

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Box 35,  
The Union,  
Sydney University,  
N.S.W. 2006

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Volume 10 , Number 4

July-August 1970

COMING EVENTS

- August 6 General Meeting - top floor, Geography Building
- 11 NORTH SYDNEY - Bat-collecting trip to North Sydney  
Railway Tunnel-- Rick Crowle
- 17 Lecture by Bro. Nicholas 'THE RIDDLE OF THE MAYAN  
CAVES' in Graduates Club. Tickets Ian Wood 6606149
- 18-28 Car tour to Warrumbungles etc. - John Holliday
- September 3 General Meeting - top floor, Geography Building.  
Rick Crowle will give a talk on cave photography.
- 13 Field Day - Wahroonga Rocks. Details inside.  
Ring Rick Crowle 447415 or Denis Ward 6442497.
- 19-20 JENOLAN - digging, photography and other work in  
Mammoth Cave. Get in early. John Dunkley 7599956
- October 3-4-5 COOLEMAN - Jim Seabrook
- 3-4-5 KEMPSEY area - A.S.F. Search & Rescue (tentative)
- 8 General Meeting - top floor, Geography Building
- 10 or 11 HILLTOP (tentative) - John Dunkley
- 24- 25 JENOLAN (permit pending)
- December 27-31 ASF CONFERENCE, Hobart, Tasmania
- January 1 on Field trips to Mole Creek, Ida Bay, Junee-Florentine  
and Mt Anne.

"Me, a girl caver in SUSS? But why?"

1. Cheap travel to areas which are both beautiful and interesting. Such areas extend beyond the more immediate caves of N.S.W. During vacations, enthusiastic cavers trip off to the Nullarbor, Tasmania etc.
2. SUSS people can be one or all of the following@  
pleasant, interesting, helpful, amusing, "different", generous, argumentative, obnoxious, intelligent. Or just great.  
One can be selective and so choose suitable companions. Many opportunities for debate and discussion (euphemisms both) present themselves.
3. In mode of travel, again the SUSS girl can be discerning. The range extends from fully furnished Landrovers to stereophobically equipped and centrally heated station waggon, downwards to the more plebeian vehicles which are minus mod cons.
4. SUSS offers the ideal occasion for experiencing the sensuality of mud, the satisfaction of physical exhaustion and the sheer delight of . . . . . (maybe you can think of something)
5. Experience the joys of communal eating and sleeping. Early morning hot beverages are served to the privileged few (mostly female) by one clean, sweet, moutachioed caver (male)
6. SUSS provides you with the opportunity to become a "Camp Fire Gourmet" and to develop a Cosmopolitan Taste. With the exception of one of the authors, SUSS people become competent cooks.
7. Through SUSS a girl learns a variety of skills. Where else would one learn to chimney, belay, tie knots, climb long, narrow ladders and squeeze (with the caver of your choice) through narrow passages. Muscles that were never thought to exist are quickly discovered. Bushwalking and other more 'relaxing' activities are available for the less energetic cavers.
8. No previous experience (in any field) is necessary to become a SUSS caver
9. SUSS trips are a great way to enjoy a weekend away from the city with lots of good company.
10. SUSS encourages an interest in conservation and develops in many interested individuals an understanding and appreciation of the Australian countryside.

(written within the confines of the speediest little Mini travelling between Gundagai and Yass, in gratitude for very enjoyable years in SUSS, and to encourage more girls to take trips with SUSS.

Jeanette Ferguson & Pam Fitzgerald

FIELD DAY

Another field day is being arranged for Sunday, September 13 to be held at Wahroonga rocks. This is in a reserve at the end of Cliff Avenue, Wahroonga, about a mile from the station. There are 40' drops for laddering or abseiling. Practice will be given in ladder work, knots, belaying techniques and abseiling. If facilities are available, some practice will be given in elementary surveying methods to try and correct a long-standing deficiency in SUSS.

All prospective members as well as older members are invited to this function. The success of it depends on you.

Details may be had from Denis Ward at the next General Meeting or by ringing 6442497. Transport will be arranged from the station for the impecunious. Time: early afternoon

SUSS JOURNAL

There is a SUSS Journal coming, would you believe? It has now been typed and will be duplicated very soon, and you never know, you might actually see it this year.

A.S.F. CONFERENCE, Tasmania

Well, if you haven't booked a passage, it's too late now. However you can fly. John Dunkley and Rick Crowle are rumoured to have space in their cars. Rick Crowle may not even be going so there may be space for a car as well as a few people. Enrolment forms may be had, together with further information on the very good field trips, from the Secretary Jim Seabrook.

This will be the greatest A.S.F. Conference ever, as the field trips will be to the longest, deepest and some of the biggest caves in the country, including Exit Cave. Also for the hardy, a trip to the only partly explored Mt Anne regions of south west Tasmania where the dolomite is up to 2000' thick. What price a new Australian depth record for a cave?

