

NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

November 2011



MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot:
Rod Smith in Loons Cave, Ida Bay.
Photo by Natalie Etherton

NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.
P.O. Box 178, THORNLEIGH, NSW, 2120

Society News

MSS AGM

The MSS AGM, was held at Rod Smith's place on the 10th of November. The minutes are attached. There have been a couple of changes to committee positions, they are now:

President – Jim Crockett

Secretary – Rod Smith

Treasurer – Jim Crockett

Equipment Officer – Jim Crockett

Librarian – Rod Smith

Training Officer – Beth Little

ASF Liaison – Jim Crockett, Rod Smith

Newsletter Editor(s) – TBA

Website Manager – Rod Smith

Public Officer – John Gray

ASF Conference

The ASF Conference planning committee has most positions filled, but there are still plenty of ways you could assist, including the position of convenor, which has been recently vacated. Please contact Jim Crockett (0407 284 256, jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au), Rod Smith (0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com) or Chris Johnstone (0401 988 096, chris_johnstone@hotmail.com) if you wish to assist in any way.

Club EPIRB

Just a reminder to all trip leaders that we have the new EPIRB and this should be taken on every trip. Our Equipment Officer, Jim (0407 284 256, jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au), has this, so please coordinate with him to collect it before your next trip.

Trip Reports

Tasmania

21st November 2011 – 2nd December 2011

Report by: Rod Smith

Photos: Jim Crockett, Rod Smith

Participants: Rod Smith, Jim Crockett, Fedz Crockett, Chris Crockett, Bonbon Crockett, Monique, Danielle Lewin, John Oxley, Beatta Oxley, Ray Etherton, Natalie Etherton, Fletcher Etherton, Josh Little.



It doesn't take long after joining a caving club that you're told about the caves in Tasmania. The recurring theme is that you must go, and more than once. Enough talk, time to go.

I met up with Jim and his new family on the Spirit of Tasmania and from there we travel south together. After a couple of phone calls in Hobart we agreed to drop in on Jox and Beatta in Kingston. They have a lovely house with a great view. After a drink and a chat we left with Jox planning to join us in the morning for Midnight Hole – Mystery Creek.

Next we met with Ray and Nat in Huonville where we bought food for the next few days. After Huonville the towns get smaller the further south you go. We reached Ida Bay and went looking for a place to camp. We didn't have to look long, there's just not much there.

We asked about camping at the Ida Bay Railway and Meg, who owns and runs the Ida Bay Railway, quickly showed us a spot to camp, where the amenities were and a common room with log fire, TV and cooking facilities. Considering the amount of wind we were happy to make use of the shelter.



We spent a couple of hours chatting to Mick, who is the only full time employee of the Ida Bay Railway. We learnt a lot about the history

of the place, which was actually quite interesting. It didn't take long before the conversation turned to other topics, including Ray making the observation that the place looked perfect for a horror/slasher setting. Then there were questions like "how many people visit, and how many then leave?"

We awoke in the morning to find no-one had been killed with a blunt axe. Jox arrived as we finished breakfast, but we still had to sort out gear plus visit the visitors centre at The Hasting Caves to drop off the preliminary trip report and pick up the Exit key. Once most of the gear was organised Jox gave me a lift to the visitors centre.

The key was supposed to be in a box opposite the Hastings Chalet, but it wasn't obvious which building was the Chalet and we couldn't locate a box. Thankfully we found Beth Russell who told us where the box was, but mentioned she was glad to meet us because she'd forgotten to put the key in there anyway.

We met up with the others, grabbed our gear, and headed for the caves.

The navigation started easily enough, we parked in the correct spot and found Mystery Creek reasonably easy. Finding the path up to Midnight Hole proved to be a bit more difficult. We located one path and decided it must be the one. After an hour or so we then decided it was probably not the one. We turned around and headed back down the hill.

Considering it was now mid-afternoon we opted for caution and just went into Mystery Creek for a look around. We were all very impressed by the size of the passage, certainly a different caving experience to what we were used to.





On our way out we encountered a group of high school children and their guides. From them Jox was able to learn the location of the track to Midnight Hole and, with that information, found it easily once we were back above ground. It was too late in the day to even consider going up, we just made for the cars and then camp.

We returned to find one of Jim's tents had blown over in the wind and broken two of the tent poles. Some repairs were made, Jox headed home, and we settled in for an evening meal after a hot shower.

