

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35 , The Union,
Sydney University.

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Edited by Ron Murray

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Volume 8 , Number 4

August 1968

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

August	24 - 25	Ski-ing, tobogganing etc.	Denis Ward 6442497
	31 - 1	Skiing, tobogganing etc.	Rick Crowle 447415
September	5	GENERAL MEETING, Geography Building, 7.30pm	
	7 - 8	Church Creek	-- details within
	14 - 15	Bungonia cleanup and social weekend (date tentative, details later)	
October	3	GENERAL MEETING, Geography Building, 7.30pm	
	5 - 7	Coolemon (conditions permitting)	John Dunkley 854333
	13	Football and Barbecue with Metropolitan S.S. St Ives Showground, 1.30pm	
November	7	GENERAL MEETING, Geography Building, 7.30pm	
December	early	Cliefden - mapping	Denis Ward
	27 - 31	A.S.F. Conference	-- details within

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The proposed amendment to the SUSS constitution is as follows:(the words underlined are to be deleted)

4(a) Government of the Society shall be vested in the Committee which shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, one General Committee Member, all of whom shall be members subscribing to clause 3(c)(i) above, and one Associate Committee member who shall subscribe to Clause 3 (c) (ii) above.

After modification this clause will now read:-

4(a) Government of the Society shall be vested in the Committee which shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall be members subscribing to Clause 3 (c) (i) above, and two Committee Members at least one of whom shall subscribe to clause 3 (c) (ii) above.

The object of the alteration is to allow for a maximum of two Associate members (instead of one) to be in the Committee at the same time. It should be noted, however, that this change does not make mandatory that there should be two Associate members on the Committee, its use only being if the need arises. The reason for the proposed alteration is as follows:-

As no doubt most members are aware SUSS is not exactly riding on the crest of a wave as far as useful scientific caving is concerned, membership is falling off, and most of the trip leaders cannot find the time to run trips. This lack of activity has to some extent crept into the Committee itself-its undergraduate members with their university obligations just haven't the time to fulfil all their obligations/duties etc. Next year the situation is likely to deteriorate even more so-unless some of the more active Associate members are admitted as members of the Committee.

In the past Clause 4a of the Constitution has prevented such an extension-its amendment has been thwarted by cries of "Associate Member Takeover" and so on-it is obvious that the alteration in question will still leave undergraduate/graduate members of the committee with a voting majority (six to two).

Denis Ward.

HELP

SAVE

COLONG

TRIP REPORT.

JENOLAN

7-7-68

Denis Ward

Present on trip- Denis Ward (L), Jeanette Parkes (M) ("J" Gaye), Dick Heffernan (M), Ron Murray (M), Chris Fieldhouse (M), Rick Crowle (M).

Have you ever felt like sleeping in on Sunday morning, you know, remaining in the "horizontal" till about ten, eleven o'clock? No doubt, most of the participants, for example, one Jeanette Parkes, felt like doing just this; however, throwing caution to the wind she managed, although she did tell us often enough that she probably wouldn't survive-over, and over, and over..... Before departing Sydney Rick Crowle had the dubious honour of waking John Dunkley in order to retrieve his electronic flashgun-one thing for John, though, he smiled..... through his teeth.

The party reached Jenolan at 9.30 a.m. and after the usual preliminaries at the guides' hut, adjourned to Mammoth Flat. The object of the trip was to photograph parts of Mammoth. The first two/three hours were spent photographing people climbing down the ladder into the entrance chamber-and watching Dick's attempt at scaling the wall opposite the ladder pitch, in order to gain entry to a small hole near the roof. After innumerable attempts he finally managed to secure a rope, upon which he could prusik up about 30'-40'. By this time the rest of the party had grown tired of sitting around in a little circle photographing one another and further attempts by Dick to scale the wall were left until the outward journey.

The party proceeded to the Railway Tunnel, which was observed by the light of the Crowle diprotodon-following this some of the group visited Lower Level River in order to immortalize people chimneying across the river.

Upon completing the day's photographing Dick resumed his attempts at climbing the wall. After three hours he reached the top-to find that the hole blocked off about ten feet in. We left the cave at about 8 o'clock.

