

# NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

APRIL 2011





# MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot:

Even the children wanted to get into Neville's Hangar Cave, Capertee National Park  
Photo by Rod Smith

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

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## Society News

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### Membership Fees

Membership fees for 2011 are now due. These are:

*Full member \$80*

*Prospective member \$30*

*Family membership \$160*

*Honorary membership \$45*

*Non- ASF (No Caving) \$30*

Please contact Jim Crockett if you wish to change your membership category.

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.

### Club Meeting

This Thursday (5/5/2011) Jim Crockett will be hosting the 405th MSS General Meeting. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm. The agenda is included as appendix 1. RSVP to Jim Crockett (0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com))

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## News from the Underground

News from the underground aims to provide snippets of what has been happening around the world, primarily in the areas of caving and canyoning, climbing, mountaineering...

Bushwalking kept search and rescue busy in April. Two experienced 62 year-old bushwalkers spent four nights in northwest Tasmania after planning a walk to Scott-Kilvert Hut near Cradle Mountain. After setting out on Thursday April 14th for an expected overnight walk, they were reported missing when one of them failed to turn up for work on the Saturday. They were picked up by a police rescue helicopter on Monday April 18th, saying they had lost the track after beginning their walk near the Walls of Jerusalem area. Well-prepared, both were said to be in good condition. Original report from [The Australian](#), further information from [ABC News](#).



Scott Kilvert Hut, photo by Jim van Ommen, [Panoramio](#)

Another two bushwalkers were found safe in the Bellinger River area after underestimating the time required for their planned walk from Ebor to Thora. They set off on Saturday 23rd April but failed to arrive as scheduled on Monday. After searches conducted by emergency services and the Westpac helicopter, the walkers, aged 25 and 41, were found around noon on Friday 28th.

Sadly, the story of another bushwalker did not end so well. The body of 33 year-old Jonathon Dent was recovered by police after he was found dead in the Dial Ranges in northern Tasmania on April 21st. He had set out for a walk between Gunns Plains and Purton Falls earlier in the week and was described as an experienced bushwalker who was carrying gear appropriate to the undertaking. Report from [CourierMail](#).

After a brief interruption, kayaker Ros Savage has re-launched her bid to row solo across the Indian ocean from Western Australia to Mumbai, leaving Geraldton on April 30th. Ros had started from Fremantle earlier in the week, but was picked up on April 27th while only 100 nautical miles out, after her drinking water pump failed. She had rowed almost 300 nautical miles in total, but strong winds sent her round in circles. Sea water leaking in through a hatch cover has been blamed for the failure of the pump and Ros decided to retire to fix it while she was still so close to shore. Report from [The Australian](#). Ros has already made several epic ocean kayak voyages and her progress on her latest adventure can be followed on her website: <http://www.rozsavage.com/>

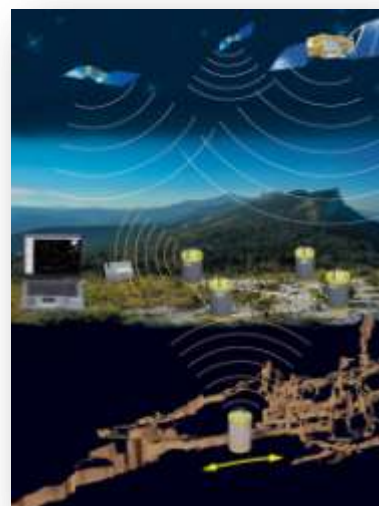


Ueli Steck on his speed climb of Shisha Pangma, from video at UKClimbing.com

In one of the fastest 8000m peak ascents ever, Ueli Steck has soloed the world's fourteenth highest mountain, 8027m Shisha Pangma - in 10.5 hours. On April 16th, Ueli left base camp and took a route up the 2000m South West Face, reaching the summit after just over 10 hours of climbing. Ueli's [blog](#) reports that he was back in base camp 20 hours after setting out. News from [UKClimbing](#), and a further report, including video, [here](#).

