

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

	SSSSSSSS	UUU	UUU	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS
	SSSSSSSS	UUU	UUU	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS
	SSS	UUU	UUU	SSS	SSS
	SSS	UUU	UUU	SSS	SSS
Box 35, The Union,	SSSSSSSS	UUU	UUU	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS
Sydney University,	SSSSSSSS	UUU	UUU	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS
N.S.W. 2006	SSS	UUU	UUU	SSS	SSS
	SSS	UUUUUUUU		SSS	SSS
	SSSSSSSS	UUUUUUUU	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS
	SSSSSSSS	UUUUUUUU	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS	SSSSSSSS

Price: Five Cents

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

Volume 8 , Number 7

January, 1969

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

January	12	Jenolan - photography	Denis Ward 6442497
	25 - 27	Jenolan - Mammoth (possible trip only)	John Dunkley 854333
	25 - 27	Wyanbene (tentative)	Denis Ward 6442497
February	6	GENERAL MEETING, Geography Building, 7.30pm	
	8 - 9	Bungonia - Combined A.S.F. societies Grand Cleanup and Social Weekend All Welcome	
March	6	GENERAL MEETING, Geography Building, 7.30pm	
	8 - 9	Freshers Trip - location to be determined (probably Bungonia, Wee Jasper or Timor)	
	23	Proposed Field Day in Sydney area	
April	3	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	

OBITUARYBARBARA DEW

Barbara Dew, who had been a member of the Society since 1953, longer than any remaining member, passed away on December 23, 1968, after a long illness.

Many members will recall with gratitude the assistance Barbara gave them in their first few caving trips, perhaps on a batting trip to Wombeyan, or in earlier years, on a freshers trip. I remember Barbara very clearly from one of my earliest trips with SUSS, when she was organizing the 1961 Freshers Trip at Jenolan, clad in her ubiquitous shorts. After that I remember several leisurely but always profitable batting and photographic trips to Wombeyan.

Others will remember her for her quiet presence at meetings, usually knitting or selling badges, or perhaps for her occasional appearance in the women's pages of the Herald or Womens Weekly, talking about her work in bat research and in parasitology. Barbara edited the last issue of the SUSS Journal and was active in the Speleological Research Council. Her room in Trop Med was always a readily available store for journals, badges and carbide. She had been convenor of the Bat Research Sub-Committee since its inception.

All members will, I am sure, join me in expressing the Society's sincere sympathy for Mrs Dew and other members of her family.

JRD

"HONOURS FOR MINISTERS - WHILE THEY LAST"

(Sydney Morning Herald, 31 / 12 / 68)

"The Australian Speleological Federation yesterday criticised the State Government's decision to allow limestone mining in the Colong caves reserve - and then endorsed a proposal to name each of the 13 caves after a Cabinet Minister.

"Among the names endorsed at the seventh biennial conference at Goolwa, S.A., were 'Askin Cave' and 'Willis Pothole'.

"Members at the conference attacked the mining decision, confirmed by the Government on October 2, and called on the Premier, Mr Askin, for an assurance that no caves would be damaged.

"The conference decided to support the activities of the Colong committee in its efforts to have the mining lease revoked and the area included in the proposed Kanangra-Boyd National National Park.

"A spokesman for the conference said the 13 caves could be destroyed if the Government did not protect them.

"The full list of names for the caves is: Askin Cave, Fife Cave, Hughes Cave, Lewis Cave, Cutler Pothole, McCaw Cave, Willis Pothole, Beale Cave, Jago Cave, Morton Cave, Morris Cave, Maddison Cave and Crawford Cave.

"All the caves are in the Church Creek area, about 10 miles south of the Jenolan Caves."

"CAVES NAMED AFTER CABINET"

(The Australian, 31 / 12 / 68)

"The Australian Speleological Federation yesterday endorsed a proposal to name 13 caves recently discovered in the Colong Caves reserve in N.S.W. after members of the N.S.W. Cabinet.

"Meeting in Adelaide, the biennial conference of the Federation deplored plans by the N.S.W. Government to allow limestone mining in the reserve, which is about 60 miles north of Sydney."

The Adelaide Advertiser and the Sydney Telegraph also carried the story.

THE MULLAMULLANG GRAVITY SURVEYS

As reported in the last newsletter, Dick Heffernan at last reached Mullamullang in October complete with Land Rover and gravity metre hired at exorbitant cost in Adelaide. A brief report on the results was presented by Dr Harvey Cohen at the ASF Conference. Since then, a paper has been received from Dick in N.Z. for publication in the professional literature, so it is not proposed here to detail the method but merely to note the results. The mathematics is beyond me, anyway.

