

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35,  
The Union,  
University of Sydney.

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Edited by Ron Murray

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Volume 7 Number 4

14th February 1968

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ACTIVITIES CALANDER

MARCH 7th	GENERAL MEETING Geography Building	7.30 p.m.
MARCH 9-10	FRESHERS TRIP Weejasper	
MARCH 21-22	Cliefden	Denis Ward 644 2497
EASTER (April 12-16)	Buchan	John Dunkley 85 4333
???????? (Probably March 16th)	???????? Search and Rescue	
MAY ?	Ayers Rock Second Attempt	Graeme Jessup
JULY ?	Round Australia	Rick Crowle

EDITORIAL:

To keep publishing this newsletter we need contributions from YOU. If you have something printable, even remotely connected with caving, give it to me at the next meeting or ring me at (649-8620).

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SEARCH AND RESCUE

The phone numbers given several newsletters ago for Search and Rescue are now all outdated. The following numbers come to you by courtesy of the Sydney Speleological Society:

Bob Hawkins 523- 3975 (Home)

524-6904 (Work)

Dr. Sefton 95- 4562

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GENERAL:

If you are a Full or Associate member of SUSS and you are not receiving the A.S.F. Newsletter, please notify Alison Messup.

Are you tired of your smelly old trog-lamp? Do you keep forgetting your matches and then blunder around in the dark?

Gilbert & Gray & Sons, 23 Clyde St. Rydalmere, are selling second hand NIFE (Nickel-Iron) wet cells and lamps for \$ 2.00 each.

We now publish the following addresses at the request of the Secretary, as additions to the Year Book:

Peter BOSHIER 19 Alexander Pde, Roseville. 41-6079

Diane PERKINS 31/41 Avoca St., Randwick (No phone)

TRIP REPORTSCLIEFDEN

26-27-28th January, 1968

Denis Ward: I

Present on trip: Denis Ward (Leader); Rick Daniels (A); Angela Dunn (P); Ron Murray (F); Bruce Kirby (P); Donna Patterson (V).

After leaving Sydney early Friday evening the (new) Murray Landrover, plus passengers arrived at Cliefden some time after 2 a.m. Saturday morning. Later on in the day, after the usual prolonged breakfast, the party set out to explore Wyrema Cave, which is located one half mile upstream from the campsite. Approximately four hours was spent wandering around the maze section of the cave.

On Sunday the party, consisting of myself, Angela Dunn, Ron Murray and Donna Patterson, entered Taplow Flat Cave. This cave is located on the western side of the Belubula River one mile west of the campsite. After negotiating a fifteen foot chimney near the entrance we proceeded to the maze section of the cave, in an attempt on my behalf to introduce the freshettes to the joys (ahem!) of being lost. We followed a side passage to the right of the main passage (150-200 feet from the entrance) - it was in this section that Angela negotiated a very tight squeeze, where she was joined by Donna. On the other side of the squeeze is a hole, some five feet deep, however none of us at this time had any idea that we were in a new section of the cave. Following an unsuccessful attempt to get through the squeeze I decided to backtrack a few feet in an effort to reach the girls on the other side via a less arduous route. Ron remained at the squeeze. After looking for fifteen minutes without any luck I crawled back to Ron to find that he had enlarged a small hole just before the squeeze to dimensions large enough to allow relatively easy access. On the other side of the squeeze at the bottom of the five foot drop the cave widened out into a passage large enough for the party to stand in; it was obvious at this stage, because of the undisturbed dust on the floor, that no one had previously entered this section. We found the girls in a small cavern, some 50 feet from the squeeze. By now our lamps were becoming dim and the decision was made to leave the cave, refuel our lamps, have something to eat, and return later on in the day.

A few minutes after we reached the campsite vast hordes of people, who had attended the A.S.F. conference at Orange, arrived; it was just on sunset that the group, now including Rick Daniels and Bruce Kirby, re-entered Taplow Flat Cave, to explore the new section. Short work was made getting to the entrance squeeze. Upon negotiating the squeeze it was decided that the best way of exploring the section was to divide the party into three groups; the next 2-3 hours were spent exploring. The passages I myself looked at differed from the rest of the Taplow maze in that they were wetter; and, not anywhere near as horizontal. The party rendezvoused at the cavern which the girls had found when they first entered the new section. A fuller

Cliefden Trip Report (cont.)

description of the extension will be given in the next trip report.

