

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

APRIL	25-27	COOLEMAN	Rick Crowle 44-7415
MAY	1	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> Top Floor, Geography Building	7.30 p.m.
	10-11	COLONG	Ron Murray 649-8620
	17-18	CLIEFDEN (Surveying)	Denis Ward 644-2497
JUNE	5	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> Top Floor, Geography Building	7.30 p.m.
	14-15-16 (Long Weekend)	BENDEThERA (Don't panic, we're going by Landrover)	Ron Murray 649-8620
	14-15	CLIEFDEN	Denis Ward
JULY	3	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u>	
	19-20	ABERCROMBIE	Denis Ward
AUGUST	16-17	CLIEFDEN	" "

On April 10, SUSS held a rabble loosely termed its Annual General Meeting. Anyway, we had the election of the new Committee for 1969, and the results came out thus:

President	Ted Anderson
Vice-President	Rick Crowle
Secretary	Denis Ward
Assistant Secretary	Chris Fieldhouse
Treasurer	Jeanette Parkes
Full Committee Member	Glenn Hunt
Associate Committee Member	Ron Murray
Equipment Officer	Rick Crowle
Safety Officer	Graeme Jessup
National Parks Representative	Harley Wright

Subcommittees:

Surveying	Denis Ward
Remote & Inaccessible Places	Zygmunt Szramka (Who's going into the Army)

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Rick Crowle has taken over the distribution of carbide to members of the Society. The price is 1 ¢ per pound, and any person wishing to purchase some should ring Rick at 44-7415.

On the Subject of Wiburd's Lake Cave, Jenolan.

Chris Fieldhouse.

The cave number J92 which was relocated by SUSS in 1963 and given the name of Wiburd's Lake Cave, is, I feel, a misnomer.

The story of Wiburd's Lake Cave is an old one and has obviously been distorted as it has been handed down from generation to generation. The stories of Wiburd's claims of being able to float a battleship in the cave are obviously greatly exaggerated. If human nature is true to form Wiburd may actually have contemplated a row in his bathtub. Yet it seems that there is very little evidence for calling J92 Wiburd's Lake Cave apart from the fact that there are very large quantities of mud in the cave and sometimes a lake of moderate proportions.

If the above information was all that there was to go on then perhaps J92 is Wiburd's Lake Cave but I feel that it is definitely not. I have over a number of years of guiding at Jenolan Caves spoken to two very elderly people who have talked of Wiburd's Lake Cave and of going into it with him. One elderly man said that as they proceeded to the cave Wiburd told them that they were going to see "his lake cave".

Another casual guide at Jenolan also reports having been told the same story and location of Wiburd's Lake Cave as the people whom I met.

Another report which is confirmed by an established authority tells of a horse that fell into this enormous hole and was killed. The report of the death of the horse is in the same area as the reports on Wiburd's Lake Cave.

There is ample scope for a lake cave in the area these people have mentioned and I feel that any further continuation of the name Wiburd's Lake Cave for J92 must be done so on very untenable grounds, and that the name "Wiburd's Lake Cave" be reserved until the real cave is rediscovered and given its proper name, as a fitting tribute to this greatest of Australian speleologists.

ARE YOU A TRIP LEADER?

If So. LEAD!

Denis Ward

The main reasons for the lack of caving activity in SUSS over the last two years has been the shortage of active trip leaders. A glance at the Society's membership list, however, reveals that there is almost a super-abundance of persons authorized to lead official SUSS trips -- so why the dismal effort over the last few months? One excuse often heard is 'I haven't time,'-- this argument fails to hold water -- surely no one is too busy to participate on at least one trip per term (three trips a year). If the majority of our trip leaders organized say one trip a term activity in the Society would increase five-fold. It doesn't take much time, only initiative.

This year we have a surfeit of prospective members, the majority of whom will soon lose interest in caving unless we can provide a comprehensive activities calendar.

On the next page is a list of authorized trip leaders.

Trip Leaders.

Rick Crowle	Ron Murray	Glenn Hunt
Graeme Jessup	Denis Ward	Ted Anderson
Chris Fieldhouse	Jane Watts	Dick Heffernan
Ludwig Muenzenrieder	Harley Wright	Mike Shepherd
Paul Jackson	Rick Daniel	

DEVELOPMENTS ON COLONG -- THE A.G. M. OF ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS LIMITED (AUSTRALIA)

The A.G.M. of APCM was held on Wednesday, April 16, at 3 p.m. in the A.M.P. auditorium.

