

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35,
The Union,
University of Sydney.

Price: Five Cents

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Edited by the Associate Committee Member

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Volume 7 Number 2

29th June, 1966

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JULY

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 | Friday Night - ANNUAL SUSS DINNER - at the Union | Ring Mick Morris
(407180), or see
Geoff Butlin at
Fisher Library. |
| 8-9 | Tuglow
Combined trip with Macquarie University Mountain-
eering Society | Dennis Ward
6442497 |
| 13 | GENERAL MEETING - 3rd Floor Geography Building 7.30pm. | |
| 22-23 | Wombeyan | Barbara Dew
575890 |

AUGUST

Nothing organised so far, but the Committee remains open to any suggestions.
Skiing trips, caving trips, or sand shovelling trips to Surfers Paradise, etc.
Ring Harley Wright
461196
Alison Jessup
444016

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------|
| 14 | GENERAL MEETING - Usual place, usual time. |
|----|--------------------------------------------|

N.B. THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST.

P.S. DONT FORGET THE DINNER. 25/- single, 45/- double.

SUB-EDITORIAL

The question of trips rears its ugly head. Like Londons Noble Fire Brigade, we started the year with Courage high and Hearts Aglow- it was to be a big year for the Society.

In recruiting new members we were particularly successful (thanks largely to the efforts of Ron Murray on the stall), but since then there has been a dearth of trips and activities. Surely in a Society of this size, this should not be hard to organise.

The Dinner is on again. New and old members (prospectives and otherwise) are exhorted to attend. Last year was a good "rort" and this year will be even better, (or worse, depending on your point of view). Ring Mick Morris at 407180 or ask for Geoff Butlin at Fisher Library before the 5th of July.

Once again the ritual chant, handed down from Editor to Editor - PLEASE CAN WE HAVE MORE MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER!!! Stories, news items, trip reports all will be gladly received - give them to any of the Committee Members, hand written, typed, whatever.

Moving from one ritual to another I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Editor on the attainment of her majority.

Finally, in a more sombre vein, I would like to express my sympathy to Malcolm Watson on the recent death of his father. His loss at this time is all the more saddening, coming as it did on the eve of his wedding to Elise Hilliard, on the 8th of July.

On behalf of the Society, congratulations and best wishes to Malcolm and Elise for the future.

M.M.

HERALD (SYDNEY MORNING), June 29

LONDON.- After three days of searching rescuers found the bodies of five potholers drowned on the weekend at the Mossdale cavern in Yorkshire. It was thought possible that the sixth man, John Ogden, of Colne, Lancashire, may have found a safe place in one of the passages above the level of the floodwaters which poured into the cavern after heavy rain.

If a cross appears in this square, your membership has now expired and as you have not paid your subscription, this will be the last Newsletter you will receive until you are again financial.

Current membership rates are -

Prospective (6 months)	: \$0.50
Full (graduate)	: \$2.00
Full (undergraduate)	: \$2.00
Associate	: \$2.00
Corresponding	: \$1.50

LIBRARIANS NOTE:

For the benefit of those interested, I have discovered in the library a glossary of Cornish Tin Mining Terms. Please apply in writing.

The following letter has been received from C S S : -

The Dip Cave - Wee Jasper

Last week on the 24th June, six members of C S S were doing some work on the far side of Punchbowl. At about 4.30pm there was a muffled roar and the whole of the hill shook. It was originally thought that perhaps part of Punchbowl had collapsed, but a very quick tripthrough proved this to be incorrect.

Purely by chance we decided to look at Number 3 extension in the Dip Cave yesterday. Initial investigations in the rock fall at the end of Number 3 series which gives access to the extension indicates that the lower sections of this rock fall have settled anything up to 10 feet and is extremely unstable.

A trip across Number 4 series and into series 5 uncovered a lot of freshly broken decoration. No attempt was made to get as far as Dismal Chamber.

As you will be aware the Dip Cave is approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile directly across country from the Punchbowl Hill, and the violence of the noise, which was heard about 2 miles away by a group from the National University Caving Club, could perhaps have been caused by the collapse of the roof in Number 3 extension - there is certainly no surface evidence of collapse. The only evidence of collapse in a known cave is the settling of the rock fall which used to give access to the extension.