The North Rim Grand Canyon Guide for 2011 is available for download from here (3.7MB in size): <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/upload/2011NorthRimGuide-0428.pdf>

[Caverinfo.com](#) is reporting progress with precise, real-time underground GPS mapping, with the development of the U-GPS version 2 system which should be able to "follow in real time and in 3 dimensions a transmitter moving around in a cavity under the surface." Following the prototyping of the U-GPS 1 system back in 2009, which allowed measurements of a cavity to be taken from the surface after a transmitter was installed underground, researchers began looking for a way to improve the accuracy of measurements taken at depths greater than 100m. [Karstworlds](#) has a good description of how the system works (including more detail about the image on the right):



An experienced 33-year-old rock climber was killed on April 18th while abseiling from Saddle Rock in Joshua Tree National Park in the US. David Pinegar and his climbing partner had completed a route called Walk on the Wild Side and were abseiling when 'his rope gave out' (according to a [local news report](#)) and he fell 150 feet. David had a PhD in physics and had just returned to the United States from Germany after completing post-doctoral work there. More information and photo from the [Hi-Desert Star](#).

[Caverinfo.com](http://Caverinfo.com) reports that Mexican cave diving jewel Ox Bel Ha has been connected to Sistema Naranjal, making the system, at 217km, the longest underwater cave in the world. Report, with videos, from [Espeleobloc](http://Espeleobloc).

New areas of Bucakalan cave, the deepest pit in Turkey, have been explored by the Anatolian Speleology Group and members of the Hacettepe University Caving Club. French cavers left some galleries unexplored back in 1992, and the current team went down to investigate these and look at cave biology. They descended to -305m. The deepest part of the system in -345m. From [Caverinfo.com](http://Caverinfo.com).



The Associazione Italiana Canyoning (AIC), Piemonte Canyoning and Compagnia Canyoning CAI Pinerolo (CCCP) have announced their 2011 International Rendezvous will be held in the Piemonte Valley between the 7th and 14th August. The rendezvous will be based in Tavagnasco in the Turin area, with a registration cost of 48 euro for non AIC members who pay before June 15th. An information page (in Italian) can be found [here](#). A canyon list has not been finalised at this stage.

Photo by Ivan Perret, from [Descente-Canyon.com](http://Descente-Canyon.com). One of the waterfalls in Rio Claretto (amont), a popular canyon in the Piemonte region.

A study investigating thermal changes caused by tourists at the Águila cave in Ávila, Spain has found that even with tens of thousands of tourists per year, temperature changes were primarily related to external temperature variations and those changes that *were* measured due to tourist visits returned quickly to normal once the tourists had gone. Researchers believe that it is the particular shape of this cave that allows this to happen, unlike some other tourist caves in Spain which are known to trap heat. However, some temperature rises did remain for up to a week during periods of high visitation before dissipating. Article from [ScienceDaily](http://ScienceDaily).

The Chockstone forum [reports](#) an injury of a climber in the Mt Boyce area on April 20th – another example of an abseiling accident involving an experienced climber where the victim abseiled off the end of the rope. Fortunately he was not seriously injured though he took a 10m fall.

## Upcoming Events

**MSS Club Meeting 5th May**  
**Jim Crockett's Place**  
**Please contact Jim for more details**  
0407 284 256, [jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au](mailto:jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au)

### SATURDAY 14th May SKYDIVE THE BEACH

Trip Leader: Dave Stuckey, 0414 590 305, [stucked1@cba.com.au](mailto:stucked1@cba.com.au)

Contact by: **30th March**

What's involved?

Jumping out of a perfectly good plane, for fun!

You will need:

More guts than this editor!

### WEEKEND 14th – 15th May TIMOR CAVING

Trip Leader: Rod Smith, 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)

Contact by: **11th May**

What's involved?

Exploring the caves of a karst area not often visited by MSS. Car camping.

You will need:

Car camping gear, caving gear (possibly including srt gear).