About Pam and Jeannette

(see previous page)

If SUSS is all that good, why are they going to leave? Bon voyage to both, anyway (they are going overland to England via the Nullarbor of course on a double decker bus would you believe?)

TRIP REPORT

BUNGONIA

June 28

John Dunkley

The main purpose of the trip was to collect bats from the Drum Cave to assist Dr MCMillan of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine who is continuing work on bat parasites begun several years ago by Barbara Dew.

Departure from Sydney was at the late hour of 8.30am Sunday. We looked at the sandstone cave at Hilltop enroute between Picton and Mittagong loop road. This is a genuine cave, not a rock shelter, not a rock shelter and appears to have developed along a weak sandstone or possibly shale bed. It is about 250' long, averaging from 6' to 10' or so wide and 4' - 6' high with a bedrock roof 2' - 10' thick. A stream (1/2 cusec) ambled through the cave and there was one deep and several smaller pools and a waterfall. At its lower end the cave gives way to a high, wide overhang leading to a steep, narrow gorge. Considering its proximity the cave bore few signs of vandalism. Although of little speleological interest, there may be scope for a little morphological study of its origin and development. For example, there seems to be quite a deal of sediment just upstream of the cave entrance, but inside the stream gradient steepens rapidly and continues downstream in the gorge through rocks and boulders. The first SUSS trip to the cave was around 1961 and there have been only a few visits by speleos in recent years as far as I know.

We arrived at Bungonia in mid-afternoon in time to see the inevitable odd bods wandering around. The Efflux was inspected. Mental calculations of the immensity of SSS's excavations gave way rapidly to ~~an~~ an assessment of the probabilities of a further collapse of the trenches while we were there, and finally to silent contemplation of the futility of it all anyway.

UNSWSS had rigged the Drum not only with ladder but with light from a petrol generator and the powerful flood lamps illuminated a beauty in the walls and roof of the cave that we seldom appreciate with carbide lamps. John Davis and Gary Steer (of "Rucksack" fame) were filming another epic to flog (hopefully) for TV, so Rick Crowle obliged by allowing his hands to be photographed holding a bat. We would like to thank Rick Counsell of UNSWSS for going down the long pitch to gather bats.

Several more trips are planned to Bungonia to collect some more bats; an ideal sloth trip for the indolent. Check the Trip List on page 18.

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TASMANIA Rick Crowle still has a few vacancies in his car going from Melbourne.



# CAVES GROUP CRITICAL AT MEETING

Directors of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Ltd. at the company's annual meeting yesterday faced persistent opposition from supporters of the Colong Committee who attended as shareholders.

The committee, whose supporters hold a total of 430 shares, has been campaigning against the granting of a lease to A.P.C.M. to mine limestone in the Colong Caves area.

Although the conservationists were in a majority among the 140 at the meeting, they were hopelessly outvoted by the 18,400,000 proxy votes of British shareholders.

The conservationists adopted similar tactics to those used at last year's annual meeting, they forced formal motions to a vote, moved amendments and continually brought the Colong issue into discussions.

## GROUND

The chairman, Sir Grant Ferrier, repeatedly told the meeting that the company was honouring its undertaking that possible alternative supplies of limestone at Marulan and Murrumbidgee Creek would be investigated.

The secretary of the Colong Committee, Mr Milo Dunphy, told the directors he knew of many contracts lost because of opposition to mining at Colong.

He questioned company estimates of the comparative expense of building a slurry pipeline from Colong to the Maldon cement works, or from Marulan to Maldon.

Mr Dunphy also demanded to know the grounds on which the company would have its assessment of Colong against alternative sites.

The conservationists asked three directors standing for re-election to state their views on the Colong issue.

One declined, the second said he agreed with the company's decisions and the third, Mr G. S. Le Couteur, criticised the conservationists.

Mr Le Couteur said the conservationists were behaving like "undisciplined under-graduates in a quadrangle" and he accused them of being illogical.

The board took shareholders' views into account in deciding policy, he said, a highly dedicated reserve.

Mr Dunphy said that if such as Colong could be thrown away, an important principle was being destroyed.

The conservationists cheered when Sir Grant Ferrier, who had remained patient throughout most of the meeting, said the board were believers in conservation.

"Sydney Morning Herald"  
18 April, 1970

"Sydney Morning Herald"  
27 June, 1970

# Scientist warns on caves mining

A Sydney University Space scientist last night warned: "If you destroy the Colong Caves reserve, and things like it, then you will not get them back."

Dr Brien O'Brien, who designed the dust detectors left by the U.S. astronauts on the moon, was addressing the annual dinner of the university's Speleological Society.

He took as his subject "The Colong Caves and the Apollo Project."

