

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Edited by the Hon. Secretary

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Volume 6 Number 3

1st June, 1966

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Details, Page 5

June		
1-3	Jenolan	Henry Shannon 373144
11-13	Wombeyan	Graeme Jessup 444016
13	Celebration of Queen's Birthday	Graeme Jessup 444016
16	GENERAL MEETING	Usual Place 7.30p.m.
18-19	Cliefdon OR Timor	Barbara Dew 575890 (H) 681307 (W)
18+	Perisher Valley	Graeme Jessup 444016
25-26	Wombeyan	Barbara Dew OR Graeme Jessup (as above)
July		
21	GENERAL MEETING	Usual Place 7.30p.m.
August 26+	Mullamullang, Nullabor	John Dunkley 854333
December 31+	Limestone Creek [ASF]	John Dunkley 854333
31+	Buchan [ASF]	John Dunkley 854333

 * GENERAL MEETING *
 *
 * The 62nd 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, on 16th June, 1966. *
 *
 * *****

Details of trips planned for July should reach the Editor by June 25th.

SECRETARIAL OBSERVATIONS

ANY EQUIPMENT ? Do you have any spare or unused bash hats, trog lights, rope, ladders, scaling poles, Land Rovers, etc? Donate them to the Society's Equipment Pool for the good and use of all members. Gifts will be acknowledged in these pages.

PROJECTOR. The infuriating performance of the projector at the last G.M. was the result of "expert" (?+ !*) repairs to the machine at the previous meeting in my absence. It will still be available but on these conditions:

It shall only be operated by someone nominated by me; and
Under no circumstances will it in any way be dismantled.

ERRATA. In May issue of Newsletter:

p.2 3rd last line, for "S.S.S." read "M.S.S."

p.9 23rd line, for "schreibusi" read "schreibersi"

The Secretary,
S.U.S.S.

A1 Trafalgar Ave.,
Roseville.
17.5.66

Dear Sir,

As you know I shall be in England for the next few years under the guise of Corresponding Member. My address there will be:

Dr J. Lotz,
C/o Miss M. Lotz, (Don't worry
22 Lichfield Rd., she's 98)
Kew Gardens,
Surrey, England.

I trust S.U.S.S. will be good boys in my absence.

Yours faithfully,
John Lotz.

OFFICE BEARERS not listed in April Newsletter

Convenor of Dinner Sub-Committee	Michael Morris
Safety Officer	Richard Roberts
Photographic Sub-Committee	Geoff Butlin
	Richard Roberts

PUBLICITY OFFICER. At the last G.M. John Dunkley resigned as Publicity Officer, apparently because no-one told him of anything to publicise. In future, or for the time being at least, information and details about any particular trip will be available from the relevant Trip Leader, as published on the front page of the Newsletter. His/her phone number will be printed where available. So don't phone John, or me for further details of any of these trips -- we possibly won't know any more than appears on these pages.

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

"I looked like some strange kind of Welsh troglodyte."

-- Richard Burton interviewed on ABN-2.

THIS 'N' THAT

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

During Second Term it is planned to devote one General Meeting solely to a photographic competition/exhibition. You will be asked to bring along your photographic efforts on this evening for display in four sections, with a prize in each section. The Photographic Sub-Committee has still to work out final details, but it is anticipated that the four sections will be:-

1. Black & White print) Subject to be related to
2. Colour print) speleology or taken while
3. Colour Slide) on a caving trip
4. Unrestricted, in subject and format.

It is hoped the prize in each section will be of approximately \$2 value, so it will be well worth participating. So why not dig out all your interesting prints and slides ? This way you won't have to rush at the last moment and perhaps overlook a potential prize-winner.

FOR SALE. One bash hat. Available next G.M. from Peter Auld. No need to continue recontouring your skull. Price \$2.

FOR SALE. Primus Portamatic 2-burner gas stove, complete with 2 cylinders. Cost £16. A gift at £8. Geoff Butlin.

AUCTION SALE -- Next G.M. A magnificent piece of British engineering in the form of one "Dick" hand duplicator, affectionately known as "Moby Dick". May be viewed prior to G.M.

JOURNAL 7:1 Still some copies available from John Dunkley &/or Glenn Hunt at 50c each. Some back issues are also available, for 15c each.

NEWSLETTER -- back issues. Will be available at G.M.

YEARBOOK. Subject to the Editor (ie. me) finding enough time to complete production, the 1966 SUSS Yearbook will be available from me at the G.M. on June 16th.

NATIONAL PARKS JOURNAL. As a result of SUSS becoming a Corporate Member of the N.P.A., the Association's excellent Journal is available from the Library. Well worth consulting on reserves, bush walks, conservation generally. If you are sufficiently interested, you can become a member yourself for \$1.10 p.a. Details from the Secretary.

