

# NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

JUNE 2011



# MSS NEWSLETTER

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<i>Appendix 1 – Proposed Tasmania Trip Schedule</i>	

## Cover Shot:

The next generation of cavers.

L-R: Owen Johnstone, Laura Clyne, Bennett Johnstone

Photo by Helena Johnstone

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

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## Society News

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### Field Day

Just a reminder that there is a Field/Training day on the 10th July. No matter what level of experience you have it'll be worth being there. Please let Beth know if you can make it.

### Trip update

Danielle has created a proposed schedule for the Tasmania trip later this year. The schedule is attached as appendix 1. If you're interested in this trip then please have a look and provide Danielle (0404 305 878, [danielle.lewin1@three.com.au](mailto:danielle.lewin1@three.com.au)) with any feedback you have.

### MSS Library Additions Jenolan publications

A number of publications have been purchased and added to the MSS Library. They are:

Click go the Cameras by Elery Hamilton-Smith

Jenolan Caves Guides, Guests & Grottoes by John R. Dunkley

Close Encounters of the Yowie Kind by the Children of Jenolan Caves

The Binoomea Cut by Ian Driscoll

The Discovery of the Imperial Cave by Noel Rawlinson

John Lucas by Noel Rawlinson

Steam Cleaning of Orient Cave by Ronald L. Newbould

The Discovery of the Barralong Cave by Ronald L. Newbould

### 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](mailto:jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au)), has this, so please coordinate with him to collect it before your next trip.

### Caving in Sri Lanka

During Jim's trip to Chillicon he found out there may be an organised trip to Sri Lanka next year to study and explore the caves there. If you are interested in possibly joining this trip then let Jim know (0407 284 256, [jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au](mailto:jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au))

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Chris Johnstone's place on the 25th August.

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## Trip Reports

### Arapiles

11th to 22nd April 2011

Report by: Beth Little

Photos by: Beth Little

Participants: Beth Little, Jessica Swart.

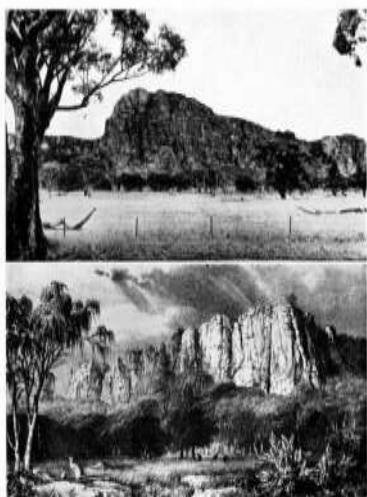


PLATE VIII (above) Mt. Arapiles, (below) Mitchell's sketch of Mt. Arapiles  
Reproduced from *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia* by Thomas Mitchell

It is not a surprise that this range captured the minds and imaginations of the early explorers to the area, its features forever captured in pen and ink in explorer journals. Its vast quartzite face towers over the Victorian grassland plateau and takes your breath away.

Although I had heard about Arapiles when I was younger, I had never taken up the opportunity for a road trip down to visit. It being situated halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide seemed like quite a journey when the blue mountain crags were just around the corner. But wow, it is well worth that road trip.

When I was climbing in the UK I heard tales from some of my climbing buddies that had travelled to Australia and spent some time down in the area. They talked about it as an international mecca for climbing that they would happily cross half way around the world for again given half the chance. I started to

realise this place must be something special. Last year I experienced this place for myself for a week, and I had to get back there again as soon as I could. The repeat visit was this Easter.

There are just so many things to love about this area.

You get to camp at the base of this great range, in the well established 'pines' (sadly mostly cropped of pines now), or the 'gums' just next door. Camp grounds are only a short walk to main climbing areas (or a quick car trip if you're going for the areas a bit further around the range).

All other climbers appear also touched by the magic of this place, so make for cool camp buddies and pleasant chit chat at the base of climbs.

For me I love that you can climb for 2 weeks straight, all day multipitches, all trad, leading cruisy grades, in spectacular surrounds. All grades are well represented at Arapiles with over a thousand climbs, so whatever grade takes your fancy is there.

The guide book is one of the best I've ever seen, anywhere. It also gives a rare opportunity to have insight into the stories behind the climbs and history to the climbing community there. And you can meet the author at his local café in Natimuk, where you can get a great coffee and cooked meal on a rainy day.

I love climbing on the rock at Arapiles – so solid and wonderfully carved by weather and time. Just exquisite. My favourite piece of protection become slinging chicken heads, this tiny quartzite bulbs that protrude out so conveniently for a quick sling, don't know what they'd be rated at – but solid for sure!