He said the Colong Caves, threatened by limestone quarrying, was one of the finest natural reserves accessible from Sydney.

"We don't want a concrete jungle. We want as many wild reserves as we can find," he said.

Mankind had to get together and think further than the Colong Caves and Barrier Reefs.

"Australia, the 'lucky Country,' has got a few spare years," he said, "but we must start the campaign because we have got to sweep the world with it."

Dr O'Brien drew the familiar analogy between the limited life-support system on an Apollo space craft and on "spaceship earth."

To find another planet like earth, man would have to travel 100m times further than the astronaut did, he said. And even then he would have only a 10 per cent chance of finding it.

# MAN SPENDS YEAR IN A CAVE

A.A.P., Belgrade, Friday

A 35-year-old Belgrade electrician completed a year of isolation in a cave today.

Milutin Veljkovic, whose hobby is cave investigation, broke the world record for self-imposed isolation in caves last October when he logged 110 days in a sealed-up cave in the Svrjig Mountains.

He said today he plans to stay there until September 29.

The cave is packed with scientific instruments, but for company Veljkovic has only a cat, a dog and a lot of fowls.

The Sun  
26 June, 1970

## Report on Colong alternative issued

The Minister for Mines, Mr W. Fife, yesterday gave details of possible alternatives to the Colong Caves limestone deposits.

The alternatives are in the Murruin Creek area. But they still fall more than 14 million tons short of the expected recoverable tonnage at Mt. Armour-Church Creek—the Colong Caves site.

The Murruin Creek deposits lie in six scattered localities in rugged country from four and a half to 10 miles south-west of the Colong Caves deposit.

Mr Fife said the recent surveys of Murruin Creek had been taken to update estimates of recoverable tonnages available.

The latest estimate of the recoverable tonnage is 34.61 million tons, an improvement of more than four million on the previous estimates.

However, the expected recoverable tonnage at the Colong Caves site is 49 million tons.

Mr Fife met representatives from the cement company and the Colong Committee yesterday, to give them copies of the report to examine.

A spokesman for the Colong Committee said last night that Mr Fife had told them that he expected to have the company's reaction in two or three weeks.

But the spokesman said there was no official deadline the company had to meet.

"Sydney Morning Herald"  
3 July, 1970

Ron Saw's  
comment

"Telegraph"  
3 July, 1970

## COLONG

I see where the Minister for Mines (Mr. Fife) has passed on to the cement company involved, the results of a study on where the company can go to find limestone apart from the Colong Caves.

The Mines Department has carried out a survey which shows the cement company can find plenty of limestone in areas other than Colong-Mt. Armour.

The report shows the alternative deposits are less than Mt. Armour economically, since they are split up over a number of areas.

On the face of it that would seem that the plan to mine Mt. Armour and interfere with the Colong Caves area, will go through. Not so, I have said it before and will say it again, the Colong Caves stand every show of being saved.

The strength and concentration of the Save Colong Committee is such that the cement company will find a third area to mine, leaving Colong to the conservationists.

## ALTERNATE LIMESTONE LEASE UNLIKELY

By the State Political  
Roundsmen

The finding of viable and economic alternative limestone deposits at Murruin Creek to those leased out at Mt. Armour-Church Creek is unlikely.

A Mines Department survey has shown this. The survey has shown that although there are considerable tonnages of limestone deposits at Murruin Creek the aggregate tonnage is distributed over a number of scattered occurrences.

The survey also shows that a total of 34.61 million tons would be available in the Murruin Creek area compared with 49 million tons in the Mt. Armour-Church Creek deposit.

The Minister for Mines (Mr. Fife) conferred yesterday with representatives of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Limited and the Colong Committee.

The specific purpose of the conference was to hand to each of these organisations copies of reports by the Mines Department.

These reports gave the results of recent appraisals by the Geological Survey of N.S.W. of limestone resources in the Murruin Creek area near Colong.

These surveys had been undertaken to see if limestone deposits in the Murruin Creek area formed a possible mining alternative to the Mt. Armour-Church Creek limestone.

Mr. Fife said there was a need to update estimates of recoverable tonnages available.

There had also been confusion in the past as to which limestone deposits constituted the "Murruin Creek area."

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Limited,

through its associated company, Commonwealth Portland Cement Company Limited, holds special lease 444 for mining limestone at Mt. Armour-Church Creek.

The Murruin Creek deposits comprise six individual localities and are situated mostly in rugged country from four and a half to 10 miles south-west of the Mt. Armour-Church Creek deposits.

Mr. Fife said he indicated earlier that if an economical alternative to the Mt. Armour-Church Creek deposit could be demonstrated, he would negotiate with the company to have the Mt. Armour lease cancelled in exchange for an economic alternative.

Yesterday he gave a copy of the report of the Murruin Creek survey to the company and asked the company to study it.