It was thought that we should advise all N.S.W. societies of this collapse, and to warn them of the extremely unstable nature of the rock pile.

Ian Nankivell
Hon. Sec.

CLIMBING CALLS

As pointed out by Paul Jackson at a recent meeting, it's about time more S U S S members became acquainted with, and started to use, standard climbing calls.

When being belayed up a ladder or difficult pitch it is often difficult for either party at the ends of the rope to hear what the other is saying, due to both poor acoustics and the frequent use of lurid colloquialisms. It can be most disconcerting to request that the rope be pulled up, in the middle of a hairy climb, only to be misinterpreted and find more rope coming down. Over many years rock climbers have evolved a simple code of calls which if used correctly would reduce much of the present confusion.

BELOW isscreamed out by the higher bloke when a rock or equipment has been accidentally dropped or when he is pitching a rope over or when any other article, liable to cause injury, obeys the law of gravity.

TIE ON. Having lowered the rope, the chap at the top thus tells the "belayee" that he may tie on (i.e. the top end of the rope is secured and won't come crashing down on him).

CLIMB WHEN READY. When the belayer (bloke at the top) is firmly secured, he indicates that he is ready for the climber to come up.

UP ROPE. The person being belayed indicates by this call, either while climbing or at the commencement of the climb, that he wishes the rope to be pulled up. He does NOT say "up slack" or "less rope".

THAT'S ME. To save being cut in half by the belay rope the chap climbing indicates that there is no slack in the rope. With a long belay e.g. 140'

Climbing Calls (cont.)

in the Drum, it is very difficult for the belayer to tell, due to the weight of the rope, whether he is in fact pulling on the person or not.

CLIMBING . When the climber first moves from the ground, or recommences to climb after a spell, he awakens the bod on the top end of the rope thus.

MORE SLACK . If the tension in the belay rope is too great, or the climber is moving laterally or down (under control) he asks the belayer for more slack.

FALLING !!! It is hoped that this never has to be used. If you do fall, however, please raise your voice. Fred Norb up top might be having another snooze.

It is hoped that the two calls "UP ROPE" and "MORE SLACK" will never more have their propositions interchanged. If you have too much slack and call "up slack" instead of "UP ROPE", the belayer may only hear "slack" and give you more slack.

There would seem to be no improvement that could be made in these calls for caveing, except perhaps NEXT for use when somebody has finished a ladder climb without a belay rope and the ladder is free for the next person.

However, it sometimes happens that one can't be heard from one end of a ladder to the other e.g. Tuglow on the last pitch down to the river. In this particular case, when going down, the ladder often gets caught and when the person gets off the ladder remains under tension. Those at the top waiting to go down think that there is somebody on it, and, not being able to hear from those below, have no idea when the ladder is free. Frayed tempers invariably result. It is suggested that whistles be used for communication from top to bottom just to indicate when the ladder is free, a code being agreed upon beforehand. This has been tried once and found quite successful.

H. Wright .

THANKS

Bro. Nicholas, former President of the United States National Speleological Society gave a fascinating account of the 1964 expedition to the Rio Camuy cave of Puerto Rico. Those present will not easily forget the stupendous size of the chambers shown in the accompanying slides. They would easily dwarf the largest of the Nullarbor caves, and the cave has so far been followed for eight miles.

IN CONCLUSION

GIRLS !! -- You too can partake of the festivities to be held on
Friday, July 7th, at the
ANNUAL SUSS DINNER
Dont miss this golden opportunity. SUSS's answer
to the Sadie Hawkin's Day Race.

DEEPEST and LONGEST CAVES IN THE WORLD

The International Union of Speleology has circulated a new revised list of the deepest, longest etc. caves in the world.

Longest - Holloch (Switzerland) 58 miles

By comparison, longest in Australia is Exit Cave (Tas.) surveyed length 6 miles, another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or so known.