### WEEKEND 28th – 29th May FAMILY FRIENDLY CAVING AT JENOLAN CAVES

Trip Leader: Rod Smith, 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)

Contact by: **24th May**

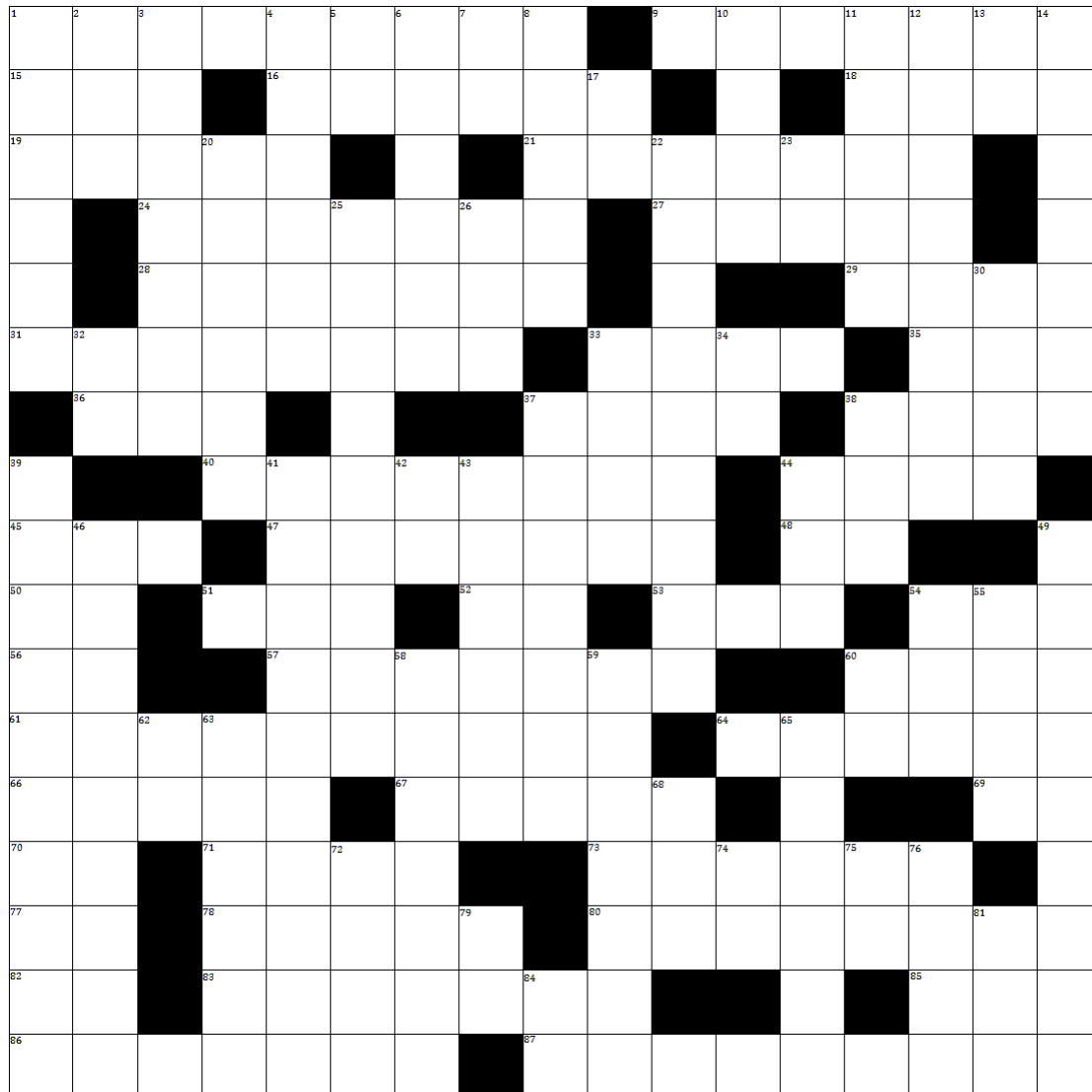
What's involved?

