

# 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

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical

Volume 6 Number 4

1st July, 1966

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

LATE NEWS -- See Page 4 also.

July		
2-3	Timor Tuglow	David Drummond Harley Wright 461196
8-10	Jenolan	Barbara Dew 575890 (H) 681307 (W)
16-17	Cliefden	Barbara Dew
21	GENERAL MEETING	Usual Place 7.30p.m.
19	ANNUAL DINNER	Mick Morris 407180
30-31	Wombeyan	Barbara Dew (above)
	Football v. S.U.B.W.	Harley Wright 461196

August

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION/EXHIBITION

October

1-3 Yarrangobilly (Long Week-end) John Dunkley 854333

\* \* \* \* \*

\* GENERAL MEETING \*

\* The 63rd 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 Thurs. 21st July, 1966. \*

\* \* \* \* \*

RECEIVED - AUGUST 1966  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Contributions and details of trips for inclusion in the August issue should reach the Editor NO LATER THAN 22nd July.

SECRETARIAL OBSERVATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS were received from Jeff Cayzer, John Dunkley, Glenn Hunt, Michael Morris, Bob Paix. For the first time I am able to publish items which were actually unsolicited by the Editor. As far as I am aware, there is no shortage of paper or ink, so it would be gratifying if members could show as much interest in writing for the Newsletter as they show in reading it. Even a "Letter to the Editor" will be given space. So -- what about it? Get your item/s to me or drop them into the letterbox by 22nd July for inclusion in the August issue.

APOLOGY to Glenn Hunt for my lapse of memory at the last G.M. when I said I didn't sign the permit application for the trip to Wombeyan on 28/29 May. Any embarrassment caused to Glenn is regretted.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Venita Stewart who achieved National Service age on 26th June.

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE AT GMS. It was brought to my attention that at the last G.M. certain persons not eligible to vote did in fact do so. While these people possibly did not realise their error, those entitled to vote are FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ONLY. Prospective, Corresponding, Honorary Members and others MAY NOT vote in any circumstances. In addition, before voting, Full and Associate Members MUST sign the attendance sheet, which after circulation at the beginning of the Meeting will be in the possession of the Hon. Secretary. In brief, those eligible to vote at a particular Meeting are those Full and Associate Members present who have signed the Attendance Sheet for that Meeting.

DINNER. See advert. elsewhere in this issue. Support the Society and have an enjoyable evening.

RESIGNATION. It was with regret that the Committee learned of the resignation of the Vice-President, Ted Anderson. Few of the current members have done as much for the Society as has Ted, as Secretary, Editor and organiser on the home-front, and as explorer, surveyor, leader, and representative further afield.

## NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

EWING, Stuart	40 Narooma Rd., Northbridge	951889
FISHER, Margaret	C/o Zoology Dept., Sydney University	
MORGAN, John	118 Burns Rd., Wahroonga	484263

## CHANGED STATUS Now Corresponding Members:

PAIX, John	C/o Nowra High School, Nowra	
SHANNON, Henry	16 Keble St., Corinda, Qld.	794274
	In Sydney: 60 Village High Rd., Vaucluse	373144
Henry has generously offered accommodation to SUSS members while in Brisbane, if given notice.		

## OLD MEMBERS, NEW ADDRESSES

ANDERSON, Ted	Box 90, The Union, Sydney University
BOTTSWORTH, Elizabeth	9/11 Ross St., Forest Lodge.

It was with some relief that the Editor received and read the Editorial in the latest issue of Calcite, the Newsletter of H.C.G. This Editorial, which is reproduced hereunder complete and unabridged is an apology to SUSS for the scathing criticism of the Society as a whole and the participants of the Easter trip to Coolemon in particular, published in the previous issue of Calcite.

" Following the highly critical editorial of the last issue, I have been presented with some facts concerning the conduct of the S.U.S.S. trip to Coolemon. I have been assured by the S.U.S.S. trip leader that, to the best of his knowledge, members of the official trip did not indulge in any of the reported incidents. This I accept, the conclusions of the S.U.S.S. involvement being based on the following observations: There were approx. 40 people camped together in the one area, and it was assumed that this party was an undivided one. I, some H.C.G. members, a few C.S.S. members, and a member of the Commonwealth Film Unit recognised some of these people as having belonged to S.U.S.S. a few of the people concerned loudly proclaimed their S.U.S.S. membership status.

" Accordingly, I now offer an apology to those S.U.S.S. members participating in the official trip who were not involved in the many incidents.

