

A photograph of a person wearing a white helmet with a headlamp and a dark blue jacket, standing in a cave. The cave is filled with large, yellowish-brown stalactites and stalagmites. The person is standing in the center of the frame, looking towards the camera. The lighting is warm and focused on the person and the surrounding rock formations.

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014 Edition
Issued October 2014



MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot: David Kindl in Fife Cave (CC4) Church Creek.	
Photo by Peter Watson	

Society Information

Club EPIRB

Just a reminder to all trip leaders that we have the new EPIRB and 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.

MSS Officers list

Position

President president@mssadventure.org.au
Secretary secretary@mssadventure.org.au
Treasurer treasurer@mssadventure.org.au
Equipment Officer equipment@mssadventure.org.au
Librarian library@mssadventure.org.au
Training Officer training@mssadventure.org.au
ASF Liaison

Name

Jim Crockett
Rod Smith
Jim Crockett
Jim Crockett
Rod Smith
Beth Little
Jim Crockett,
Rod Smith
Jim Crockett
Rod Smith
John Gray

Membership Details

Full member \$80
Prospective member \$30 (3 months)
Family membership \$160
Honorary membership \$45

Membership of other ASF Clubs \$30
Preference is for payment by Direct Debit to MSS Bank Account
BSB 062-021 Account 00901421 (Commonwealth Bank)
Cheques or Cash also accepted.

International Congress of Speleology 2017

As some of you might already be aware, Australia will be playing host to the ICS (International Congress of Speleology in 2017 in Sydney).

The ICS Organising Committee is currently looking for groups to organise various field trips before and after the running on the Congress. At the last MSS meeting it was decided that MSS was in a position to organise field trips to Yarrangobilly caves and it was agreed we should proceed with this task. It was also felt that it might be better to organise this in collaboration with another group so currently we are having discussions with CSS (Canberra Speleological Society).

If any club members are interested in helping out with this could you please advise Rod Smith or Jim Crockett.

<https://www.facebook.com/MSSAdventure>

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

[MSSAdventure WEBSITE Update](#)

Next time you login 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 member's area.

To access the members area the login will be your current

Email address and the password remains as "forester".

There is an added feature to allow you to make a password change and also if you wish to change the login to something else other than your Email you can send a message to the MSS Website administrator.

There will be other features added in the future including a more dynamic list of current members as the current list is way out of date.

Trip Reports

ASF Kids Speleo Training Weekend

Jan 11th-12th 2014

Wee Jasper

Participants: Joe Sydney, Ian Binnie, Hayley Bambridge, Peter Dykes, Edna + 3, Cathi Humphrey-Hood, Elswyth Porter, Aengus Porter, Bruce ? + many others (including little Lachie & his long suffering sister)

An ASF cave training weekend for children had apparently been on the cards for some time, but this was the first time such an event had actually been run. Joe Sydney took it upon himself to organise the trip, and I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to introduce Elswyth and Aengus to caving as *well* as take them camping, which was something they had wanted to do again (they were a bit dubious about my adding the caving bit, but agreed the camping would be nice).

We arrived at the Wee Jasper campground early on the Friday afternoon, after a reasonably leisurely drive to Yass (and a slightly slower one around the bends of Cavan toward Wee Jasper, where I admired the limestone bedding, reminisced about past fieldwork over the hot, dry hills, and tried to remember that I was driving and really shouldn't allow myself to be distracted by the stratigraphy). The kids were however quite interested to see the prominent rock feature known as the "Toilet Seat" - and was there any connection with the name "Wee Jasper"?



Finding the campground was easy, but finding the group was a little more challenging, for as well-known as Joe Sydney is, I had come armed with only a faint idea of what he looked like, gleaned from days of yore in ye olde caving publications (none of which I could find again when I needed to refresh my memory). After standing around for a few minutes surveying the spacious but quickly filling and well-utilised campground, I picked a likely looking suspect and headed in that direction. My hunch was proved correct when I was greeted with a cheerful “Cathi?”