Jim decided that the next day he would spend time with his new family and find something interesting for them to do. Having ridden the train while we were in Mystery Creek there really wasn't anything else for them to do in Ida Bay. So, without Jox or Jim, there were only three of us.

We'd already decided to just go in and back out the main entrance as this meant we would be less likely to get lost in the cave and we didn't have to carry any SRT gear. I made sure I'd fully remembered the route described in the book before we left. The problem is the book is now over twenty five years old, and a lot has changed since then. We returned to camp without having gotten out of the car.

Ray immediately went to see if the gift shop had any topographic maps of the area. By the time I joined him Meg was on the phone to someone and then the phone was handed to me. I found myself talking to Mick (not the Ida Bay Railway employee), a caver who lived and worked in Dover, twenty minutes up the road. He convinced me that it would be better to see him so he could draw us a mud map.

We drove to Dover and met Mick Williams, a caver with STC who is injured and been unable to cave for about three years. He was very helpful in not only drawing a mud map of how to get to Exit Cave, but also where a couple of other caves (Loons and Bradley Chesterman) were as well as a number of parts of Mystery Creek we could have visited. Heading south we made our plan.





We decided that by this time we weren't going to do Exit Cave and we could do Loons and Bradley Chesterman instead. Before going to the caves we thought we'd have a look at the quarry. The quarry was impressive and included a cave in the middle of the face. We then went in search of the caves.

It wasn't as obvious as we expected, but eventually we found Loons Cave. We suited up and headed for the entrance. Ray look into it first, saw the water, and decided to look for Bradley Chesterman instead. I then looked in and decided to at

least get to the water's edge for a good look. The water looked deeper than I would have preferred to have waded, but chimneying across might be a possibility. I got halfway and realised the second half was going to be a bit more difficult. Nat, who had reached the water's edge, and I then decided to exit and look for Bradley Chesterman with Ray.

The searching failed to reveal the cave, so we cut our losses and went back to camp. Ray and Nat then left to collect their children before Jim and family returned from the day out.

The next day we thought we may have better luck finding the cave. Ray and Nat returned with Fletcher and Josh, and Jox and Beatta joined us for Newdegate Cave, the tourist cave at Hastings. Not surprisingly we actually found the cave, along with our guide, Mel. She was very good and helped make for an enjoyable tour. After the tour we headed back to the visitor centre to check out the thermal pool.

Ray jokingly told the kids that Fletcher and Bonbon could go for a swim but not Chris. Unfortunately Chris didn't realise it was a joke and was rather upset. Chris was still crying when we got back to the visitor centre, which Ray obviously felt a bit guilty about. The pool, at a barmy 28 degrees, soon had more than half our group enjoying the waters. It actually proved difficult to get the children out, especially Chris.



From here it was back to camp for the night. Thursday was a travel day. We packed up, moved camp to Mt Field National Park, and set up there.

The plan for Friday was to visit Junee and Welcome Stranger caves. Junee has a tourist walk to the entrance but we had to jump the railing to go any further. It's a resurgence with quite a decent stream flowing out of it, so we were hoping to avoid the water if possible. Unfortunately we didn't go very far before the first stream crossing. We carried the children across while the



adults got knee-deep in the very cold water. It wasn't far before the second stream crossing. This was much deeper. Josh headed in and turned back when it hit waist deep. He hadn't got halfway. We decided to turn tail and return to the cars.

We had lunch while we dried some of our gear and then went looking for Welcome Stranger. As seemed to be the theme for the trip, we spent a lot of time looking without finding the cave. We did, however, lose a thong and a sandal (Ray's right sandal and Fedz' left thong). As a result, Fedz ended up with one mismatched pair of footwear.



Saturday morning Danielle arrived. We made our plans and Danielle, Jim, Nat and myself headed off for some vertical caving, assuming we could find it. The plan was to head for Threefortyone, but there was a possibility that we'd encounter a locked gate. As our luck would have it we found the locked gate so changed to plan b, Satan's Lair. Our luck seemed to change when we found the marked track (tree's with tags heading into the scrub) where we hoped to find it.

Danielle had been told that the cave was just off the road. If that was just off then I would hate to go for one a long way off the road. About an hour after leaving the road and bashing through some thick scrub, Jim found the cave. The first pinch descends off a hanger at the entrance, so I rigged this while the others started donning their harnesses. I joined the group and started putting my harness on while Jim, who was ready to go, took the second rope and headed underground.

