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THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE AUSTRALIAN

SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

No.14 Published Quarterly December 1961

Official publication of the Australian Speleological Federation.
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A.S.F. Annual Committee Meeting

As announced in previous issues of this Newsletter, the annual Committee Meeting of the A.S.F. is scheduled to be held in Sydney from January 27 to 29, 1962. It is hoped that representatives of as many societies as possible will be present for the Meeting, and for the benefit of those who plan to attend, as well as other speleos, a brief summary of the details and agenda are given here.

Meeting Place : Paddington Scout Hall, Cnr. Paddington and Elizabeth Streets, Paddington.

Session Times : Saturday, Jan.27 - 2 p.m. to 5-30 p.m.
8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday, Jan.28 - 10 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday, Jan.29 - 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. (this is (an emergency session, only if required)

Billeting Arrangements : Persons in need of accomodation in Sydney should contact Graham Wallis, 6 Mandalong Road, Mosman, N.S.W. (Phone XM 5796)

Catering : Morning and afternoon tea will be provided by A.S.F at the meeting. One person each from S.S.S., S.U.S.S. and U. of N.S.W.S.S. will assist with this service.

Agenda Items of Interest

1. A.S.F. Newsletter - plans for Post Office registration, and the required submission of membership lists. Also the supply each quarter of addressed envelopes by societies.

2. A.S.F. Conference, 1962. A report will be given by Kempsey S.S., and some proposals by K.S.S. will be considered.

3. Cave Numbering Systems. The allocation of areas to various societies for numbering will be given. The problems of coordination and consistency will be discussed.

4. Translation service. A.S.F. receiyes many foreign language journals containing valuable material. A proposal on this matter will be given by the A.S.F. Secretary.

5. Cave Research Organization. Dr. Aola Richards will present a report on the proposed establishment of this Organization. It is proposed that this group should be self-governing, but linked with A.S.F., and itas also hoped that it will be able to publish an annual publication to be financed by subscription.

6. Transactions with N.S.W. Tourists Bureau. A report will be given of a recent discussion between the Director of the Dept. and the A.S.F. Secretary. Discussion on permits to visit Tourist controlled areas, and on procedure and relationships between the Bureau and member societies.

7. Reports will, of course, be presented by the executive officers of the A.S.F. and its sub-committees.

Since only a very few members of societies can attend this Committee Meeting, a report of matters discussed will be given in the March 1962 Newsletter.

ROVING AROUND ON YOUR CAVING GROUND

T.C.C. IN THE RICH

Recently, the Tasmanian Government awarded the Tasmanian Caverneering Club the sum of £150 for services rendered to the Tourist Department of that State. Club President Doug Turner comments that this will be useful in re-equipping the club with new ladders, ropes, etc..

The Club also will receive £143 as payment for the gate at the entrance to the Croesus Cave. The gate was installed at the request of the club and the Lands Department. Once again this money will be used for equipment, possibly hut materials.

INTERESTING FINDS IN LAVA CAVE

During the last half of the year, the V.C.E.S. has been re-exploring caves with the object of collecting bones. At Mount Hamilton Cave, a lava cave near Nerrin Nerrin in western Victoria, the following bone-types were collected: Sarcophilus ursinus (Tasmanian Devil), and Aepyprymnus rufescens (Rufous Rat Kangaroo). These marsupials are now extinct in Victoria.

From several caves in the Murrindal district bones have been collected of Macropus canguru (Grey Kangaroo), Petrogale penicillata (Rock Wallaby), and also Dingo, Possum, and Wombat. At Buchan the bones of Thylacoleo carniflex (Cave Lion) were found. All these bones were identified by Mr. E. D. Gill of the National Museum of Victoria, and are now in his keeping.