The aim of the exercise was to locate postulated extensions south of the entrance doline. A control traverse of 1400' was made at right angles to the main passage near White Lake. The gravimetric anomaly predicted by the known cave was obtained as the surface traverse passed over the main passage. More important, the survey predicted a passage of comparable dimensions 600-700' to the south-east, in a position where a passage had been previously extrapolated on geomorphological and meteorological grounds. It appears to be in a joint parallel to the main passage. To convince yourself, draw a line on the map of Mullamullang to connect Easter Extension north-easterly towards the Drop-Off. Meteorological work by Wigley et al. has also predicted much more cave than has been found yet. The arguments are tenuous but certainly not improbable.

A second traverse south-west of the entrance turned up an anomaly which could be a large deep cave, but due to the method used, could also be a smaller shallower cave.

Finally, a further attempt was made to get through the rockpile in the south doline. A depth of about 150' was reached but that is at best only half-way to the postulated extensions. Further progress is possible, and certainly they've been deeper than anyone else, but it will be most difficult. The effort could be well worth it though; there is every reason to expect a cave of Mullamullang proportion to continue in this direction.

Our interest in this work, of course, is in the speleological prospects and they look most promising. All we have to do is find a way of getting into the vast innumerable. On the other hand, the method used is possibly unique; there does not seem to have been any previous work on locating caves gravimetrically and the Nullarbor, with its large caves and horizontally bedded limestone is ideal for the test. Dick Heffernan is to be congratulated in his originality (and perseverance in finally getting it all out there) and we will look forward with great interest to the publication of the results in detail.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the A.S.F. was held in South Australia from 27-31 December. and was a resounding success. SUSS was represented by Rick Crowle, Ron Murray, Glenn and Frances Hunt, Mike and Ros Shepherd, John Dunkley and Ted Anderson. Ex-patriates Henry Shannon and Leslye Gartrell (Mackay) were also there. The SA Minister for Lands opened the proceedings. I bet we wouldn't get the NSW Minister for Lands to open such a meeting here. A report of some of the more interesting facets of the Conference will be published in the next Newsletter (hopefully).

Ex-patriate SUSS members Clive Stansfield and Henry Shannon recently discovered a mile or so of cave in the Camooweal area of north-western Queensland.

Mr F. Gaven, Secretary and Director of Tourist Activities, retired in December. SUSS had had much contact with Mr Gaven concerning visits to Jenolan and Wombeyan, and in 1966 we were honoured to welcome him as guest speaker at one of our meetings. Despite his busy position, he always took a most active interest in cave discoveries and was particularly interested in the snail like pace of the Mammoth Map. We welcome his successor Mr R.E. Murdoch and hope our association will be long and profitable.

At the next meeting we will be looking for volunteers to assist in the Orientation Week festivities. A stall will be set up, we hope, to trap unsuspecting freshers. On Tuesday of Orientation Week a slide show and talk will be held in as accessible a spot as possible.

Also at the next meeting nominations will be received for members of the Speleological Research Council Ltd.

SUSS has now sold over 1000 copies of "CAVES OF THE NULLARBOR" and there are only a little over 140 left. Better get yours while there are still some left. Only £1-25. SUSS Journals Vol. 7 Nos. 1 & 2 are also going at 50c.

Read this and shudder at Yankee ingenuity and hypoerisy ...

"CAVE ERA RETURNS IN BIG BUSINESS"

(Daily Mirror, 28th November)

"As life becomes increasingly more cluttered on the earth's surface big business is going underground.

"Du Pont recently built an ammonia storage dump in solid rock 340 feet below ground in Gibbstown, New Jersey.

"Kansas City has become the frozen food capital of the world because, in part, of the natural limestone caves in the bluffs around the city.

"Everything from pizzas to car parts are (sic) stored in the 464,000 square miles (sic) of cavern space.

"Because the limestone caves are natural, dry and have a year-round temperature range of 56 to 60 degrees, they were ideal.

"The cost of preparing them as storage space was about one half that of comparable surface space.

"All that was needed was the addition of concrete floors and walls.

"Air-conditioning and heating costs are about two-thirds the normal charge.

Fire insurance can be bought at the lowest rate available.

"Most big chain stores use the Kansas City caverns. They ship in car-loads of frozen food, store it and order it out via computers as shops request new supplies.

"Companies making TV dinners and other prepared foods store the necessary ingredients in the caves, cooking it only when the new supply is needed.

"Food is not the only product going underground. Fully-charged car batteries, color film and photographic paper also are cave dwellers.

"So are flowers. Rose bushes and lily bulbs are stored in the autumn for spring planting.

REMINDER

next General Meeting
6th February
Geography Building