

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35,  
The Union,  
University of Sydney.

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Edited by the President

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Volume 7 Number 3

3rd December, 1967

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DECEMBER 16-17th	Jenolan Trip	Denis Ward Ph 6442497
DECEMBER 20 - Jan. 10	TASMANIA, VICTORIA	John Dunkley Ph. 854333
late DECEMBER	Coolesmon	Ron Murray
Jan. 16	GENERAL MEETING Geography Building Films and Supper etc.	7.30 p.m.
JANUARY 27-28	A.S.F. Meeting, ORANGE with films, field trips	John Dunkley etc.
FEBRUARY ?	Wellington	Jim Seabrook Ph. 746084
FEBRUARY 8th	GENERAL MEETING Geography Building	7.30 p.m.
FEBRUARY 10th	Trip Leaders Qualifying Trip to Wee Jasper. See inside.	Graeme Jessup
MARCH 7th	GENERAL MEETING Geography Building	7.30 p.m.
MAY ?	Ayers Rock Second Attempt	Graeme Jessup
JULY	Round Australia	Rick Crowle

EDITORIAL :

It has become obvious that SUSS is in need of more trip leaders. Our contingent of experienced leaders have become inactive created a situation where there are very few trips organised.

As a remedy to the situation there will be early in February a Trip to Wee Jasper on which prospective trip leaders may qualify to be Trip Leaders. Instruction will be given on all aspects of Trip Leadership and those satisfying the conditions as set out in the Year Book will be given Authority to lead trips.

Instruction will include :-

1. The Responsibility of leading a trip.
2. The functions of a Trip Leader both in and out of the cave.
3. What to do in the case of an emergency.
4. The Science of Cave Safety.

A lecture will be given in the February General Meeting on Trip Leadership and those interested should make sure they are present.

I hope that the Society will come back to life after the end of year doldrums and a number of trips will be planned in the January Meeting, including the Freshers Trip.

G.R.J.

GENERAL :

We welcome Glenn Hunt back from the Continent after a year abroad. Rumour has it that Glenn now rides a bicycle around Ryde and has lost 3 stone ! Sounds as though he must have run out of money.

Harley's take-over bid was successful on December 2nd and Julia our esteemed Treasurer is now Mrs. Wright.

Rick Crowle has been posted to New Guinea and skillfully managed to avoid Vietnam. Probably a good thing too. Anyway we should have some interesting reports from remote and inaccessible places.

GENERAL CONT'D.

Clive Stansfield has reappeared on the scene after eliminating his last employment and transferring to the electronic industry. We hope to see him active again in the New Year.

SEARCH & RESCUE :

A search and rescue exercise is being held at an anonymous location sometime in March or April. Those who would like a trip with a difference are welcome to join in the SUSS contingent.

Normal procedure is to hide one or more "lost" trogs and set up a systematic search pattern to locate them. Special care and ingenuity is often necessary in removing them from the care and exercises such as these highlight any unforeseen difficulties

TRIP LEADERSHIP :Responsibilities

Trip Leaders, especially in caving, have a most definite responsibility to their party.

1. They must first of all organise the trip so that everyone knows where to go and how to get there. It is most important that clear and simple instruction are formulated for any meeting places and always plans decided in the event of the meeting not eventuating.
2. Leaders must always ensure that local fire regulations are observed.

If there is a fire ban current then you must simply not allow any open fires.

It is the duty of the Trip Leader to check on fire restrictions before leaving.

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TRIP LEADERSHIP CONT'D

In any case, fires must be lit in a cleared area and care exercised to ensure that the fire is safe. Always make sure fires are completely out when leaving the campsite.

3. Leaders must ensure that every person leaves the campsite free of all rubbish, even if it means cleaning up someone else's rubbish.
4. Before entering any cave, the Trip Leader must ensure that all members of the party are competent to handle all aspects of the cave.

He must ensure that adequate lighting is carried by each person and that everyone carries a second source of light.

In the case where a whole party descends the one cave, a note should be left at the campsite indicating the cave and number of people in the party.

5. All equipment taken into a cave must be very thoroughly examined in minute detail before being taken into the cave. Any suspect equipment must not be taken into the cave.
6. Trip Leaders are to ensure that with the exception of other trip leaders (who may do as they wish) all party members are enforced to use a belay when negotiating heights.

A good knowledge of ropework is necessary including :-

- (a) All common knots - bowline, figure of eight, tarbuk and the fisherman knot.
  - (b) Correct belay and abseil procedures.
  - (c) Ropework jargon for conveying messages (Ref. last newsletter)
  - (d) Safety procedures when negotiating heights.
7. Trip Leaders must always be aware of the whereabouts of all party members. He must ensure that in the event of the party splitting up, a precise location and time for reunion is specified.

A list of all members entering the cave must be compiled at the outset.

TRIP LEADERSHIP CONT'D

8. Trip Leaders must be aware of procedures to adopt in the event of an accident. A list of telephone numbers must be at hand on all trips.
9. Trip Leaders must ensure that the code of ethics of SUSS are maintained and that landowners etc. are treated with respect.
10. A report of each trip must be sent to the Newsletter Editor for printing.

The above guide is in addition to the details as laid out in the Year Book and will service as an outline to the Material to be Understood in the Qualifying Trip.

Any person, experienced or not is invited to attend the trip to this most beautiful caving area.

SUPPER :

This year we are going to rejuvenate the SUSS supper.

Would all those in a position to do so please bring a plate of eats - drinks will be organised.

TASMANIA TRIP

A trip to Tasmania is mooted commencing about December 20 from Sydney, meeting up with Rick Crowle in Melbourne, then by plane to Devonport and hitch around Tasmania. Itinerary includes Cradle Mt. - Lake St Clair National Park overland track (seven days), the west coast, Hobart, Lake Pedder if possible, and the east coast. Returning Melbourne January 7, followed by trip to Buchan and Murrindal and the mountains of eastern Victoria. Return to Sydney about January 15.

Transport is available to and from Melbourne. Air fare is \$30 less any concession you can get. Walking equipment necessary, about 70 miles of walking.

For further particulars ring John Dunkley this weekend or before, not later than December 17.

# Caves of the nullarbor

Four years in the making, 'Caves of the Nullarbor' has been released at last. This is by far the most ambitious and attractive publication ever produced on any caving area in Australia.

72 pages, production by letterpress on high quality art paper, with 20 photographs and 12 maps, and a checklist of 192 caves and related features on the Nullarbor Plain. Glossy red and black cardboard cover.

Articles on history, exploration, geomorphology, biology, and other aspects of the caves. Foreword by Professor G.H.Dury. Jointly produced by SUSS and Cave Exploration Group (S.A.). Published by S.R.C. Ltd.

Copies of this valuable publication will be available from Graham Jessup at the next SUSS meeting. Price \$1.25. Correspondents may obtain copies from SUSS, Box 35, The Union, University of Sydney. Please add 10c. for postage.

There is no possibility of a reprint of this book due to high costs. This is not a SUSS Journal but a complete book. Obtain yours while stocks last.