CAVEMEN AT KING'S CROSS.

No, it is not a report of an attempt to force the Eastern Suburbs Railway squeeze. Several senior Scouts under Constable Owen McCaw (son of NSW Attorney-General) intended to spend seven days underground in the Colong Caves, camping at King's Cross. They planned to "explore as much as possible of the 10 miles (!!!) of

underground caves." "Music from a transistor radio will be wired down a field telephone to keep the group's spirits up." [No comment]
 --- The Sun-Herald, 15/5/66.

THEY FIND THEIR FUN. . . .LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Abstracts from a full-page feature on the South Pacific Divers' Club. "They have dived 80 feet into mountain rivers running 200 feet beneath the earth....and discovered their own "Jenolan type" cave near Cooma. [Beleived to be a reference to an extension of River Cave, Coolemon] There is even talk of an expedition to the Nullabor Plain to find an underground lake three miles long.....
 "When we go cave diving in the mountains we are especially careful. When you stir up the mud in those deep underground holes you cannot see your hand before your face. If you loose your hand guide line and run out of air then you're done for. But imagine the sensation, as I had near Cooma recently, when I put the first fin print in history inside a beautiful cave. No one had been there before me. It was like suddenly stepping into a beautiful jeweller's shop, with shining grey, blue and white stones all over the walls, colourful stalactities and stalagmites and coral-like formations."
 --- The Sun-Herald, 8/5/66, page 41.

BARELLIAN CAVE, Jenolan

Yet another article on this new discovery at Jenolan, made by the Guides (previously reported on ABN-2 Newsreel and in the Women's Weekly). Not unexpectedly the tenor of the article is that the Guides are the only REAL cave explorers, eg. "the Chevalier, a small cavern of flashing beauty, was discovered by amateur cave explorers" [SUSS]. Without wishing to sound jealous of deprecate the Guides' excellent find, who is a "professional" cave explorer? If time spent exploring is the criterion, then the Speleological Societies are the professionals, for until recently, admits the article "Serious exploration by the guiding staff had long ceased." It is a pity that there is not more co-operation, friendship and assistance mutually rendered between the Guides and the Societies; it is even more unfortunate that the author/ex-Guide's attitude is perpetuated even today: "We felt a sort of professional pity for the members of the Speleological Societies grovelling in the bowels of Jenolan."

--- Australian Outdoors, May 1966.

NEW MEMBERS

At the last Committee Meeting the following persons were admitted as Full Members -- welcome !

MURRAY, Ron	24 Mona St., Auburn	6498620
O'DONNELL, Vince	33 Bundarra Ave South, Wahroonga	482776
Ongley, Edward	C/o Geography Dept., Sydney University	
RODGERS, David	41 Ryan St., Lilyfield	

TRIP LEADER

At this same meeting,

Harley WRIGHT 42 Archbold R., Lindfield
 was approved as an authorised Trip Leader.

461196

DETAILS OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WOMBEGAN - 11/13 June - Graeme Jessup 444016

The first surveying trip of the new Survey Programme. Those interested and not listed hereunder should phone Graeme promptly:

Ted Anderson	Jeff Hinwood
Graham Bradley	Glenn Hunt
Mary Bromley	John Lovering
Rick Crowle	Maureen Lovering
Barbara Dew	David Pratt
John Dunkley	Janine Turner
Brian England	

Those wishing to attend will be instructed in the elements of surveying and will be expected to assist in surveying for the 2½ days at Wombegyan. The team will be mapping Fig Tree Cave.

CELEBRATION OF QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - 13th June

To be held at the end of Cliff Avenue, Wahroonga, ignition to occur at 8p.m. Supper will be provided for 20c per head. Fire-building volunteers required to warm things up -- phone Graeme Jessup at 444016.

GENERAL MEETING - 16th June -- Usual place (see front page)

Business will include the following Constitutional Amendment, notice of which was given at the last meeting:

"That Section 4 Paragraph (a) be amended by the deletion of 'but shall not be entitled to vote except on matters relating to their respective duties'". In essence this is an amendment to the amendment passed at the last G.M., and would make the Librarian, Equipment Officer, and Safety Officer full Committee members, not members in a restricted sphere; it would also expand the Committee by almost 50%.

CLIFFDON or TIMOR - 18/19 June - Barbara Dew 575890 (H) 681307 (W)
Batting and general exploration. Contact Barbara for further details, and ultimate venue.

PERISHER VALLEY - 18th June + - Graeme Jessup 444016

Join a party to the snowfields, intentions indefinite. Ring Graeme if interested and for details.