Joe had already set up an impressive camp and as we chatted, other people started turning up. I was soon introduced to some lovely people, including Ian Binnie and Mrs Binnie, who soon filled me in on Ian’s recent almost-fatal (but still unexplained) heart attack - which surprised me immensely, given that Ian looks healthier than most people I know and must be tough as old nails; and Edna and her

kids and Peter Dykes, who turned up after dark in a battered convoy. I was however a little disappointed to find that Jim Crockett had piked – for reasons still unknown...

After evening meals and the obligatory dancing around with glowsticks, it was hard getting the kids to sleep. Aengus in particular was hyped up till well after midnight, which had repercussions the next day. The temperature, which had been in the summery-pleasant-high-thirties till sunset, plummeted as expected overnight. Our el-cheapo \$70 ALDI tent performed very well and kept us warm, though I was very happy to have avoided testing its water-repellent qualities during the night – the stars shone with clear brilliance in a cloudless sky.

The next day dawned bright and sunny and the summer warmth soon made itself felt. Joe handed out the caving log books he had made especially for the kids, and then he went through the basics of caving while the kids sat in a circle around him. Aengus was particularly impressed with ‘bad air’ - he made a point of telling me about it days later. Toileting practices were also gravely noted (acid wee on cave rocks = not good... but was there any connection with the name “Wee Jasper”?). Whistles and thermal blankets were handed out.



Meanwhile... Hayley and co. were attempting to rig a tree for some ladder training. The tree was not exactly co-operating, and the rope kept getting caught in bits of peeling bark and other detritus. Finally the rope went over the right limbs, ladders were pulled up - by which time the kids were climbing into overalls and harnesses and were starting to feel the heat. Joe finished the rigging by jumaring up to put some slings in place, and then the kids were ready to climb some ladders...



Far left: Lassoing an uncooperative tree;
Left: Joe finishing the rigging with tape.

Hot and bothered by the time the rigging was completed, Elswyth managed one step up one ladder and Aengus – who was incredibly overtired from his late night – managed two. The other kids raced to the top and back without issues, but I was happy that my two couch-potatoes had taken a step away from their computers and other gadgets (the 3DS had thankfully run out of charge by this time) and had finally engaged real-time with some physical activity. Rod Smith had courageously tried to get them out a couple of years ago, with some success, and I was thankful this preparation had not gone to waste.

Now came the chance to try a real cave.

The plan was to take the kids through Dogleg and Signature Caves on Saturday afternoon, saving Dip Cave for the next day when the laddering skills would be put to use. We decided to try Dogleg first, and in spite of the wailing from Elswyth, in retrospect I think that was the best choice. I didn't have to worry about Aengus - he was off with the first group through Dogleg and disappeared before we even managed to coax Elswyth into the cave.

Joe's incredible patience was much appreciated (and much tested) as we shepherded Elswyth down the little climb at the entrance and into the opening of the cave. Elswyth doesn't bend well and her idea of strenuous exercise is getting out of bed... Eventually, she made it into Dogleg!



There was a traffic jam in Dogleg with so many people going in and others coming out, but we managed to get the kids together for a

photo at the end above the sand trap. The coarse sand was surprising after the characteristic red-brown mud, and there is still some speculation about where it comes from. Elswyth was quite worried about getting out of the cave the way we had come in and Joe tried to tell her it would be much easier to climb out than slide in. After I (finally, with no other choice) pulled her out like a cork by the arms, with Joe pushing on her feet, Elswyth would like to reassure him that he was completely wrong...

After all this, Elswyth courageously said she would give Signature Cave a go, but it was getting quite late in the day and by the time she came back from the toilet (with no connection with the name “Wee Jasper”), she decided to take a ride with Aengus and the other children back to the campground, leaving me temporarily childless and able to ‘enjoy’ the horrendous graffiti in the initial front upper part of Signature Cave along with Joe, Hayley, Peter and a couple of the more indefatigable kids.

Joe had brought a BBQ for everyone to use and after we returned from Signature Cave we all cooked up various things and afterward and – a little more tired than the night before – crawled into the sleeping bags. I had already decided not to worry about the planned trip to Dip Cave the next day because I knew Elswyth would never be able to cope with it, but I would take Aengus and Elswyth to Carey’s Cave for a tour, so they could see how beautiful caves could be.