My evenings where spent listening to chat about the days climb for camp mates and sifting over the guide book to plan your ticklist for the days or week ahead. I would def recommend packing a hammock.

The place just seems like heaven to me and I can't wait until I can go back again.





Beth pointing out a climb she'd just done

## Jenolan

28th and 29th May 2011

Report by: Rod Smith

Photos by: Helena Johnstone

Participants: Rod Smith, Jim Crockett, Chris Johnstone, Helena Johnstone, Bennett Johnstone, Owen Johnstone, Rob Clyne, Laura Clyne, Ken Harris



I arrived late on the Friday night. Ken was already ensconced in the garage, so I opened up, moved in and went to bed. Chris had already called and he was at Caves House with Helena, Ben and Owen. We would all meet up in the morning.

I awoke to find Ken already up, not surprisingly. We walked down to the Guides Office to organise keys for caves and we intended to find Chris and family while there. Chris called while I was talking to the guides, so I didn't answer. I tried calling back after we had secured the keys had got his voicemail. We waited for a while before heading back up to the Cavers Cottage, hoping it wasn't going to be a weekend of missing people.

I needn't have worried. We arrived back at the Cottage to find Chris and family already there. With Rob and Laura already there we were now only waiting for Jim. Having come off night-shift we weren't sure if Jim would be there before we headed underground, but he'd told me not to wait.

Jim actually arrived early, so, after an early lunch, we all made ready to visit Aladdin Cave.

We pointed out a couple of the features, such as False Frenchmans, on the walk, not being in any particular rush.

We all entered Aladdin and waited for our eyes to adjust. With a ratio of two adults to each child there were plenty of hands to help them through. We moved efficiently, soon arriving in the small chamber before the traverse.

Being concerned for safety we had harnesses for the three children. While getting them into the harnesses we found a leech. Soon we found a second high on the wall. We're not sure how they got there; it's possible we brought them in, but not a guarantee.

Getting down the traverse and ladder proved to be reasonably simple, and soon we were at the bottom. From there it was a matter of admiring the two chambers of pretties. Photos were taken and the boys had fun crawling to the base of the ladder and sliding back down.



The trip out was a bit slower; the traverse seemed more difficult for some in that direction. Still, there were no major problems and we were soon above ground. Back to the cars, then Ken and Ben decided to walk up the hill while the rest of us took the easy option.

Sunday the plan was to visit lower river in Mammoth and, if people were keen, oolite chamber.





With everyone already at Jenolan we were able to get an earlier start. Jim opted to go to the NSWSC meeting held across the road instead of joining us.

Having been to Mammoth numerous times you would think I'd know the way backwards. Although there were no navigational errors, they were a few times we had to stop and think for a bit. Still, the bigger problem seemed to be getting Ben and Owen to listen and follow instructions. They'd been great the year before, but, Ben especially, seemed a bit over-confident. Of course, although usually a problem more associated with children, I've known some adults like that. Laura, on the other hand, was great.

We had some food at lower river and more photos were taken. We also pointed out various features, like the traverse across the river and the pool where people have fallen in.

We climbed up to oolite chamber for people to have a look. Helena, having been in Mammoth years previously, had a recollection of a large chamber she had climbed into from the floor. Oolite seemed like the only chamber that seemed to match her description, so she was keen to see if that



was it. Upon reaching it Helena believed that it was the chamber she could remember, but believed she'd climbed in from a different point.

After more photos and admiring the chamber we headed first the exit. Finding our way out seemed quicker than getting in, it wasn't long before we were back in daylight.

The NSWSC meeting was still in progress when we arrived back at the Cottage, but Jim joined us soon enough

for the cleanup of the Cottage and then heading home.

It's great to see the new generation of cavers coming through, especially the ones that are well behaved.

## Glenrock

11th and 12th June 2011

Report by: Rod Smith

Photos by: Rod Burton

Participants: Rod Smith, Brian Reeves (NHVSS), Rod Burton (Hills)

So, how do you define a cave? I contemplated this question as I engaged in the therapeutic act of removing burrs from the clothing I wore to Glenrock.

At first it seems obvious, most people would say they know what a cave is. But then ask questions about how big it needs to be, and how it's made, and suddenly the answer is not so obvious.

It seems that the definition varies between different karst areas. At Glenrock the general consensus is that it needs to be big enough for someone to fit in. So, thankfully, the cave I found fits that description (just). I could fit into it but couldn't see if it continued anywhere, which was doubtful. It's now been tagged as GR133, Blind Snake Cave (a small snake, which







we hoped was a blind snake and not a baby brown, dropped in as we removed some of the loose rocks).