WOMBEGAN - 25/26 June - Barbara Dew &/or Graeme Jessup

This trip will have two basic fields of activity:

1. Bat banding, etc, with Barbara.
2. Surveying, a continuation of the work begun on the trip of June 11/13, with Graeme Jessup. Phone either Barbara or Graeme.

MULLAMULLANG, NULLARBOR - August 26th+ - John Dunkley 854333

Transport permitting, it is proposed to continue exploration of this immense cave, now 5 miles long with no end in sight.

Length of trip: about 15 days. The trip will go, it is hoped, even if transport is available only from Adelaide or even if only from Madura. Get away from it all during the vacation! Ring John to enrol in the expedition.

A.S.F. CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS - Preliminary details
December 31+ for about one week to Limestone Creek, an almost completely unexplored area near the headwaters of the Murray River.
December 31+ for about two weeks to Buchan.
The Conference will be held at Mirboo North, in the mountains of Central Gippsland, about 25 miles from Morwell/Moe/Yallourn.
More details to be published soon.

TRIP REPORTS

WOMBEGAN - 16/17 April - Barbara Dew (continued from May Newsletter)
Fig Tree. Few more dead bats, 4 bands. Live traps failed to catch the creatures eating the dead bats. The river near the entrance was looked at. Here again the level was very low but the end siphon was not clear but very near to it. The stream was running fairly fast and was quite audible. Some formation on the far side of the deep hole near the bat retreat had been broken showing evidence of a visit by others since our last visit to that area. The formation had been deliberately broken and owing to the difficulty of access and the special techniques required must have been done by a speleo. Ordinary illegal trogs would never attempt the crossing.

--- Barbara Dew.

MULLAMULLANG REUNION - Melbourne 23/24 April
Leslie Mackay and Glenn Hunt represented the S.U.S.S. contingent to a reunion which was attended by about 10 from CEGSA, five from N.S.W. and 4 from Melbourne. Slides of the recent New Year and Easter expeditions were shown and also Tony Dillons movies. The maps which CEGSA are drawing up were examined. CEGSA have done a very good job and the final maps should be available very soon. All in all a good time was had by all.

--- Glenn Hunt.

COOLEMON - Easter. - Geoff Butlin

In many ways this was a typical Easter trip, though perhaps more and varied activities were undertaken. As usual, SUSS was not alone, but were soon joined by hordes of MSS, HCG, CSS, SPD, fishermen, et al.,. Some prospectives were introduced to the joys of speleology for the first time in Barbers' and other easily accessible caves; Clown's Cave seemed confirmed at the extent originally discovered two years previously; River Cave, for some time lost to SUSS, was relocated; Murray Cave was visited, the mud not showing any signs of the drought; Harley Wright descended The Chimney near the Goodradigbee but without reward; most male members present participated in the real life S & R (see May Newsletter pp.2 & 9); and a new discovery (for SUSS at least) was made by John Byrnes and two companions. Here is John's report:

Taking a deservedly exalted place among several buckets of Reechite and sundry other devious products of the Coolemon Easter Legend stands a minor but noteworthy addition to the group of Coolemon caves known to SUSS. The new cave, tentatively dubbed the

the Spontaneous Easter Uprising Cave or Rebellion Cave, was visited by Angus Smirnoff, someone else whose name momentarily slips my mind [Andrew Happ], and the writer. After perusing the myriad of valley non-a-go-go openings in the vicinity of Clown's Cave this seemed to be the only one with potential.

When entered, the Rebellion Cave, although hitherto unknown to SUSS, showed signs of having suffered a penecontemporaneous visit. Entrance is gained through a sloping vertical squeeze quickly opening into a short section of easy semi-chimney finalised by a 15foot drop. From here a four foot diameter passage, bearing a single siphon, carries a running stream a few hundred yards to the east before pinching out. This section is quite juvenile and is characterised by a gryke-like solution surface frequently carrying small stalactites which are still in straw stage. Stalagmites are lacking because the bicarbonate drip falls into the stream directly or deposits on stream gravel which is periodically flushed out. The western section is shorter, dry, and more mature; bearing some conical stalactites, -mites, a canopy and several small pools of calcite crystals (in unfortunately unavaidable positions on the floor) showing combinations of flat scalenohedra, rhombohedra and prisms identical to occurrences in Clown's Cave. The cave stream bears an unusual lack of apparent relationship to the surface drainage pattern in the immediate vicinity: obliquely flowing under a significant present day stream, at no great depth, without draining it. The underground stream was observed to carry a greater volume than that in Barber's Cave at the same period, although presumably to the same Cave Creek destination. Perhaps a significant extension is to be expected between the present limit of investigation and the yet untraced emergence of the underground stream.

Further fluorescent furlow for favorable future fascist feeling.

