

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35,
The Union,
University of Sydney

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Price: Five cents

Edited by Ron Murray

"Ad augusta per angusta"

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

Volume 8, Number 2

June, 1968

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE

29-30

Wombeyan

Barbara Dew
68-4514 (W)

JULY

4

GENERAL MEETING

Top floor,
Geography Building
7.30 p.m.

5

ANNUAL SUSS DINNER

Geoff Butlin

Late July

Cliefden

Denis Ward
644-2497

AUGUST

1

GENERAL MEETING

Geography Building
7.30 p.m.

EDITORIAL

A glance at the front page reveals a poor situation. Two trips ran in as many months! While, no doubt, the July meeting will be overrun by people clamouring to run trips, this is unfair to many people who, while unable to attend meetings, still wish to go caving, due to the fact that these trips will not be able to be included in the Newsletter. SUSS has a large crop of Trip Leaders and it is a poor situation when none but two of these can find the time and/ or energy required to lead a trip during this period. If you are a trip leader and wish to lead a trip, but are unable to come to the meeting, drop a line to Box 35 or ring me up and let me know about it in plenty of time for it to be included in the Newsletter.

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GENERAL MEETING

The 78th General Meeting of the Sydney University Speleological Society will be held on the top floor of the Geography Building, Sydney University, at 7.30 p.m. on July 4, 1968. Guest speaker for the evening will be Athol Abrahams, from S.U.B.W., who will give a talk, illustrated with slides, of mountaineering in N.Z., plus numerous other things.

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At the last Committee Meeting, the following members were admitted to full membership of the Society:

Angela DUNN

Zygmunt SZRAMKA

—

Quote of the week year century:-

Quite!

A	SSSSSSS	FFFFFFF
A A	S	F
A A	SSSSSSS	FFFF
AAAAAAA	S	F
A A	SSSSSSS	F

HANDBOOK

Queue up now to get your copy of the best publication concerning general caving yet published in Australia- The A.S.F. Handbook. This 300-page book is a mine of information (no pun intended!), with articles on technique, equipment, and cave lists of Australian cave areas.

All this for a mere \$3.50 to members, and \$5.00 to non-members. Applications may be made at SUSS meetings or addressed to SUSS, Box 35, The Union, Sydney University.

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SUSS PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS

20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

To be held on Friday, July 5, 1968, in the Holme and Sutherland rooms, Sydney University Union, at 6.30 p.m.

COST: Single:- \$3.00
Double:- \$5.50

If you did not receive the circular sent out by Geoff Butlin and wish to go, please send your name and address together with the necessary cash to Geoff Butlin at P.O. Box 29 Roseville 2069, Or ask for Geoff at Fisher Library.

Applications must be in by June 29.

Content of motion passed at the June 6, 1968 general meeting of SUSS:-

"That we consider that the granting of mining leases in the Mt. Armour / Colong area to the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturing Company is not in the national interest or even in the interests of the State, as has been claimed by the Government in defence of this action, and we feel that to regain lost public faith the Government must hold a public inquiry to reconsider the granting of these leases."

TRIP REPORTS

Some Activities on the Wee Jasper Freshers' Trip.
March 9-10, 1968

Graham Bradley

The large turnout at this trip was divided into two parties which visited different caves.

After preliminary ladder-climbing, rope-climbing, knot-tying and abseiling-cum-prusicking exercises the two parties headed off to their respective caves: one to the Dip and the other to Punchbowl.

The Dip party entered through the rubbish tip and some through the Daylight Hole by abseiling. Several fantastic first-cave-abseils were seen. The party then headed off into extensions 3, 4 & 5 with reasonable success.

Back at camp on Saturday night was seen a sort of Battle of the Sounds with Hugh Jones' vigorous hearty singing drowning out the much more subdued and less spontaneous folk-singing led by Margaret Parkes.

On Sunday the Parties split up again, some going to the Dip, others to Punchbowl and also Dogleg.