I descended next to find Jim at the bottom of the pitch. After I disconnected Jim told me to look around, we were standing on a small ledge at the top of the second pitch. There was one small problem, we needed our own hangers for the second pitch, and we didn't have any.

I called out to the others not to come down, but I realised they would have trouble hearing me over the waterfall pouring in. We also decided it would be good experience for them both to come down, and there was (just) enough room for them. Nat came down next followed by Danielle.

Jim, who had been there the longest, was getting cold, so I told him to head up first. Jim made reasonably short work of it, so next it was Nat's turn. Although she had prussiked





before, it was a very different environment to what she was used to. Considering that she did quite well. Danielle was next and about halfway up seemed to be struggling. I climbed up to another ledge to see if she needed assistance, but by the time I got there she'd prussiked further so I could help her much. Closer to the top I could tell she was struggling again, but Jim was closer

and helped talk her the rest of the way up. She needs to walk on her rig to improve the efficiency.



I seemed to find the prussik difficult, but carrying a heavy caving pack on my back was making it harder. In hindsight I should have hung my pack below me as it was pulling me back as I ascended. I was happy to get to the top.

The walk back to the cars seemed to go a lot quicker, which none of us were complaining about. The constant misty rain combined with the waterfall in the cave meant we were soaked, so all the wet gear went into garbage bags and we got into nice warm and dry cars.



Arriving back at camp we found Ray had taught Fedz and her boys how to play Sevens (the card game). She was really excited that she hadn't come last.

Jim packed up and with Fedz, Bonbon, Chris and Monique headed for Launceston. Now it was Danielle's turn to learn Sevens. It's hard to believe that meek and mild Danielle could get so competitive, especially against children. Ray wants to see Danielle play Fedz, and see which one will survive.

The weather on Sunday was better, which wasn't too hard. After considering the options Danielle, Josh and I went to view Russell Falls. Josh had already been there with everyone the day before, but was happy to go again. Russell Falls is quite impressive and only a short walk from the visitor centre. We opted to walk further, to the tall trees loop. Here Danielle turned back but Josh and I continued to Lady Barron Falls. Well worth the walk.

After we returned to camp we packed up and left. Danielle headed for Hobart to wash the hire car before boarding her flight back to Sydney. The rest of us made our way north to meet up with Jim at Mole Creek. We found that Fedz, Bonbon, Chris and Monique had successfully boarded their flights after a night of listening to some guy beat up his girlfriend and the police getting called. Jim was looking forward to an early night to catch up on some sleep.

Monday morning we made our way to the Mole Creek Caves Visitor Centre to get the key for Genghis Khan. Not being sure where it was (although having a good idea it was near Kubla Khan) I asked Rob (the ranger in the office) if he could give us some directions. We were told to go just under halfway up the Kubla track then turn left.

We drove down the road, turned left and found another ranger heading the other way. His name is Sean/Shawn/Shawn/Shorn/Seann and he had just been clearing the track with a whipper-snipper. We drove on, turned left as per the instructions in the Guide to the Vertical Caves of



Tasmania, and arrived at a car park of sorts. It didn't seem to match the description, but I found a vehicle track continuing so we followed that. The description didn't still didn't match, maybe, yet again, we were having difficulty finding the cave.

We drove back to where we turned left. The other fork led to a farmhouse, so we went up there to see if they could give us some directions. Even though there was obviously a fire going, no-one answered the door. We opted to back-track and see if there was another left turn that we'd



missed. We knew there was supposed to be a boom gate which the key would also open, but we'd passed through one that was already open. However, back through that there was a left turn and a locked boom gate, which the key did open. We were finally on the right track, thanks to Jim who found the track.

Arriving at the car park there was an obvious track heading up the hill, so we followed it. We arrived at a cave entrance, which didn't match the description of Genghis Khan, and no track going off to the left. We started searching through the bush to the left and found nothing.



We did have another clue. Since we were all going underground, Ray had emailed Jodie Rutledge to let her know what we were doing and to raise the alarm if we didn't contact her that night. Her reply included the instructions that we should go left from the car park and the track would lead straight to the cave.

From the car park there was another track to the left, so we followed it. This did lead straight to a cave entrance, but when we checked the tag number it was one of the Kubla entrances. While we were sitting there contemplating our next move, Josh found a leech on his neck, which he wasn't happy about.