On a September trip to Murrindal, members further explored a cave which looks promising in size. On an earlier trip one of the members dropped his helmet down the shaft, and owing to the shortage of time and equipment was unable to retrieve it until this trip. The cave has gone down 200 feet so far and the bottom has not yet been found

S.E.G.S.A. RE-SURVEYS CAVES

South Australian speleos have recently discovered a new extension in the Clara St. Dora Cave that demonstrates the danger of assuming

that if a cave is well known, it must have been fully explored. Although off the beaten track in the lower Flinders Ranges, the cave is well known to the locals and is easily accessible through a horizontal drive put in by the guana miners in the 1920's. In contrast to the previously known section which is extremely dry and dusty and has the inevitable debris from mining operations, the new chambers, although small, are clean and have a fine display of decoration. It was apparently known to the original miner but there was no vandalism, and has been safely lost ever since.

A re-survey of the Punyelroo Cave has been started. This is the only cave in the tertiary limestone cliffs along the lower River Murray yet found, and is notable mainly for the length of the passages and the total absence of decorations. It may eventually be inundated by the government's Teal Flat Dam project.

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

The Secretary of the University of Queensland Speleo Society reports that their society is now on a firm basis, with about 20 members. So far, the society's expeditions have been limited to the Riverton Caves near Texas at the N.S.W. border. These caves are dead, though there are some good formations, and there are hopes of finding other levels with more activity. The society has also visited the Glen Lyon Caves, though there seems less prospect there than at Riverton. Anyone wishing to contact the Queensland University Society may do so by writing c/O Belmont Mushroom Farm, Old Cleveland Road, Belmont, Brisbane S.E.5.

NEWCASTLE SOCIETY ACQUIRES EQUIPMENT

The Newcastle University Society has been fortunate in being able to obtain much valuable scientific equipment during the past few months. Some time ago, the club was presented with a 187 Ogival French Chronometer, which has already been used on the society's expedition to Nullarbor last year with very satisfactory results.

More recently, some members of the club have been investigating the field of Carbon Dating, and the President Roly Paine reports that the club may shortly be the first body north of Sydney to possess some of the equipment used in this dating method. The club has three physics graduates to care for this equipment.

The Newcastle group has also been working on improved techniques in electronic surveying. With over 40 miles surface signal, the equipment has been successfully used to penetrate 500 feet of rock. In a recent test at Timor Caves, results of 100% accuracy have been achieved.

UNSWSS AT BUNGONIA AGAIN

For a considerable time now, the University of N.S.W. speleos have been devoting most of their time to the Bungonia Caves, where the shaft numbered B31 is being surveyed on its various levels. During the past quarter, the society has visited this shaft on two more occasions, with the object of enlarging a small hole near the bottom to permit entry. The first expedition went armed with a chisel and hammer, but the chisel proved too short and the hammer too light.

A second and larger expedition in November with more suitable tools managed to chip away sufficient of the limestone to permit access. On the other side a passage opened out, but did not go very far before it ended in a number of very narrow passages, with holes leading down to water about 15 feet below. Exploration ended there but the party continued with the complicated survey of the various levels of the cave.

UNDER WATER IN VICTORIA

The Sub Aqua Speleo. Society continues to be active in the south. At the Pyramids near Buchan, new discoveries have been made where the Murrindal Rivers flows underground, and new leads have been discovered over on the Buchan River watershed in the Scrubby Creek system where two 'bridges' were recently installed to facilitate carrying gear across a couple of very awkward and deep pools. This system has now been surveyed with a miner's dial and tape as far as the upstream sump. With diving gear and scaling poles we have very high hopes of greatly advancing exploration and survey in both this system and at the Pyramids during the Christmas trip.

The Secretary of SASS also reports that the first of the master sheets of Buchan area is now available and at a scale of ¼ mile to the inch shows the location of all caves numbered to date in the Murrindal area. Another map at a scale of 200 feet to the inch shows the exact location of some 40 caves in the Pothole Area, most of them as yet unexplored. Both SASS and VCES are making these maps.

BREVITIES ...

- Tasmanian C.C. has reorganized its Search and Rescue policy following a near casualty in the Exit Cave. The amended procedures are detailed and appear very good.

- Bat-banding has commenced in south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia, and already a number of movements have been recorded, not only between various caves at Naracoorte, but also between Portland and Naracoorte.

- The N.S.W. Lands Department has taken steps to reappoint the Colong Caves Reserve Trust, and has invited the Cooranbong Speleological Association to nominate a member for the Trust.

