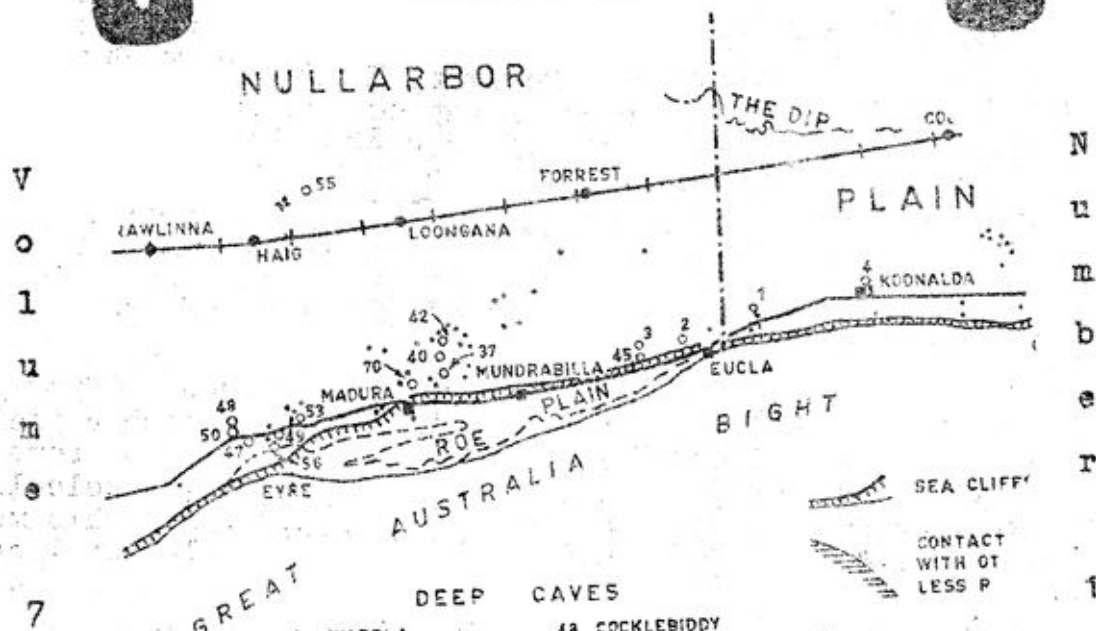


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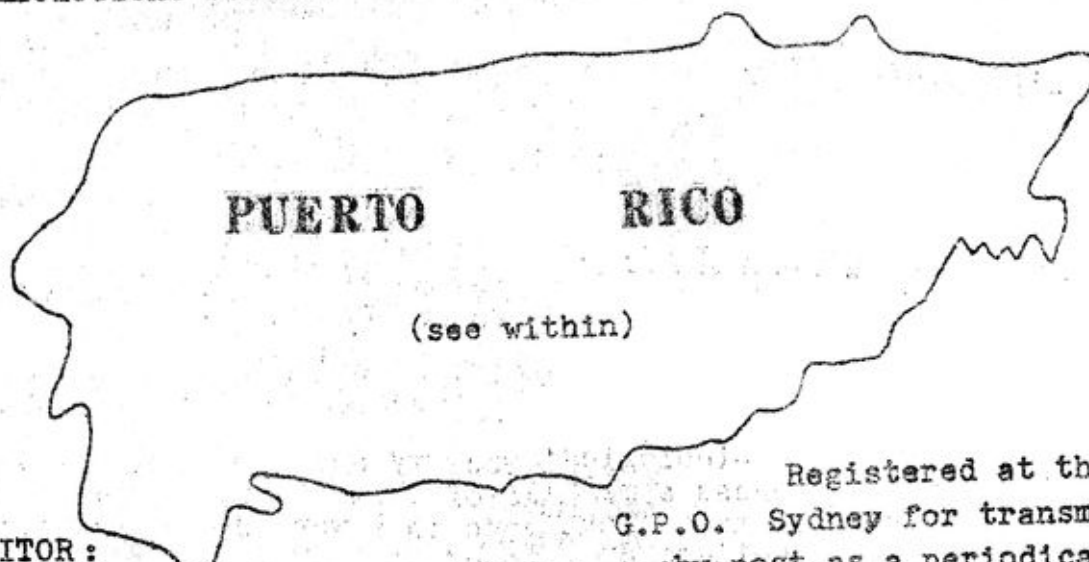
1st June, 1967