After spending a couple of hours in Cliefden Main Cave observing some S.S.S. bods using a scaling pole to explore holes in the roof of some of the larger rooms, we left for Sydney at 3.30 p.m.

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FRESHERS' TRIP

Last year's Freshers' trip was a success insofar as there was a large number of freshers in attendance. However, very few of these stayed with SUSS. Accordingly, we present the newest SUSS production:

FRESHERS'  
TRIP  
1968

with cast of hundreds (would you believe tens?) (we hope).

This event of the SUSS year will take place at Wee Jasper on March 9-10. Bring along your friends (together with 50<sup>c</sup> each) and help make this trip a success both in actual numbers and in the number of new members.

£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
GENERAL MEETING													
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£	The 74th general meeting of the Sydney University Speleological Society will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the usual place, top floor of the Geography Building, University of Sydney, on Thursday, March 7th, 1968. Promised is a talk by Glenn Hunt on his recent overseas trip. Also, let's resurrect the supper. Anyone who can, please bring a plate of eats.												£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

For the next four pages, I would like to thank John Dunkley. Thanks are also due to Andrew Happ for the loan of the 1895 model typewriter which this newsletter is printed on, and to Ludwig Muenzenrieder, who helped with the typing.

Odds and Ends

It is very discouraging to have to report, just as "Caves of the Nullarbor" comes on to the market, that Mullamullang Cave is no longer the longest in Australia, especially seeing that SUSS has been closely associated with its exploration since the discovery on the 1963-4 Expedition. The talk of the Australian caving world now shifts to Ida Bay, Tasmania, where Exit Cave is a three-times winner. Not only is it the longest at over 6 miles, it's also the deepest at 720', and has the longest pitch with no less than 360' absolutely sheer. However, fear not, SUSS is there. Sometime member Dick Marshall is in the vanguard of exploration, and Dick Heffernan has also made a trip (rave rave). The possibilities are limitless, and they still haven't got through to Entrance Cave on the other side of the mountain. Congratulations to Tasmanian Caverneering Club, what a fine present for their 21st birthday.

Another event of momentous speleological importance occurred on September 24, 1967, when the butt of more jokes than sex itself, the Bungonia Efflux, was finally blown open by S.S.S. No foul air, bats or dead boy scouts floated out, however. There is still a deep siphon to drain. B67 is about 40' long at present and that works out at 3' a year since work began. This is clearly a triumph of perseverance for those concerned. Speculation runs rife on the next step. If a clear passage can be entered soon, the foul air which plagues exploration at Bungonia will very likely drain out. This of course is the ultimate justification for the extraordinary effort expended on this project.

Latest prestige symbols for speleo. societies (with apologies for the plagiarism of the original):

- you must have blocked a cave entrance
- you must have your own cave number system
- you must condemn as irresponsible and immature others who do this
- them, to confuse and divert, you must appear to change your mind, even if you really don't.

The new spirit of co-operation pervading the speleological scene in Sydney extends to mapping. At long last the much-heralded joint SUSS=SSS map of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan, is expected to be available late in April. This is the culmination of 8 years or so of procrastination and will, surely, be a catalyst to more informed exploration and geomorphology work in one of our biggest caves. Perhaps this achievement may bring the SUSS work on Mammoth hydrology out of mothballs for publication. It's about time.

Postpone that proposed trip to Great Britain. The greatest caving catastrophe in history has occurred. Foot and mouth disease has virtually stopped all caving. Seems that most of the caves are located across farmers grazing land, or common grazing areas. And just think of all the mud those boots take, disease and all, right across the country. Use 'sanotrog' (reg.) disposable paper towels perhaps?