" The second part of the editorial, referring to such matters as Jenolan, ASF, etc, was based on the assumption that the irresponsible element seen at Coolemon could have been involved in a similar escapades at Jenolan, and that they could, in any way, dictate S.U.S.S. policies. I have been assured that this is not possible and I regret the possibility that doubts may have been cast regarding the efforts of many S.U.S.S. cavers and regarding the maturity of S.U.S.S. delegates.

" Fortunately, those S.U.S.S. members that I personally know have joined in this condemnation of irresponsible behaviour that damages speleos' public image and creates a hazard for cavers. A full account of the behaviour of irresponsible people at Coolemon at Easter, which has not and cannot be denied, highlights the need for all speleological societies to guard very carefully that their own members behave in a highly ethical manner at all times. And we must guard against contamination from fringe irresponsible people.

Evalt Crabb."

[My only comment is this, in respect of paragraph 2:  
NO, I stress NO, SUSS member or Prospective member was involved in ANY incident as described in the earlier Calcite.]

TRIPS NOT LISTED ON FRONT PAGE

July 16-17	Bungonia	Harley Wright 461196
30-31	Wombeyan	Graeme Jessup 444016
August ?	Coolemon - doubtful but possible	Geoff Butlin 462213
13-14-15-16	Colong	Would a leader be forthcoming ?
26 +	Mullamullang	John Dunkley 854333
27-28	Wee Jasper	Graeme Jessup 444016
December 31 +	Limestone Creek [ASF] Buchan [ASF]	Contact: John Dunkley 854333 " " "

FOOTBALL MATCH

Against S.U. Bushwalkers, Sunday 31st July at 3p.m.

Venue: Long Reef oval CONTACT: Harley Wright 461196

Afterwards: Barbeque at Deep Creek, Narrabeen Lakes

Challenge issue by a B.W.: "It will be entertaining to thrash the the pants off you again this year, as usual !"

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION/EXHIBITION

In usual meeting room, top floor of the Geography Building, University of Sydney, at 7.30p.m. - 4.AUG. 1966

Details, which are more-or-less final, and supersede those given in the last Newsletter are:

Members are asked to bring along all their good caving, caving area, caving trip photographs.

There will be three sections (not four):

1. Black and white print
2. Colour print
3. Colour slide

The subject of the photo must be related to caves or caving trips  
There will be a prize in each section.

You can enter UP TO five (5) photos in each or all sections.

There will be an entrance fee of 20cents, irrespective of how many entries you submit.

The photographic subcommittee will arrange three (3) judges.

So -- have you got your entries together yet ?

COMING ?

The 18th Annual S.U.S.S. DINNER will be held in the  
Holme and Sutherland Rooms, The Union, on  
Friday 29th July at 7.00p.m.

Dress: Whatever you like

\*\*\*\*\* Ring Mick Morris for tickets 407180; they will be posted  
on receipt of cash; they will be available at next G.M.

\$2.50 Single

\$4.50 Double



"AN EXPERT ON BATS"CAVING IN SOUTH AFRICA

As Ass/Secretary, I had the pleasure of dinner with two prominent South African cavers who were on a whirlwind tour of Australia and New Zealand. Bob Copley, a sometime major in the South African Army, has been President of the South African Speleological Association. Both he and Mrs Quinsie Siegrist (see below) are acknowledged local authorities on bats, being responsible for the banding programme in S.A.

Some interesting information regarding the peculiar problems of caving in South Africa was gleaned in passing. Limestone caves are found at Congo and one or two other places in Transvaal. Very extensive caves are found in sandstone on Table Mountain at Cape Town; they run to 400' or 500' deep. Trips and expeditions have been made by the S.A.S.A. also to Rhodesian, Congo and other caves beyond the South African border, while university trips are held to South West Africa to investigate anthropological and archaeological evidence in small caves in the Kalahari Desert. Even the closest caves are not less than 300 miles from Pretoria and Johannesburg.

There are less than 100 active cavers in the Republic, not because the caves are rather inaccessible because of distance, but because of the prevalence of histoplasmosis capsulatum. This incurable disease is believed to have been contracted by every caver in the Association. It is a virus which enters the lungs by being inhaled; it is found in the dust of all the limestone caves, though not apparently in the Cape sandstone caves. Repeated exposure results in the lungs being gradually calcified and breathing becomes difficult until in serious cases death results. The virus is not found in the Cape sandstone caves and access to these is in any event strictly restricted to members of the S.A.S.A. which has Government recognition and support. The sandstone in which these remarkable caves are located is very calcareous and much more capable of being excavated than is that around Sydney.

Scientific work is concentrated on the bat-banding programme, although work of a geomorphologic nature has been done on both the limestone and sandstone caves, and assistance has been given to anthropological and archaeological trips to various areas. Interviewed by the Sunday Telegraph (May 15, 1966, p.75), Mrs Siegrist said that bats sing in the key of G, with a few in D and E flat. She is a qualified musician, anthropologist and archaeologist and teaches music. Bob Copley is an Industrial Safety Engineer.