Deepest - Pierre Saint Martin (France / Spain) 3779'
Gouffre Berger (France) 3680'

Australia - Mini-Martin/Exit Cave (Tas.) 720'

Highest - Rakhiot Peak Cave (Nanga Parbat, Nepal) elev. 21,845'

Australia - probably at Cooleman, or possibly in Tasmania. At least 4000'

Deepest vertical drop

Sotano de las Golondrinas (Mexico) 1069'

Gouffre de Juhé (Spain) 1030'

Pierre Saint Martin (France / Spain) 1017'

Australia - Mini-martin/Exit Cave (Tas.) 360'

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OTHER OVERSEAS NEWS

Developments over the past few years in the use of artificial aids to abseiling have enabled very long drops to be negotiated by rope, with consequent savings in time and equipment. The techniques were developed in the United States and tested extensively on the surface before use. In August 1967 a well-drilled team of U.S. cavers descended the 1017' Lepineux shaft in Pierre Saint Martin using a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, 1200' Samson rope. It was possible to prusik out, the whole operation taking less time than the old French winch used to take. They have also been down Soltano de las Golondrinas by the same method.

A joint French / Spanish society has established a permanent summer camp at Pierre Saint Martin and is laddering the Spanish entrance to assist in exploration within. There are several problems arising mainly from the fact that two of the entrances to the cave are in France and one in Spain, with no customs post in between. (refs: N.S.S. News Jan. 1968 & Feb. 1968)

A method is being developed to enable predictions of underground drainage to be made by constructing flood waves (e.g. damming and suddenly releasing a stream). Flood waves travel faster than water particles and therefore fluorescein.

(ref: New Zealand S.S. Bulletin no. 64, Dec. 1967
Cave Research Group Newsletter no. 98, Dec '65)

State backs lime quarries at Colong

The State Government considered that limestone mining in the Colong Caves Reserve was in the public interest, the Minister for Mines, Mr W. C. Fife, said yesterday.

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Ltd. proposes to mine the reserve, in the southern Blue Mountains, for limestone for cement manufacture.

Nature preservation societies oppose the proposal.

'ESSENTIAL'

The managing director of the company, Mr F. E. Taylor, said in Sydney on Thursday that there were no limestone deposits within reach of the main cement market suitable as mining alternatives to the reserve.

Mr Fife said yesterday that the Government carefully considered all aspects of the company's application to mine limestone in the Mount Armour locality near Colong before agreeing, on January 17, 1967, that an additional mining

lease should be granted to the company in this locality.

He said the company already held two adjoining leases granted in 1955 and a further lease nearby granted in 1958.

In all, the coverage of these holdings amounted to less than 200 acres on the fringe of an area of about 100,000 acres proposed at the Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

"The Associated Portland Cement group also operates limestone quarries at Marulan, but additional reserves in the Colong area are essential to provide the necessary amounts of limestone to ensure continuous operation on a large scale at Maldon," he said.

Mr Fife said the Government took into account representations by nature preservation societies, but decided that in the public interest a further lease should be granted.

"The cement industry in N.S.W. is most important to the State economy and its product must be reasonably priced," he said.

"Increased costs have placed that industry and N.S.W. at a disadvantage compared with other States. "Already some cement is being introduced into N.S.W. from Tasmania.

"Surely it is impracticable to suggest that limestone deposits in remote localities should be worked in preference to those closer to principal markets.

"After mining operations it is believed that the effects of nature would operate to restore the area largely to its former state of wilderness in a relatively short time."

This seems to be the final chapter in one of the most vehement conservation battles in Australian history. It shows that even the combined weight of the National Parks Association, the Institute of Architects, the National Trust the Nature Conservation Council and many other bodies is insufficient to outvote powerful mining interests.

This is not the place to argue the economics of limestone mining. If APCM Ltd. says that the cheapest source is by despoiling the Colong area, who is to argue? Throughout the history of man, increasing standards of living have been obtained at the expense of the natural environment. The forests and grasslands of North Africa and the Middle East fed the earliest civilizations and in the process became deserts. Only one small grove remains of the once widespread cedars of Lebanon which built the first great trading nation. On public holidays visitors are turned away from Yosemite and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks. Caving clubs in the Mendips and Yorkshire book weeks ahead and pay 2/- each to pursue their sport. Caving at Wee Jasper now hurts your pocket and worse is to come.

The conservation dilemma today is one of competing land-use interests. The conservationists themselves cannot agree on the best use for a given area of land and they have to contend with miners and developers as well. It is not sufficient to argue that the economic interests of the State and the people are best served by enabling goods to be produced by the cheapest possible means. It is a recognised fact that most people prefer increased leisure time to increased living

The Sydney Morning Herald.