The next morning was hot, and the day was heading toward 40 degrees. The kids spent a lot of time in the river, and the water was beautiful. Joe had a little trouble getting some people moving in the morning, and while they had planned to head off to Dip Cave quite early, plans had to be adjusted and they headed out a little later, doing a shorter trip than was originally intended. We packed up, said goodbye and drove off to Carey’s Cave for the standard tour, which was very nicely done. Elswyth was thrilled there were stairs and she didn’t have to crawl through anything.... and *now* she understands why we go caving. After a brief pause for petrol and a late lunch at the Yass Service Centre, we had a good run home to Toukley, without stopping, covering the 385km in 3 hours 45 mins.

All in all I think the trip was excellent value, set in a good spot and pitched at the right level. It introduced the kids

to the basic equipment, ropes and terminology, and they could try out what they had learned in a real cave – one that was easy enough for their skills but still long enough to be a ‘real’ cave, with some decoration, a bit of crawling and a few small obstacles. And it was a great weekend’s camping :-)

Elswyth is still wondering about the derivation of the name “Wee Jasper”.

Cathi Humphrey-Hood

Jenolan Caves

3rd –4th May 2014

Rod Smith (TL), Chris Johnstone, Helena Johnstone, Owen Johnstone

It started off as a rather cold and wet looking weekend. Thankfully this time remembered the heater. The cottage was sparsely populated with only the four of us making the trek.

Our plans were to do a bit of cave searching and investigation into the possibility of a dig at Little Canyon but after speaking with the guide’s office we found out that there was no Mammoth tour on for the day so decided to swap and do Mammoth. This would give us more time underground without the rush to get back to Sydney.

So off we went. The good thing about cold, wet caving days is that it is warmer underground! No abseiling into Mammoth this time, it was straight through the front door and on down to the jug handle. Through the rock pile, grumbling “one day we’ll just bring a rope ladder and go the easy way”.

Down through Home Sweet Home and off to find Pretties Cavern. Rod went hunting to see if he could find the way through to Oolite Loop. Meanwhile Owen and myself and Owen investigated Pretties Cavern, which as the name suggests had rather intricate and ‘pretty’ formations. The Oolite Loop was not found although on later viewing of the cave maps we figured out we were on the right track. In other words, close but no cigar.

Leaving Pretties and continuing on we could hear the water in Lower River. It sounded like a bit of a torrent was happening but as it turned out it was lower than last time and pleasant to rest beside. As Owen relieved himself and contemplated how long it would take to reach the Sydney water supply, we decided not to drink tap water on Wednesday, we indulged in lunch.

Lunch time over, we then headed back out and up to Oolite Chamber. Even after numerous visits the size still amazes. We were having a detailed discussion about where Upper Oolite would be and how close to the surface the top of the chamber would be. One day there will need to be an Upper Oolite trip, permit permitting.

Back up the gun barrel and retracing our path we decided to see what else was around that we hadn't visited. Chris and Owen headed down a side passage and ended up at Grinning Monster Lake. After a period of time long enough to imagine that someone had fallen down a hole and that we hadn't heard the sounds of Owen in a rather long time, something quite unusual, Rod headed off to see if someone was stuck. I decided to rest my weary bones. It wasn't long before the voice of Owen returned, They had continued on the see how far they could get before the squeeze got too tight for Chris.

When it is time to head out it always seems to be longer and tighter passages on the return journey. One in particular which I was adamant I had not come through on the way in as I was sure I was never going to make it back that way. Thankfully Owen's voice sounded from the other end of the passage, he had 'discovered' another way through. Maybe not a much bigger passage than the original but big enough. We followed his lead. Up on to the Rock Pile and again grumbling about bringing the rope ladder. I have to say I agree. On the way back Rock Pile seems to develop more dead ends than it had coming in.

Back in open ground we realised that the weather was indeed still cold and we headed back to the cottage to warm up. With the fire lit and dinner on we settled down to plan the next day and watch a movie.

Sunday, the rain had cleared but the wind and cold had set in. It was another day where it was going to be more bearable underground than above. We kitted up and headed out to "re-find" Little Canyon. As always the entrance took longer than need be to locate, the "Oh, is that rock familiar?" discussion was happening. But then we found it, it hadn't relocated or disguised itself.