THE NEWSLETTER
of SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- GREAT DEEP CAVES
- | | |
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Box 35,
The Union,
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



EDITOR:
John Dunkley

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EDITORIAL

This is the last Editorial I want to write for the SUSS Newsletter (thank heaven I hear them say). I wouldn't be writing this one if there were anyone else to do it. Truth is, unfortunately, that most of the active members of the Society seem to have gone to Alice Springs and I have been landed with the job of producing these words of wisdom. There has not been a Newsletter since March and another one was urgently needed. However, I will gladly resign my position on the Committee in favour of anyone both willing and able to produce a Newsletter every month or so which attempts to keep up the high standard set by Geoff. Butlin last year. It would be regrettable if the standard were to slip backwards again after the very considerable improvements of the past few years. So there it is. Even if you can only operate a typewriter, by all means contact someone on the Committee, because Jane Watts is prepared to do the editing if someone else will type.

The fancy cover page on this edition is designed to draw your attention to the SUSS / CEGSA publication on the Nullarbor Plain, and to the big attraction at the next meeting, a talk on some caves of Puerto Rico by a distinguished American biologist, speleologist and author. Please note the altered time and venue for this meeting; we anticipate a larger than average crowd so need a larger lecture theatre.

Finally, I wish to thank Denis Ward in anticipation of his generous offer to be production manager of this Newsletter.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

My apologies for not knowing more about what is going on. This is only an outline:-

- May 27-28 JENOLAN - examination of Southern Limestone, also work in Mammoth Cave. DENIS WARD - 6442497
- June 4-5 WYANBENE - BIG HOLE - general exploration of Wyانبene Cave, plus descent of Big Hole. You had better be in good condition for the 220' straight ladder drop into the latter. DENIS WARD - 6442497
- June 15 GENERAL MEETING - Main Lecture Theatre, Merewether Building (Economics) Sydney University
Time : 8.1 pm.
(note changed location and time)
- June 16 Sydney Speleological Society advise that Bro. Nicholas will address a meeting of their Society to which all are welcome. The venue is Lower Auditorium, Anzac House, College St, Sydney at 7.30p.m. The program will include some different slides to the ones at the SUSS meeting.

Don't
Miss :

1964 Expedition to Rio Camuy Puerto Rico

and selected supporting features

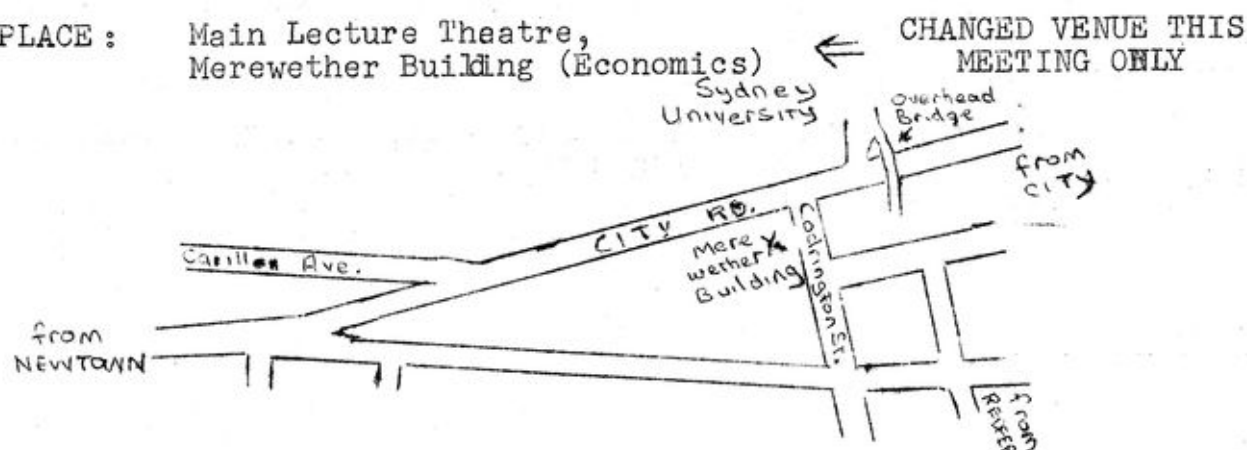
at the next S.U.S.S. meeting. The Rio Camuy area consists of a large expanse of limestone in Puerto Rico which exhibits all varieties of tropical karst. The caves are very extensive and are by no means fully explored. The 1964 trip was organized jointly by the National Speleological Society, the National Geographic Society, and the Explorers' Club of New York.

