

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Edited by
Ziggie Szranke

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Volume 10 , Number 3

June 1970

Sydney University Speleological Society
Announces the First
BARBARA DEW MEMORIAL LECTURE
to be held in
THE LECTURE THEATRE
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
on Monday 20th July, 1970
at 8p.m.

The address will be given by Mr. R. E. M. doch, M. A., Dip. Phys. Ed.
Director N.S.W. Department of Tourism

Dr. B. McMillan, Senior Lecturer in Medical Parasitology, will open
the Lecture with a short account of the work of Miss Barbara Dew

A SMALL CHARGE WILL BE MADE TO DEFRAY EXPENSES

and don't forget the S.U.S.S. Dinner, either. Announcement within.
... It's this Friday, June 26 ...

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

TICKETS FROM
CHRIS FIELDHOUSE

Tel 765028

S.U.S.S. DINNER 1970

Friday June 26, 1970 in the Union

Guest Speaker: Brian J. O'Brien

- June 27 or 28 BUNGONIA (7599956) John Dunkley
One day trip to collect bats. Possibly look
at sandstone cave at Hilltop en route
- July 2 General Meeting - top floor, Geography Building at
7.30pm. Denis Ward will probably give a
short illustrated talk on current Cliefden work.
- MURRUIN CREEK Jim Seabrook
A reconnaissance trip to assess possibilities.
- 20 The Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture
See announcement on front page
- 25-26 JENOLAN (447415) Rick Crowle
Continuation of digging near Oolite Chamber,
and general exploration in the area
- August 1 - 2 CLIEFDEN (6442497) Denis Ward
Continuation of surveying in Taplow Flat Cave
- 6 General Meeting
- 22-24 CLIEFDEN (310905ext97work) Ziggy Szramka
(tentative) Continuation of surveying in Taplow Flat Cave
- September 3 General Meeting
- 12 Field Day
Tentative date only - details later
- 19-20 JENOLAN (7599956) John Dunkley
Continue work in Mammoth Cave
- December 28-31 Eighth Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleo-
logical Federation in Hobart, Tasmania.
- January Field Trips to Tasmanian Caves and tourist haunts

AND DON'T FORGET - AUGUST 17th - Lecture by Bro Nicholas Sullivan
entitled "THE RIDDLE OF THE MAYAN CAVES, GUATEMALA", with illustrated
eye-witness account of Russian invasion of Prague, August 1968. Date
is definite, venue will be announced shortly

SPELEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COUNCILReport on Fifth Annual General Meeting

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Speleological Research Council was held on Sunday 7 June, 1970 at Grahame Jessup's place. The affairs of the Council, which had been in a parlous state following the death of Barbara Dew, had been cleared up and the requirements of the Registrar-General had more or less been met. It was therefore possible to close the much-adjourned 4th A.G.M.

However the Council is still not a strong going concern. The Trading Account for the year revealed a gross profit of no less a sum than \$45, and although this figure is abnormally low, a substantial increase in trading profit as distinct from investment income seems unlikely. A lengthy discussion then ensued on a motion to wind up the affairs of the Council and to redistribute its assets. The apparatus of a limited liability company was not considered necessary if income were to emanate almost entirely from investment of capital. On the other hand it was pointed out that the implicit cost or value of having a limited liability company was of the order of \$1000, this being the approximate cost of legal fees and stamp duties involved in such a venture. Furthermore, the Council had a moral obligation to SUSS, if not to speleology at large, to attempt to fulfil its original aims as nearly as possible. Initially in favour of this proposal, I had to admit the force of the argument against taking such a step at this stage, and in the end the motion was lost.

Profit for 1970-71 should be higher. Negotiations are under way to sell the excellent master slides on a royalty basis which could bring in a few extra dollars a year. It was resolved to transfer some \$1300 currently languishing in the bank, to higher interest-bearing deposits or debentures. This alone should double gross profit for the year.

John Steele announced his resignation due to pressure of work. Harley Wright offered to manage the statutory affairs of the Council for another year and was appointed Public Officer. Geoff Butlin was re-elected President, Glenn Hunt becomes Secretary/Treasurer and Grahame Jessup and Denis Ward were appointed Committee Members. Although not a Member, John Dunkley was appointed to report on the structure and functioning of the Council, and to investigate fully possible alternatives to present situation.

GOING TO TASMANIA?

Rick Crowle still has a few vacancies in his car going to the A.S.F Conference and caving trips and general sightseeing after Christmas. See him urgently.

... at the last General Meeting ...

- John Dunkley and John Holliday were elected President and Vice-President respectively.
- Some personal effects of Miss Pat Kirtland were auctioned for far more than she expected to get (far more than they were worth for that matter). Glenn Hunt bid 36c. for a bread knife, someone else found himself landed with a crummy pillow for 83c. Norm Poulter of HCG pushed the bidding for pillows higher the next time round and finally got them for 89c. A peculiar looking metho choofer went for \$1.30 or so.

... at the last Committee Meeting ...