Signed, John Byrnes.

Using John's words again, "something vaguely like a map" is available for the reference of future trips.

YARRANGOBILLY - Easter

This report is being held over until the July Newsletter.

TUGLOW - 23/24 April - Harley Wright

On Saturday night Angus (David Rodgers) abseiled down the main shaft adjacent to the main entrance, for more than 100feet, and nearing the end of the rope (150feet) but not the shaft, he had to climb up. The river was audible at the lowest point of descent. On the Sunday the whole party went into Main, some photography being done. The waterfall was reached by the upper route (a short length of rope being of assistance while chimneying into the final chamber with the waterfall). Return was made via the river.

---Harley Wright.

Is anyone interested in an inexpensive modification of the Jordan sunshine recorder ?

I am most indebted to
virtually all members
for the contributions
published on this page.
-- The Editor.

REVIEWS

From the Librarian

Ghost Bat (Macroderma gigas) Animals, Vol 8 No 11 1966.

A very large colour photograph on the back cover. The ghost bat occupies tropical and Western Australia. Eats such things and smaller bats. A breeding colony at Mt. Etna in Queensland is threatened if mining of limestone is permitted near the caves.

Old Napier Downs Cave, West Kimberley, W.A., by J.N. Jennings and M.M. Sweeting, Helictite, Vol. 4 No. 2 1966, pp. 25-32.

This interesting paper adds to work done on the Kimberley region by Joe and Margaret Sweeting. A brief account is given of the general geology of the area. The limestone beds derive from a Devonian barrier reef. Limestone associated with such reefs is usually more sandy further away from where the corals were once growing. Caves usually form in more pure limestones (facies) and thus the sandy facies are devoid of large caves. At points in the Napier Range the limestone has been cut up by solution along its joints forming a spectacular jagged relief which they term "giant grikelane". (A photograph in E.S. Hills' "Elements of Structural Geology", 1963, illustrates a similar karst feature: "The Ruined City" in Arnhem Land). Present conditions don't appear to favour such extensive solution and thus it appears that past conditions were more favorable, i.e. less arid. The cave itself is joint controlled as is evident from cross-sections of the passages. Flakes of calcite float on some rimstone pools indicating that the water is saturated with carbonate.

There are still many possibilities for exploration especially if scaling poles are used to gain access to higher levels. The area as a whole has much promise and is probably worthy of an expedition someday. Excellent map of cave plus maps of location.

Stop Press April 1966. Brief report on the Karst Hydrology Expedition to Jamaica. The expedition had most success with water tracing using coloured plant spores which could be collected at effluxes in plankton nets and identified under the microscope. The largest influx-efflux distance they succeeded in tracing was eleven miles: a new world record so they say.

Labortouche Caves, sixty miles from Melbourne. SSS succeeded in joining the two caves in 1959-60 making a total length of about 250 feet -- not bad for granite.

The many forms of calcite and the many cave "areas" of N.S.W. are also listed. Unfortunately the latter list committed the unforgivable sin of omitting Nelungaloo.

NSS News March 1966. Finding more evidence which suggested that the 'American Indian of 2-3 thousand years ago roamed large distances into various caves with cane torches for illumination, a group of adventurous speleologists decided to repeat the performance by "going Indian". This was intended to be something of a "Kon-Tiki" affair; that is a test to discover whether it could have been done. Bods streaked across the cave floor with bare feet and shorts, trying desperately to dodge hot embers and to keep their torches alight. On the average, they found that

an hour trip, with a torch of 4-6 lengths of cane, would require twelve feet of torch to burn. This would not appear to be a feasible "second-light" source for our trips. Article on Caves in Arctic Circle lists work done and possible work which may be done. The caves have largely round or elliptical passages, containing rounded boulders, and are thought to have been formed when the land lay under an ice sheet. The News also reports increased activity of Russian speleologists, namely in the Crimea. The Krasnive Caves, an intricate labyrinth seven miles long, contains 40 underground lakes, a river and waterfalls.

CEGSA Newsletter May-July 1966. Congratulations CEGSA on a successful Easter expedition to Mullamullang. A further mile of "small" passages was mapped and more interesting gypsum formations found. Ted Anderson's survey appears to have been very accurate. The lake level is about 390 feet below the plain, the deepest yet for the Nullabor. Mullamullang is the most test and will probably get another visit very soon.

The World Comes to Telefomin by V. Carell, Walkabout, May 1966. Dreadful article. "Blow-hole" caves near the village of Imonda on Rocks (north side of Star Mountains) were used to bury bodies of enemies killed in battle.

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SEE YOU at 7.30p. on Thursday 16th June
at the General Meeting in the Geography
Building, Sydney University.

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