Speaker: Bro. G. Nicholas, F.S.C., Ph.D.
Department of Biology,
La Salle College,
Philadelphia, U.S.A.

Former President, National Speleological Society
Author (with G.W. Moore) of "SPELEOLOGY - the study
of Caves" (in SUSS Library) and several other
books and articles.

DATE : Thursday 15th June at 8.15pm.

PLACE : Main Lecture Theatre,
Merewether Building (Economics)



This meeting is being arranged in conjunction with the Australian Speleological Federation. Supper will be served and there will be a small charge for entrance. Please note that cars need not enter the University; the Merewether Building is in Darlington, across City Rd. [see p. 2 for details of another talk by Bro. Nicholas] Photographers in particular should not miss this lecture. Those who attended the lecture on Mammoth Cave on the occasion of Bro. Nicholas's last visit will remember his excellent slides if nothing else.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGApril 6, 1967

Unfortunately I am not in possession of the minute book and can only remember the more important results of the elections, however a Yearbook should be produced soon which will have full details and an address list as well.

Committee

	PRESIDENT	Graham Jessup	
VICE PRESIDENT	Harley Wright	SECRETARY	Alison Jessup
TREASURER	Julia Thompson	ASS'T. SECRETARY	Jane Watts
FULL COMMITTEE		ASSOC. COMMITTEE	
MEMBER	John Dunkley	MEMBER	Venita Stewart

SubCommittees and Officers

Safety	-	Harley Wright	Records	-	Geoff Butlin
Librarian	-	Michael Morris	Bat Research	-	Barbara Dew

Search and Rescue

In any emergency which may require the calling in of a team of people for search or rescue purposes, and which cannot be adequately fulfilled by those already present, contact any one of the following:

Grahame Jessup 444016 ; Erik Halbert 6305502 ; Barbara Dew 575890

GENERAL MEETING, May 4

The motion nominating Alex Jones for life membership of S.U.S.S. failed to gain the necessary majority.

A most interesting illustrated talk on some aspects of archaeology in Macchu Picchu, Peru, and along the Nile valley in Egypt was enjoyed by all. It was a pity that more people were not present for this.

G.Jessup, H.Wright & G.Butlin were nominated for membership of the Speleological Research Council Ltd.

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Clive STANSFIELD	Stuart EWING	Richard SMITH
Robert BOZEMAN	Richard DANIEL	David SARGEANT
		(subject to payment of outstanding trip fee)

NEW TRIP LEADERS

The following have been added to the list of authorised trip leaders:

Michael MORRIS

Richard CROWLE

NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Alan	STURDY	N. MALONEY	Angela DUNN
Bo	KABRIEL	Ludwig MUENZENRIEDER	Graham TROUT
		(unfortunately I do not have addresses at this stage)	

"Caves of the Nullarbor"

The great fanfare of publicity down the back of this Newsletter is to bring to your attention the most ambitious publication yet attempted by any Australian speleological society. The main problem at the moment is the need to minimise the cost, hence the appeal to typists, artists etc. to assist the editors in preparation.