Sat., April 20, 1968 11

standards made available through longer work hours. Perhaps they may even prefer leisure to cheaper cement, there is no way of telling. But the decision need never have arisen. If N.S.W. can't make cement cheaper than Victoria or Tasmania without going to Colong, why not concentrate on something they can produce more cheaply? Competition is fine, but the concessions granted to the mining company are such as to suggest that the public is in effect subsidising an economically protected industry. What other conclusions can be drawn when the annual rental for the site at Colong is \$23 - that's right, twenty-three dollars - plus a 5c. per ton royalty payable on demand only, and a ludicrously low indemnity of \$2,000 against damage.

When Kanangra - Boyd National Park is ever promulgated, the public will no doubt be charged for the use of facilities, just as they are now at Kosciusko. Few would object to this if they felt that, whatever the merits of the Colong mining, the company was at least paying a worthwhile fee for its depredations.

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REVIEW

"Rucksack" - March 1968

bimonthly, numerous photographs, 30 pages
photo - offset reproduction, good bond paper

According to its title page, this is "an Australian magazine on bushwalking, rockclimbing, caving, canoeing, ski touring, mountaineering and conservation." The activities catered for are all more or less 'out-sports'. As such, they have no well-oiled organizational machine, nor a well-heeled paying spectator. The literature is thus not cheap and is definitely for the enthusiast. This attempt to bring together what the editors describe as the 'rucksack' sports is highly commendable, though hardly likely to be very profitable. The articles live up to the aims of the magazine and the art-work is really excellent when one considers that it is done by amateurs (the editors are well-known Gary Steer and John Davis). For the caver there is a piece on legalised vandalism at Colong and a review of "Caves of the Nullarbor". Submissions and subscriptions (\$3 for 10 issues) may be sent to 39 Balls Head Road, Waverton, N.S.W. 2060.

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"Cuevas y Pictografías" by A. Nuñez Jimenez. Havana, Cuba, 1967

Señor Jimenez is one of SUSS's most prolific correspondents. It's a great pity that the stuff he sends is in Spanish (and we have a lot of it). This 146-pagebook is beautifully printed and illustrated, with many colour photos and charts. It concerns two Cuban caves (Garcia Robiou and Ambrosio) and their cave paintings which are definitely thought to be pre-Columbian.

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NEW ABSEILING DEVICE - The RAPPELENDER

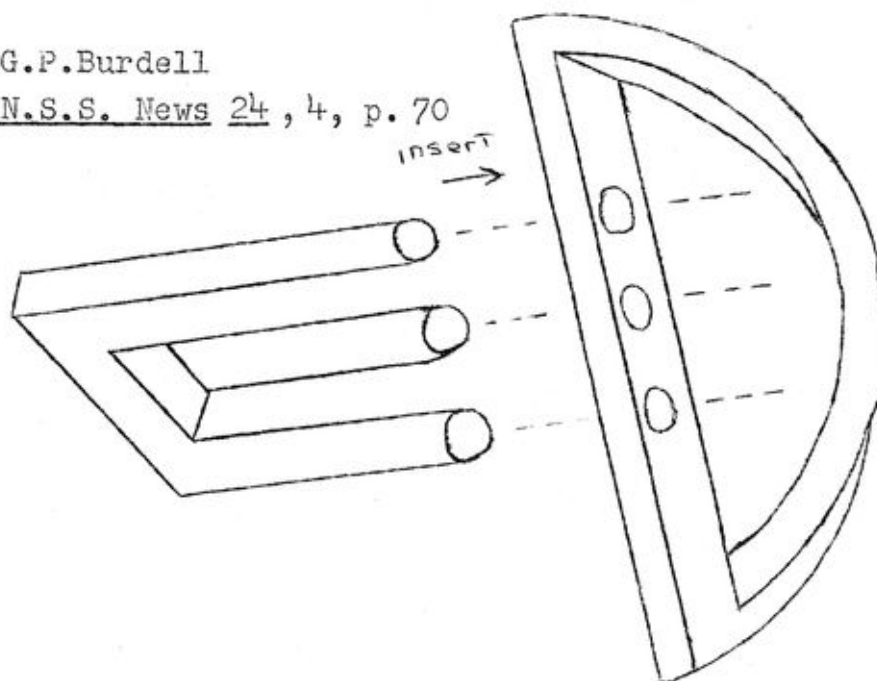
We have all wished for a simple, lightweight device with which to both abseil and ascend. Well, it's here - the rappelender (see sketch). Since size is not critical, dimensions are not given. The operation is obvious, but a few words might help.