We went through to the Stream Passage to assess and photograph the potential dig site. The existing passage at the downstream level was too small for even Owen to fit through. We considered the merits of a remote controlled camera vehicle but unfortunately did not have one on this occasion. We then moved on the check out the upstream passage and considered the possibility of continuing through to Serpentine but decided against it on this trip.

Back out in the cold we trudged back to the cabin for lunch. It was then time for a spot of clean and the drive back to Sydney.

Helena Johnstone

Church Creek Caves 28th-26th June 2014

Rod Smith, Marilyn Scott, Peter Watson, David Connellan, Tim Grimes, David Kindl, Ken Harris,
Jim Crockett (TL)

For a trip that I thought would not attract much attention from club members we ended up with 8 very keen participants.

Some of us made a plan to share transport, so Tim, Rod and myself left Sydney on Friday afternoon and at Mt Victoria we met up with Marilyn who made a nice cosy 4 in Rod's vehicle. After an aborted attempt for dinner at the Mt Vic pub we continued onto Little Hartley where we discovered the Talisman Wood Fired Pizza Café who serve excellent pizzas.

We made camp at Batsh camp at around 10.30pm and all quickly had our tent or car accommodation ready for some zzz's.

While finishing off breakfast and right on time Peter and the 2 David's arrived after a very early start from Sydney. Ken also arose up from rest inside his car which was just at the entrance to the camping area. Before long we were packed up and ready to head out on the Oberon-Colong Stock route road towards Yerranderie. We made a left turn just at the entrance to the Old Colong Homestead to a gate on the Mt Armour firetrail. This gate seemed to be a lot closer to the main road that was indicated on my Map, but times do change. Next to this locked gate was the entrance to Colong Station which is the home of Australian Dingo Conservation Association. While preparing for our hike the owner of Colong Station stopped for a chat and produced a mobile phone and was asking if any of us were the owners of it. He had found it on the road just near the entrance to Batsh camp. It turned out to be Ken's and how lucky was he !

The owner was certainly up for a chat as he told us about his Dingo breeding operation and how he has 60 odd of the known certified pure bred Dingoes in Australia, more than 50% of the Australian total. But better still he was also an avid caver and was a font of knowledge of the local caves at Colong, Church and Billy's Creeks. As much as we liked to continue our chat we needed to start our hike so we bid farewell to Gavan.



The first ½ of the walk was on easy flats until we started getting close to Mt Armour. The last 1km down the north side of Mt Armour was quite steep as we followed a zig zag path. We made the camp at about 10.30am and found that there were 2 levels of cleared camping space beside Church Creek. We named these “Upper North Shore” and “Lower North Shore”. The 2 shores were occupied evenly by our team but the upper one had the advantage of being closest to the nominated fireplace.



After setting up camp the plan was to walk up Church Creek and explore from there as that was where the most significant caves were located. The only foreseen problem was water or more precisely the lack of it in the creek section next to camp. Peter and the David's decided to go for a hike down to the Kowmung to look for and collect water. As our groups would be separated I decided to give Peter a walkie talkie just in case something happened. Meanwhile the rest of us started our exploration up Church creek looking for the known caves. To our luck only 5 minutes' walk from camp we soon discovered a large pool of fresh, clean water. A call was quickly made to Peter to inform them of the discovery and that they could return and join us.

In the meantime we located a few small caves at the first bluff on the left bank but they were only small so we continued upstream where we located the entrance to Hughes Cave (CC-5) which was very close to the creek level.

Tim entered the low narrow entrance first which opened up into a small chamber with standing room and a continuation along a very narrow passage. Tim reports this would be difficult to follow, most likely requiring someone a bit smaller. Tim exited just as Peter and the 2 David's had caught up to us. So with now a full team our objective was to spread out and head upstream with the hope of finding Fife cave (CC-4) which is reported as the most significant cave at Church Creek. We searched for an hour or so and were almost at the point of giving up the search before Peter made the discovery of the small CC4 entrance, probably about 30m from the creek level on the left hand bank.