THE SUSS COMMITTEE IS QUITE GENUINE IN THIS APPEAL. Every dollar which can be saved on costs means another dollar in the bank account when we start selling. And the cost is not to be taken lightly - at least \$500 according to how many we print, but more likely to be up around the \$700 mark, to be underwritten by SUSS, Cave Exploration Group (S.A.), the SUSS Nullarbor Expedition and one or two others. The financial transactions are so large compared with our normal budget that it will be necessary to introduce amendments to the Constitution, most probably.

It is now going on four years since the great SUSS Nullarbor Expedition which discovered Mullahmullang, and which provided the money and original idea for a publication on the Nullarbor. Ted Anderson provided the energy and initiative to get the thing off the ground, but in 1966 found himself unable to continue (and notwithstanding what may appear to be unflattering of Ted on page nine, Ted was the original driving force). There being no-one else prepared to do it, I became editor earlier this year. However I can't do everything and I shall resign in September if the book is not out by then.

Quite apart from these problems, SUSS will lose a lot of prestige and will be failing its contributors if this book does not appear as soon as possible at as high a standard as we can possibly afford. The contributors, incidentally, include such renowned experts in their field as J.N.Jennings (A.N.U.), Dr A.Gallus (Melb. Univ.), D.Lowry (W.A.Geol.Surv.), M.Walter (Adel.Univ.), E.Hamilton-Smith (SA Mus.) and others.

PLEASE OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN

GOSSIP COLUMN

The following engagements and marriages are hereby notified:

President Graham Jessup, to be married to Frederika Carr ("Phreddie") in Auckland, New Zealand, on June 10, 1967.

Vice-President Harley Wright, engaged to Treasurer Julia Thomson. Marriage later this year.

Ex-patriate Leslye Mackay, Secretary of CEGSA, to be married to CEGSA President Grant Gartrell in December 1967, in Adelaide, S.A.

Glenn Hunt and Frances Moore, London, U.K. - no news yet

REPORTS ON RECENT TRIPSCoolestonEaster 1967leader: Harley Wright

The trip could have been described as a caving trip, although with all the diversions engaged in en route there and back, many other descriptions might suffice. Caving was essentially just general exploration, caves visited being River, Barbers, Fissure and Clowns. Other activities included an assault on Kosciusko (successful at last), a nature ramble to Bimberi Peak (no, really?), climbing in the gorge, (some freshers are born flies), fishing and much loafing.

On Friday night we received an interesting dissertation by a notable Canadian migrant on the importance of rhythm and the deep social message in a song, the words of which he could not quite remember. 'Swanee River' was sung with regular monotony on the hour and half-hour and sometimes more often.

It was pleasing to see the work done by the Trust in the building of garbage pits and the general clean-up of rubbish in the area.

On the way back to Sydney on Tuesday, some members dropped off at the Rose Valley turnoff on the Cooma-Canberra road to visit a cave near Bunyan. Formations were very good but time did not allow a full exploration of the cave.

Accident Report - Wee Jasper, 4 March 1967

(report by party leader T.V.O'Donnell)

While climbing up the slope which leads from the Loxin Chamber to the Laundry Shute via the Slippery Dips in Punchbowl Cave, a prospective member, James Seabrook somehow lost his handhold, either by attempting to stand up, or an ability to use the poor handholds, which are the only ones available, and fell, somersaulting backwards down the slope. He struck his head in falling and was momentarily knocked unconscious.

First aid was applied immediately and the bleeding stopped. Seabrook was capable of walking and extricated himself from the cave with little assistance. At camp the wound was further cleaned and dressed, and he was taken to Yass District Hospital where one stitch was inserted. There appear to be no permanent ill-effects.

Thanks are due to Vince for this report. Although cavers hope they will avoid accidents, they learn by them. It is worth pointing out that the Australian Speleological Federation has a subcommittee working on a Safety Code. Reports of this nature are therefore very useful as well as being required of all trip leaders.

I also had a letter to the editor from Julia Thomson on the subject of gibberology, written with proper feminine indignation. I apologise for having lost this somewhere between getting it from Jane Watts and reaching this typewriter. The subject was clear enough though, and Geoff Butlin held forth on it at the A.G.M. A lot of gibberology is done because someone else is doing it. Please have some self-control, don't. It's dangerous, childish, and as Julia said, it shows gross contempt for conservation.