Several members of SUSS attended this meeting, including myself. I was holding a proxy for Mr. G. Francis, a guide at Jenolan Caves, who was unable to attend.

It was obvious that we were not going to force the company into rescinding any of its policies on a sheer number of votes as it was soon seen when the company was forced to go to a poll after having lost on a show of hands and voices. On the polls the best result we obtained was 18,808,541 to 487, but we still had our principle (!).

We continued in this same manner of forcing them to polls and wasting time as they would not let our protests be recorded in the minutes and kept ruling our amendments out of order. In the long run we were unable to have any of our amendments put into the minutes.

The formal matter of the meeting was over and the minutes closed and then the directors agreed to debate the matter.

Mr. Ferrier, the Chairman, handed out a statement on the Company's attitude to several of the problems, and in parts this document can be little short of -- shall we say inept. Several points were made by Mr. Dunphy, (Secretary of the NSW branch of the National Parks Association of Australia).

Mr. Ferrier states that there are 3 limestone deposits at Murrumbidgee Ck. In fact there are 6.

The company plans to gain water from the Kowmung R. without damming it, yet anyone who has been in the area knows that the Kowmung has at times dried up.

One of his most insulting statements is, and I quote, "Quarrying and crushing plant, grinding mill, pump houses and limestone storage -- these structures will be designed to blend in with the surrounding countryside".

Another of his classical statements is that "the dense vegetation in the area will act as a muffle," to the blasting.

When I approached a member of the Board about a direct statement on the future of the caves at Church Ck. he refused to answer me.

The most fruitful point of the meeting came at the end when Mr. Ferrier agreed to meet the President of the National Parks Association and anyone else to discuss the relative merits of the deposits at Church Ck. and at Murruin Ck.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

C. Fieldhouse

TRIP REPORT.

WYANBENE

25-27 January, 1969

Leader: Denis Ward

Present on Trip: Denis Ward (L), Rick Crowle (A), Lois Seddon (P), Bruce Harris (P), Ron Murray (A), Ludwig Muenzenrieder (F), Joye Blunt (V).

After spending Friday night at the Shoalhaven River near Braidwood the party finally rolled into Wyanbene at midday Saturday. First on the line was a quick look at the area -- consisting of a walk to the top of the hill behind Wyanbene Main Cave. On the way up we looked at the old mining pits located on the limestone contact. Upon reaching the summit, some 600 feet above the campsite, we entered a cave located just below the top of the hill. This cave (name unknown) consists mainly of two chambers -- an entrance chamber and a smaller room to the left -- (both rooms are approximately 30-40 feet high) and there was a possible continuation from the innermost cavern. Numerous bats were also observed.

Upon leaving this cave the party proceeded down the other side of the hill whereupon another entrance was located. This cave -- possibly Ridge Mine Pot -- required a ladder to gain entry. Unfortunately we only had with us some 50 feet of wire ladder, which proved to be insufficient. On the way back to camp we located two or three choked entrances, which after a limited amount of 'digging' may or may not continue -- something to do in future perhaps?

On Sunday the party entered Wyanbene Main Cave with a view to looking at the helictites found near the entrance. After almost five hours of scrambling around the drier parts of the cave we made our exit -- some of the party a little wetter than others. We left the area late Monday morning -- returning home via the Big Hole -- the Shoalhaven River (for a swim) -- Bungonia (for a look at the gorge) -- and Charlie's (for a feed). In all a most relaxing trip -- numerous hours spent swimming, not so many hours spent caving.

USEFUL PIECES OF USELESS INFORMATION

It is intended, for the nth time, to resurrect the SUSS noticeboard. This noticeboard is located on the main noticeboard in Science Road. On it will be advertised forthcoming events (trips, meetings, etc.)

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Jane Watts has returned from Russia. Slides of this place (future SUSS caving area?) are expected at the meeting on May 1.

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About Future Trips.

BENDITHERA, June 14-16. This trip is a Landrovering trip and as SUSS Landrovers are so few in number the number of spare places on this trip is strictly limited. Walking is not to be recommended (ask anyone who was on the last trip there), so get your application in soon to Ron Murray (649-8620).

CLIEFDEN, May 17-18, June 14-15, August 16-17. These trips are surveying trips, and to ensure that some useful work is done, the numbers on these trips is also limited. Apply to Denis Ward, 644-2497.