- Five new members were admitted to the Society, to wit : Alexander Stewart (alias Captain Cook), Chris Cosgrove, Bruce Watts, Brian Wythes and Murray Anderson. Welcome.
- 4- Another field day was mooted and Denis Ward was appointed to make the arrangements. Venue to be decided, time probably September.
- Inconclusive discussion ensued on the content of the Yearbook, and it was decided to hire an electric typewriter to produce this and to retype a Journal which the SRC (the Students' one) buggered up a bit last year. Anyone wishing to gain immortality and fame by offering to type the said Yearbook and Journal should approach John Holliday or John Dunkley.
- Several matters relating to Yarrangobilly, search and rescue, and other odds and ends were discussed briefly before being referred for the attention of the A.S.F.'s N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee.
- and quite a large quantity of claret and chips were consumed.

and at the Commonwealth Day celebrations ...

SUSS members not at Yarrangobilly dedicated the weekend in celebrating Commonwealth Day with explosions of almost atomic magnitude, cleaving the air with shattering reports; they devastated the scene of the revelry as well as each other by misfires and other catastrophes. The Commonwealth should be proud of these enthusiastic citizens who celebrated this day with such unrestrained patriotic fervour.

and from our matrimonial correspondent ...

who announces that Norman Heckenberg has got what he wanted out of SUSS .. one Land Rover, a two-way radio, and Miss Kerry Wilson.

TRIP REPORTS

YARRANGOBILLY

June 13-14-15

While Sydney basked in fine, sunny weather all weekend, Yagby proved to be in its usual form, providing three days of rain, wind fog and other inclemencies.

There were enough takers on this trip to organise two parties each day. On Saturday East Deep Creek was visited, mostly for photography. No new work was done and there was nothing significant observed that is worth reporting. On Sunday both parties went to Eagles Nest, which has been the centre of SUSS exploration since the relocation in 1966 of the connection from West to East Eagles Nest Cave, after a long period during which people did little more than look at the Eyrie formations and trip through East E.N. Not more than a few dozen people have made the through trip from East to West since then, and the going is still a bit rough for newer members. We had some trouble locating the connection with E.E.N. and wondered whether any fool had ever attempted to make the trip from East to West instead of the other way round. There was a great deal of water in the narrow canyons leading to the rimstone pools at the farthest extremities of East Eagles Nest and only a few went to the end.

East Eagles Nest was as muddy as ever coming out but no trouble was experienced finding the way out, thanks to the irresponsible galahs with the pressure-pak paint can who installed 2' high white arrows. On checking an old report, I recalled that we first noted this bit of vandalism in October 1966 and I remember mentioning it to the Ranger at the time, but the culprits have not been found. The creek was flowing rather vigorously and although diverted right where we come out of E.E.N. it was possible to emerge without more than a brief spray of water. The usual nocturnal perambulations around the plateau were simplified by the foresight of a compass and by Roh Murray thoughtfully leaving his Land Rover lights on to guide us over the last few hundred yards.

For any serious work at Yarrangobilly (and a lot is waiting), a stay of 4 or 5 days at least is necessary to avoid prostration by the mere effort of getting there and back. Unless the majority of participants are experienced Yagby men, there is not enough time on a 3 day weekend, especially when the weather is inclement. It would be a good idea to run trips there in vacations rather than battle the traffic and compete with other societies for a permit.

- - John Dunkley

Editors Comment - After being in the cave a little while, John became a little disparaging of his own idea of surveying it. This is understandable. It was his first trip there since 1966 and the editor feels that this detachment in a comfortable climate has permitted John to be somewhat fanciful in his aspirations. The editor twitched and shivered in the inimical conditions.

BARRINGTON TOPS

May 15.- 17

Next time for sure!! It was determined rashly, in a fit of aspiration, that SUSS would mount a trip to the Barrington area to examine the limestone somewhere there. Initially three Land Rovers were to be used for the assault from west to east; from Scone across the tops to the limestone area. But the mechanical unreliability of the aged, dilapidated Land Rovers on which we were dependent for transportation had whittle away our chances of leaving the city to a barest small probability. Ron Murray's, which, outside Russia, is the fastest Land Rover on earth, would not accept any of its three engines despite winching, levering, pleading, pummelling with rubber truncheons and cursing. After some eleventh hour tinkering at Lane Cove, ten people in two rickety Land Rovers left at midnight Friday, on the journey which brought them to Barrington at last at 2pm Sunday, still miles from the limestone. They made their way back home by the Alicedale Trail and the Carters Brush Trail, through very rugged country with slopes so precipitous that had they not been in L.R.s, would have needed ladders to scale them, or fiery little ponies with quick and impatient tread. Next time for sure !! (how about August 22-24??)

-- Ziggy Szramka

CLIEFDEN

June 6-

After a lapse of eight months, a SUSS group converged on Cliefden to continue the survey of Taplow Flat maze. One party surveyed the extension and another the danger section. Manfred Listing increased the known extent of the danger section by putting his foot through the floor and extending the passage by six feet. Eighteen hours of underground work produced 700' (plus six feet) of newly surveyed passage. Further trips will be held at intervals over the next few months to try and finalise this work.

F O R S A L E

You may be surprised by this revelation, but SUSS has been known to publish Journals from time to time. Complete your collection now before they go out of print and become collectors items ...

Old SUSS Journals	15c. each
Recent SUSS Journals	
(vol. 7 nos. 1 and 2)	50c. each
"Caves of the Nullarbor"	\$1.25 each