Moves are afoot to restrict access to Wee Jasper caves. Latest intelligence is that the Goodradigbee Shire Council wants to turn them into tourist caves ha ha and in the meantime intends to concrete or wite off the larger ones. The Lands Department has apparently offered \$2000 subject to a similar grant from the Commonwealth Department of the Interior.

Did you know? :

"... if an explorer approaches an entrance surface from within a cave and is able to pass completely out through the surface, the portion of the entrance surface through which the explorer may pass will be defined as a cave entrance with the same module as the cave". (NSS Bull. 26, 1 : 3)

Well well. And I always naively thought that the cave entrance was the place where you got in or out. Better be careful next time you assure a prospective member that 'we're almost back to the entrance'. You may not be able to pass through. In such cases, one supposes that for certain well-built cavers, there may be caves which have no definable entrance.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

"Life of the Cave" by Charles E. Mohr and Thomas L. Poulson. McGraw-Hill, 1967. 232 pp., about 150 photos., mostly in colour, numerous maps and sketches.

This book, while not actually one of the series, is very much like the highly successful Time-Life series on aspects of science, in size, layout and depth of coverage. The authors treat, in a manner understandable to the layman like myself, the zonation of cave life, the ecological balance of the cave, the life of such fauna as bats, salamanders, crayfish and beetles and their adaptation to the subterranean environment. An appendix explains the fundamentals of zoological nomenclature for the uninitiated; the book is almost worth getting just for this most enlightening idea. Also appended is a list of U.S. Commercial and National Parks Caves, some notes on caving and equipment and on formations, and a glossary and bibliography.

This book can be thoroughly recommended to both the amateur and professional speleo-biologist and should be in the SUSS Library

A.S.F. Committee Meeting

The Annual Committee Meeting of the Australian Speleological Federation was held in Orange, N.S.W., on 27-28 January. About 30 delegates and visitors were present from 14 societies. John Dunkley represented SUSS, with appropriate accompanying noises from Glenn Hunt.

Perhaps the most controversial matter was admission of new members, however in an unexpected reversal of form, the previously vehement parochial opposition to Metropolitan Speleological Society was withdrawn, and M.S.S. was unanimously elected. This represents a recognition that prospective members must be judged on their merits when attempts to absorb them in existing societies fail. It does not follow that the Federation is lowering its standards, indeed an application from Goulburn Speleology Society was refused.

The Victorian Speleological Association was also elected unanimously, with effect from the disbandment of the existing Victorian societies which it unites. After discussion of adequacy of notice, an application from Newcastle Speleological Association was accepted subject to ratification by members.

A proposal to establish an award in recognition of outstanding contributions to speleology in Australia was accepted in principle, SUSS dissenting. A proposal sponsored by SUSS for an independent speleological publication under A.S.F. patronage was accepted in principle. It is hoped that this magazine will fill a large gap between Helictite and the various society newsletters. It was decided to continue the "A.S.F. Newsletter" more or less with its present editor and policy.

Saturday evening was spent viewing some excellent films including Newcastle S.A.'s "Expedition Underground - Glong Caves" and a new film on cave diving in South Australia.

The whole meeting was pervaded by a rare spirit of co-operation. It is to be hoped that this represents a genuine concern for the future of Australian speleology and not merely parochial strategy.

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Preliminary Notice - A.S.F. Seventh Conference, 1968

Start planning your Christmas trip now. Nullarbor is on the agenda again.

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation is on at Goolwa, 55 miles south of Adelaide, on 26 to 30 December, 1968. Field trips are to be arranged to suit all tastes and pockets. Choose from Nullarbor Plain, Kangaroo Island, Naracoorte, Tantanoola- Mt Gambier, or Buchan. Proposals are for a major cave-diving assault on the deep cave lakes of the Nullarbor. Starters required, either diving or support.

caves of the nullarbor

We don't want to shout the news to all the world, but we have just released the best book on caves ever in Australia. Need we say more? Just mail your cheque for \$1.25 plus 15c. postage to SUSS. Since over 400 have already been sold, you'll miss out if you don't hurry. And if you like it, perhaps you'll do the shouting for us?