HELP

SAVE

COLONG

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION
SEVENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Preliminary details have been released of the next A.S.F. Conference to be held at the end of this year. Make your plans now.

PLACE : Graham's Castle, Goolwa, South Australia. Located 59 miles south of Adelaide on the mouth of the Murray, convenient to beaches etc.

DATE : 27 - 31 December, 1968

COST : About £20 full accommodation for the four days, including Cavemans Dinner and organizing costs.

PROGRAMME : Exact details will be circulated later. Will include the usual round of business, papers, talks, discussions, arguments, slides, films, demonstrations, drinking and other revelry.

FIELD TRIPS : Several trips of varying lengths and expense are to be organized :

Kangaroo Island for about two weeks from 1 January. Cost not more than about £35 including cost of conveying self and cars by the car ferry to Kingscote, and the use of a large truck for carrying gear and water (K.I. is rather dry in summer). Cheaper if the truck is cancelled.

Nullarbor concentrating on Mulla-mullang for at least 5 days. Total length about two weeks according to demand. Private transport being arranged.

Naracoorte for those with little time or money. Caves available for periods from a day to several weeks.

Start making your plans now. Application forms should be arriving soon and will be distributed to those interested.

TRIP REPORTWOMBEEYAN29 - 30 JuneBarbara Dew

Caves visited were the Basin, the Guineacor, the Blackberry Hole and various holes in the doline on the hill (the Bone Hole). All these were searched for bats, but in spite of a quite thorough examination, only one bat, a male minionterus schreibersii was caught. Further exploration in the Basin only indicated the numerous possibilities that still exist. The Blackberry Hole also offers prospects for exploration but would require clearing and excavation work.

MAMMOTH MAP MEETING30th July

Representatives of SUSS met with SSS again to discuss the final draft of the joint society map of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan. Surveyed portions of the cave totalling nearly two miles have been drawn up at standards varying from CRG Gr 3 to 6. Work still remaining includes mapping of Smirnoff's Passage, of sections off the Railway Tunnel, and resurveying to higher standards of the North Tunnel, extensions off the Oolite and other minor passages.

The problem of terminology was discussed, in particular the prevalent but undesirable practice of using the word 'extension'. For example, the 'Northern River Extension' implies the existence of a Northern River, and is unsound anyway. The term 'North Tunnel', suggested by Ted Anderson in S.U.S.S. Journal 6 : 2 was adopted. From a morphological point of view also, some names commonly applied to parts of the cave are inconsistent and inaccurate. Thus Central Level River is not even in Central Level, which is the Railway Tunnel. The stream has been renamed Central River. Several new names were adopted, for example, 'the Middle Bit' for the section between first and second crossings of Central River, and 'Ice-pick Lake' for a remote body of water beyond the Skull and Crossbones. Some of the other names used will seem inappropriate and unknown at first but it is hoped that if and when the map is published, the names will become standardized.

Several exploration leads remain. Passages east of the Railway Tunnel are still not adequately explored. Scaling pole work in the Middle Bit could lead to a hypothesized northerly continuation of the Railway Tunnel, while the fabled Woolly Rhinoceros Cavern may yet be reached upstream of the cave.

Discussions about publication have been deferred pending completion of the master map, at which stage the direction of future exploration and morphological work should be more evident.

THE CONTINUING STORY OF COLONG CAVES

On 27 - 28th July, a party from Sydney Speleological Society at last reached Church Creek. A preliminary search of the limestone turned up three caves, including what is believed to be the Lyttelton Cave, reported first over 60 years ago but seldom if ever seen since. An underground river was discovered and a nearly extinct species of rock wallaby identified. Formations in the caves were excellent. A press release was made and the details appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday 30th July. Present on the trip was a photographer, and the results of his labours were shown on ABC Television.

All these features are threatened by proposed mining activities at Church Creek. Both S.U.S.S. and the Australian Speleological Federation (through its N.S.W. Co-ordinating Committee) are committed to support of the Colong Committee, the aims and methods of which were set out in the last issue of the Newsletter. In particular, we must support the immediate objectives,

1. to project the facts to a very large number of people.
2. To register the collective indignation of those people with members of State Parliament.