Easy caving in Mammoth (Lower River), Hennings and Aladdin.

You will need:

Caving gear (no srt gear needed). Children, if you have them.

# Crossword



## Across

1. A popular activity of MSS
9. See 9 Across
15. 2nd person singular of be
16. Recently
18. Roman goddess of the moon
19. Held in place
21. J19
- 24 & 9 Across & 55 Down.
- Feature in 64 Across
27. Existing

28. Small, hedgehoglike Madagascan mammals
29. Pale person in black clothing
31. Austerity
33. Riffraff
35. Formerly
36. Ocean
37. Leaves
38. Speech impediment
40. Academics
44. Chair
45. Televisions
47. Type of cave decoration
48. Identification

50. Adults Only
51. Kwiki-Mart proprietor
52. Kinetic Energy
53. Consume
54. Something to do on snow
56. Lower Left
57. Souls
60. Small lake
61. Accepted as authoritative
64. T1
66. Someone who participates in 1 Down
67. (Yiddish) Thief



69. Prefix meaning two  
 70. Thoron  
 71. Wet nurse  
 73. Lyrical  
 77. Two  
 78. Filthy  
 80. J126  
 82. Top Secret  
 83. Excite  
 85. Regret  
 86. Canyon near  
 Wentworth Falls  
 87. Abseiling device

### Down

1. Popular MSS activity  
 2. Arthritis and  
 Rheumatism International  
 3. Clothing worn around  
 the neck  
 4. Y10  
 5. Sodium  
 6. Desires  
 7. Neon  
 8. J17

10. Naked  
 11. Ostentatious jewellery  
 12. Karst area near  
 Marulan  
 13. Natural Logarithm  
 14. Karst area north of  
 Perth  
 17. Young Lady  
 20. Bowel irrigations  
 22. Boils  
 23. Didymium  
 25. Race dog  
 26. Terms and Conditions  
 30. Exam  
 32. Royal Society  
 33. Wound  
 34. Not them  
 37. Portal guards  
 38. Light Emitting Diode  
 39. Cave formation  
 41. Y12  
 42. Old Latin  
 43. 100th part of a zaire  
 44. Ensnice

46. Those processes  
 collectively that result  
 from erupting lava  
 49. Canyon that's a  
 tributary of Numieta Creek  
 54. Relating to the sun  
 55. See 24 Across  
 58. Octaves  
 59. A child raised by  
 parents who are not their  
 biological parents  
 60. Parental Guidance  
 62. Resume  
 63. Editor  
 65. False  
 68. Faugh  
 72. – and crafts  
 74. Electrical Engineer  
 75. Input Output  
 76. Rope  
 79. Yugoslavia  
 81. Claim damages  
 84. Standard Deviation

Last month's solution:

B	I	G	H	O	L	E		C	R	U	C	U	L	I	O
E	V	E		X	I		F	E	E		A	N	I	O	N
K	E	L	L	Y		T	O		L	O	T	I	O	N	S
N			O		C	A	R	B	A	N	I	O	N		L
I	S	C		F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N		M	A
G	H	O	U	L		N	A	S	I	O	N		I	O	U
H	E	M		O	R	A	T	I	O	N		S	N	O	G
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N		R		F		H
E	P	I	L	A	T	I	O	N		A	B	S	E	N	T
D		N	O	T	I	O	N		S	N	A	T	C	H	
	F	U	S	I	O	N		A	N	A		A	T		V
N	A	T	I	O	N		X	C		B	I	K	I	N	I
I	N	I	O	N		E	X	T	R	A	N	E	O	U	S
P	I	O	N		R	E	L	I	C	T	I	O	N		I
	O	N		M	U			O		I		U		N	O
O	N		C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	I	O	N

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## ***Trip Calendar***

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Thursday 5th May  
MSS MEETING

Quarterly MSS Meeting  
To be held at: Jim Crockett's place  
Contact: 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)

Saturday 14th May  
Skydiving

"Skydive the Beach", North Wollongong  
Trip Leader: Dave Stuckey  
Contact: 0414 590 305, [stuckedl@cba.com.au](mailto:stuckedl@cba.com.au)  
By: 30th March  
Grade: Fantastic!