Ray managed to get some mobile reception and so he called Jodie. She was enjoying a nice lunch, but happily shared her memory of how to find the cave. We were told it was to the left and further up the hill. I left my pack and went looking, but soon realised that there wasn't much more hill to go up and I couldn't find the cave. I returned to the group to find Jim wasn't there. He returned shortly after me to say he'd found a track to the left (as per Rob's instructions) and it led to the cave entrance.



With hopes raised we went to have a look. We found the tag which was 38, I thought we were looking for 34, but I wasn't 100% sure. We decided to see if the key opened the gate, if it did we were going in. Jim tried with no success, I tried with no success, and then Josh had a go and managed to get it open. Three hours after getting the key we were heading underground.

We rigged a handline for the entrance, which certainly helped. The climb into the main chamber is a little hairy, but we all got through. The main chamber is very big and very well decorated. We spent a lot of time slowing moving through the chamber while marvelling at the straws, anthrodites, shawls, columns, helictites, stalagmites and stalactites. We all flattened our camera batteries trying to capture the pretties as best we could. Although we didn't see

much beyond the main chamber (not sure if there is much more to see), will still managed to spend more than three hours underground. A very beautiful cave and one I'd recommend to anyone.

Tuesday morning Jim, Nat and I got an early start to get to the visitor centre by 8am. There we first met Brendan, who had issued our permits. Next to arrive was David Wools-Cobb, who was to be our guide for the day. Last to arrive was Catherine Stark who was going to join us for the trip and is hoping to become a qualified Kubla Khan leader in the future.

Having David to lead us through the cave meant we were going to get lost, probably a first for this trip. He and Catherine rigged the exit pitch while Jim, Nat and I headed for the entrance, donned our harnesses and unlocked the gate. When David and Catherine arrived, David went in first and rigged the first pitch. I followed to help with the pack passing.

As soon as we entered Kubla Khan we could see the decoration. Three pitches later and we were in the midst of it. From Mt Arbora we followed the Khyber Pass to the Opium Den. Here we saw some amazing anthrodites and Watergate in the distance. We went round for a closer look at Watergate before entering the Forbidden City. Through the stals of the Forbidden City we took a detour to view the shawls of the Silk Shop. Soon we found the inflatable kiddies pool (seriously). It had been brought in to use as a water storage for cleaning projects. These projects are now complete, so the pool may be removed in the near future. Here we filled up some water bladders to top up some boot washing stations further along. There are many boot washing stations

throughout the cave and it doesn't take long to figure out whose boots are easy to clean and whose are difficult.

Next is Khan's Army, including a feature that Nat thought looked like Jabba The Hut under arrest. When I saw it from her vantage point I couldn't help but agree with her description. After Kahn's Army is the Khan itself, which is quite an impressive stalagmite.



Walking around the Khan we arrive at the next pitch. Although possible to climb down it's easier and safer to abseil, so we did.

Sally's Folly is the first wade of the trip with each of us getting about knee deep by the end, except for Nat who got a bit deeper. A climb, negotiate the forest, then the final abseil to the River Alph. Another wade, except for Nat who really seemed to want to get wet, and we arrived at the Pleasure Dome. Possibly the best known feature of Kubla Khan it's an amazing chamber with the floor covered in flowstone. We removed our overalls and climbed the flowstone right to the top. At one point we could hear, and following the sound then see, air bubbling up through the water in one of the small rimpools.

After the Pleasure Dome we put on our wetsuits under our overalls and followed the River Alph.



With all the layers the water didn't seem too cold, even though we ended up neck deep at least once. Before the second waterfall we scrambled up the side and made our way to a difficult climb. David went up first and through down a tape for the rest of us and a pack haul. At the top of the

climb is the lower gate. Across the last chamber we found the end of the rope David and Catherine had rigged at the beginning of the day and the prussic begun. By the time we all reached the top it was dark and we had been underground for approximately eleven hours. But every minute was worth it.

Arriving back at camp Ray cooked us a superb meal, and after eating and showering we got to bed around midnight.

We didn't have a cave planned for Wednesday, and no-one really felt like going underground. After a sleep in we opted for a short walk to the Alum Cliffs and then some honey ice cream at Chudleigh.

Thursday we packed up to leave Mole Creek. Jim and I headed west to Gunns Plains while Ray, Nat, Josh and Fletcher went south. Jim and I passed through Paradise, but I must have blinked because I missed it. We stayed the night in Penguin at a B&B.