- Moves are now under way by both SASS and VCES to form a Cave Search and Rescue Organization in Victoria.

- A short time ago, some members of S.S.S. with Dr. Richards paid a visit to some caves near Gloucester, N.S.W. According to a report reaching the Kempsey speleos, they found the Gloucester caves closely settled by trapdoor spiders!

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LIBRARY NOTES

Your A.S.F. Librarian has something to say to you about ...

LIBRARY LISTS .. .. Yes! Again!

Despite repeated appeals to Societies for Library Lists in every Newsletter since March, only <u>five</u> have been received - not a bad response from fourteen member groups (!?)

This little dit is addressed not to librarians, indeed not even to committee members, but to the <u>other</u> bods in the societies : How about spurring your librarian or secretary into replying to my appeal. I suggested one or other of the following ---

(a) The Library List.
(b) A note letting me know what state the compilation of the list is in. (This is known as courtesy!)

-- G. Wallis.

TRANSLATORS NEEDED

The Library has received numerous publications in foreign languages and these will be of no value unless some kind-hearted souls will give of their time to translate them. The Librarian is therefore appealing to all speleos to give attention to the matter. Can you, or any friend or acquaintance assist in translating? The first objective is to get titles and abstracts translated, and then determine whether the whole article warrants translation or not.

Translators are needed in the following languages --- French, Greek, Portuguese, Italian, Swiss, Austrian, Czech, Moroccan, Russian.

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The following abstracts of journal articles have come from the A.S.F. Librarian. We hope that some readers find these useful.

PRESERVATION OF SNAP LINKS

Prepared by M. Cotter, in the Journal of the Mendip Caving Group (England), no.1, January 1959.

"I would like to pass on to members a method I used for preserving my snap links. Better methods can obviously be used particularly in substituting correct strength phosphoric acid instead of dilute nitric.

"My method was to zinc plate as follows ---

1. Dip for a short time in dilute nitric acid to remove rust.
2. Make up 10% solution of zinc sulphate (10 parts zinc sulphate to 90 parts water by weight).
3. Suspend snap link in solution and connect to negative terminal of a 1½ volt battery.
4. Connect small zinc plate to positive terminal.
5. Watch link being electroplated and wash off when even. It will be necessary to turn round snap link for each side to be done."

ORIENTATION OF CAVE DEVELOPMENT

This reprint from the N.S.S. NEWS, v.17, no.6, page 92 is an abstract of a paper presented by Ruth G. Deike to the NSS Annual Convention in 1958.

"This study is based on the assumption that limestone caves are developed along joints. Cave passage lengths accumulated along similar bearings were scaled down and plotted in 10° sectors, providing rosettes that were then plotted on a geological and drainage map.

"Three cave-containing areas were studied, two in Ordovician, limestone-floored anticlinal valleys of the folded Appalachians in Central Pennsylvannia, and the third in the gently warped massive Mississippian limestones of Central Missouri.

"With a few exceptions, the caves of the folded Appalachians are prominently developed parallel to the regional strike; parallel to the valleys and to the major valley drainage. Two caves are developed nearly perpendicular to the regional strike, and both caves are parallel to the local dip. Two caves which deviate from the regional strike direction are developed exactly parallel to the local strike, and in both cases lay along crests of small anticlines. In most cases the prominent direction parallels regional drainage and secondarily prominent direction parallels local drainage. In the caves of Central Missouri a parallelism of prominent development is noted, which is oriented at an acute angle to regional and local strike. No direction relation to surface drainage is apparent.

"In the folded Appalachians, regional drainage and cave development have been strongly influenced by an open system of "strike" joints which are probably genetically tensional. A second system of open "dip" joints, perpendicular to the "strike" system were utilized by ground water to a lesser degree. Relatively little development has taken place along joints striking obliquely because they are tighter shear joints. In the mildly disturbed massive sediments in Central Missouri a regional system of joints of some kind seem to have affected the cave development. There is also some evidence in Missouri for a joint system of acutely interseating shear joints."