The Dogleg party started off very enthusiastically, hesitated a little (in anticipation of things to come) at the first bit of shallow mud and water, then plunged on into the cave. The sand-siphon was negotiated after a little digging and a short ladder set up to the wet upper passage. The mud siphon was not very wet, but consisted of highly viscous mud which seemed very reluctant to release any unfortunate trog who happened to get stuck while crawling through. The party finally reached the end rock-pile where keener members did some exploration. About half the party returned to the surface at this stage. The remaining six keen trogs, (Ron Murray, Bruce Kirby, Lois Seddons, Rick Daniel, Anne ? and myself (G.B.)) engaged in a bit of acting and/or caving and some photographic activity was noted. On returning

through the mud-siphon some bright nut realised it was great fun to slide down the mud-slopegloop!..... into the mud-siphon, whereupon a spontaneous mud-wallow ensued. Horrifying photographs were taken of trops in various stages of immersion in the evil thick mud. One mud-encrusted Pentax EV managed to be extricated from the mess.

The party pulled out to the surface and was driven in Ron Murray's LR down to the Goodradigbee where most jumped in fully trogged-up to wash the mud off. Lois and Anne in their bikinis contrasted sharply with the mud-encrusted -trog suit clad males. (strangely enough.....)

The last two cars of the party left Wee Jasper about 6 p.m. and headed for home.

WYANBENE

20-21 April, 1968

Graham Bradley

This was a combined SUSS=CSS trip, the purpose of which was to survey serpentine passages for Ed Ongley's geomorphology studies, and to have a look at the new extension.

Four SUSS people (excluding Vicki Ongley) and four CSS people made up the party which entered Main Wyanbene Cave at about 11 a.m. on Saturday.

One sprained ankle had been sustained before entering the cave and Ed sprained his ankle in the cave, so the two injured (Ed and Noel) remained behind to survey the meanders while the remaining six pushed on into the New Extension.

Some really deep (about 2½ ft) "quicksand" mud had to be traversed and some tricky muddy chimneys and slippery mudslopes were negotiated to reach the beautiful blue-green pool at the end of the Extension. Some really beautiful gypsum flower and calcite crystal formations were seen, however little stalactite-stalagmite or straw growth was observed.

The "Gunbarrel" in the New Extension was also visited. This is a very large and impressive dome-pit with water-carved "rifling" down the walls. The vertical development of the dome-pit is rather great and the top was not really visible beyond a constriction in the upper part. Vertical development of the dome-pit has removed all limestone and most of the collapse material on the floor consists of black cherty material, some conglomerate and slaty material. It is quite conceivable that such vertical development with full collapse from the surface in would result in a feature comparable in size to the Big Hole further north.

Much of the collapse material in the New Extension is very fresh and unstable and care should be exercised to avoid

dislodging boulders.

The party then moved back out, met Ed and Noel who had completed surveying, and by this time were amusing themselves by running around to keep warm. The party then continued back out through the wet cold river passages and emerged into the night air about 7 p.m.; feeling cold and miserable. However hot soup provided by Vicki and a campfire revived everyone.

On Sunday the Ongley-mobile party (SUSS) drove out to the Big Hole and a bit of Newtonian physics was carried out to estimate the hole's depth. We arrived back at the Kombi-van just in time to greet the CSS VW's which had driven out also to have a look at the Big Hole.

A relatively unhurried trip home was only interrupted by a brief sojourn at Berrima's Historic Oldest Licensed Inn.

CLIEFDEN

April 6-7

Rick Daniel

Rick Daniel (L), Denis Ward (M), Ron Murray (M), Graham Bradley (M), Zygmunt Szramka (P), Joanne Griffiths (P), Jim Seabrook (M), Dale Robinson (V).

Most of the party arrived at about 2 a.m. After usual sloth-type breakfast the next morning Taplow Flat Cave was entered at about 11 a.m. with the object of mapping sections of the cave. The maze section of the new section was mapped and also another "wing" of the old maze. The two parties came out at about 7 p.m. Food was had, then sleeping bags were hit. Sunday the parties entered Taplow Flat Cave at 10 a.m. with the object of surveying main fall rooms in the "old section". After an exhilarating $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours of mapping we emerged at 2.30 p.m. With the two parties, 2,300 feet of cave survey was completed. From the results I think that the weekend was very successful.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR FEES YET?

If a cross appears in the square below it can be taken as a sign that the gods are displeased and can only be propitiated by an offering exactly equal to your fees for 1968-9, which are:

Full & Associate- \$2.50
Prospective- 50¢

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+ +
+ +
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Please give your offering to the Treasurer at the next meeting or send it to Box 35, The Union, Sydney University

BUCHAN - MURRINDAL

Easter, 12-15 April

John Dunkley

J. Dunkley, D. Lord, G. Jessup, F. Jessup, A. Jessup, R. Murray,
G. Bradley, G. Hunt, J. Parkes, B. Daniel, P. Boshier, R. Lord,
J. Seabrook, R. Jefferson, G. Stansfield, E. Anderson, P. Best,
A. Kolley, P. Flanagan, S. White

Russell

V.S.A. members: Geoff, Graeme, Wolf snr, Wolf jnr, Serge

Caves visited: Trog Dip (LB10), Hopes (LB14), Wilson's (LB4),
Milly Pilly (M8), anticline (M11), Dalloys (M35),
Sub Aqua (M26), Pyramid galena mine (M13) etc.

Other Diversions: Kosciuszko summit trip, Snowy River swimming,
debugging Holden, Buchan pub, free hot showers,
brakes on the L.R., Denis's pancakes, Ted's puns for
all occasions, Pete's guitar

Most of the party arrived at Murrindal Friday afternoon for recuperation. The only casualty was a stone through Graeme's sealed beam. Contact was made on Saturday with members of the V.S.A. and we fronted up to the ramshackle farmhouse which one of them rents near Buchan. Babies were in abundance, caving is a family affair. In the course of time we repaired to Hodge's property at East Buchan and went down the hill.

Trog Dip is located in a cleft above the Murrindal River. Most of the explored section is an old river passage extending about 4000' into the hill. At the first squeeze ('The Hipcrusher') we abandoned Glenn and Serge and pushed on to the first water trap through some beautiful stream passages. After some argument Dick, Alison, Jeannette, Wolf and Russell shed some clothes and pushed on through a second water trap and finally to the Trog Vaults near the present limits of exploration. A difficult cave by V.S.A. standards.

Hopes Cave is a classic joint-controlled, three-dimensional maze which kept everyone including some die-hard surveyors happy.

Didjeridoo Cave was entered by a few people and contains some good formation.

By 6 p.m. there was no sign of the Trog Dip party and impatience was not helped when Russell emerged at 7 to say that he had not seen Dick et al. since they went through the second siphon some 5 hours before. Trog Dip being a long, difficult cave we decided not to push the red button, but nevertheless swung a preliminary S & R into action. Fortunately, just as reinforcements arrived from camp at 9 p.m. the party emerged, suffering only from a surfeit of mud. Inadequate communication was the cause of this little incident, together with exaggerated reports from an informant. In a cave of this nature it is quite clearly necessary to make firm plans and make sure that surface parties know them.

Dalley's Sinkhole is an impressive collapse doline of Mullarbor proportions, leading through a tortuous rockpile to superb river passages and fine formation. Exploration prospects are good.

Sub Aqua Cave is the resurgence of the Murrindal River downstream from Dalley's. Rick Daniel and Ron Murray found the sump open with 2" of air but did not push through. The nearby galena mine was visited and the river swum.

Wilson's Cave offers pleasant caving in river passages between two entrances on opposite sides of the Orbost road.

Lilly Pilly is an old tourist cave entered by courtesy of V.S.A. containign some excellent formation of several kinds.

All departed on Monday as it was raining steadily. The trip is long (400 miles from Sydney) and tortuous over the last 100 but is almost worth it for the superb scenery along the Snowy. Some varied the scenery by returning via McKillop's Bridge to Bombala, others by the long return via Orbost and Bega.

Our sincere thanks are extended to members of the Victorian Speleological Association without whom we would have been at a loss for caves, if not for words for this report.

YARRANGOBILLY

8 - 9 - 10 June

John Dunkley

This trip, which had originally been scheduled for the May vacation, was undertaken at the request of the Kosciusko National Park Trust to report on the possibility of installing gates on some of the caves on the Plateau. The forward trip was made via Tumut and we arrived at Yarrangobilly at lunchtime after battling icy and muddy roads east of Talbingo. Heavy snow still blanketed the area and extended right down to the Yarrangobilly Caves camping area. After consultation with the ranger, Mr D. Everall, we adjourned to East Deep Creek, arriving at sunset and emerging at about 8p.m. The hot showers laid on by the ranger were very much appreciated.

