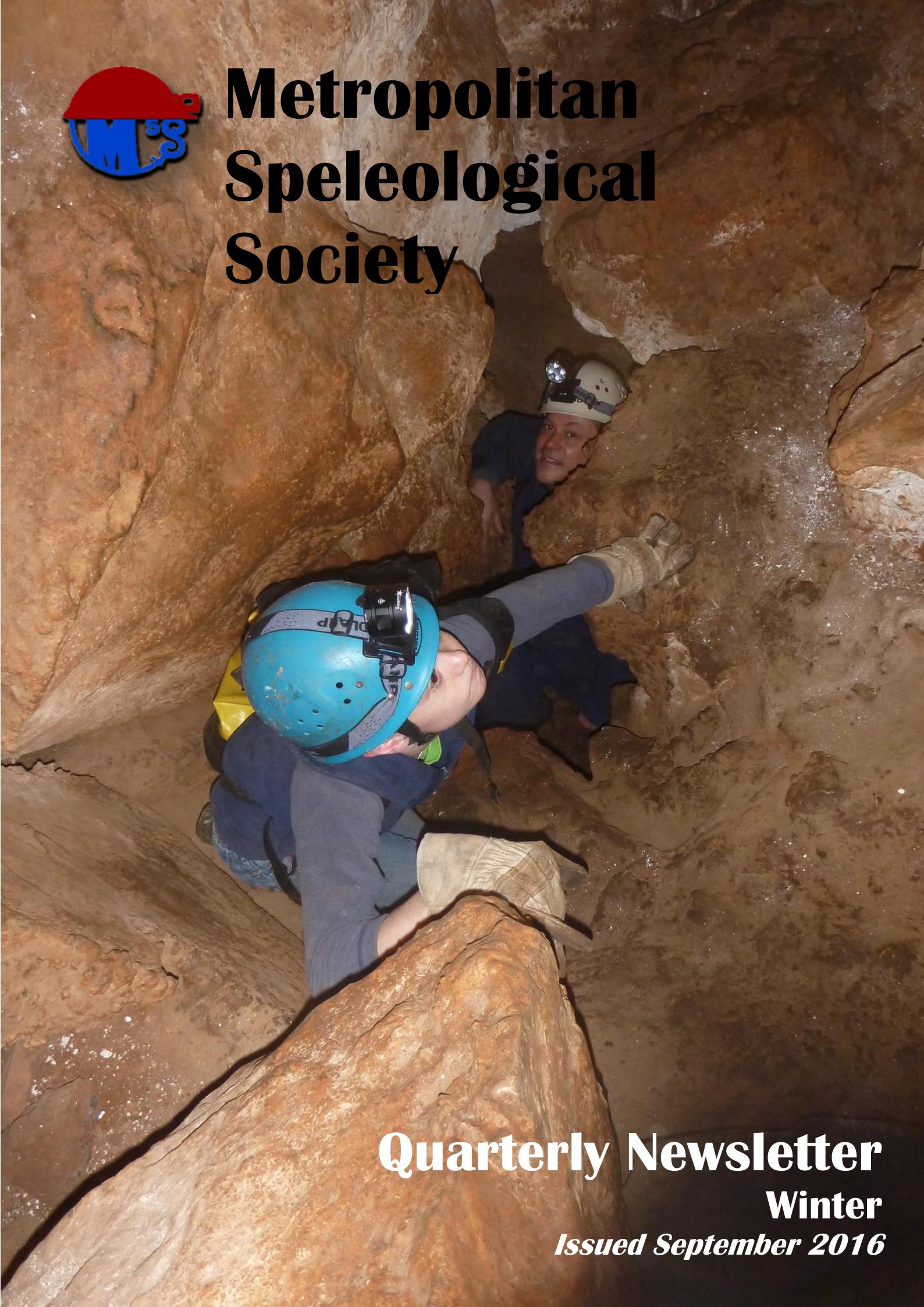


Metropolitan Speleological Society



Quarterly Newsletter
Winter
Issued September 2016

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Cover Shot: Owen Johnstone, intent on exploring more of Aladdin Cave - Jenolan.



SOCIETY INFORMATION

Club PLB

Just a reminder to all trip leaders that the Club PLB this should be taken on every remote trip. Our Equipment Officer, Jim (0407 284 256), jcrockett3@bigpond.com has this, so please coordinate with him to collect it before you lead your next trip.

Office Bearers

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Newsletter Editor	newsletter@mssadventure.org.au	Rod Smith
Website Manager	webmaster@mssadventure.org.au	Marilyn Scott
Public Officer		Rod Smith
		John Gray

Membership Fee Details

Full member	\$80
Family membership	\$160
Prospective member	\$30 (3 months)
Honorary membership	\$45
Already a member of an ASF Club?	\$30

Preferred method of payment by Direct Debit to: Account Name: MSS
BSB: 062-021 (Commonwealth Bank)
Account: 00901421

Cheques or Cash also accepted.



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This versatile T-shirt goes with anything and is appropriate anywhere from a friendly BBQ to a royal wedding.

- It comes in a variety of sizes from S to XXL
- It comes in a variety of one colour

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!



And a hoodie!



To purchase these unique items at these amazingly low prices, contact Rod, secretary@mssadventure.org.au but hurry, this offer will not last!

MSS WEBSITE SECURITY UPDATE



<http://www.mssadventure.org.au/>

When logging in to the member's area of the Website, you will notice a new access method requiring a member's login and a password. This feature has been added to improve the security of the members' area.

- To access the members' area, you will need your login/user name (which was sent to you earlier this year). The password remains as "forester". If you can't remember your user name, contact webmaster@mssadventure.org.au – although if you're reading this, obviously you know it! If you want to change your username/password, just email the webmaster.
- New features – an up to date membership listing (work in progress so if your name's not there check again next month!)
- The ability to change your personal details in our database.

FACEBOOK



Facebook is all about "engagement" and communicating with people you might not see on a regular basis. We'd like to encourage communication between members, so we've changed the setup of the Facebook page! This is now a Closed Group, similar to that run by Oz Canyons, and it now allows us to communicate member to member (if you have a Facebook account), plus it will have additional benefits such as:

- **Trip leaders** can send out reminders about upcoming trips
- **Anyone** who was on a trip can load an album of photos taken on the trip (no tagging and permission of those photographed required)
- **Any member** can ask questions, for instance technical questions or where to buy the best gear

So ... go to <https://www.facebook.com/> > search on MSS Adventure Group and click "Join Group". AND, start communicating with other members!





ICS Update

by Jim Crockett

The (International Congress of Speleology (ICS) Organising Committee has released the 2nd circular for the Union of Speleology (UIS) Congress which has a great deal of information regarding the Congress which will be held in Sydney on 23 – 29 July 2017. This is the first time this event has been held in Australia and registrations are now open. I encourage all members to have a look at the details and urge them to sign up for the conference and any of the field trips on offer.

We are expecting this to be a mammoth event for Australian Speleology. More information can be found at www.speleo2017.com.



AGM & Christmas Party – 19 & 20 November

What better way to celebrate Christmas in Australia than a BBQ feast with great company by the beach! This year, MSS has access to a house at Macmasters Beach (at no cost to MSS) for our Christmas Party and AGM.

Want to stay for the weekend? We should be able to accommodate anyone who wishes to stay overnight either in the house (1 room with 2 single beds, 1 room with a double with single bunk above and plenty of room for air-mattresses on the floor), or if we have a really big turn-out we can put tents in the area below the house. (RSVP fast for the rooms, allocated on a first come basis.)

Heaps to do: The house is a short one- minute walk from beautiful Macmasters Beach. There are no planned activities for the weekend, and we've purposefully left it clear for people to enjoy the area. At the Beach there's swimming, snorkeling, some lovely rock pools and rock hopping/walking around the headlands depending on the tide. Nearby Boudhi National Park also offers some lovely day walks. Then, there's the local lake for kayaking. Or, simply spend the afternoon on the back deck sipping drinks of choice and listening to birdsong and the sound of the ocean while tending the BBQ.