The entrance is quite steep tumbling down to a ledge where a hand line is useful for the 3m drop into the first chamber. Around to the left we found a stream way coming from a small opening and some well decorated rimstone pools. The stream eventually sinks but can be seen through a hole further along the passage. There are further passages as you head north from the entry chamber at both high and low levels with some good decoration. The stream re-appears near a section of narrow river tunnels and junction of another passage leading to a higher level. We split into 2 teams as the cave was a lot more spacious than we all expected. We found good decoration in many of the chambers and low and high level passages. We spent at least 2 hours exploring and we think we saw the majority of the cave excepting for some low narrow sections of the stream way.



By the time we exited it was getting dark so we were out of the cave and heading back to camp.

Back at camp we got a nice big warm campfire going and started meal preparations while socialising but the weather was not being kind. There were attempts to erect a shelter for the rain but it was not totally successful so it seemed an early night as the best option in a warm dry sleeping bag in our tents.

The new day dawned with clearer skies and the plan was made to go back to try and locate Askin Cave (CC1-3) which according to our maps was close to Fife Cave. With a bit of searching further upstream from Fife cave we soon found Askin cave. Not that spectacular, a short cave with a large walk in entrance, some old formation and 2 daylight holes at the back of the cave. There is also a small hole leading down to a lower chamber but this was not explored due to the 4m drop.



We made our way back to camp and made our preps for the 3 hour hike back to our cars. On the way up Mt Armour we started on the same route as we had come in via but were able to find an easier route along the side of Mt Armour overlooking Church creek which to our surprise led directly back to the Mt Armour fire trail.

Back at the cars we were again greeted by the property owner Gavan who wanted another chat so we obliged.

Because the weather had cooled down overnight we were greeted by a considerable dusting of snow of the drive back to Oberon.

Jim

Cliefden Caves 12th-13th July 2014

Participants: Trish Morrow, Marilyn Scott, Bailey Gorman, Shaun Gorman, Rod Smith, Ken Harris, Lindsay Barrett, Peter Hennessy, Brad Moore, Simon Risstron, Jim Crockett (TL)

With quite few newbie cavers amongst the group we wanted to start with something fairly easy so our first trip was into Murder Cave.

There was a bit of confusion at the start as to which direction the entrance was supposed to be as Rod's GPS was pointing in one direction and mine was pointing in another direction. We followed my GPS directions as this was pointing in the correct general direction. The group made our way across the lower paddock and parked on the river flats area. We started up the hill passing through Anticline cave before making our way along the slopes before we found the CL2 entrance. Here we divided into 2 parties of 6 and 5 and each group entered led by their nominated leader. The 2 groups met inside on a few occasions. We all visited all the usual sections including the viewing of the Blue Stal and the profusion of helictites. On the way out we got a bit disorientated but eventually found the way out.

We had used lot of time in Murder and did not have time for any further caves that day.

The plan for Sunday was to find and start surveying Casuarina cave. Only problem was because neither Myself or Rod had been there we were not 100% sure exactly where it was. We opted first to enter Transmission cave to warm up for the day. As usual the entrance series was very dry and dusty. We were able to clear our nostrils once we entered the old streamway section and completed a lot of exploring. On the way back I went for a quick visit to the chamber off to the left of the main large chamber. I don't know the name of the chamber but it's the one with large flat block in the centre Of the chamber. On the far side of this chamber I noted 2 bats up high in an aven, species not known. I made way back out of this chamber in order not to disturb the bats. We exited the cave and then started searching for Casuarina cave.

We spent some time searching firstly high up above the river then later closer to the river bank where we eventually found the cave. By that time we were running out of time to commence any surveying but at least we found the cave and could have look and see what we were up for.

We spend about an hour having a thorough look at the cave so we know how to approach the surveying job on our next visit.

We did not have any time visit any further caves.

Jim Crockett

Draft MSS Social Media policy for comment

The Executive Committee recognises the importance of social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter and other forums.

We understand that Social Media is a general term used to describe the tools and types of publishing that is based on a conversation or interaction which is online, between an author and active readers, in contrast with the “audience” as a passive consumer of content – such as the traditional broadcast media.

Whilst we acknowledge that social media tools are efficient and effective methods of communication, we also acknowledge the use of social media has the potential to compromise compliance with legislation, particularly in regard to accessibility, privacy and record keeping. Content contributed by anyone may infringe upon the rights of others in areas such as defamation, intellectual property and fraud.