Next morning we drove up the hill, amused some tourists with the mysterious snowman out of whose mouth came a carbide-fed flame, and in time made it to East and West Eagles Nest Caves via Y18. There was ice on the walls of Y1 doline, the ground was frozen hard and there was no lack of snow. An inspection was made of the Eyrie. Return was made to the road just after dark, with the usual thrashing around and getting lost, a change this time being deep snow drifts through which we floundered.

A detailed report on these and other caves in remote parts of the Yarrangobilly reserve has been prepared for the National Parks Service and the Kosciusko National Park Trust.

REVIEWS

"Speleo Handbook" edited by P. Matthews. Published by the Australian Speleological Federation, 1st edition, 1968. 322pp. , maps & diagrams, extensive bibliographies. Price: A.S.F. members £3.50 non-members approved £5.00

This is by far the most exhaustive publication ever on Australian speleology, and is indicative of the growing maturity of speleological publications generally in this country. Contents are too long to list here but includes A.S.F. Reports, 9 articles on cave science, 4 on equipment and techniques, appendices containing addresses, caving films, library lists and exhaustive lists of known caves (over 1000) of all states and Papua-New Guinea, except W.A.

It is impossible to do this book justice in a few lines. Although it appears 4 years later than planned, the wait was well worth the while and the editor deserves some well-merited congratulations for overcoming tremendous difficulties, costs and criticisms. Applications for copies should be directed to the S.U.S.S. Committee. There are a few people who paid last year; they will get their copy very soon at the old price.

"Syngenetic Karst in Australia" by J.N. Jennings. pp. 41 - 110 in Contributions to the Study of Karst by P.W. Williams and J.N. Jennings. Aust. Natn. Univers. Press, Canberra, 1968. £2.50

The dune limestones of southern and western shores of this country are probably the most extensive in the world. The only relevant studies to date in such limestones has been in Bermuda, where successive karst development was assumed. The present paper discusses the degree to which karst processes have gone on concurrently i.e. syngenetically, with the consolidation of calcareous shell sand into aeolian calcarenite. This syngenetic development of caves in limestone of late Quaternary age differs markedly from the classic subsequent features developed in more massive, much older limestones of N.S.W. for example. The author discusses lithological variations in cave development and the possibility that the present caves have developed extremely rapidly in the Recent period. Further dating of the limestones is needed and there are many other problems awaiting investigation.

Although definitely on the technical side, this paper will be of interest to the intelligent speleo. and should in particular be read by those who went on the field trips following the Perth Conference of A.S.F. in 1964, or who are thinking of going to the Kangaroo Island trip after this year's conference in S.A.

COLONG (again)

No, we have not heard the latest in the Colong saga, as was explained at the last meeting. Harley Wright and JohnDunkley went to a meeting of interested conservationists on 29th May in The S.U. Union. Several speakers including such notables as Milo Dunphy and Dr J.G.Mosely spoke on the background to the present controversy, following which a very lengthy motion was debated which, after condemning the short-sighted action of the Government, proceeded to appoint a "Colong Committee" among whose duties would be the submission of the meeting's views to the Premier and take such action as the Committee felt necessary and desirable to bring this matter to the attention of the public. A press release appeared in remote parts of the daily newspapers the following. (it has been alleged that pressure has been brought to bear on the papers to suppress further discussion of this matter).

The facts of the case were put to and discussed by the last General Meeting of S.U.S.S., and a motion passed at the meeting expressing our attitude is contained on page 14 of this issue of the Newsletters. The purpose of this harangue is to alert members to the need to write to their local member of State Parliament demanding that the Government review its decision to grant a lease in the Mt Armour / Colong.

The correct procedure is to address your letter to your local member

c/o Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Names of members for the Sydney area elected in 1968 are as set out below. It might help you to word your letter a little differently according to whether he is a member of the Government or the Opposition. Points to make in your letter are :

1. It has not been demonstrated that limestone can be obtained from Colong area without upsetting the wilderness value of the locality
2. Alternative supplies have not been adequately investigated in view of cogent arguments against the present site.
3. Contrary to the Minister's statement that this mining would be in the nation's best interests, it is true that in fact cement from Tasmania is cheaper. Surely efficiency in resource use is what constitutes the nation's best interests.
4. In the special circumstances of this case, has sufficient attention been given to the rationalisation of existing leases at Marulan.