The Christmas feast: BYO, meat, drinks, folding chair, plate/cup/glass/cutlery. If there is anyone who'd like to volunteer to bring a salad (or two) or fruit platter, contact me to co-ordinate so we don't have too much double up.

AGM: The plan will be to start the AGM shortly after dinner. I'll have board games available to keep any of the kids occupied in the other rooms (or maybe downstairs at the ping pong table).

Sunday Morning: For those staying the night I'll put on a fry up breakfast on Bacon egg rolls.

RSVP: by 30 October 2016 to Beth Little littlebeth78@hotmail.com. Exact directions and maps will be distributed to the rsvp list. Look forward to seeing you there!



NEW ZEALAND'S HEAPHY TRACK – the movie

In February this year, three of our members (David Stuckey, Marilyn Scott and Johan Verhagen) completed a seven-day traverse of New Zealand's Heaphy Track. This is an 80 km route located in the Kahurangi National Park on the South Island. The track travels through expansive tussock downs, lush forests and nikau palms to the roaring seas of the West Coast and is serviced by a series of huts. Of special interest for members of a Caving club are the numerous limestone bluffs and many caves to be explored along the way.

Our trip was made all the better due to the extended period of fine weather, allowing us to enjoy refreshing swims at every stop. Normally, the route is completed in 3-5 days, however, we decided on a more relaxed time of 7 days, allowing us to enjoy our wilderness surroundings all the more. It also afforded us the opportunity to stay at every hut, sit around the open fire, sipping tea and roasting marshmallows.

David Stuckey captured a lot of video along the way and has edited the imagery into a short clip. It has been published online at: <https://vimeo.com/158296383>. You are most welcome to share the link.



TRIP REPORTS

Caving Yarranbilly – 5 – 9 June 2016

Report by: Beth Little

Participants: Beth Little (TL), David Stuckey, Marilyn Scott & guest Anne Bishop

Yarrangobilly is one of my favourite caving destinations in Australia, this perfectly situated Karst in the Snowy Mountains. This year's trip was particularly exiting as CSS ran a caving week concurrently to ours and we combined trips. This was the first time in ages that there were to be so many cavers (and their families) down at Yarrangobilly at once.

MSS, with help from CSS, have volunteered to run a preconference caving trip for ASF for the International Speleology Conference 2017. This year's concurrent trip was an opportunity for networking (and socialising!), to share and consolidate cave knowledge, and dry run some of the intended trips and running order for 2017 trip planning. John Brush and Marj Coggan led up the CSS contingent.

We had classic snowy mountain weather for the time of year; drizzly, frequent bouts of teaming roof leaking type rain, and the hint of snow at times that never eventuated. This was my first time staying in the newly renovated Caves House, and NPWS have done a fantastic job. The massive commercial style stainless steel shared kitchen blew my mind just a little I'll admit - very impressive. M and I were lucky enough to be sharing a bathroom with a gorgeous huge bath – just the thing for soaking sore caving muscles after the long days. It was so lovely hanging out with other cavers in the evenings and the CSS crew were very welcoming (being the larger group). Evenings were entertaining, spent sharing stories and cave knowledge. A huge thank you to John, Marj and CSS for such a great week.

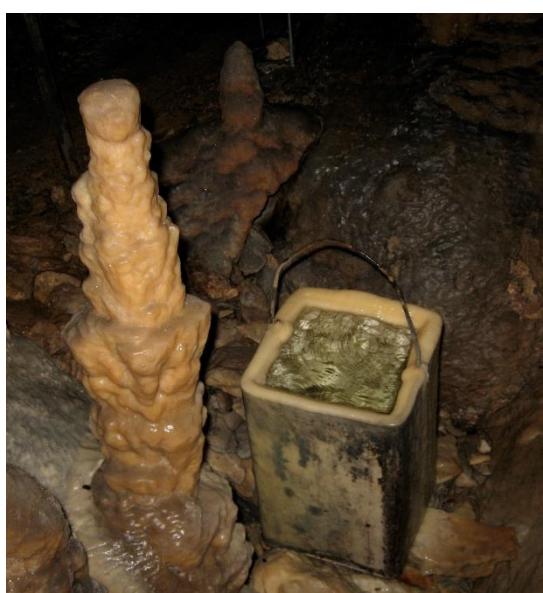
DAY 1: The first day was a get-to-know-you-and-the-area day when we met the CSS crew and did a range of tourist caves, **Castle Cave Y31**, **Harrie Wood Cave Y26**, **North Glory** and **South Glory**. Everyone has their personal favourite of the tourist caves and this was argued about back and forth by a few. For me it is Harrie Wood for two main reasons; I



Y26 - The cave laying claim to the chicken wire

love seeing science in action - Harrie Wood sports a few different experiments at once, and secondly I love the signs of the cave re-asserting itself over the manmade fixtures (chicken wire, guttering and old kero tin as a bucket in particular) and laying claim to them as part of the cave.

DAY 2: Tricketts Y13, and Coppermine Y12. Tricketts is a very impressive cave entrance above Yarrangobilly river downstream from the Coppermine entrance. Given the wet conditions access to Tricketts was quite challenging as it required traversing across a wet steep-ish slope above the river. We were rewarded by a fantastic view up the valley from the large cave entrance. Coppermine by comparison is a lively river cave were the bubbling and gurgling sounds of the river are your background music for the adventure. I was very excited to see the platypus burrows with platypus claw track marks inside the cave. John B impressed us all with his climbing moves to get up into the upper section, setting up a caving ladder for the rest of us. We doffed our outfits for the



Y26 - old kero bucket now as part of cave

clean zone and donned clean shoes. Sadly, there are signs that not everyone has been following this guidance though, as there was evidence of quite a bit of tracked mud through this upper section. We didn't go quite to or beyond the gate.

DAY 3: Restoration Cave Y50 & East Deep Creek Cave – Y5 (with an after dinner **Jillabenan Y22**). For today we had 14 cavers from MSS & CSS split into two groups who did Restoration and EDC with a swaparoo at lunchtime. For some of the cavers today this was their first “wild cave” experience and we had catered for them to only do the morning cave and then return to Caves House for the afternoon.

Restoration Cave starts with quite a few climbs and scrambly sections (easier down then back up!), a few sections benefited from a handline to help negotiate. Restoration is generally quite easy to navigate as the path is marked out and spans the circumference of the chamber in both directions. It's a highly decorated cave, and the large size of the chamber means there is a great benefit having a few participants along with high powered headlamps to get the best out of it.

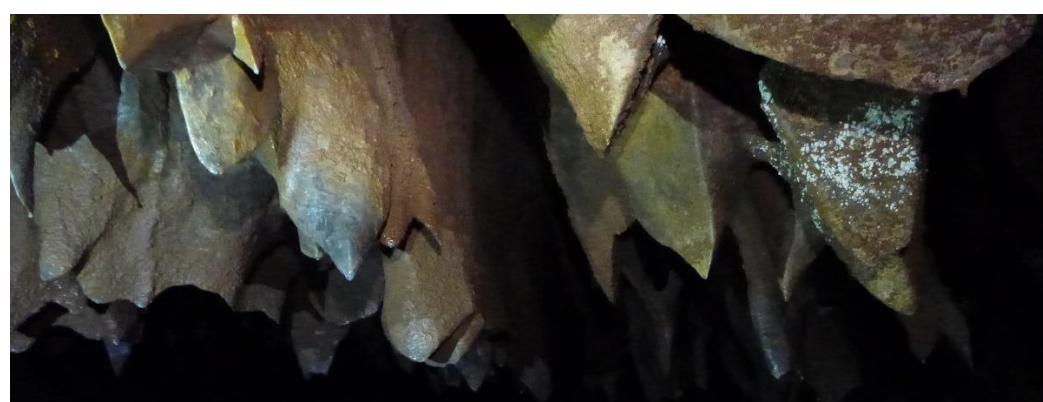
East Deep Creek is a great cave, and one I would ideally like to spend more time in in future. It's got some really fun sections. Navigating the boulder section is pretty challenging as everything looks slicked up. I had forgotten how thought provoking the squeeze past the gate can be for beginners. Our main destination today was the Upper Section, to the crystal blue pool and the little upper detrog zoned crystal chamber. The upper section is well worth the effort to detrog. You step up and into this area surrounded by crisp crystalline formations all shimmering away to your headlamp and thanks to the rains we had been having there was water pouring down setting off the glimmer to best advantage.