Search and Rescue Practice, Cliefden.18 - 19 March

About 8 SUSS members were among some 40 or so attending the S. & R. practice conducted by Orange Speleological Society, and it was pleasant to go again to this seldom-visited area. Considering the small size of O.S.S. the whole exercise was remarkably well planned and executed. 8 King-size tents for base camp, logbooks, numerous maps, walkie-talkies etc.

Prodigious amounts of work were put into the muddy reaches of Cliefden Main Cave on Saturday (and elsewhere) without result. The report was that a car had been observed parked on camp hill for some days and it was believed that two cavers had not been sighted for this period. On Sunday about 11am a surface party located two packs and the netting around Taplow Maze Cave had been pulled back. It took about 4½ hours to search the cave thoroughly, render first aid when the lost parties were located, and get them out.

Lessons emerging from the exercise were, I think:

1. A thorough check of the surface before any underground searching is done would save on manpower. It might locate packs, signs of entry etc. and thus localize further effort.
2. Extensive caves like Cliefden Main should not be searched unless there is evidence to point to them. They are enormously wasteful of manpower.
3. Many more people are required for surface and underground searching than for actual rescuing.
4. Walkie-talkies are indispensable savers of man-power.

YARRANGOBILLY Easter Trip, 23-28 March, 1967John Dunkley

This was the smallest Yagby Easter trip I've been on for some reason. Transport was chaotic due to Rick Crowle having demolished his chariot a few weeks before but all were fitted in. The only reported mishap was when Ron Murray hit the left hand one of those two close trees on the track into camp, doing a surprising amount of damage to someone else's nice shiny Holden.

Activities included photography in East Deep Creek (of course) examination of the gorge and natural bridge, further exploration of Eagles Nest system, and diversions in the Coppermine area. Through trips were made from Y1 and Y3 to Y2, photographs being taken at the end of the last. A tight muddy squeeze off the main route from Y4 to Y2 in the joint-controlled area was explored for some distance. However Y1 was unexpectedly cold and there was no hope of continuing the survey.

The weather was the mildest yet for Easter Yagby, never below about 50°. Jessup and Murray departed on Sunday leaving the rest to attack the delicious fresh Eucumbene rainbow trout courtesy of Shirley Norman who had been looking for the SSS non-trip.

The convicts arrived on day after Easter and Yarrangobilly Caves are firmly gated now, till at least Christmas 1968.

1. CREATIVE ARTIST

P to design simple but striking two
O colour cover symbolizing speleo-
S logical activity on the Nullarbor
I Plain. Experience not necessary.

2. TYPIST

S Experienced with electric machine,
I preferably IBM Executive, otherwise
T Olivetti or Remington. To transfer
I typewritten material onto plates
O for photo-offset type reproduction.
N Remuneration open to negotiation
S with S.U.S.S. Committee, additional
for someone prepared to undertake
justification of right-hand columns
as well.

3. ASSISTANT TYPISTS (several)

V To prepare final draft for electric
A typewriter if necessary. Must have
C own manual typewriter and be prepared
L to type at least 2000 words in a few
N days, for which SUSS regrets it will
T not be able to pay.

4. BLUDGE MERCHANT

(contingency in case of emergency)

T Experienced in getting things for
nothing. Must have glib tongue and
friends in high places (preferably
printing trade) on whom to exercise
persuasion. Suit female

Applicants should have
considerable patience
and ability to get along
with the Editor who is
not in a good mood at
the moment about this.

Enquiries may be directed
to John Dunkley, Editor,
at 10 Riverview Street,
West Ryde. Phone 854333.

CAVES OF THE NULLARBOR

being an account of the trials and tribulations of the Committee and certain members of S.U.S.S.