M.L.A.s from Sydney area, returned to N.S.W. Parliament 1968

ASKIN, R.W.	Collaroy	BANNON, B.J.	Rockdale
BARRACLOUGH, L.J.	Bligh	BOWEN, L.E.	Randwick
CAHILL, T.J.	Cooks River	CAMERON, J.A.	Northcott
CLOUGH, J.A.	EASTWOOD/	COADY, R.F.	Drummoyne
COLEMAN, W.P.	Fuller	COX, P.F.	Auburn
CRABTREE, W.F.	Kogarah	CROSS, D.D.	George's R.
DARBY, E.D.	Manly	DEGEN, R.C.	BALMAIN
DOYLE, K.R.	Vaucluse	DURICK, V.F.	LAKEMBA
EARL, C.J.	Bass Hill	EINFELD, S.D.	Bondi
ELLIS, K.	Coogee	FERGUSON, L.J.	Merrylands
FLAHERTY, J.P.	Granville	GRIFFITH, I.R.	Cronulla
HAIGH, W.H.	Maroubra	HILLS, P.D.	PHILLIP
HUNTER, D.B.	Ashfield	JACKETT, J.G.	Burwood
JAGO, A.H.	Gordon	KEARNS, N.J.	Bankstown
KELLY, R.J.	East Hills	McCAW, K.M.	Lane Cove
McGINTY, L.F.	Willoughby	MADDISON, J.C.	Hornsby
MAHONEY, D.J.	Farramatta	MANNIX, N.J.	Liverpool
MEAD, T.F.	Hurstville	MORTON, P.H.	Mosman
MUTTON, L.W.	Yarralla	QUINN, E.N.	Wentworthville
RUDDOCK, M.S.	The Hills	RYAN, P.N.	Marrickville
SOUTHEE, J.B.	BLACKTOWN	STEWART, K.J.	Canterbury
WADDY, J.L.	Kirribilli	WALKER, N.D.	Sutherland
WILLIS, E.A.	Earlwood		

E. & O.E.

While you are at it, write a similar letter to the Premier, R.W.Askin, and to the Hon.W.C.Fife, Minister for Mines. The sheer volume of protests about this affair may be enough to sway the Government.

It is not sufficient to rely on the Society to write a letter or two. SUSS does not have a vote and in any event one letter is nothing - several thousand are needed.

Since some of the proposed operations of the mining company, in particular running of a crushing plant, will require a large dam the water from which will subsequently, after being polluted with dam, the water and bather will be interested in ways to complain about pollution of their water supply. Write to them and air your views in a somewhat more polite manner since it's their fault only by default of the Government.

S.R.Smith, Secretary,
M.W.S. & D.B.
Bathurst & Pitt Street,
SYDNEY

USE OF SPACE BLANKETS IN CAVING

In the "N.S.S. News" Vol. 26 no. 1 (January 1968) there is a consumer's report on the use of space blankets in a cave in Virginia where it was not feasible to take sleeping bags owing to constrictions in passages. Fifty hours were spent underground including two nights under the blankets. Results:

1. Blankets too small (56" x 84") to wrap in comfortably.
Difficult to hold ends together, nothing to attach pins to.
2. Blankets are rather inflammable - beware of trog lamps.
3. Biggest problem is their waterproof qualities. Body moisture collects on inside and starts to drip after a few hours, requiring sponging off every few hours.
4. Ground insulation was not received from the blankets.

Because they weigh so little (4oz per square yard) these blankets have great potential not only in exploring remote systems but as part of emergency supplies and for Search and Rescue they would be a great improvement over a sleeping bag. It seems that what is needed is a sleeping bag made only of this material.

LATE FINAL EXTRAForthcoming Activities:

- 19th July for two weeks - Ayers Rock return
details from Rick Crowle at 447415
- June 29 - 30 Kosciusko skiing trip
details Rick Crowle again
- July 14 possible tobogganing trip or open to
suggestion. Rick Crowle again
- first week September - possible Yarrangobilly trip
details John Dunkley in August

Former Secretary Alison Jessup has been removed north. Address:

Univac, c/o Cables and Wireless,
Mercury House,
HONG KONG

You may have gathered the impression that Rick Crowle is back.