MSS Adventure acknowledges that you may wish to use social media in your personal life so we are providing an official MSS Adventure branded Facebook account. By having this official site we expect users to comply with the policy so as to protect the members and the Club.

This policy does not intend to discourage or unduly limit your personal expression or online activities. However you should recognise the potential for damage to be caused (either directly or indirectly) to MSS Adventure in certain circumstances via your personal use of social media when you can be identified as a MSS Adventure member. Accordingly, you should comply with this policy to ensure that the risk of such damage is minimised.

MSS Adventure highlights that caving, canyoning and other activities conducted by the club are often carried out in environmentally sensitive locations. These locations require permissions from controlling authorities before we enter into these locations. These authorities wish to restrict access to such locations from members of the general public by retaining some secrecy over their precise location. For continuing access to be granted by controlling authorities, it is essential that club members respect the confidentiality of location of venues for club activities when posting on social media.

You are personally responsible for the content you publish in a personal capacity on any form of social media platform. When in doubt, you should seek guidance from MSS Adventure on how to comply with the following obligations.

Where your comments or profile can identify you as a member of MSS Adventure you must:

only disclose and discuss publicly available information

ensure that all content published is accurate and not misleading and complies with all relevant MSS Adventure policies

expressly state on all postings (identifying you as a MSS Adventure member) the stated views are your own and are not those of the Club.

be polite and respectful to all people you interact with

adhere to the Terms of Use of the relevant social media platform/website, as well as copyright, privacy, defamation, contempt of court, discrimination, harassment and other applicable laws

You must not:

post material that is offensive, obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, bullying, discriminatory, hateful, racist, sexist, infringes copyright, constitutes a contempt of court, breaches a Court suppression order, or is otherwise unlawful

imply that you are authorised to speak on behalf or as a representative of MSS Adventure, nor give the impression that the views you express are those of the Club.

use the MSS Adventure logos or name in any format.

use the identity or likeness of another member of MSS Adventure without their permission.

use or disclose any confidential information or personal information obtained in your capacity as a member of MSS Adventure.

post material that is, or might be construed as, threatening, harassing, bullying or discriminatory towards another member of MSS Adventure.

make any comment or post any material that might otherwise cause damage to MSS Adventure's reputation or bring it into disrepute.

Copyright

You should respect copyright laws and fair use of copyrighted material and attribute work to the original author/source wherever possible.

Harassment and bullying

Workplace bullying and harassment includes any bullying or harassing comments MSS Adventure members make online, even on their own private social networks

Abusive, harassing, threatening or defaming postings may result in disciplinary action being taken.

All MSS Adventure members are expected to treat their fellow members with respect and dignity and must ensure their behaviour does not constitute bullying and/or harassment.

Defamation

You should refrain from publishing material that may cause injury to another person, organisation, association or company's reputation, and should seek further guidance if publication of such material is thought to be necessary.

Offensive or obscene material

Material may be offensive or obscene and may infringe relevant online classification laws if it pornographic, sexually suggestive, harassing, hateful, racist, sexist, abusive or discriminatory.

Contempt of Court

You should exercise care if referring to pending court proceedings to avoid publishing material that may have a tendency to prejudice those proceedings, in particular, material that will not be part of the evidence in those proceedings.

You should make enquiries as to any applicable court suppression orders prior to commenting on any court proceeding (whether past or pending).

Escalation

Any breaches of this policy may be reported to the Police or other relevant authority.

Notes from New South Wales Speleological Council Meeting

NSWSC - 10/5/2014

This is just some points from the NSWSC meeting held at Abercrombie on the 10th of May.

The NSWSC has a website set up, the address is <http://nswsc.caves.org.au>

There's been a complete restructure of NPWS - KGU has become the "Landforms and Rehabilitation Team"

An activities register is being set up at Cotterills for caving groups to register their activities for the day. This would be similar to the whiteboard outside the Cavers Cottage at Jenolan.

NPWS have bought a property at Mt Sebastapol (near Kempsey). This may have an impact on access to caves in the area, but not sure whether the impact will be positive or negative.

We could get the website mss.caves.org.au if we want it. This would include a wiki, which SUSS are working on an access policy for and will then share with other clubs to use as a template.

There have been some questions raised about some of the Karst area boundaries. Each club is asked to review the boundaries of their areas and to raise any concerns.