We would like to see more such visitors from overseas. It was unfortunate that schedules did not permit a talk by one or other of these interesting people.

-- John Dunkley

JENOLANApril 23-24John Dunkley

(Joint trip with Orange Speleological Society)

Three members of O.S.S. joined us on this trip and by all reports had quite a good time. We would certainly like to see more of these joint trips in the future.

The usual hour or two was wasted at the top of the Mammoth entrance pitch but at least there was not quite as much gear as on the last scaling pole trip. Fairly rapid progress was made down the skull and Crossbones, across the first river crossing (noting that Central Level Lake was non-existent) and through the rock-pile to the Left Branch of the Northern River section of the cave. More time was wasted with the scaling pole when we found that the new type connectors, while superior to the last type tried, were not quite the right diameter. However Mad Dog and whatsize succeeded in climbing a good way up the big chimney about 200' into the left branch. The chimney continues but could not be ascended further and there are no good anchor points for the scaling pole. Alternatives seem to be anchoring it with guide wires to some kind of bolt in the rock. A lot of trouble so other possibilities will be tried first. The pole has been left in the cave at this point.

A certain degree of slothfulness, possibly due to inclement weather, was observed the following morning. Some members took off for Wiburd's Lake Cave, and some photography was attempted in Hennings. A party under Graham Bradley went through Serpentine Cave for re-acquaintance. However the most time-consuming effort was expended in a two-man survey of the serpentinuous section of Serpentine. Ed. Ongley is hoping to apply the geometry of surface stream meandering to the underground environment; Serpentine provides an excellent example of meandering. There are as many as ten or eleven levels of the stream can be identified on the walls of the passage. Promising results are anticipated.

"DEFACED CAVE"

(extract from the Goulburn Evening Post,  
Wednesday May 11, 1966, page 3)

'Peter Weaire, of Lidcombe, did not appear in Goulburn Court of Petty Sessions yesterday to answer a charge of having defaced Wombeyan Caves by writing on the walls.

'It was stated that two sets of initials had been scratched on the walls, which were permanently defaced.

'The defendant was described as a young man dressed in "yellow shirt, black trousers and with long hair".

'A \$10 fine was imposed. Mr R.J.Wingett SM was on bench.

YARRANGOBILLY TRIPEaster 1966John Dunkley

The traditional Yarrangobilly pilgrimage at Easter has in recent years lost most if not all of its religious significance which members of long standing may recall. In the last few years the spiritual importance of the event has given way to meditation on more material and worldly matters such as caving. This revolution, which was well under way last year, had completely supplanted old beliefs by 1966.

However, we digress. On various days - Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and by devious routes - the Olympic Highway via Bathurst, the Hume via Gundagai, the Sturt via Wagga Wagga, not to mention the Brindabella track ... from the four corners of the state they came ( only a dozen or so of them came but it sure sounds dramatic ).

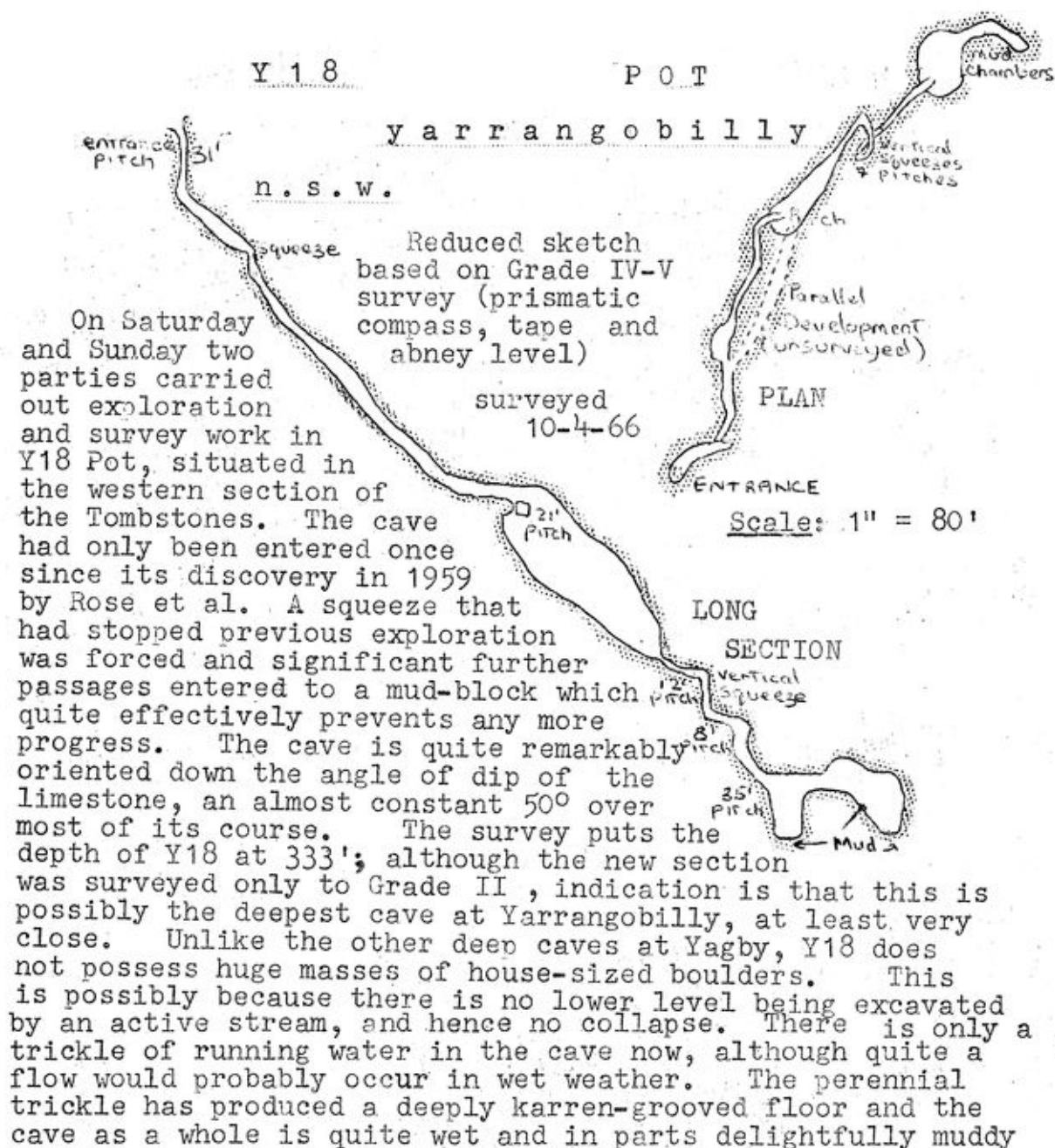
While some of the party were still en route, the advance group started on North Deep Creek. The cave in the dry sink-hole which is thought to be the oldest submergence of the creek was looked at but progress was stopped after a while at some difficult squeezes. Attention was then directed to the three present entrances to Y7 and progress made to the silt trap which marks the known end of the cave. An as yet unidentified albino spider was summarily executed in what is thought to have been the only alcohol seen at Yagby on this occasion. North Deep Creek affords an excellent example of the stream piracy which occurs in several places at Yarrangobilly. There are good digging prospects but beyond that the cave is something of an unstable scunge pit.

At this stage, the "bouncing raindrops" about which a piker just inside the cave had been idly contemplating were definitely identified as sago snow. Undignified retreat to the camp where some freezing fun was had pitching tents etc.

On Saturday, with the arrival of most of the party, two groups set out, one to investigate Y18, a pothole reported by P. Rose, more of which anon, and the other to amble around the gorge area. Here were located three unrecorded small caves, including one which, while fully ten feet long, had no less than three negotiable entrances. Funnel Pot, Y57, was re-located but not descended, and some time was spent picking up some excellent calcite crystals. These were out on the ground, nowhere near any known cave, and it appears that they either formed on the surface, or represent the remains of an eroded cave. The latter is no more probable than the former in this case.

The usual photographic trips were indulged in until the early hours of the morning on two occasions. Also as usual, anything that can happen on a photo. or piccie. trip did happen.





On Sunday John Lotz led a party to the Eagles Nest system with a view to continuing what is essentially a familiarisation programme there. In 1964 the connection between the Eyrie Y3 and lower Western Eagles Nest Cave Y2. Lotz's trip succeeded in re-establishing (for SUSS) the connection between Y2 and upper Eastern Eagles Nest Cave Y1. The route is about 4000' in length and takes 3-5 hours to traverse. Digging implements are provided at one sandy section.

By further devious routes (e.g. Monaro Highway to Narooma) they on Monday made their way back. Perhaps not as social a trip as some, but still a successful Easter Yagby.

REVIEWS

from John Dunkley

P.V. Rose : An Introduction to the Yarrangobilly Caves, New South Wales, Australia. Cave Science V , 36 - 37 , Oct, 1964 - April 1965

The author is a former employee at Yarrangobilly Caves and is now Treasurer of the British Speleological Association, which perhaps explains why this important survey of the Caves appears in the journal of the B.S.A. and not in an Australian publication. The paper is written in three parts of which two have been published and the third is to appear later this year.

Part I contains a general background to the caves, including historical, geological and geomorphological features. Four drainage systems are distinguished: from north to south these are Coppermine area, Deep Creek, Eagles Nest and the Southern area from Harriewood Gorge southwards. The possibility that underground breaching of the divides between these drainage areas is possible in view of the remarkable extent of underground stream piracy in the area, so that the classification is related to streams on the surface only.

Part I concludes with some notes on the caves in the Coppermine drainage basin (see list below). The Coppermine Cave, Y12, is probably the efflux for streams entering caves Y8, 9 , 10 , 34 and 45 at the other end of the limestone

Part II contains notes on the Deep Creek and Eagles Nest systems, the Tombs and the Negative series (see list) Part III is to conclude the series with the Southern area, the Tourist Caves, maps of Y2 and Y5 and a Bibliography.

The rapid down-cutting of the Yarrangobilly River has resulted in such rapid fall of the water-table that the underground tributaries, in attempting to grade their courses, have had their inlets moved further and further away from the gorge. i.e. there has been considerable underground stream piracy, leaving fossil swallets. Instances cited are Y34 and Y37 as former inlets of Coppermine Creek No. 4 which now flows into Y45, the double piracy of North Creek, the rather confusing history of East and West Deep Creek, and (possibly the best example) the Eagles Nest complex.

Attention is drawn to need for work on the part the high-level fossil entrances and exits have contributed to the general drainage pattern (e.g. Y13, Y3, Y4, Y50). Some promising leads are mentioned and the first of these to be followed up was Y18 (see report elsewhere herein). Further possibilities exist in Y19, Y45, Y8 and others. S.U.S.S. receives more mention than any other group in exploration.

The author was responsible for the discovery of many of the caves he describes in this article, mostly in company with H. Myers in the years 1957-1960. He was responsible for the numbering system in operation at Yarrangobilly. Without this most significant preliminary survey of the caves in this area it might well have been years before suggested leads were followed up, and in that time there would have been much unnecessary duplication of effort.

Caves described in Parts I and II: Y1 (East Eagles Nest), Y2 (West Eagles Nest), Y3 (the Eyrie), Y4, Y5 (East Deep Creek), Y6 (West Deep Creek), Y7 (North Deep Creek), Y8 (The Bathhouse), Y9, Y10, Y12 (Coppermine), Y13 (Trickett's), Y14, Y16 (Helictite Hole), Y17, Y18 Pot, Y19, Y32, Y33 (Mooroolbark), Y34, Y35 (Trace Hole), Y36, Y37, Y38, Y39, Y40, Y45, Y46, Y50 (Restoration), Y51, Y52, Y53, Y57 (Funnel Pot).

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D. Heap : POTHOLING: beneath the Northern Pennines.  
Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1964. 206pp.  
with photos., line drawings, glossary & appendices.

In recent years both the science and sport of caving appear to have entered new phases so far as their literature is concerned. For a generation the "literature" consisted of translations of European caving books of general interest; these were apparent mostly by the ubiquitous Casteret. One or two American books broke the monotony. Then, as the sport developed, how-to-do-it books came along (e.g. Cavecraft, reviewed earlier this year). Now we are faced with the Alpine climber's-guide-to-the-Alps type of thing. Mr Heap has produced a handbook to the classic caving trips of the Northern Pennines.

After a piece of rambling sentimentality mixed up with what is largely common knowledge to the necessarily experienced reader of his book, he launches into a historical and promotional blurb on organised caving in the Pennines.

From this point on, we progress from descriptions of some easy systems like Calf Holes and Pool Sink, via some interesting through trips like Providence Pot to Dow Cave, to the twelve-ladder-pitches difficulties of Penyghent Pot. The book concludes with a survey of the future of British caving (much of which seems to lie on the Continent) and some appendices giving glossary, bibliography, list of the deepest potholes in Craven and a list of severity ratings.

This book is, naturally, not of great interest outside the region for which it was written. However the author uses the device of describing his own trips through the various caves to describe the caves themselves. This may not help the Pennine potholer so much, but at least it makes the book readable to people who will never go near the area.

THE KOSCIUSKO STATE PARK MASTER PLAN with particular reference  
to Yarrangobilly and Coolemon

Late in 1965 the Kosciusko State Park Trust made available its "Proposed plan for the Preservation and Development of the Kosciusko State Park". A brief resume of the principles of the Plan, together with the proposals with regard to the Yarrangobilly and Coolemon areas and some comments thereon is set out below.