After dinner we drove up to Jillabenan Cave, the classic and most highly decorated of tourist caves. Regina, a CSS member and NPWS guide, offered to give us the tour and it was one of the most entertaining and informative cave tours I have ever been on - and I've been on quite a few in my time! She was amazing. I had forgotten how startling Jilla's old time 'modifications' are, done to allow tourist access and viewpoints, the massive waist deep channels sliced through the cave formation in particular. A highly decorated cave and highly entertaining evening.

DAY 4: Eagle's Nest (through trip) Y3, Y1 & Y2. Eagle's Nest through trip rates for me as one of my all-time favourite caving trips. It is diverse, sporty, spectacular, and sustained. My thanks to Dave and John for assisting with the navigation through Eagles Nest and teaching me their navigation tips. I found out M doesn't enjoy belly crawls to say the least (sorry M - I didn't know!) despite this she managed to get through Hughies dig which for those not familiar is quite a committing and lengthy tummy crawl section. We lunched at Red Crystal Room, and later on paused appropriately to be amazed at the roof pendants in Railway Tunnel (my favourite type of primary formation).



East Deep Creek - the crystal blue pool



Eagle's Nest Railway Tunnel Roof Pendants



Eagle's Nest Track Marking

We did a little track marking project that George (NWPS) had approved of in Railway Tunnel as well. We exited to fine mist and rain. An evening spent having a hot bath back at Caves House was just the thing, followed by good company with red wine. Not a bad way to finish a top week that's for sure.

Yarrangobilly, we shall miss you, but we will see you again shortly.



Castle Cave Pendulite



Caving Jenolan - 18-19 June 2016

Report by: Chris Johnstone

Participants: Chris Johnstone (TL), Helena, Ben & Owen Johnstone, Paul Richards, Josette & Edward Squires, Marilyn, David & Bailey Scott

Jon Bonwick's house is not easy to find in the evening; it's set well back and after dark the gate off Old Bathurst Road can be a little hard to spot. And if Helena is to be believed, I am a terrible navigator. But we did find his house. We did get the key to caver's cottage at Jenolan and that meant that when we got there at 8:15 precisely, being only 11C, we could get in and light the fire relatively easily. No dramas, bets won, Helena about the time and me closest on temperature.

Sometime around 10 pm Marilyn, David and Baily turned up. The fire meant the room was warm and it was easy to plan the weekend's caving activities. After a couple of glasses of red we had vague plan and sleeping arrangements. The Scott's were in the garage and Johnstone's in the cottage.

Next morning at 8am a few faces emerged and we prepared for the day. It was an overcast wet day but I went down to the guide's office and arranged a key for the caves. Aladdin was to be the morning activity followed by another cave further up the northern valley later in the afternoon.

Back at the hut Ed and Jo had arrived at around 9am, closely followed by Paul Richards. The party was complete.

We headed down to the reserve after I faffed around for a while, only to find that I had been given the wrong reserve gate key; another trip to the Guide's office. This time I had the correct key and we started down into the valley.

From the playing fields we made the short trek back towards the main tourist area to find Aladdin. The path is



Josette negotiating the wire netting tunnel in Aladdin

well worn so we had no problems finding the entrance even if the track was very slippery.

It was raining lightly when we arrived, so we wasted no time in getting into the cave. It's a big entrance with plenty of room so we left our rain jackets and lunches inside the gate and prepared ourselves.

Quite a few of the party had never been caving at Jenolan before and Paul had surprisingly never been into Aladdin before. There was some excitement in the air so we started into the cave briskly. Paul had an introductory head over heels just to show the newbies how to do it.

Aladdin is a moderate sized cave which is used for the shorter of the Jenolan Adventure Tours, so it's quite open and there is not much too technical on the main path.

The first section is a set of short climbs to a sloped section. On the sloped section, there is a rope anchored by iron spikes which is used as a safety line across the traverse. Then down a ladder to a slippery wet rock slope. At the bottom of the slope, there is an open chamber which branches off to two branch chambers. Both of the chambers are quite well decorated, if a little spoilt by the chicken wire in place to protect the formations.



Formations in Aladdin

But the wire is understandable and they have made sure that despite quite heavy traffic, the formations are still in good shape for all to see.

After looking at the pretty sections we contemplated going down the narrow section to the lower chambers. Owen was keen, but the less sporting of us decided not to and Owen was disappointed.

Heading back to the entrance from the lower chambers, we decided to explore the chamber above the sloped traverse. At the end of it, unmarked in the guidebook, Owen found a small opening which he decided to explore. Both Jo and I tried to follow but size stopped us. Bailey followed and he and Owen found that the passage continued far enough to join up with the top of the north side decorated chamber – the last section gap was not large enough for Owen to get through but he was pleased to have been able to explore an unmarked section of the cave.

From there it was back to the surface for Lunch. On the way back to the surface, Paul twisted his leg and pulled a calf muscle. Unfortunately, that meant a slow walk back to the playing fields after lunch and an end to Paul's caving for the day. Helena and Ben went back with him to the cottage, where they spent the afternoon chatting, telling yarns, having a couple of drinks and enjoying themselves. The rest of us decided to keep going and we headed up the valley to Hennings. I will leave it to you to decide who made the better choice.



Bailey in one of the Hennings squeezy bits

gave up and went back to the main party. It had been a while since I had been into the cave and I couldn't remember that there was much past that section.

The Maze area of the cave is quite open and we wandered around while the newer cavers and the young ones tried fitting through gaps in the rock. We all admired the formations and we tried poking our heads into the sections that we did see. There were some nice formations around a taped off pool and some interesting speleothems on the ceiling. The cave didn't seem to take very long to explore but we tried the various passages through the maze area to practice caving skills.

A few photos were taken and everyone was happy but I felt we missed something. A few days later I realised that the squeeze that we had avoided was the way into the next section of the cave. I am sure there are lessons to be learnt from that, probably that I need to lose some weight but more importantly, that you should always go through that bit which might go somewhere. Oh well, the cave isn't going anywhere and we can always go back.

Hennings is a couple of Kms up the northern valley about a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour walk or so from the playing fields. Despite having a GPS we managed to go just past the entrance and found Maiden Cave before back tracking to where the entrance was.

We entered via J76 and went down the small slope into main cave past the phalacite and into the maze area. Inside we explored through the cave going to the various sections of the maze area.

We looked for the further parts of the cave and found a section to squeeze under. Ed and I being the largest of the party had a quick go at going under but didn't really try very hard. We



Hennings - formations on the ceiling of the cave

We left the cave and headed back to that cars. It had started raining and by the time we got back we were all pretty wet and it was cooling down. At least there was a fire and hot food waiting for us back at the Cottage.



The resident possum, must have been smelling Helena's lamb stew all afternoon

We spent the evening enjoying good cooking swapping yarns and we all went to bed quite early.

The next morning the weather appeared to have worsened. It was raining consistently and it didn't look like breaking up.

We decided that walking up the valley all the way to Wiburds would take too long and only leave us wet. Wiburds is quite an extensive cave and the trip was really a full day trip. Instead we decided we would go to Little Canyon to look at the MSS dig site and then go into Serpentine via the back route. Paul had decided his injury was not going to allow him to cave so he decided he wouldn't come. Ben and Helena just decided that the weather was too unpleasant and Little Canyon was not worth the walk.

After a reasonable start, we arrived at the pig trap at about 10:00 and went up the hill to the entrance. It was a little less obvious than last time I was there, but we didn't have any trouble finding the opening. We

were a little wet and we slid straight in via the J60 entrance.