Help is required for the organising of the UIS 2017 conference.

Upcoming Events

MSS Trip Calendar

18th - 19th October 2014 Caving - Cliefden
Contact: Rod Smith, 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
Contact by 2nd October
Grade: Easy/Medium
Surveying Casuarina cave and Recreational caving
This is to collect data to support the "Save Cliefden Caves Campaign"

25th - 26th October 2014 Caving - Wyanbene
Contact: Rob Clyne, 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au
Grade: Medium/Hard
Numbers limited
Trip full as at 15th September
Visiting Ceasars Hall, Gunbarrell aven, Frustration lake ?

15th -16th November 2014 Canyoning/Abseiling TBA
Contact: Rob Clyne, 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au
Contact by 13th November
Grade: Medium/Hard
Location to be advised – Contact trip leader for further information

18th-19th October
Cliefden Caves
Surveying and recreational caving

Trip Leader: Rod Smith ,
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 2nd October
Grade: Easy/Medium

25th -26th October
Caving
Wyanbene
Cleaning and recreation

Trip Leader: Rob Clyne
Contact: 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au
By: 16th October
Grade: Medium/Hard

15th-16th November
Canyoning/Abseiling
Location: TBA

Trip Leader: Rob Clyne
Contact: 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au
By: 13th November
Grade: Medium/Hard

20th November MSS AGM

Contact: Rod Smith ,
0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
Canada Bay SES Headquarters

29th-30th November
Canyoning
TBA

Trip Leader: Rod Smith ,
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 27th November
Grade: Medium/Hard

MSS 415th General Meeting, 21 August 2014
Held at Canada Bay SES

Meeting Opened: 7:30pm

Present:

Roderick Smith, Cathi Humphrey-Hood, Angus Wildie

Apologies:

Jim Crockett, Beth Little, Chris Johnstone

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes: None

Correspondence: None

Committee Members Reports:

President: None

Treasurer: None

Equipment Officer: None

Training Officer: None

Librarian: None

Web Manager: None

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: None

New Business:

MSS 50th anniversary next year: Next year MSS turns 50. This seems like a good reason to celebrate. So we're looking for some ideas of ways to celebrate 50 years underground. Some of the ideas so far are:

- Commemorative clothing items such as: T-Shirt, red socks, sloppy joes, etc.
- Birthday cake: chocolate? Carabineer shape?

- Trips: Decadence walk/car rally, Abercrombie, Projector night/trip, re-union camping trip
- Dinner, picnic, party
- 50th anniversary version of the logo
- Article for Caves Australia
- Recreate old photos – Basically find some old photos and take a similar photo as a comparison.
- Commemorative items: calendar, mug, cup, limited bottle of port/wine/etc.
- Quote of the month, Wiz awards and serious awards

Action Item: Find out exact date MSS was started – Rod Smith

Electronic version of Caves Australia: The ASF is looking at making Caves Australia an electronic publication. There would still be a printed version for those that want it, but costs would be reduced if the majority of cavers were happy to receive Caves Australia electronically. The consensus of those at the meeting was that we are generally in favour of the idea.

Social media (eg. Facebook) & what is appropriate to post: The question has been raised about what is and what is not appropriate to post on social media from an MSS perspective. Some points that were raised are:

- Access to the MSS Facebook page – is it open access or restricted?
- We need a set of guidelines
- Look for similar guidelines from other clubs, or similar

Action Item: Set up a draft social media policy - Angus Wildie

UIS 2017 field trip: Jim has suggested that MSS run a field trip for the 2017 UIS conference. The suggested location is Yarrangobilly. It was agreed by those at the meeting that we would do this.

Trip planning:

4 - 5 October (or 18-19): Cliefden (TL Rod)

29 - 30 November: Canyoning Hartley's Mistake/Big Foot (TL Me), Grade:Medium/Hard

15 - 16 November: Canyoning/Abseiling (TL Possibly Rob Clyne)

8-9 November: SRT Training Bungonia (TL Beth) joint with BMSC/Jerrara Canyon??

Boxing Day???

Bell Canyon

Next Meeting:

20 Nov – Canada Bay SES Headquarters

Meeting Closed: 8:30pm

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