In principle, the Park has been zoned along the lines used by the National Parks and similar administration in the U.S.A. Department of the Interior. In this scheme, zones provide for activities varying from intense commercial and general recreation to wilderness areas which are to be preserved as far as possible in their natural state. Other areas are set aside for special reasons such as historic sites and unique natural areas, while the special position of the Park meant that provision also had to be made for hydro-electric areas. The Yarrangobilly Limestone Area and the Cave Creek Scientific Area are examples of the provision for Unique Natural Areas.

The former "contains all the known and probably most of the unknown limestone caverns in the vicinity of Yarrangobilly, as well as the upper Yarrangobilly Gorge." This is obviously the best that speleologists could hope for, so far as the preservation of the caves is concerned, and with proper administration would be the ideal situation. The public may be excluded from these areas except under permit.

Near Coolemon, the Cave Creek Scientific Area does not seem to be aimed at preserving the caves at all, but rather "ecological evidence at the junction of the limestone and shale geological types". This does not appear to provide sufficiently for the preservation of the caves at and near the Blue Waterhole. It would surely not be too much to expect that the trout fishermen can find areas at least as good as the Blue Waterhole elsewhere. There would then be less pressure to improve the access tracks to the area, a policy which attracts not only the fringe cavers who will quite probably go in any event, but also Touristicus sp., the presence of which has been amply proven to upset the geological and ecological balance, even if not consciously, of cave areas. Although the present plan under consideration by the Trust does not provide for what responsible speleos. would regard as the ideal situation at Yarrangobilly at Coolemon as well, nevertheless it would be a good second best to have the status quo preserved in both areas.



## YARRANGOBILLY CAVES TO CLOSE DOWN FOR TWO YEARS

The popular Monaro tourist attraction, Yarrangobilly Caves, will be soon closed to the public, possibly for two years.

The Minister for Lands and Chairman of the Kosciusko State Park Trust, Mr T.L. Lewis, confirmed today that Yarrangobilly Caves, Caves House, and surrounding area would be closed from September 30, this year.

Told by the "Express" today of the proposal, manager of Caves House for six years, Mr T. Kalnins, said it was ridiculous to close the caves as tourists would start to fade away from the area.

The closure was necessary, Mr Lewis said, to enable extensive repair and construction work on the caves and on approach roads.

Mr Kalnins said "It is ridiculous to close the reserve like this. Work could be done in two stages so that the public would never be barred from the area. People will start to fade away from the area if they have no where to have a meal -- it is on the nose," he added.

In an interview with the "Express", Mr Lewis said he was not certain whether the caves would be closed for a full two years.

"It could be a shorter period," he added.

He said reconstruction work would include improvements to the caves, the checking of wiring, piles and approach roads. He said the Trustees had decided that it would be safer to do this work without obstruction from the visiting public.

Local tourist agencies have been instructed not to take any further bookings for the Caves House as it will be closed too.

Yarrangobilly Caves is 69 miles from Cooma on the Tumut Road.

Caves House manageress, Mrs M. Kalnins, said she could not understand why the Trust would close the area down for two years. "They are extremely low on finances and need all the tourists they can get," she added.

Yarrangobilly Caves attracts thousands of tourists every year. At Easter holiday periods alone, it attracts three to four thousand people. There are 300 campsites in the caves camping area and the Caves House has a maximum of 50 beds.

The largest cave, the Glory Cave, was discovered in 1834 by John Bowerman, when he was out looking for lost cattle.

The Jersey Cave, the next largest, was discovered in the latter part of 1860.

The smallest cave, the Jillabenan Cave, was discovered in 1910 by Leo Hoad, of Tumut, who still lives in the town.

These are the only three caves which have been developed for tourists, but 60 others are known to exist.

In 1894 Leo Hoad cemented a pool to hold flowing waters of the thermal spring which is the area's second biggest attraction. The water, at a constant 82 degrees, flows from 1,800ft. underground into the pool at a rate of 35,000 gallons an hour. Winter or summer, the pool provides a popular swimming attraction.

Cont'd

The Caves House employs eight people during busy periods and the caves six. Busy periods include school holidays, Christmas, Easter, and long weekends. During the winter the area is usually under three to four feet of snow. [!]

The first Caves House was built in 1888 by the NSW Govt. Railways. The centre section of the present House was built in 1901 and the 19 bedroomed two storey section in 1907. It took seven years to complete this section. It was taken over by the NSW Tourist Bureau but when the Kosciusko State Park Trust took over the area in 1963 it took possession of the House.

The original furniture still adorns the interior of the building. In 1964 the House lost its liquor licence after 26 years and it has not regained it since.