Inside we traversed to where the dig site was and Owen, being the keenest, went down to see if the channel had been blocked by the recent rain. It wasn't so he went through. Ed followed and I went through shortly afterwards. I think it had filled in a little bit but not enough to stop us getting through. Our permit specifically said that we were not allowed to dig, so we didn't make the passage any wider than it was. Once through Owen was keen to show anyone the passage that he had explored with Fletch, Beth and Andre last time he went in there. But as only Ed and myself had bothered to go through the dig into the chamber and neither of us were going to be able to get into the passage we put a veto on that. Not that that stops Owen but at least he didn't go too far without coming back.

Ed and I left the dig chamber and offered for any others to go in. I think Bailey and David had a look but Marilyn and Josette declined.

While they explored, I climbed up the muddy climb which leads into the back of Serpentine. I got to the top and was going to put a hand line down to allow everyone else to climb up. It was very slippery and there was a nice pool of water to slide through on my back. I tried to find somewhere to loop a hand line through but there really wasn't anywhere and it was tighter than I remembered. I called back to the others and they had already decided the climb looked too difficult and since I couldn't promise any pretties, just some more squeezy bits they weren't keen. We had decided not to go further and I came down again.

After that, we had a look at the rest of the cave, clambering around the 'canyon' section until we started heading back. For variety we all took different routes out of the cave. Owen led a group out through the small daylight hole at the end, Ed tried climbing out the trickier J59 entrance until relenting and I climbed out the way we came in. We all rendezvoused outside, looked at the weather, quickly gathered our stuff and started walking back. It was only a bit after midday but I think we had all had enough and decided to call it an early day and head home.

We left Jenolan at a respectable 2pm and headed home. Paul had headed home earlier and had decided to go via the Lithgow hospital to get some help for his leg injury. We found out later that it was nothing major, just a pulled muscle so he will recover.

All up, the weekend went quite well. Only a minor injury to Paul, no lost kids (I must be doing something wrong), and some initiated cavers. This certainly was not the most adventurous caving trip I have been on, the weather hadn't helped but I think our Jenolan first timers had a good experience and I think we will see them again on future trips.



Bailey coming out of the Dig Section in Little Canyon cave

Caving – Timor – 18 – 19 June 2016

Report by: Roderick Smith

Participants: Garry K. Smith, Ian Wild, Geoff McDonnell, Roderick Smith

The weather prediction was horrible. Another East Coast Low was apparently on its way and going to hit over the weekend. It may not rain underground, but getting to caves, including the long drop, could be rather unpleasant. On the other hand, another weekend in Sydney could be just as unpleasant; I'd already committed to going and I wasn't about to pull out just because there was a prediction of bad weather. I mean, how often do they actually get it right anyway? There was already some light rain around as I loaded the car, but nothing too serious. As I drove north the rain eased off and then stopped altogether, maybe we'd get a fine weekend after all.

I arrived at Timor at about 3:30pm on Friday; Garry was there and he'd already been doing a lot of work around the hut. A couple of hours battling with the fluorescent light in the shower had him rather frustrated, but getting lights and power points working in other rooms assured him that the afternoon hadn't been a waste.

I'd come prepared with a chainsaw; the large pine tree behind the hut has a habit of dropping lots of pine needles in the guttering, so a trim was in order. Standing on a branch about 7m up while wielding a chainsaw may not be to everyone's liking, but with care I was able to remove most of the offending branches. The sun was setting as I piled up the wood (now cut into manageable sizes) in the backyard.

Garry kept working well after dark, but eventually stopped around 6:00pm. We then got a fire going, made easy by the soft wood left by Brian and Bill, and had our evening meal. A couple of hours later Ian and Geoff arrived.



The "workers" all set up and ready to go. Photo: Garry Smith



Rod with the hauling bucket - Photo: Garry Smith

It rained during the night, and looked quite overcast in the morning. A few showers were going through, but it looked like it could get worse. That wasn't going to stop us from digging though. After breakfast we made the long and arduous journey to Eyrie Cave and the first item set up was the gazebo.

Garry had constructed a tripod after seeing how useful Brian's tripod had been on the previous trip. This was set up over the entrance ready to haul the bucket loads of mud from the depths of the earth. Garry had managed to forget the ladder, but we were all capable of climbing the pitch, and a tape was set up for some extra security.

Tasks were assigned, Garry headed for the dig, Geoff would transfer the buckets to Ian who would attach them to the haul line and I would haul them out and empty them. It wasn't long before I felt that I wasn't keeping up with Garry, which I'm sure most people could understand. No sooner would I lower an empty bucket than a full would be ready to lift.

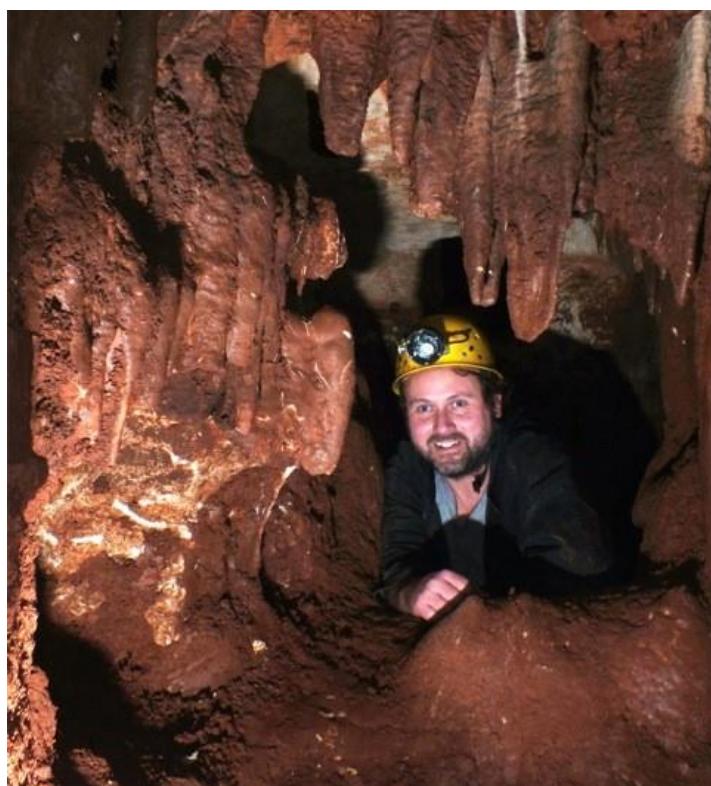
Within the first ten minutes the next shower came over, but that didn't last too long. Thankfully it wasn't too long before I realised that I was accidentally emptying the buckets

onto the rock which is used for the ladder anchor! So, whenever I got a reprieve, which wasn't often, I would start moving the mud off the anchor. I got some moved, the rest was moved later in the day.

After what felt like hours we took a lunch break; we'd actually only been going about 1 ½ hours, but that was enough. In the last ten minutes the sun had made an appearance, so we were dry, albeit muddy, for the drive back to the hut. It was a leisurely lunch, but Garry realised he'd left his glasses on a ledge in the cave, so we had to go back. This time I started digging and handing the buckets to Garry who would pass them on to Geoff, and Ian did the hauling. I don't know how many buckets I filled, but it started to aggravate my shoulder injury, so I swapped with Garry. He noticed the difference I had made (or he was being nice!) before continuing the dig.

While this was going on Ian had put on some music to work to. According to Geoff, Mike Oldfield was "really playing". I don't know how much it helped Geoff and Ian, but I do think it helped.

I was really starting to grow weary when Garry made the call that he was nearly through, only three more buckets. Surprisingly the three only became four, not twenty. After that Garry was able to squeeze past one lump before getting stuck by the second. However, from there he was able to see into a room about 8m long and 6m wide, and half a metre or more high. Apparently it was hard to tell, but there were possibly some good leads off that room, to add to the other leads in the cave. We packed up and made our way back to the hut for a much needed shower and an evening meal.