WANDERINGS OF AN INEBRIATE -- an occasional column.

.....5pm Friday.....into the Beetle and off to Malboro Country. Clean air, hard caving, liberated women, Resch's beer. A land where cigarettes are lit from blazing logs of ironbark.

First stop to ease smog-smitten throats ---- Crossroads Pub ---- last pub at modern Sydney conditions. In other words the complete public lavatory atmosphere with ritzy tilework, overbright fluorescents, beer soaked floors, raucous loudmouthung and soapy beer. Best place to drink is on the front patio area or if in feminine company one can dare to enter the over-carpeted, over-lit ladies lounge. As its a popular pub you can expect the bottle depot to be typically out of Resch's Pilsener and Bulmer's Strongbow. (Cofe talk about knock! Its a pub aint it.)

Jindabyne.....the Commodore Pub....serendipity. Sitting in the bar at 4 o'clock, shades on as the western sun streams in the skylights. Fog in hand, the beers good. We'll be down by the Snowy tonight.

Buchan's Caves Hotel. A classic country pub --- old weatherboard nestling in the vale, log fires, hard pink-painted wooden chairs in the saloon, and best of all Victorian beer. Its just the place to be after a thirst-provoking, brass-monkey type day in Dalley's Sinkhole, especially if you can score one of the only two tables in the saloon. A half-dozen ponies and Malboro Country never felt so good. The only problem comes in traversing the nine miles of winding road back to the Murrindal campsite after 10 o'clock.

One for the road. Yess ---- I think its called the "Australian" but it could be the Royal, Commercial, Tattersalls etc. Anyway the saloon had an exclusive type atmosphere --- it even prompted Zyg to hit the Johnnie Walker black label.

.....10 pm Sunday. Sydney -- smog, work tomorrow and the bloody Forest Lodge. Christ! Its enough to drive a man to drink or else back to the scrub. Ahem! Marlboro Country that is.

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POLLUTION --- APATHY OF U.S. INDUSTRIALISTS.

(A report which first appeared in the January/February, 1970 issue of the American Sport Fishing Institute Bulletin):

A two day conference of industry executives, convened on 23rd October, 1969, in Washington D.C., by Water Pollution Assistant Secretary Carl I. Klein, as a forum for the exchange of ideas, seems instead to have achieved a series of polluters' principles. These were enunciated by various participants, and would make up an excellent statement for "The Exploiters Credo".

According to "The New York Times" for 24th October, 1969, Assistant Secretary Klein (the Conference Chairman) said he considered the conference to be a "real achievement". When you involve top-level corporation people, he said, "thats where you get the action". He said he was planning a similar conference late in 1970 that would involve not only industrialists but also municipal officials and conservationists.

Had he done the latter in this first conference, he'd already have learned that this "Exploiters Credo" is but a falsely-predicated excuse for inaction,

as shown by the following comparison of industry and conservation views:

Industry Leaders Say ---

1. "Some degree of pollution is part of the cost involved in achieving benefits made possible in a technological society,"  
(statement by one of the 700 executives, including representatives of the Nation's corporations.)
2. "Industry can spend nothing (on water pollution control) it does not first earn in profits."  
(statement by Brooks McCormick, Pres. of International Harvester)
3. "Public enthusiasm for pollution control is matched by reluctance to pay even a modest share of the cost."  
(statement by John E. Swearingen, Chairman of Standard Oil of Indiana)
4. The threat of water pollution from the Santa Barbara well blowout has been "greatly exaggerated", there being "no fatalities due to oil among whales, sea lions, or seals".  
(further statement by Swearingen)

Conservation Leaders Say ----

1. A product should not be legally marketable these days unless the manufacturing process or the product, itself, can be certified by ecologists to be harmless to the health of the environment just as a drug must be certified by pathologists to be harmless to the health of the individual before it can be marketed.
2. The cost of water (and air) pollution is a necessary part of the basic cost of doing business these days, fully as much as the cost of raw materials, power, labour, and management, and is not a charitable contribution to be taken out of profits. It is also fully deductible as a business expense before taxes.
3. The public has repeatedly indicated its willingness to pay something extra, in terms of additional taxes or additional product costs, or both, to achieve effective control over environmental pollution.
4. Environmental pollution is the alteration of natural conditions through Man's activities that serve to diminish or interfere with desired use(s) of the environment. The contamination of beaches and the destruction of aquatic life other than large mammals, by oil released to the environment as a direct result of oil drilling operations, clearly qualifies as severe water pollution.

SUSS may go to Yagby on the October long-weekend rather than to Coolman.  
Contact Seaweed on 74 6084.

SUSS --- Editor: Zyg Szramka  
Typing: John Dunkley, John Holliday  
Please do NOT use as toilet paper!

DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM?