

Australian Speleological Federation.

NEWSLETTER

No. 1.

June 1957.

This is the first issue of what we trust will be a periodical newssheet of value to all interested in serious cave study. It is directed towards the co-ordination of Speleological research in Australia, and with the interest of Australian Societies in this field, has a very real purpose.

We intend to publish the following data in each issue, and would ask all societies and other readers to forward material to the editor for future publication.

1. News of current studies in specific fields, including not only pure science, but studies on techniques such as surveying, photography, underground camping, or equipment.
2. Problems of study on which advice, information, or specimens are desired..
3. Abstracts of recent publications of note which may otherwise escape the notice of speleos.

CAVE-WETAS or CAVE-LOCUSTS.

Dr. Ada Richards, Zoology Dept., Victoria University College, Box 196, P.O., Wellington, N.Z. has made an intensive study of this group and wants to see Australian specimens. Will probably be able to identify specimens forwarded. Specimens should be preserved in 75% alcohol and accompanied by details of locality where collected.

IDENTIFICATION OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

As you all know, most cave species are small invertebrates, often of obscure groups which are difficult to identify. I am endeavouring to build up a list of specialists in various groups able to help in this task. Would therefore like to hear from cavers with details of those groups which are at present posing this problem, and from specialists working in the groups concerned and interested in seeing cave species.

BAT RESEARCH.

At present, several Australian Societies are considering work in this field. Banding of bats is an almost essential part of any intensive study of this but if undertaken in this country, should be co-ordinated on an Australia wide basis, with liaison with all overseas bodies concerned in these studies. It is therefore suggested that a conference on this be held in conjunction with the executive committee meeting which is due to be held in Sydney next Dec. - Jan. In the meantime, all societies should be able to do much useful preliminary work, which is really essential before banding can be done. Will those interested please contact me, so that plans can be made for the conference?

CURRENT PROJECTS.

Dean Mullan. C.E.G.S.A., C/- S.Aust. Museum, Adelaide, S.A.

Study of radio wave conduction in caves, experimenting in a dry cave.

Alan Hill. C.E.G.S.A., address as above.

The origin of the Kelly Hill Cave System.

June Marlow. C.E.G.S.A., address as above.

Examination of cave pearls and helictites - conditions of development, origins, etc.

Henry Fairlie-Cunninghame. 45 Wyvern Ave., Chatswood. N.S.W.

Development of lighting equipment for photography in large caverns. Has also recently completed some very interesting work on inflation of hydrogen balloons for survey work.

Tom Draper. 66 Shortland Ave., Strathfield, N.S.W.

Also interested in photographic lighting of large caverns.

E.Hamilton-Smith. C/- Brotherhood of St.Laurence, 67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, N6. Vict.

Animal ecology of a bat colony, situated at Naracoorte, S.A.

Enquiries and information for the next issue to the editor:

Hon. Secretary,
Australian Speleological Federation,
C/- Brotherhood of St.Laurence,
67 Brunswick St.,
Fitzroy, N.6.
Victoria.

Over the ensuing years numerous debates occurred over the role of the Newsletter. This one was typical of many a suffering editor:

The Purpose of the ASF Newsletter

Keith H. Clouten (editor)

ASF Newsletter 16 (1962)

At the ASF annual committee meeting last January, there was some discussion as to the purpose of the ASF Newsletter and the type of material which it could contain. On this point there has been, and always will be some differences of opinion. However the general feeling expressed at the committee meeting (and for that matter, at other ASF meetings) was that the Newsletter should contain the following:

1. A summary of the activities of each ASF society
2. A summary of ASF business matters as they concern the various executive officers of ASF.
3. Abstracts of useful periodical articles received by the ASF Librarian.
4. Progress reports from the ASF sub-committees

If all of this could be included in each issue of the Newsletter there would, presumably, be no complaints, and this publication would be fulfilling its purpose admirably. But the needed information is not always forthcoming. ... With regard to the summaries of society activities, these have become very rare commodities indeed. ... The editor would be pleased to hear from member societies or individual speleos who have constructive ideas or suggestions in connection with the ASF Newsletter. Although we will never please everyone, this will assist us in producing what at least the majority would like to see.