For abseiling, a seat sling is hooked in under not over the pseudo-curvilinear trichotometric insert and the line twisted anti-clockwise, locking out of the space between the centre of each and the other. Do not bisect the centre-line unless using the left-hand, in which case at least two. As an ascender, a clockwise twist is employed but looking into the opening, when both facing left and between, but not behind.

Since its advantages are apparent, as any fool can see, April is an appropriate month to reveal the device.

by G.P.Burdell

in N.S.S. News 24, 4, p. 70

AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST

"An analysis of the Meandering Tendency of Serpentine Cave".
by E.D. Ongley. J.Hydrol. 6 : 15-32 (1968)

It isn't often that a member of SUSS produces a paper that finds its way into the overseas literature, let alone professional journals. The statistics in this paper may deter you, but the results are understandable. Ed establishes that passage directions in Serpentine Cave, Jenolan, are random distributed, not joint-controlled. The question arises whether the winding form suggests that cavern geometry may have parameters similar to those of surface meanders.

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS ETC.

Some people have apparently had difficulty in gaining entry for cars to the University grounds on meeting nights. The Secretary has accordingly arranged with the authorities for the latest copy of this Newsletter to be shown by members wanting to park their cars in the grounds. However, you may have difficulty in getting in if you arrive too early (before about 6:30).

NOTICEBOARD

The noticeboard in Science Road has been ressurected for the nth time. It is hoped to keep it up-to-date this time, so if you want to know about future trips, forthcoming meetings etc, consult this.

+ + +
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On the 17th May, 1968, the wedding will occur of our Librarian, Glenn Hunt, to Frances Moore. Best wishes are extended to both of them.

* * *

TRIP LEADER.

Chris Fieldhouse 94 Barker Rd., Strathfield 76-5028
 has been approved by the Committee as an Authorised Trip Leader.

CHANGED ADDRESS.

Glenn & Frances Hunt (after May 17)-
 23 Hipwood St, Nth. Sydney 929-8675

New Members. We welcome the following new Prospective members:-

Peter Best	25 Gardner Ave., Ryde	
M. Heckenburg	96 Hughes St., Cabramatta	72-9094
Alan Holley	11 Fisher Ave., Ryde	
Adrian Hulcome	4 Delecta Ave., Beauty Point	
Bruce Overton	43 Second Ave., Campsie	
D. Rieseberg	55 Culver St., Ramsgate	
Barbara Roberts	14 West Wonoona Pde., Oatley West	
Z. Szramka	23 Knight St., Cabramatta	
Bob Walker	80 Golfers Pde., Pymble	

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As Shakespeare said at the end of Othello,
 "That's all there is, there ain't no Moor."

This month we present a new feature. From time to time, we intend to publish some of the better songs not found in normal songbooks. They will be published on the back page so that they can be easily removed from the rest of the Newsletter and stapled or pinned together. If you have any which you consider suitable, send them in to Box 35, The Union. However, please keep them reasonably clean. These songs were kindly supplied by Stuart Ewing and Hugh Jones.

MEN OF CAVING

TUNE: Men of Harlech.

K. Stillman
A. Jones
C. Court

Men of caving, jump to glory
Down the hole which gapes before ye,
See the bats a-hovering o'er ye
Aiming accurately.

Speleos let's P.O.Q. it-
Doesn't take a high I.Q. to-
See they're dropping too much - on
Poor old you and me.

Now they're swooping lower
And I think they show a
Trick or two
In dropping you
A morsel of their G.U.A.N.O.A.

Now we are cavers and we skite
We do not mind a bit of —
But when it's falling left and right
It's only wise to flee.

+ + +

SWING TO RESCH'S

TUNE: Swing to Dixie.

Swing to Resch's Pilsener,
Today, Today,
Resch's comes from alky land
Swing to Resch's Pilsener
R. E. S. C. H. 'S.
Swing to Resch's Pilsener and D.A.