

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Edited by Ron Murray-

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Volume 8, Number 6

October, 1968

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER	7	GENERAL MEETING	Geography Building, 7.30 p.m.
	30 Nov.-1 Dec.	CLIFDEN	Denis Ward 644-2197
DECEMBER	5	GENERAL MEETING	7.30 p.m.
	7-8	CLIFDEN	Denis Ward
	14-15	CLIFDEN	Denis Ward
	27-30	ASE CONFERENCE SOUTH AUSTRALIA	
JANUARY	4-14	Field trips following A.S.F. Conference to Mullarben (incl. 5 days at Mullamullang) also to Kangaroo Island and Naracoorte for as long as short a time as you like. n.b. Application forms for the Conference now available from the Secretary.	

At the November General Meeting it is hoped to screen a selection
of movie films about caving and associated activities.

TRIP REPORT (late!)

JENCLAN

11 - 12 May

Chris Fieldhouse

Present: C. Fieldhouse (leader), D. Ward, R. Murray, Z. Szramka,
R. Sterry

Two members of the party (myself and Denis) arrived at Jenolan at about 6pm. Friday. We met "J. Gay" Parkes who was working there over the holidays. We then proceeded to a barbecue being given by the guides. Several hours later we came back down Five Mile Hill under gravity as the car had stopped (typical VW junk - ed.)

On Saturday the ladder was dropped into Chevalier Cave and the scaling pole taken out again. We then entered the Rho Hole which proved to be very good, although we could not find the connection with the Ian Carpenter Cave. On Saturday night all but Denis went to a party in the staff area at Cave's House and had a most eventful time. Our prospective showed great promise in this field, exclaiming that the sun was up when a flashgun went off.

On Sunday Chevalier was photographed and two members from a Queensland club were introduced by Smokey and came with us. We then went up to Warba Cave on the contact (end of northern limestone - ed.). This is a potentially collapsing cave and while we were definitely the first in, we would not recommend it to anyone without a great deal of care and experience as it is very unstable.

-- Chris Fieldhouse

MISCELLANEOUS

Next month, November, S.U.S.S. is twenty years old, having been formed in November 1948. S.U.S.S. has the distinction of being the first speleological society on the Australian mainland, only the Tasmanian Caverneering Club being older (by two years)

Rick Crowle has been appointed editor of the next S.U.S.S. Journal. Contributions in the way of interesting trip reports of an unusual kind, book reviews, cartoons, maps and anecdotes are invited.

President John Bunkley and Miss Jeannette ("J. Gay") Parkes were engaged on 19th September. It is not clear just what they are engaged in exactly.

OLD CAVE SHOWS ITS BEAUTY

Fig Tree Cave, Wombeyan, has had a flawless safety record since it was first entered 126 years ago.

The cave will be open to the public again tomorrow after 40 years.

It was closed in 1928 after other Wombeyan caves had electric lights installed.

Mr Clyde Stiff, 45, superintendent of the Wombeyan cave system, said the cave was one of the oldest to be opened to the public.

"Records show the cave was first explored by a Rev. Denning in 1842," Mr Stiff said.

SPLENDOUR COLOUR

The public was being taken through it by candle-light and magnesium flares in the 1870s.

"In all the time to 1928 not one person was lost or injured in it.

"Fig Tree Cave has an intrigue which I can't explain."

"The beauty, splendour and colour of its forma-

tions will compare favourably with any in the world.

"Even though I take tours through the caves every day I never fail to be fascinated."

Fig Tree cave is now equipped with electric lights.

The Sun,
27-9-68

State approves new parks

The State Cabinet yesterday gave formal approval to the establishment of three new national parks in N.S.W. The new parks add about 225 square miles to the State's national parks and wildlife reserves.

The largest will be the Kanangra-Boyd National Park, 90,000 acres in the Blue Mountains.

The second will be Barrington Tops National Park, 32,986 acres, 50 miles north of Newcastle.

The Premier, Mr Askin, said yesterday that this park covered a unique range of features from sub-tropical and temperate rainforests to alpine wood-

lands and snowgrass valleys.

The third new national park will extend over the southern end of the Cocoparra Range, 20 miles north-east of Griffith.

HISTORIC SITES

This area stands out in contrast to the surrounding flat irrigation areas.

It includes the 1,500-foot Mt. Binya and will be a permanent sanctuary for native flora and fauna.

The Premier also announced that Nielsen Park and part of Vaucluse Park would be added to the historic site area of the State.

Sydney Morning Herald,
2-10-68

Kanangra-Boyd National Park includes Colong Caves and Tuglow Caves, but of course Church Creek Caves have been excised from the Park.

Solution to Colong?

THE name Colong has become a battle-cry for conservationists. Now some startling new information has come to light.

Basic to much of the controversy whether Colong Cave Reserve should or should not be mined for limestone was the question whether there was anywhere else limestone could be found in quantity.

Conservationists had suggested that deposits in the Murrumbidgee Creek area might be used. However, the official reply was that these deposits were very small, only about 600,000 tons.

With commendable common sense the Colong Committee engaged a firm of geological consultants to look at Murrumbidgee Creek. Their report states "the deposits probably exceed 50,000,000 tons."

With this new information to hand, it seems a solution to the controversy is now in sight.

We can still have our magnificent national park and the cement company can still have their limestone at a convenient distance.

Daily Telegraph 30-9-68

in Vincent Serventy's
"Nature Walkabout" p. 18

MULLAMULLANG GRAVITY STUDIES BEGUN

In Adelaide recently for two weeks between oceanographic cruises in Antarctic waters was Dick ("Mad Dog") Heffernan. Adelaide, of course, is only 940 miles from Mulla-mullang, when Sydney is a full 1800 miles, so Dick wasted no time organizing a trip for those precious two weeks. Quickly lining up a gravity meter (valued at several thousand dollars) and, of course, a Land Rover, he set out for Nullarbor again. Heaven knows how one manages to bludge such expensive items of equipment. The details of the trip are very vague and are contained in a sentence or two on a postcard dated around 20th October. However it seems that a traverse was made with the gravity metre above the known passages of Mulla-mullang as a check control. The experiment then consisted of taking various readings south of the doline at the entrance with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of postulated infinite extensions in this direction (the evidence so far consisting of 'logical' guesses and the draught coming out of the Refrigerator in the south doline). Anyway, results have yet to worked out and tabulated and in the meantime Dick has gone to Antarctica for a few months. So we'll wait with great interest this possibly very significant piece of work, probably the first of its kind in Australia.

IN THE LITERATURE ...

The Western Australian Speleological Group produces a most invaluable little newsletter / periodical every few months which usually contains some most significant papers on caves of W.A. In fact, some of the best papers ever published on caves in W.A. Have appeared in the "Western Caver". Unfortunately, its quality is highly irregular, the duplicating being at best somewhat worse than the SUSS Newsletter, and the layout needing improvement. Better this than none at all cf. SUSS Journal.

Anyway, several recent editions of the "Western Caver" can be thoroughly recommended reading for an insight into the unusual caves of the dunes of W.A:

- Vol. 7 No. 5 , Oct. 1967 : "Notes on the Origin of Caves, south-west W.A." by Lennox Bastian
- Vol. 7 No. 6 , Nov. 1967 : "The Geomorphology of the Cape Hamelin Coastal Limestones and Sand Dunes" by T.D. Bain
(also has a note on the location of Dingo Donga Cave)
- Vol. 8 No. 1 , Jan. 1968 : "Notes on Cave Development in the Augusta - Margaret River Area" by various authors.