The story so far:

- 1963 : Unknown genius conceives great money-making scheme - run trip to remote caving area in wild blue yonder, charge people \$70 for trip that costs \$60 - inveigles SUSS into organising expedition to Nullarbor Plains.
- Jan. 1964: Ted Anderson emerges from Mullamullang and, blinking, announces Plan to spend money on journal account of expedition.
- later: Report mysteriously appears in 'Helictite'
- '965: Expedition members suspect they have been fleeced. Startled, Anderson flees state, is posted missing believed lost in region of Gulf of Carpentaria. Money continues to gather interest.
- late: In anonymity of hirsute disguise, Anderson returns, infiltrates 1965 SUSS, and before expeditionary force can be raised, whisks money from SUSS into SRC LTD.. As opposition falters, captures Vice-Presidency at 1966 AGM
- July: Anderson sees writing on wall, resigns, changes address to 1966 elude pursuers, vanishes together with essential maps showing key to the treasure etc. Dazed, SUSS Committee finds no-one to succeed him, but asks John Dunkley to launch investigation into the financial and journalistic activities of Mr Anderson.
- Aug. Dunkley finds out who is investigating the investigator etc., 1966 resigns also but manages nevertheless to conclude friendship and mutual assistance pact with Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
- late: SUSS has no editor and January publication date fades. Glenn 1966 Hunt mutters sundry mutterings about various aspects of the situation but is sadly misunderstood.
- Feb. Now mounted on white (and turquoise) charger, Dunkley joins 1967 SUSS, becomes Editor, takes interest in location of loot.
- April SRC Ltd offers to kick in with \$150 if SUSS will forget that 1967 the missing loot is SUSS's.
- May J. Dunkley becomes crapped off with delays, writes this 1967 nonsense, to attract attention

NOW READ ON

Most of the material for this book, which will set SUSS back about \$500, is now ready. Some typing can begin shortly, I hope. So far a couple of offers of typing have been received, but what we need is a good typist who can work an electric machine (we'll supply it) SUSS might even pay you to do it. I also need an artist to suggest a cover design, someone possibly to draw a map or two, and maybe someone to get quotes here and there.

HELP RSVP 10 Riverview Street, West Ryde.

NULLARBOR

FOUR NEW CAVING PUBLICATIONS IN N.S.W. AND TASMANIA

The publications reviewed below are mentioned in this Newsletter because the clubs responsible for them, not being members of the Australian Speleological Federation, are not much heard of outside their own ranks. Opinions expressed about the publications do not necessarily reflect the reviewer's opinion of the club concerned.

Metropolitan Speleological Society Journal

The excellent photographic cover of this journal (Minaret at Jenolan, retouched?) is possibly the best part of the three issues which have appeared so far, for the contents do not live up to the promises of the cover. Messages from the Editor and President, reprints from Trickett, hints on techniques and detailed reports of unprofitable trips make up the staple fare of club Newsletters, not Journals, which should aim at some degree of originality. All the trips recorded in issue 3, for example, were designed for 'familiarisation', although there is insight into the value of planning in an account of the Drum trip. Also in issue 3 M.S.S. is apparently unaware of the 'Terms recommended for general use by Australian speleologists' prepared by J.N.Jennings for the A.S.F. Subcommittee on Terminology, which has already been reproduced by S.S.S., C.E.G.S.A. and A.S.F. Newsletters at least.

Notwithstanding its present pretentiousness, M.S.S. Journal should become worthwhile reading when the society 'matures' and undertakes original work, even if only exploration (e.g. their recent trip to Wyanbehe, not yet reported). In the meantime, so far as content goes, they can take heart from the journalistic vicissitudes of Sydney S.S. and S.U.S.S.

"SPELEOGRAFFITI" - Newsletter of the National University Caving Club

This fulfils the purposes of a Newsletter admirably. Editorial, snippets of general caving information, notes on Rescue systems and on course trip reports are the diet of "SPELEOGRAFFITI" which is now in its fourth year. N.U.C.C. is an unashamedly sporting society and has no scientific ambitions on their own admission.

"InFormation" - circular of Newcastle Speleological Association

The first issue of this single-sheet circular with the play-on-words title has just appeared and is mentioned here for the record. It is designed as a cumulative guide to caving generally, to be issued from time to time. Social gossip to be circulated on a separate sheet which seems an eminently worthwhile idea.