Weekend 14th-15th May  
Caving

Timor Caves  
Trip Leader: Rod Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: 11th May  
Grade: Easy-Medium

Weekend 28th-29th May  
Caving

Jenolan – Family friendly  
Trip Leader: Rod Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: weekend before  
Grade: Easy

Weekend 11th-13th June  
(long weekend)  
Caving

Glenrock  
Trip Leader: Rod Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: 27th May  
Grade: Easy/Surveying/Exploring

Sunday 10th July  
Field Day

Lower Blue Mountains  
Trip Leader: Beth Little  
Contact: 0450 226 811, [littlebeth78@hotmail.com](mailto:littlebeth78@hotmail.com)  
By: 7th July  
Grade: Instructional

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Weekend 23rd-24th July  
Caving

Abercrombie – Joint trip with BMSC  
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett  
Contact: 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)  
By: 20th July  
Grade: Easy

Weekend 24th-25th September  
Caving

Jenolan  
Trip Leader: Rod Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: weekend before  
Grade: Hard

Weekend 1st-3rd October  
(long weekend)  
Caving

Kempsey  
Trip Leader: Danielle Lewin  
Contact: 0404 305 878, [danielle.lewin1@three.com.au](mailto:danielle.lewin1@three.com.au)  
By: 26th September  
Grade: Surveying

2011  
Caving

Colong – Joint trip with CASM  
Trip Leader: Roderick Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: TBA  
Grade: Medium – Hard

2011  
Caving

Cleifden – probably joint trip  
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett  
Contact: 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)  
By: TBA  
Grade: Easy

Sunday 13th November  
Field Day

Lower Blue Montains  
Trip Leader: Beth Little  
Contact: 0450 226 811, [littlebeth78@hotmail.com](mailto:littlebeth78@hotmail.com)  
By: 7th July  
Grade: Instructional

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November or December 2011  
Caving

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Tasmania  
Trip Leader: Danielle Lewin  
Contact: 0404 305 878, [danielle.lewin1@three.com.au](mailto:danielle.lewin1@three.com.au)  
By: TBA  
Grade: Surveying

## Appendix 1 – 405th General Meeting Agenda

MSS 405th General Meeting, 5/5/2011

Held at Jim Crockett's place

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes:

Correspondence:

Committee Members Reports:

President –

Treasurer –

Equipment Officer –

Training Officer –

Librarian –

Status of Action Items:

Constitution updating – Warwick Blake

Web site hosting – Rod Smith

UIS Conference feasibility study – Jim Crockett

Updating membership details – Jim Crockett

Back issues of Helictite magazine – Cathi Humphrey-Hood

Other bank account options – Chris Johnstone

New Business:

New trips –

Jenolan publications – The Jenolan Caves Historical Society are reprinting a series of Occasional Papers written in the 1970's. They have also published a new paper entitled "Click Go the Cameras at Jenolan Caves 1860-1940" by Prof Elery Hamilton-Smith. Should we purchase any of these for the MSS Library?

Next Meeting:

## Time to get your *Knees in the Breeze!*

Join our day of "Tandemonium" with a brilliant tandem skydive over the beach!  
Jump from 14,000ft directly above the golden sands of North Wollongong.



Please keep **Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2011** free. We will jump in the morning then adjourn for a fabulous lunch afterwards.

Whether you wish to jump or watch, you and your friends are most welcome.  
Tandem cost will depend on numbers and will be between \$289 & \$319.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in a jump.  
Expressions of interest to be received no later than 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.  
A deposit may be required





Contact: David Stuckey

Phone: 0414 590 305

Email: [stuckedl@cba.com.au](mailto:stuckedl@cba.com.au)

Further details can be found at: <http://www.skydivethebeach.com.au>