Rod in the cave – Photo: Garry Smith

After dinner Ian pulled out a small projector and was able to rig up a wrinkled sheet as a screen. Using these we were regaled with photos from Geoff's recent travels to England. Once that had finished I had faded sufficiently that I went straight to bed.

Again it rained during the night and we awoke to overcast skies. The plan was to drive around to Rock Me Cave, which Geoff wanted to visit, while the rest of us would do some surface trogging.

As Garry started rigging the pitch into Rock Me the rain began. There is a handy little shelter near the cave which Ian and I made use of, and Garry joined us after finishing the rigging. A reprise in the rain meant Garry started poking at one very likely looking spot while I went to look at a small hole I'd seen from the car, and turned out to be a wombat hole. Ian found a great looking pit, until we found the tag on it, TR66.

The rain started again and we headed back to the shelter. Soon Geoff emerged from Rock Me after being unable to get through the squeeze. By now the rain appeared to have set in, so we opted to return to the hut for an early lunch and departure.

It was a great weekend. Very productive, with only four of us we still managed to move quite a lot of mud, plus a couple of tasks done around the hut. I'm already looking forward to the next trip to Timor.



EQUIPMENT - FOR SALE or WANTED

There are a number of new members who are also new to caving. If anyone has some second-hand (or new) equipment that they don't need any more, would you like to advertise it in a "for sale" section of the newsletter?

Simply send an email to newsletter@mssadventures.org.au with details of your item (manufacturer, model, age, condition, price, contact details) and we'll put it in the FOR SALE section of the next magazine.

Canyoning – Bells Folly – 23 July 2016

Report by: Marilyn Scott

Participants: Marilyn Scott (TL) Rod Smith, Beth Little, Andre Munck, Trish Neil & Heather Reid.

Back in January, the six of us went looking for Bells Folly canyon. All we had was a You Tube video to go from with a rough idea of where it was. In selecting the creek system that we looked in, I used logic, and my logic was way off, so we didn't find the canyon. I went back to the same creek system a few months later, and again struck out. So, I called in a favour and got a better fix on where it would be for this, my/our

third attempt. This was a joint MSS and Brisbane Water Outdoors Club trip, Trish and Heather being BWOC members (as am I). The weather was terrible, freezing cold wind from the west and almost gale force. It's also been a wet winter and there'd been rain in the previous week, so what we thought would be a dry canyon turned out to be really, really wet!

This is an unpublished canyon, so giving you the grid references and our track notes from the day would spoil the fun for any future adventurer; so, what did we do and what did we find?

We headed out in the vicinity of Tiger Snake and then peeled off into the wilderness into a gully. We soon found running water in the (reportedly dry) creek bed. We continued

downstream and came to a small drop, 1m into a pool, then 2m into another pool, we could have scrambled this but (not wanting to get wet and colder) we opted to negotiate around this section.

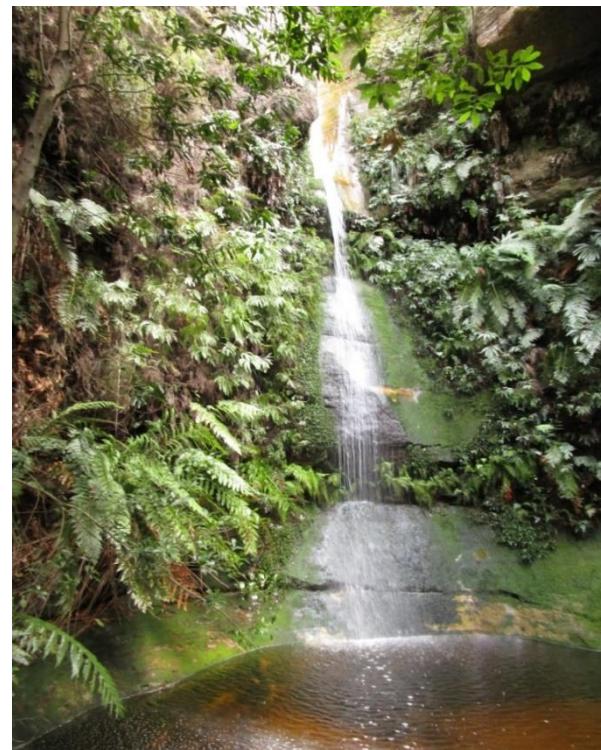
We next came to a small waterfall, about 10 – 12m but hard to tell as it wound around a little. Again, not wanting to get wet we were able to climb around it at the bottom, we found a deep pool. I was not confident that we were in the right place as I'd been expecting to see a small constricted tunnel and, so far, we hadn't found one. We walked further downstream and then found the constriction, it had a lot of water in it and was about 15m long, again we negotiated our way around it. It was now pretty obvious we were in the right place. Yay!

We came to another waterfall, again constricted, we abseiled off to the side and then elected to do another small 3m abseil to avoid a difficult climb down, with less water and in summer, you could scramble down the creek to avoid this 3m drop. I lost track of the abseils at this stage, I think we did another dry 20m abseil off to the right. It looked like we were now at the final "100ft" waterfall. Andre found a route around to the right where we could abseil down a nice dry wall, landing just to the left of the thigh deep pool, the waterfall was covered with moss.

We didn't find any fixed anchors through the canyon and we left none behind so it is still pretty pristine. Our exit was through a lovely coachwood forest which was very open, no scrub bashing whatsoever. We had to walk a few hundred metres to the point where we accessed a ledge between two cliff-lines and we were soon up on top, then it was a matter of following our noses back to the Tiger Snake track.



Rod on the last abseil



The final waterfall

Car to car it was a 7-hour trip. We were all pretty excited that we'd finally nailed the canyon! Thanks everyone for joining me on this exploration – let's hope future ones are as successful!

Caving – Cliefden – 30 – 31 July 2016

Report by: Cathi Humphrey-Hood

Participants: Rod Smith (TL), Cathi Humphrey-Hood, Murray Newman, Emma Parnell, Elshyth Porter & Aengus Porter

Mindful of my last trip to Cliefden where many wasted hours were spent battling Sydney traffic, I had hoped to get away early. Achieving this against all odds, Elshyth, Aengus and I met Rod at Glenbrook around midday. There Rod informed me that he hadn't heard from Denis from OSS, so he didn't know if we'd even have a permit for the weekend, and hadn't been able to get in touch with Paul, so didn't know if he'd be home so we could deliver him a hoodie that fitted him.

Rod had heard from Mark Hornshaw though, who unfortunately wasn't able to come this weekend.

Hoping the situation would sort itself out on the way, we headed off on our detour to Portland. Paul was indeed there, though out the back bringing in washing, so it was a while before he worked out that Rod and I were sitting on his doorstep, admiring the lowering sun in a chilly, windy sky and wondering why anyone would live somewhere that was so bloody cold.

Saying farewell to Paul, we headed for Cliefden, arriving just before sunset. The first task was to get a fire going to take the chill off everything, and we'd just set about this when Murray and Emma arrived. We planned to visit the landowner in the morning first to see if Denis had been in contact with him - but Rod assumed that all was well and we got our gear ready anyway. (Elshyth and Aengus decided to take the easy "stay-in-the-hut" option). The landowner wasn't expecting us, but as we had been in contact with Dennis he kindly gave us the keys to Main Cave and after playing with his two extremely cute puppies, we detoured back to the hut to pick up the overalls I'd forgotten, and then headed for Transmission, Casuarina, or Stable.



The flood debris thoughtfully provided a barrier to anyone who might be silly enough to consider driving across the river

When we saw the river it became clear that the caves on the other side of it were not going to be on our menu this time, as the Belubula was brown, rimmed with flood debris and flowing deep at quite a brisk pace across the ford.

Rod then made a plan: Transmission in the morning, Main Cave in the afternoon, and then we could mess around with trying to locate the top entrance to Casuarina on our half-day on Sunday.