All those concerned with the Colong issue realise that the mining leases have been issued by the State Government and only State Government can revoke them. The Save Colong campaign is, therefore, directed toward persuading the Government to change its mind. This may involve a loss of face which Cabinet will only accept if convinced that a firm stand will endanger marginal seats.

What to do

1. Attend the combined A.S.F. trip to Church Creek on September 7 - 8. This trip, details of which were given last month, will offer Land Rover shuttle service over the last few miles of trafficable road for car owners without chains and/or four wheel drive. Further details from the Convenor, Bob Hawkins (SSS) at 524 - 6094 (work), 5233975 (home). A SUSS contingent has been formed and likely car-starters include Rick Crowle (447415) and John Dunkley (354333). Some transport available.
2. Write a letter of protest to your local State M.P. See list in the June newsletter for thoughts.
3. Write to the Press, who may not publish, but should be impressed by the sheer volume of correspondence.
4. Keep complaining.

REVIEWING THE LITERATURE

"Landforms of Australia" by Vincent Serventy. Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1967. 132pp., almost 200 photos, many in colour. Price \$4-50.

In the popular literature of tourism and glossy travel books, the geography of scenery is too often treated with a flippancy and shallowness scarcely flattering to the average intelligence. It is therefore refreshing to find that Mr Serventy, a conservationist and educationist, is not afraid to espouse the technical and geomorphological aspects of scenery. It would be hard to fault the text of this book; even the oft-abused cycle of erosion is seen in the light of the several contributions to understanding of denudation processes, and there is an excellent treatment at an elementary level of coastal morphology, sea-level changes, tectonic forces, Pleistocene pluvial effects, the duricrust etc.

For the speleologist, the book contains photographs and text on the Nullarbor (Koonalda Cave, the Bunda Cliffs fronting the ocean, Eucla sandhills, the treeless plain), Bungonia Gorge, Tunnel Cave (Napier Range, W.A.), Margaret River area (W.A.) (Lake Cave, Mammoth Cave), Augusta Jewel Cave (W.A.).

A thoroughly recommended piece of Australiana.

"N.S.S. News", Vol. 26, no. 6 : June 1968

The Cincinnati Museum of Natural History has constructed a cave in the museum. The base material is gunnite, a mixture of cement and sand sprayed with a hose on to a steel mesh framework). There are no less than 1289 artificial stalactites from $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 14'4" long, plus stalagmites, straws, gypsum flowers, plants and oak leaves at the entrance etc. Not to mention 3333 cubic feet of concrete, 494 tons sand, 127 tons cement, 1386 assorted cave animals, mostly rubber bats and salamanders, also some live ones. The 294'-long passage contains a dome-pit, a waterfall, a running stream (3751 gallons water). A recorded description of the whole thing can be had from 60 telephones at 11 telephone stations.

"Speleo Spiel" June 1968 (Tasmanian C.C.)

Exit Cave is now just over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. Apart from this length record for Australia, they also claim the deepest (720') and the longest pitch (360'), and the longest gypsum needle (3') in Australia, all in the one cave.

FOR SALE

"SPELEO HANDBOOK" - published by
the Australian Speleological
Federation, 1968.

Price : £3- 50 (members)
£5- 00 (non-members)

"CAVES OF THE NULLARBOR"

Produced by S.U.S.S. and C.E.G.S.A.
Published by the Speleological
Research Council, 1967.

Price £- 25 + 15c. postage.

"S.U.S.S. Journal" Vol 7 No. 1,
1966.

Price : 50c. + 10c. postage

"S.U.S.S. Journal" Vol. 7 No. 2
1968.

Price : 50c. + 10c. postage.

"S.U.S.S. Yearbbok" , 1967
free on application

"THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL
BACKGROUND" (to the Nullarbor)
by J.R.Dunkley. Reprinted from
"Caves of the Nullarbor".

A limited number of copies avail-
able free on application

all the above publications may be obtained at any meeting of the
Society or by writing to S.U.S.S.