

# NEWSLETTER MONTHLY



Trip Reports:  
**Du-Faurs**



February 2009



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Cover Shot:  
Steph in the tributary of Du-Faurs.  
Photo by Rod Smith

## Last Meeting

Watch this space, we're working on something extra special!

## Next Meeting

Monthly meetings are temporarily suspended due to the loss of our venue.

The committee are currently seeking alternative accommodation and will advise in due course.

If anyone is able to assist, please let us know.

## Quote of the Month

"I'll have both. I'll have a lemon squash and a schooner!" - John Stathakis clearly doesn't go to the pub often enough.

## Announcements

Fees are due for next year. We will be finalising the cheque for ASF at the March meeting, so please pay your subs before then. The subs have remained at \$70. Payment options include:

Cash – to Jim Crockett

Cheque – made out to Metropolitan Speleological Society Inc.

Bank Transfer (preferred option) – BSB is 062021, Account Number is 000901421 and be sure to include your name in the message.

There has been an update on the bet between Brett and Dave. Due to the unfortunate cancellation of the November Jenolan trip, the bet has been postponed. It is also worth noting that Brett has lost the bet. As such, the next Jenolan trip that goes ahead, Brett will be supplying lamb shanks (cooked in the slow cooker) and a bottle of Mead.

## Trip Reports

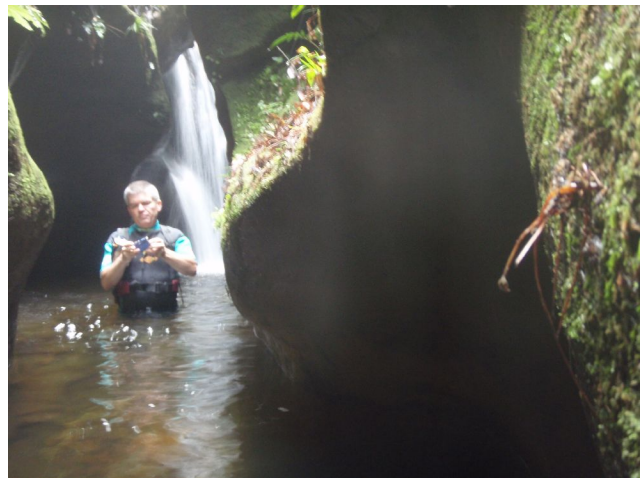
### ***Du-Faurs - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2009***

Party: Rod Smith, Stephanie & Brett Pilcher, Jim Crockett (TL)

Rod and Myself met up with Steph and Brett ( sorry we were a bit late) at the Mt Wilson fire brigade shed to a very full carpark. Geez we had to park back on the main road and walk an extra 50m. We gathered our gear and walked down the fire trail , we actually missed the turn off at the gate and had to back track. We made the drop into to the canyon in good time with help of the fixed handline. The day was slightly overcast but the temperature was still warm while we donned wetsuits and blew up Li-los. In fact this was Steph and Bretts first canyon using Li-los and wanted to know where the air pump was? Haha.

We were soon refreshed when we hit the water and were all soon paddling happily downstream.

It was fairly obvious we were the first group in the canyon for the day as we came across many spiderwebs and Steph and Brett were suffering from Arachnophobia so there was a little hesitation at times.



Jim preparing to take a photo in the tributary.

Photo: Rod Smith

We located a narrow side branch coming in from the right hand side and this was explored up to a nice waterfall.

We found a good lunch spot on the other side of a deep pool as we were all feeling a little hungry. During lunch the silence was momentarily broken by a loud long noise. It was quite strange and we could not positively identify the source of the noise. Was it a jet engine, a mine collapse or the thunder from an approaching storm? Another one followed soon after and this confirmed our suspicions as being a thunderstorm approaching.



My Li-Lo's running away!  
Photo: Rod Smith

Back on the Li-los we continued through some dark, narrow sections with long pools. Then I felt something hit my head and looked down to see hail falling on my Li-lo. A few hit the mark before I was able to protect myself under the Li-lo as Rod had already adopted this strategy. At the time Steph and Brett were ahead on their Li-los in the next pool, I wondered how they were coping.

Rod and myself waited under the protection of the Li-los shields for about 5 minutes until the hail had stopped and turned into heavy rain before we entered the next pool. We found Steph and Brett around the corner sheltering under an overhang. We all continued with the heavy rain still falling. The storm abated for a while when we got out of the narrow section into some creek walking.

When we finally made the junction with Joes canyon the heavens opened again and more heavy rain fell while we changed out of our wetsuits. We completed Joes while the heavy rain was falling making for a more interesting exit than is usual but by the time we made the saddle the rains had stopped.

We were soon back at the cars but the weather was still looking a bit crook so Rod and myself made the decision to abandon the idea of camping for the night and called it a day.

I guess Bowens Creek can wait another day.

Jim.

# Future Trips

Welcome to the new look future trips section. Anyone with artistic abilities are welcome to submit their own icons for any of the categories here, and/or any other categories. If we use your icon then you'll have to be prepared to accept the praise and admiration from your fellow club members. Send your icons, or any other feedback, to [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com).

## Legend:

### Activity



Caving



Canyoning



Diving



Hiking



Abseiling



Cycling



Horse Riding



Kayaking



Climbing



Skiing

### Grade



Easy



Easy/Medium



Medium



Medium/Hard



Hard



Extreme

### Accommodation



Camping



Cottage

### Extras






















Kites



Camp Ovens

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
Malaita Point	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar						10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
<b>Other Info:</b> Note the date change!								
Little Big Hole and Daylight Tunnel	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	 		Rob Clyne 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au			10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
<b>Other Info:</b> Note the date change!								
Jenolan	21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar			Rob Clyne 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au		\$5 hut fees	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Field Day	Instructional	Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Boars Head and Sahara (new route!)	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	
<b>Other Info:</b>								

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
Wee Jasper	25 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr			Rod Smith 0438 444 262 <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> (that's 2 underscores)			23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Malaita Wall	9 <sup>th</sup> May			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 <a href="mailto:johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au">johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au</a>			6 <sup>th</sup> May	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Pilchers	10 <sup>th</sup> May			TBA			6 <sup>th</sup> May	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Deep Pass	16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> May			Jim Crockett 0407 284 256 <a href="mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com">jim.crockett@reach.com</a>			13 <sup>th</sup> May	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Abercrombie	30 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May			Rod Smith 0438 444 262 <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> (that's 2 underscores)			27 <sup>th</sup> May	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Yarrangobilly	29 <sup>th</sup> Aug - 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep			Jim Crockett 0407 284 256 <a href="mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com">jim.crockett@reach.com</a>		We'll be staying in Caves House, which will be an additional	14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
						cost		
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Jenolan	1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug			Rob Clyne 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au			27 <sup>th</sup> Jul	
<b>Other Info:</b>								
Tongariro Track – New Zealand	Jan 2010			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au		Flights, huts fees etc.	1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	
<b>Other Info:</b> One of New Zealand's “great walks”.								
Lake Waikaremoana Track – New Zealand	Jan 2010			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au		Flights, huts fees etc.	1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	
<b>Other Info:</b> One of New Zealand's “great walks”.								
Waitomo – New Zealand	Jan 2010			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au		Flights, trip costs etc.	1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	
<b>Other Info:</b> These are commercial trips, but well worth the costs for the amazing experience.								