I had overalls but Emma and Murray were willing to brave their clothes (unfortunately as it turned out for Emma's jeans). We found Transmission to be very dusty and very warm. Once we



Now you see me... now you don't... Murray eyeing off a tunnel in Transmission cave

reached one of the wetter areas my camera lens fogged up completely. I hadn't been in this cave before and found it very pretty in places and quite labyrinthine in others. Rod didn't have his usual energy for exploration and was quite happy to pass the mantle to the very flexible and inquisitive Murray and Emma, who climbed up and around the different levels while Rod pointed out various features and I continued to wrestle with the fog on the lens.

Just when I finally dispatched the fog from the lens of the 7D (replacing it with dust and mud), we were ready to make our way out in search of cooler air. Upon emerging, we patted our clothes and promptly generated a pretty brown cloud of Transmission dust. I don't think it will catch on as a fashion trend.

It was conveniently lunchtime, so we borrowed some of the conveniently placed garden chairs located under a convenient tree, and had a leisurely lunch. Fortunately, the breeze had dropped, as it was still quite cool even in the sun.

After lunch we set off to find Main Cave. On our last trip here we'd gone the wrong way from the bottom of the hill - this time Rod had two GPS units, one of them with the cave definitely logged in it, and aimed to start at the top of the hill where the cave should be just below us.



Rod stands triumphant above the cave which had formerly eluded him.

We dropped into the entrance shaft to Main Cave, which winds downward quite steeply. There is a string line here, and helpful notes to guide you on the right side of it. This dusty and slightly slippery shaft abruptly twists a little and then opens up into a VERY large chamber. I took one look at it and immediately thought about how few lights we had and how inadequate they were going to be for photography.

Like Rod, I wasn't feeling up to par and I was content to simply stand there and stare at the magnificence of it all.

Emma and Murray wandered around while I fiddled with the camera and asked them to stand still and light up something every now



Emerging with half the cave in your clothes

We watched the metres tick down on the GPS, and then they started ticking up again. We reversed a bit, parked, got out the gear and headed off down the hill and this time - success! It was so painless that it didn't seem quite right... but it was.

Well, almost. As Rod looked at the locked gate he said "we've forgotten something." Yes, indeed, the key was still in the car. I went back to get it and after I returned there was a bit of jiggling to be done - the lock is in an awkward place and one wrong move would see the key drop into the cave below.



The magnificent main chamber

and again, but after a short time Rod and Murray headed off to the left and soon disappeared from sight. Like Transmission, Main Cave was extremely warm inside.

Wondering where Rod and Murray had gone, Emma decided to look for them and I regarded the thin passage winding steeply downward in dismay, thinking of all the "up" that must follow on the way back out. The passage was well decorated leading out of the main chamber, with a spiky roof that had to be gently respected, but it all became very muddy further down. Extremely muddy, so much so that we were sticking to the floor with each step. After a while we reached a pool with what looked like calcite rafts floating on the



Decoration in Main Cave



Murray and Emma in the big chamber in Main Cave

top, and Rod began to wonder if we hadn't made our way, accidentally, to "The Sewers". In spite of the mud, it was a very pretty place.



Murray enjoying life in the sewers

off and plan the next day's adventure.

Come the next day, however, the reason for Rod's lack of energy became clear. He had a cold, and didn't feel up to going underground. However, he had designs on Casuarina, or rather, grand plans to locate the lost top entrance he was sure we were "that close" to finding. Because MSS plan on surveying this cave, it would make sense to pin down this entrance if we could. So the new plan was that I would take Murray and Emma in, as Rod was sure Murray was thin enough to wedge himself into the top part of the cave, while Rod would wander around on the surface

and wait for a signal... of some sort. (Aengus agreed to join Rod in wandering over the hill, so we did manage to get him off the lounge for a few hours).

I did (eventually) manage to find the right cave. Casuarina (CL32) is very short (or so it seems), and in no time Murray was climbing up the final dip slope looking, literally, for the light.

He actually saw it! Then, down below, I could see it too, up the slab and through a person sized hole. Because of the lack of handholds from my side, however, Murray could only get to it from where he was, but he had to take his helmet off and wedge himself through a really hairy constriction.

He made it through this obstacle (thank goodness, or you would have seen us on the news), took hold of a stick poking down through the opening, and he started to call out to Rod. Emma went back out to provide the signal of some sort and eventually Rod saw the hole... and the poor dead lamb that Murray's stick was prodding in the side. Mission accomplished!

On the way out of Casuarina, Murray and Emma explored some promising leads and it looks as if the surveying task for this cave has just grown in complexity somewhat. We all went up into the gully to look for possible connections into the cave, and it looks like this drainage forms the back wall of the cave itself, with the potential for there to be new cave underneath most of it.



Murray and Emma inspect the hole that Murray reached from below, next to the lamb which was rolled out of the way first.

It was however starting to get late, and we still needed to climb out. Being covered in mud, Rod did not think it a good idea to explore more of the cave and risk transferring the mud somewhere it shouldn't be, so we decided to make our way out. Fortunately the "up" bit didn't seem quite so long on the return trip.

We emerged, less dusty but with very muddy boots, from the cave to a beautiful evening sky and cool bracing air that made a sharp contrast to the warmth of the cave.

We locked the cave gate and returned to the hut to wash the mud



Emma coming out of Main Cave - less dusty than Transmission



This gecko was loitering just inside the entrance to Main Cave (Photo: Murray Newman)



We're all a few kilos heavier and it's all mud (Photo: Emma Parnell)

After this victory we returned to clear the hut and head home. Thus ended another successful trip to Cliefden, which has quickly become one of my favourite areas.





MSS TRIP CALENDAR

Aug 27 – 28 Caving Glenrock	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: roderick_smith@hotmail.com Grade: Easy
Sept 10 – 11 Canyoning Newnes		Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: roderick_smith@hotmail.com Copper Canyon - Grade: Medium/Hard Exploratory
Sept 17 - 18 Caving Abercrombie		Trip Leader: Jim Crocket Contact: jcrockett3@bigpond.com Grade: Easy Joint trip with SUSS.
Oct LWE Caving Bendethra		Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: roderick_smith@hotmail.com Grade: Easy/Medium
Oct 15 – 16 Canyoning Newnes Plateau	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: marilyn_scott@bigpond.com Grade: Exploratory – participants must be experienced and with limited expectations (ie not necessarily finding a canyon) Limited to 6
Oct 22 – 23 Field Day Wee Jasper		Trip Leader: Beth Little Contact: littlebeth78@hotmail.com Instructional
Nov 19 – 20 AGM & Christmas Party Central Coast	NEW TRIP	Co-ordinator: Beth Little Contact: littlebeth78@hotmail.com See full details on Page 5.
Nov 26 – 27 Overnight Walk Wallangambe	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: marilyn_scott@bigpond.com Grade: Easy – 4 – 5 hour walk to campsite, expect wet feet and possible off track adventure. Suitable for those new to overnight walking.
Dec 10 – 11 Canyoning Newnes Valley	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: roderick_smith@hotmail.com Hartleys Mistake & Bigfoot Canyons – Grade: Hard Exploratory – Hartleys Mistake on Saturday – camping on Deanes Creek and then Bigfoot on Sunday
Dec 26 Canyoning Wollangambe	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Jim Crocket Contact: jcrockett3@bigpond.com Grade: Easy – the Club's Annual pilgrimage to Wollangambe River to Lilo Section 1 on Boxing Day!
First 2 weeks January Caving South Aust.	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: roderick_smith@hotmail.com Grade: Easy coinciding with ASF Council Meeting 7 th Jan in SA
Feb 4 – 5 Canyoning Bungonia	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Murray Newman Contact: Mnewman174@yahoo.com.au Grade: Easy – Medium Canyons TBA
Feb or March Overnight Walk Kanangra	NEW TRIP	Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: marilyn_scott@bigpond.com Back by popular demand the renowned Decadence Walks – with a twist – an easy 2k walk to arguably the best campsite in Kanangra!



