amount of your subscription.