Friday Jim and I did the Gunns Plains tourist cave. When our guide, Steve, found out we were cavers it made him nervous, but he still put on a great tour. The cave has an active stream running through it so, along with all the formations, there is also plenty of glow worms on display.

After the tour we had a chat with Steve, plus Geoff and Trish who work there and know a lot of cavers. A group arrived for a tour, so we took it as our time to leave. Jim wanted to go via a micro-brewery which Catherine owns and runs with her husband. I opted for the chocolate and then the cheese factory before getting to Devonport for the ferry back to Melbourne.

So our trip came to end an, except that my car broke down near Gundagai, and I'm currently on a bus heading home.



Upcoming Events

SUNDAY 17th December GRAND CANYON PLUS MSS XMAS PARTY

Trip Leader: Rod Smith, 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

Contact by: 15th December

What's involved?

An easy trip down a picturesque canyon. This will be followed by a BBQ somewhere scenic as a Xmas party. You don't have to do the canyon to come to the party. Open to all family members.

You will need:

Canyoning gear, including abseiling gear. Food and drink for a BBQ. An actual BBQ might help as well.

26th December CANYONING AT MT WILSON

Trip Leader: Jim Crockett, 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com

Contact by: 23rd December

What's involved?

A very relaxed canyoning trip after the Christmas festivities.

You will need:

Canyoning gear. A relaxed attitude.

27th December SOUTH BOWENS CANYON

Trip Leader: Jim Crockett, 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com

Contact by: 23rd December

What's involved?

A car shuffle. A few abseils and a very beautiful canyon.

You will need:

Canyoning gear, including abseiling gear.

Crossword

Last month's solution:

C	A	P	T	I	V	A	T	E	■	A	C	H	I	E	V	E
H	I	E	■	T	A	X	I	T	I	C	■	A	T	T	I	C
I	T	C	H	■	C	E	P	■	C	C	T	V	■	H	A	T
T	C	■	E	T	A	■	I	■	E	E	■	E	P	I	■	A
C	H	A	P	A	T	I	■	A	■	P	P	■	■	C	A	T
H	■	C	A	P	E	■	E	P	I	T	A	P	H	■	V	I
A	C	E	T	A	■	H	A	P	■	■	T	I	P	■	I	C
T	I	T	I	■	■	E	V	E	■	C	A	P	I	T	A	■
■	V	A	C	■	H	A	E	T	■	A	C	E	■	E	T	A
P	I	T	A	P	A	T	■	I	A	■	A	T	■	P	E	P
A	C	E	■	■	T	H	A	T	C	H	■	T	E	A	■	A
T	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	E	T	A	P	E	■	■	H	T
H	■	E	X	C	I	T	E	■	I	T	■	■	H	E	T	H
E	X	P	E	C	T	A	T	I	V	E	■	V	E	X	■	E
T	■	■	C	■	■	C	■	■	A	■	P	E	■	P	I	T
I	C	H	■	■	P	I	P	E	T	T	E	■	T	A	X	I
C	A	P	A	C	I	T	A	T	E	■	T	A	C	T	I	C

Trip Calendar

Saturday 17th December
Canyoning and Xmas Party

Grand Canyon then BBQ Xmas party
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 15th December
Grade: Easy, families most welcome

Monday 26th December
Canyoning

Mt Wilson area
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com
By: 23rd December
Grade: Easy

Tuesday 27th Decmber
Canyoning

South Bowens
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com
By: 23rd December
Grade: Medium

Weekend 14th-15th January
Canyoning

Newnes
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 11th January
Grade: Medium-Hard

Weekend 4th-5th February
Canyoning

Glen Davis
Trip Leader: John Gray
Contact: 0427 876 679, john.gray@sydneywater.com.au
By: 1st February
Grade: Medium-Hard
More details: Car camping and 2 day trips. One canyon is called Abandoned Canyon.