APPENDIX 1 – MEETING MINUTES

MSS 421st General Meeting, 4 August 2016

Held at Canada Bay SES

Meeting Opened: 6:30pm

Present: Roderick Smith, Beth Little, Jim Crockett, Cathi Humphrey-Hood, Chris Johnstone

Apologies: Marilyn Scott

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes: None

Correspondence:

SUSS Bull 54(4)

Letter from The Jenolan Cavers Cottage regarding our financial situation

Membership application – Heather Reed

Bank statements

Committee Members Reports:

President: The second Circular for next year's UIS Conference was released this week. This includes details for attendees to book pre and post conference trips.

Treasurer: None

Equipment Officer: None

Training Officer: The October training weekend is going ahead at Wee Jasper, all welcome.

Librarian: None

Web Manager: There have been some changes to the website. The most significant change has been the addition of functionality to allow members to update their details. If anyone has trouble with this functionality, please contact Rod. As a result of the recent Cleftden trip it has been decided to add a document area to the website which will only be accessible once a user has logged in. This will contain any useful documents, such as directions to various caving areas.

Status of Action Items:

Bolting Course – Rod Smith: None

Resurveying Stable Cave – Jim Crockett: None

Abercrombie surface survey – Rod Smith: None

Abercrombie documentation – Rod Smith: None

Documentation – Chris Johnstone: Looking through the current constitution there seem to be a lot of differences between what it says we should be doing and what we are actually doing. Although the differences are minor it was agreed that there shouldn't be any differences. As a result, we went through the constitution and compiled two lists. The first list is changes we'll make to the running of MSS and the second is proposed changes to the constitution. We will be voting on these changes at the AGM.

A copy of the current constitution can be found [here](#).

Changes to the running of MSS:

- Add an agenda item to meetings to approve new members.
- Marilyn has offered to assist the secretary with the Register of Members.
- Ensure Treasurer prepares a budget at each AGM for the following year.

Proposed changes to the constitution:

- Change the name of item 2 "Objects" to "Objectives"
- Add two items to the objectives between the current first and second items:
 - o To further knowledge of caving, bushwalking, canyoning and other outdoor activities within the community
 - o To aid in the conservation of caves, canyons and wilderness areas
- Under membership, first section – remove "over the age of eighteen years" and replace with "those"

- Under membership, second section – change “two categories – Full Members and Prospective Members” to “three categories – Full Members, Honorary Members and Prospective Members (also referred to as temporary members)”
- Under membership, second section, item I. – change “third” to “half”
- Under membership, second section, item II. – change wording to “Full Members shall be approved by the committee and shall have sufficient proficiency in activities they are participating in”. Also remove sub-points.
- Under membership, second section, item III. – change wording to “Prospective Members are those who do not qualify for Full Membership, but who have attended an Official Trip with the Society and paid a prospective member subscription.
 - Prospective membership will be for duration as determined by the committee
 - Prospective membership may not be renewed
 - Prospective members wishing to continue membership must be approved by the committee for full membership
 - Prospective membership may not be applied for if a previous temporary membership from another ASF registered club has expired or been revoked”
- Under membership, second section – add item V. With the wording “Honorary members are those members who do not participate in non-social Official Trips with the society but wish to participate in social or office bearing activities
 - A member must have been a full member to become an Honorary member
 - Honorary Membership will be for a duration as determined by the committee
 - Honorary Membership may only be granted to a member by resolution of a majority of the committee
 - Honorary members have voting rights and may hold offices within the society
 - Honorary members are considered as financial members”
- Under membership, third section – add the word “full” before membership
- Under membership, fourth section – add the word “full” before membership
- Under membership, fifth section – change “Prospective” to “Honorary” and remove second sentence.
- Under membership, sixth section – replace current wording with “Only Full and Honorary Members may hold offices within the society”
- Subscription – replace the entire section with:
 - There shall be an annual subscription as determined by resolution of members at the Annual General Meeting. Such subscription shall include fees payable to the A.S.F.
 - Full Membership Full Membership subscriptions may be subscribed in the form of
 - Individual memberships for individuals only and are not transferable
 - Family memberships for groups within the immediate family of up to 2 adults plus any number of minors in their guardianship and are not transferable
 - New full members admitted during the year shall pay a pro rata subscription determined on a monthly basis for the unexpired portion of the current year
 - Any full membership not renewed by payment of the annual subscription by the 31st March following the Annual General Meeting shall be deemed un-financial and relinquish all rights of membership. Under special circumstances the Committee may refer for approval of a General Meeting an extension of this time limit for an individual members
 - A member who becomes un-financial but subsequently becomes financial within a reasonable amount of time may be restored to full membership, offices and rights of membership at the discretion of the committee
 - Membership subscription may be discounted at the discretion of the committee if the member is also another member of an A.S.F. affiliated club where A.S.F. fees have already been paid
 - Prospective Membership
 - Prospective members admitted during the year shall pay a subscription determined by resolution of members at the Annual General Meeting. Such subscription shall include fees payable to the A.S.F.

- Prospective membership fees will not be pro-rata subscriptions and shall be for the duration as determined by resolution of members at the Annual General Meeting.
- Honorary membership
 - In special circumstances the committee may allow a full member to become an honorary member
 - Honorary membership must be approved by a majority of the committee
- Under Members Liabilities – add the word “full” before member
- Under Committee, first section – split each sentence into a separate section. In the second sentence add “and Honorary Members” after “Only Full Members”. In the third sentence replace “at least two thirds” with “only” and add “and Honorary Members” after “Full Members”
- Under General Meetings, first section – change “the third Monday of November” to “a date in the 4th quarter of the calendar year determined by the committee at least 1 month prior to the annual general meeting”
- Under General Meetings, third section – add “full or honorary” before “members”
- Under General Meetings, fourth section – replace “members” with “full and honorary members over the age of 16 years”
- Under General Meetings, fifth section – replace “ten financial members” with “five financial full or honorary members”. Also remove everything after “lesser”
- Under General Meetings, ninth section – replace “on the third Monday each month except December” with “at least Quarterly on a date determined by the committee”
- Under General Meetings, eleventh section – remove the word “written” from the first sub-section
- Under General Meetings, thirteenth (last) section – add “full and honorary” before “members” and change “3e” to “3d”
- Under Finance, first section – change “donations” to “donations, trip fees”
- After Indemnity add another item:
 - President
 - At each Annual General Meeting a President shall be elected
- After the above add another item:
 - Secretary
 - At each Annual General Meeting a Secretary shall be elected
- Under Treasurer – add “At each Annual General Meeting a Treasurer shall be elected”
- Under Treasurer, first section – shouldn’t be a section, just directly under the item. Subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.
- Under Treasurer, current fourth section – change “statement be provided” to “statement may be requested to be provided”
- Under Treasurer – add section after current fourth section “A financial statement is provided at the Annual General Meeting for the previous year for inclusion in the minutes”
- Safety Officer – change the name to “Training Officer”. This includes all references to the Safety Officer within the constitution
- Safety Officer, first section - shouldn’t be a section, just directly under the item. Subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.
- Safety Officer, current second section – change “overseas and local safety” to “good”
- Safety Officer, current third section – remove section
- Safety Officer, current fourth section – replace “safe” with “good” and replace “they are carried out” with “society members are aware of good practice”
- Safety Officer, current fifth section – replace “Field” with “Skills Practice”
- After Safety Officer add another item:
 - Equipment Officer

At each Annual General Meeting an Equipment Officer shall be elected.

The duties of the Equipment Officer shall be:

 - To keep up to date with current good practice that contributes to the use and upkeep of equipment
 - To periodically inspect equipment and report on its condition to the Committee

- To make recommendations on the maintenance, disposal and acquisition of society equipment for society use
- Under Councillor of the A.S.F. , first section – shouldn't be a section, just directly under the item. Subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.
- Under Councillor of the A.S.F., current second section – remove section
- Under Editor – add “At each Annual General Meeting an Editor shall be elected”
- Under Editor, first section - shouldn't be a section, just directly under the item. Subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.
- Under Editor, current fifth section – remove section
- Library – rename item “Librarian”
- Under Library - add “At each Annual General Meeting a Librarian shall be elected”
- Under Library, first section - shouldn't be a section, just directly under the item. Subsequent sections renumbered accordingly.
- After Library add another item:
 - o WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

At each Annual General meeting a Webmaster shall be elected.