The Caves House has had no maintenance since 1925.

--- Cooma-Monaro Express, 15/6/66.

About half a mile south of the Caves House, a spring gushes out of the mountain side, the waters of which have an average temperature of about 80 degrees. A bath 28ft. x 14ft. x 5ft. deep has been constructed here. Local residents affirm that the water has marvellous healing properties, and it may not unreasonably be expected that this spring will some day be the site of a luxurious spar.

--- NSW Tourist Bureau booklet of 60 years ago.

Obviously we are being hoodwinked: the caves are being sacrificed so that tired politicians can recuperate in the "luxurious spar" that was forseen half a century ago !

#### CAVEMEN AT KING'S CROSS, or, HOW TO PEEL A PARROT\*

I, Philip Windsor-Mountbatten, have recently led 4000 boy scouts in a trip to the fabulous cave known simply as SI, in the remote Domain Range. Our aim was to spend 12 months underground, thus beating the record set by Nigel Foot, of the Fort Denison Speleo Society, who spent 11 months 29 days wandering in a drunken stupour through Clown's Cave at Coolemon, following an Easter orgy.

I told the newspapers how we intended to camp two miles underneath King's Cross, and the Mirror was kind enough to put it on the front page. We took a telephone with us so we could be awakened each morning by the PMG "early bird" service.

Thus we entered the gaping two feet by two mouth of the caves, bent on finding the hidden second entrance. As a matter of fact, there was another tunnel right next to the entrance used, and, had I not known better, might have taken this for the long lost second entrance. We were seriously hindered by languishing politicians debating the extension of the cavern we were about to enter.

We conducted much exploration, and found many interesting and  
\*Inspired by recent Newspaper and Newsletter items.

beautiful formations demolition of which I demonstrated as a necessary adjunct to obtaining samples. We encountered difficulty in breaking down a 40 ft. ironstone column. When we did bring it down, the whole roof descended on us. Vandalism had probably weakened the roof. I decided to report this to the Royal Cave Conservation Society, of which I am of course, patron.

Now, finding our exit blocked by rubble, we had to press on, in the hope of finding the secret second entrance.

After a long crawl through something I can only describe as closely resembling a sewer pipe -- even to the smell -- we emerged in a large room containing beautiful white formations, soaring far above us. I was about to tell the boys that this must be Sydney's grandest cave, when suddenly it dawned on me. We were in the Opera House!

-- Jeff Cayzer.

### S.U.S.S. DINNER

[Much of the latest Journal is an up to date reprint of material previously published by the Society. As the Annual Dinner is one of the forthcoming attractions, the Editor wonders whether this interpretation will, too, have to be brought up to date.]

On the 24th of July S.U.S.S. held a dinner at the University to celebrate its tenth anniversary. The dinner was well attended and those present had a thoroughly enjoyable time. By the methods of hypnosis used with outstanding success by Mandrake, but as yet little understood by science, I have been able to record the stream of thought of one of the participants (not myself).

6.25: Sherry served in 5 minutes, better move in. Sick of TV anyway. Where's it being held? Holme and Sutherland, Withdrawing Room? There are some people in suits -- they're S.U.S.S....Ah, here we are. Where's the steward with the sherry? Catch his eye when he comes round. "Two dry, please -- no, honest, one of these is for one of my friends." That fooled him. Better join this group near the door. Be sociable; can't make a pig of myself. Might get back to B. Those sherries went fast, better tune into conversation. Sounds like Cave Creek trip. Thank goodness the steward is here again. Go on, don't be afraid, take two. Nice sherry this, could drink a lot of it. Better not, leave room for later. Slips down easily though. Have one more before dinner. Got to be sociable. More and more people coming; go and talk to them. People talking louder and faster now. WHO EMPTIED MY GLASS? Don't be silly, of course there's another bottle.

Find out where I'm sitting. Must be other table. Ah, that card's got my name on it. Can hardly read it, very badly written... They're serving the soup now. Could use something to drink -- hope the claret comes soon. Here it comes now. Make sure steward fills glass up. "You just saved me from dying of thirst." There it is, dark red liquid with the light glinting dully through the depths. That's very poetic -- poem for the Journal. Like Omar Khayyam: "divine high-piping



Pehlevi with wine, wine, red wine." Yes please, fill it up again. Should have bigger glasses. Excellent food but these chips are hard to handle. Whenever I turn around someone fills my plate and empties my glass. Yes, again please. What's that song they're singing? Something about Marlboro. I'll start singing Jim Doolan. Others joining in, sing louder. Uh, uh, I'm only one singing. Hell, President's talking, better shut up. People looking, crumble bread roll. Nothing wrong with me, sober as the next man. Clap loudly at finish. Here's steward again, sink a few quick one before he goes. Claret finished. That's bad organisation: no confidence in sub-committee. Never mind, beer coming. Have to go outside first....That's better. Dark in here, films showing. Grab a bottle and go outside, sit on verandah. Others out here looking worse for wear. Go back inside and sit down. Can't understand these films, shocking sound track. Pretend I can understand: laugh every now and then. Hulloo, bottle empty, buy another. Plenty more where that one came from.