Thursday 9th February
MSS MEETING

Quarterly MSS Meeting
To be held at: Beth Little's new place (Woodforde)
Contact: 0405 226 811, littlebeth78@hotmail.com

Weekend 11th-12th February
Canyoning

Bungleboori canyons
Trip Leader: Beth Little
Contact 0405 226 811, littlebeth78@hotmail.com
By: 7th February
Grade: Hard
More Details: 2 day trip camping in a camp cave

Weekend 25th-26th February
Canyoning

Deep Pass
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com
By: 20th February
Grade: Easy

Weekend 3rd-4th March
Canyoning

Bungonia
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 29th February
Grade: Medium

2012 possibly March or April
Hiking/Tramping

New Zealand
Heaphy track – 78kms over 5 days
More details at:
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/nelson-tasman/golden-bay/heaphy-track/>
Expressions of interest at this stage
Contact Johan Verhagen on: 02 4758 9811,
johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au

March or April 2012
Caving

Abercrombie
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com
By: TBA
Grade: Easy

April 2012
Caving

Cliefden
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407 284 256, jim.crockett@reach.com
By: TBA
Grade: Easy-Medium

Weekend 21st-22nd April
Caving

Jenolan
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 17th April
Grade: Easy

May 2012
Caving

Wombeyan
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: TBA
Grade: Easy-Medium

Weekend 30th June-1st July
Caving

Jenolan
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 26th June
Grade: Medium-Hard

2012
Caving

Buchan
Expressions of interest at this stage
Contact Rod Smith: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

Weekend 1st-2nd September
Caving

Jenolan
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 27th August
Grade: Easy/Child friendly

Appendix 1 – AGM Minutes

MSS 46th Annual General Meeting, 10/11/2011
Held at Roderick Smith's residence

Meeting Opened: 8:00pm

Present:

Rod Smith, Jim Crockett, Chris Johnstone, Bob Horn, Beth Little

Apologies:

Helena Johnstone

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes:

None

Correspondence:

Post:

None

Email:

None

Committee Members Reports:

President – None

Treasurer – Motion by **Rod Smith** to **leave fees at**

Full member \$80

Prospective member \$30

Family membership \$160

Honorary membership \$45

Non- ASF (No Caving) \$30

Carried

Equipment Officer – One carabineer was lost on a trip this year. We should consider getting some more 11mm rope in the future if we intend to do more SRT caving.

Training Officer – One field day went ahead as a joint trip with BMSC. It is recommended that people do some SRT practice before any future SRT trips.

Librarian – We have second filing cabinet. Work is progressing towards cataloguing what we have so we know what maps and information we have available.

Elections:

President declared all positions vacant and called for nominations. Officers elected:

Position	Name
President	Jim Crockett
Secretary	Rod Smith
Treasurer	Jim Crockett
Equipment Officer	Jim Crockett
Librarian	Rod Smith
Training Officer	Beth Little

ASF Liaison	Jim Crockett, Rod Smith
Newsletter Editor(s)	??
Website Manager	Rod Smith
Public Officer	John Gray

Status of Action Items:

Constitution updating – Warwick Blake – No update

Web site hosting – Rod Smith – Done – This is now the website managers responsibility and no longer an action item

Updating membership details - Jim Crockett – See what happens with the website.

Back issues of Helictite – Cathi Humphrey-Hood – No update

Other bank account options – Chris Johnstone – With the assistance of Helena, Chris has found promising bank account with Suncorp. They will investigate further and work with Jim to swap over if appropriate.

ESRI GIS Software – Jim Crockett – This action item will be removed since we are not doing any surveying at the moment. If that changes in the future then this item can be brought back.

New Business:

Fee for members who are already part of another club

It has been suggested that members of other clubs be able to join for a reduced fee. This is because they would already be a member of ASF and so what not need to pay the ASF fees again. It was agreed that this would be included and set at the same price as the non-ASF fee of \$30.

Advertising

Should we be advertising at appropriate locations such as climbing gyms and scouts groups as a way of increasing membership? Action Item: It was decided that we would look into it and see what's appropriate. Assigned to: Jim Crockett. Time frame: open ending

External Hard disk

These days there is a trend towards publications being available in soft copy. At present the only way to store that in the library would be to print a copy. Should we get an external hard disk for soft copies of publications? Jim to double-check finances and we'll get one if there's no problems financially.

New trips – Grand (or something similar) – Rod 17th Dec. Plus BBQ Xmas party.

Abercrombie – Jim (March/April)

Jenolan – Rod (17-19 August + another one)

Canyoning, Deep Pass – Jim (Feb)

Canyoning – Beth (11-12 Feb) – HITW access but overnight for harder canyons

Canyoning – Rod 3-4Mar - Bungonia

Next Meeting:

End of February – To be hosted by Beth @ Woodforde – byo chairs (9th February, date to be confirmed)

Meeting Closed: 9:50pm