"TROGLODYTE" - Bulletin of Tasmanian Caverneering Club Northern Branch

This is also rather ambitious in that it has correspondents in several places in Australia, and indeed there is much useful information in it. Most of "TROGLODYTE" though is Newsletter material. It is clear that an immense amount of work goes into producing it but quality could be better and a proper cover would be useful.

SUN - HER
April 9

CAVE EXPLORING IS SAFE AND FUN

NEARLY every cliff along Sydney's coastline has a rope hanging on it somewhere.

And where there are no ropes there is probably an iron stake conveniently located where one may be fastened.

These ropes are used by the hundreds of adventurous teenagers who have taken up rock climbing and caving to explore the unknown.

The ropes may lead to a cave, a rockpool or a blowhole -- but they all lead to adventure. The climbers get the thrill of exploration, although they know many people have been there before them.

But the real caves, the deep, huge, and beautiful limestone caverns, are all in the country. Every weekend they are assaulted by hordes of well-equipped and trained speleologists, or cavers.

They come from caving associations at Orange, Kempsey, Wollongong, and other country areas, or from the Sydney, Metropolitan, or Highland Caving clubs and the two speleological societies at Sydney's universities.

Ken Murray, 19, of Auburn, is one of the 10 members of SUSS (Sydney University Speleological Society). He joined the society on the advice of a friend who knew of his interest in climbing.

"My friend was really

wrapped in caving so I thought I would have a go," he says.

"After my first attempt I realised what a great hobby it was and decided to join the club.

"You feel a sense of achievement after you have explored a really challenging cave. It is great fun moving about so far below the ground.

Courses

Genuine speleologists advise new cave-addicts to join a recognised club.

The president of SUSS, Mr. Graham Jessup, says that nothing is dangerous if it is done properly.

"Most clubs organise courses in the basic techniques of caving and climbing at the beginning of each year and they also supply a new recruit with the right equipment," he says.

"This knowledge makes

caving a lot safer and it is probably the main benefit gained from joining a club but of course, there are good results also.

"The clubs usually conduct regular trips, both locally and interstate. We have been to the Nullarbor Plains and even as far as Perth.

"In many cases, private individuals are not allowed to explore caves in places like Jenolan Caves. The Government often gives recognised clubs permission to explore these places further than ordinary tourists are allowed."

Of course, you don't have to travel far to find a suitable cave to explore. I had a chance to go caving myself at Whale Beach last Sunday.

My two guides on the small expedition to the imposing cliffs just north of Sydney were Charles Bell, 19, and John Chishill, 21, both from Woy Woy.

They said we were going to Whale Beach because the "cave was impressive. It was close to Sydney and they had to be sure there was no danger involved."

They stressed that caving was not a true caving adventure because of the relative smallness of the cave and the fact that it was reasonably well lit from inside.

The cave certainly was impressive but it was not so accessible as they led me to believe. The initial descent was along a steep limestone path which ended abruptly at the top of a 10-foot cliff.

"Easy going"

It was only the rusted iron stake obviously intended to anchor a rope and the small toe holds near the cliff face which convinced me that the climb could be safely completed.

The end of the rope brought your interpal before frighteningly close to sea level and a breath-taking, thundering surf.

"Easy going" now changed John and I to "easy" as they took us into security again.

Our next obstacle was a 15-foot-wide channel of the rough, rocky ground which led directly into our goal, the cave.

At brief intervals waves rushed in channel and three selves viciously against natural barrier of across the cave or

We had to across this slippery and climb on to which entered the

The cave mouth about 150 feet in 40 feet wide. The interior extended about 100 yards, bordered

width of four feet third of the distance the entrance.

The remaining two of the cave was a crevice with vertical high walls and a ledge on each side floor was covered crystal-clear water trickled through the

The pool was shallow the cave mouth angled gradually until about 25ft. deep at the of the narrow crevice

The water was illuminated by a admitted through the entrance. Everything appeared magnified clear water.

The cave periodic vibrated with the boom of the surf a sinister atmosphere, bordered by the erratic of black, or something more than