The Society Website and Social Media hall be the responsibility of the Webmaster whose duties will be:

 - To keep the Website updated and suitably maintained.
 - Make recommendations on the maintenance of the Society Website.
 - Publish Society newsletters, Calendars, contact lists, publications and content via the Society website.
 - Create, Coordinate and maintain Social Media related to the Society activities
 - Maintain and enforce a privacy policy for content published via the Society website and Social Media
- Under Equipment, second item – add “or the Equipment Officer” after “Trip Leader”
- Under Equipment, fourth item – change “seven days of the termination of the trip for which it was taken” to “a timeframe agreed with the Equipment Officer”
- Under Equipment, fifth item – change “Committee” to “Equipment Officer”
- Trip Leader – remove item (changes in the Official Trips item will render this item unnecessary)
- Under Official Trips, first section – replace “of clause 19.a above” with “below”. Also replace “writing” to “a referable form”
- Under Official Trips, second section – replace “standard caving techniques, or rope techniques” with “activity techniques”. Also remove “Leaders” from “Trip Leaders Report”
- Under Official Trips – after the second section add two more sections:
 - o The trip leader will be appointed by the committee prior to the trip
 - o A trip leader will have obtained all required official permissions for the trip prior to the trip commencement
- Under Official Trips, current third section – replace “nature of the area or nature of the proposed work” with “nature of the area, the nature of the proposed trip, or as specified by permission conditions”
- Under Official Trips, current fourth section – after “Society” add “that meets required competency levels and any permission conditions”
- Under Official Trips – after the current fourth section add:
 - o Where a limit on the number attending an official trip is imposed, all applicants are deemed to have sufficient competency and meet permission conditions, then the trip allocation will be filled on a first come first served basis.
 - o The Trip leader will have final say on those eligible for participating in the official trip but may only use trip numbers, competency and permission conditions as criteria for selection of participants.
- Under Official Trips, current fifth section – replace “Non Members” with “Visitors and prospective members”. Also replace “quarter” with “half”
- Under Official Trips – after current fifth section add
 - o Full and prospective members shall have priority over visitors on official trips subject to reasonable notice prior to the commencement of the trip
- Under Official Trips – after current last section add

- o A calendar of planned Society trips will be published via the Society Website and newsletter
- Under Public Officer – add another section
 - o The Public Officer will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting
- Under Visitors, third section – replace whole section with
 - o Visitors must be either members of an existing A.S.F. affiliated Society (and have paid A.S.F fees) or Visitors shall pay either a full membership or temporary Prospective (also known as Temporary) membership to participate on Society activities

UIS Yarrangobilly Trip – Cathi Humphrey-Hood: Still ticking along

50th T-Shirts – Beth Little: At this stage there is plenty of supply of t-shirts and hoodies and currently no further action is required, so this action item will be removed.

50th Publication – Beth Little: Marilyn has done an amazing job putting together all the articles and laying out the publication. It is almost complete. A handful of people have agreed to be proof readers. Marilyn is currently getting quotes for the printing of the publication.

Facebook – Helena Johnstone and Marilyn Scott: Helena and I discussed FB and by now you'll be aware that we've changed over the FB page to the Closed Group. Here's what actions we've taken ...

1. Put a post on the old page directing visitors to the new page
2. Helena has invited all members of the old page to join the new page. Those members of the old page who weren't into outdoor activities were excluded from the invitation.
3. There were 50 people who "liked" the old page. To date, the new Closed Group now has 18 "Members" and there are 13 invitations as yet unaccepted.
4. We have a listing of current members and eventually I will send an email to those who aren't a member of the Closed Group and ask them if they wish to join (if they use FB).
5. We have pinned a post at the top outlining what the Closed Group is about and outlining some simple parameters, if there's anything more you want us to put in this pinned post, let us know. Eventually we will unpin it and put the information elsewhere but for the time being we'll leave it there.
6. We've put a Yarrangobilly Album on the site and will add one for Jenolan in a day or two. Any "member" can put an album on the site, and it will allow more photos to be shared than those we publish in the Newsletter, the post shouldn't take the place of the trip report for the newsletter though, just add value to the Newsletter and encourage member to member communication about the trip.
7. We've written up a notice for the newsletter explaining why we've changed the FB page to a closed Group.

Moving forward: For the next meeting, Helena and I will get together and review engagement by the members of the Group, the Admins can see how many people "see" or "view" a post and we'll do a run-down of whether or not this has improved over the next three months.

Between now and the next meeting, Helena will take down the old page to avoid confusion.

What you all can do: As this is all about "member to member" communication it would be helpful if occasionally, some of you either made a comment or did a post. With Oz Canyons, if you want to have a specific person comment on a post, you can put in their name e.g. say for my Yagby post, Beth could put a comment in there "David Stuckey, thanks for leading the way through Eagle's Nest", or Jim could say something about the upcoming conference and mention maybe John Oxley's name and ask him if he's coming up this way. Or someone can ask the question about when the ISS conference is on.

It will take a while for people to understand that they're able to comment on the posts and it may be that we'll have to manipulate it a bit before it "takes off" (and let's hope that it does).

New Business:

- Horse plan management – Rod to review and make a small submission.

Trip planning:

Date	Leader	Activity	Location	Grade	Notes
10 - 11 Sept.	Rod Smith	Canyoning	Newnes – Coppers Canyon	Medium/ Hard	Exploratory
22 - 23 Oct.	Beth Little	Field Day	TBA	Instructional	
15 – 16 Oct	Marilyn	Canyoning	Newnes Plateau	Medium/Hard	See notes below
26 – 27 Nov	Marilyn	Walk	Wollangambe Crater	Easy	
27 – 28 Aug	Rod	Caving	Glenrock	Easy	
10 – 11 Dec	Rod	Canyoning	Big Foot and Hartleys Mistake	Hard	
19 – 20 Nov	Rod	Xmas party, AGM	Beths beach house	Social	
26 Dec	Jim	Canyoning	Wollangambe	Easy	
Feb or Mar 2017	Marilyn	Decadence Walk	Kanangra	Easy	

October 15/16, 2016 – CANYONING – Joint trip with BWOC - Newnes plateau area. Exploratory, all off track exploring canyon entries and exits. Numbers limited and must be experienced abseilers and off track walkers, with willingness to route find. Maps: Mt Morgan, Rock Hill. Grade SR300. Leader: Marilyn Scott 4389 7246 or marilyn_scott@bigpond.com

Next Meeting:

McMasters Beach – 19/11/16

Meeting Closed: 9:05pm

Meeting was followed by Tim Tams and photos from previous trips.





APPENDIX 2: MSS Trip Leader Checklist

This is a checklist for trip leaders within MSS. It is primarily aimed for newer trip leaders, but can be a useful resource for all trip leaders.

Before the trip

- Plan details of the trip. Ie date, meeting place and time, etc.
- Keep track of trip participants. In most cases this will also include having a maximum number of participants. Also ensure participants are capable of completing the trip.
- Borrow any club equipment that may be required
- Organise any permits that may be required.
- If appropriate or desired, set an RSVP date.
- Ensure either yourself or someone else on the trip has all the technical knowledge to run the trip, such as navigation, rigging skills, etc.
- Ensure conditions, such as weather, park closures, etc, are suitable for the trip going ahead

During the trip

- Ensure any participants that are unfamiliar with any aspect of the trip are instructed appropriately. This includes things like minimum impact travel, no-go zones, etc.
- Collect trip fees

After the trip

- Ensure trip report is written, usually by yourself unless you can convince someone else to do it.
- Return any borrowed club equipment, and notify the equipment officer if there are any issues with the equipment, such as wear and tear.