Somebody's gone horizontal. Quick, get him outside men. I know a good cure, put him over this seat. He'll be all right soon. Dinners never hurt anyone. Get inside and finish that bottle. 11.30 already! What happened to hours in middle? Can't remember them. Get a lift home and sleep it off. Awful taste in my mouth. Good dinner though. Wouldn't have missed it for anything.

-- Reprinted from SUSS Journal 5:1, 1958.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At the last G.M. notice was given of the following motion to amend the Constitution, which will be put at the G.M. on 21 July:

"That Clause 3c(ii) be amended by the addition of 'Associate Membership shall not be open to persons eligible for Full Membership.'"

Moved by Geoff Butlin.

#### BY-ELECTION

At this same meeting on 21st July, a By-Election to fill the position of Vice-President will be held.

#### DINNER

See advertisement on page 5. If you're not there, we'll want to know why.

#### FOOTBALL

Let's show the bushwalkers wot's wot about footy on Sunday 31st.



REVIEWS

From the Librarian

"A Cave in Dolerite at Wayatinah, Tasmania," by G.E. Hole and A. Spry, J. Geol. Soc. Aust., V.11, N.2, 1964.

A cave (60 x 30 x 12 feet) was broken into during tunnelling operations for the Wayatinah power scheme. At 600ft. below the surface, the cave was filled with water and took thirty minutes to empty its 120,000 gallons. Dolerite is an igneous rock (not dolomite). It is believed that a pocket within the rock became filled with secondary minerals (calcite, etc.), which later dissolved out under the action of groundwater, thus forming the cave. The cave's original shape is not known as there had been extensive collapse before entry.

"Ras-el-Ain; the great karst spring of Mesopotamia. A Hydrological Study," by D.J. Burton and C. Safadi, J. of Hydrology, V.1 N.1, 1963

Thirteen effluxes combine to form one of the great karst springs of the world. Ras-el-Ain forms the head of the Khabon River, a tributary of the Euphrates, and has an annual discharge of 1,219 million cubic metres or 38,666 cubic metres a second!

Stop Press, May 1966.

Of note is some SSS activity in the Carrai and Kunderang Brook areas near Kempsey. One interesting cave contained many insects and a koala skull claimed to be 10,000 years old. Two other small caves were entered in the Mooraback Gully area and contained very large moths. Of interest are the masses of glow worms to be found in the River Cave at Carrai. It would appear that these areas are worthy of further zoological and palaeontological investigation.

Also activity at Limekilns, Wyanbene, etc. Includes a good report of the ISS Search and Rescue trip to Bungonia.

CSIRO Wildlife Research Annual Report, 1964-65

Up to that time 34,000 bats of fifteen species had been banded since the program began in 1960. there is much more study to be done.

Calcite, Issue 12, n.d., 1966

HCG have been doing extremely valuable work in their efforts to put cave diving back on the speleological map. Over Easter they succeeded in forcing a siphon in the River Cave at Coolemon and entered another section of dry passage. Attempts to force another siphon off this new section failed as the passage

narrowed down. More should be accomplished, especially if diving continues at Coolemon.

Also an article on radio direction finding is worth reading. HCG are doing extensive work in modifying their apparatus to achieve greater accuracy and reliability. Work is currently being done at Bungonia.

NSS NEWS, V.24 N.4, April 1966.

Ever wondered "Why"? "Notes on the philosophy of caving" may tell you. Man's historical, mystical, and religious associations get a mention but, with a different slant. Watson then develops his philosophy. To quote, "One observes himself and his life with more clarity than might be possible, if he were, for example, sitting on the surface -- perhaps not more than 100 feet away -- up through solid rock. In the midst of the caving experience one might recognise what is important to him in life, which may come as a shock, and always as a revelation. Not all cavers have these experiences, but some do." There is also an article on radio direction finding of interest.

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Have you phoned Mick Morris 407180 for tickets for the Dinner ?

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Next G.M. at 7.30p.m. on Thurs. 21st July. Be there !

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This is the largest SUSS Newsletter ever produced. But don't expect issues of this size too often. I hope the bulk and diversity of items will prompt numerous articles and Letters to the Editor, of speleological, serious or facetious content. --Ed.