I'd found it on our way to Death Trap, GR124. Brian wanted to find a voice connection he believes exists from deep in Death Trap to ... somewhere. We made it to the cave, but not before getting distracted by another possible dig, something to come back to the next day.

It was Saturday afternoon and we didn't have that much daylight. I'd started the day looking into GR33, Unstable. Brian had said he'd seen no-one enter the cave, so I decided to give it a go. I didn't get far at all, it got small and very appropriately named.

We then dropped into GR1 for a look. Quite a nice, although not overly large, cave. We found a tortoise shell in the bottom and, surprisingly, a live tortoise still in it. He/she looked rather dry and not very active, even for a tortoise. The

rescue mission was a success. The tortoise was given water and had disappeared by the end of the day.

After lunch we headed for Death Trap, finding Blind Snake and the other dig on the way. Unfortunately the task of finding a voice connection was unsuccessful. Brian has not given up though, next time he'll put someone in Curtains and Lace to see if the voice connection is through to that cave.

Sunday we started with getting into Blind Snake Cave and working on the other dig we'd found. The cave we found seemed like it may go, but the entrance needs to be enlarged to let anyone in.

After lunch we thought we'd try and locate the state survey marker near the hay shed on the other side of the road. After an unsuccessful search we decided to continue walking and visit a number of cave entrances, marking their locations on our various GPS's.

Monday morning, after a weekend of rather miserable weather, we opted for just packing up and heading home.

Despite the rain which, although not constant, was never far away, we still got into a couple of caves, found one, possibly two, more and GPSed a number of cave locations. I'll be back, after all, I need to survey GR133.

## Upcoming Events

### WEEKEND 2nd – 3rd July PART I OF THE CAVER CHEF SERIES

Trip Leader: Johan Verhagen, 02 4758 9811, [johan.verhageng@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:johan.verhageng@sydneywater.com.au)

Contact by: **30th June**

What's involved?

Learn how to cook a leg of lamb in a camp oven. Celebrate some birthdays. Do a walk. Car camping. What more could you want!

You will need:

Car camping gear, water, gear for a day walk, camp oven (if you have one), leg of lamb.

### WEEKEND 10th July FIELD DAY

Trip Leader: Beth Little, 0450 226 811, [littlebeth78@hotmail.com](mailto:littlebeth78@hotmail.com)

Contact by: **7th July**

What's involved?

SRT practice and skills tuition. All levels catered for.

You will need:

Any srt or technical gear you have, but gear can be supplied if you have none.

### WEEKEND 15th – 17th June CAPERTEE NATIONAL PARK

Trip Leader: Ray Etherton, [sox@soxelectrical.com](mailto:sox@soxelectrical.com)

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

Contact by: **30th May**

What's involved?

Exploring the Capertee National Park karst area, plus digging out some dolines. Car camping. The permit will also cover the Friday before the weekend if anyone can make it there for an extra day.

You will need:

Car camping gear, water, caving gear, digging tools, blackberry removal equipment.

### WEEKEND 22nd – 23rd July ABERCROMBIE

Trip Leader: Jim Crockett, 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)

Contact by: **19th May**

What's involved?

Joint trip with BMSC, easy caving. Car camping.

You will need:

Car camping gear, water, caving gear.

## 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...

Rock fall claimed the life of a South African climber on a Scottish pitch on May 31st. Tessa Cousins was struck by rocks on the third pitch of Cioch Direct (on the Isle of Skye) that were dislodged by her climbing partner, who also fell with the rock and was injured. Tessa sustained fatal head injuries. A second group also received injuries but were able to raise the alarm. Three injured climbers were taken to hospital. The route remains dangerous due to loose rock. Report from [UK Climbing](#).

The popularity of the movie '127 Hours' is causing problems for rescue personnel as growing numbers of people attempt to recreate Aron Ralston's trip down Bluejohn Canyon in Wayne County. Two teenage hikers were rescued at the beginning of June after abseiling into a position from which they were unable to proceed. A spokesman from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office said that they will now be charging people "who go down there unprepared" for the cost of their rescue – something they already have the power to do but have not so far enforced. Signs posted near the canyon attempt to warn people about what the trip involves – and a note at the bottom points out that the blue pool shown in the movie is in a completely different canyon... about 300 miles away. Report and picture from [KSL.com UTAH](#).



A canyoner in the Sierra Ancha Mountains was injured when he fell 30 feet and knocked himself out while downclimbing a waterfall in Salome Canyon. His friends managed to pull him out of the water and carry him down to the end of the canyon so that a helicopter could carry him out. Report from [Payson Roundup](#).

The record for running from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to the South Rim has been broken by a Forest Service worker with a penchant for marathons. Jared Scott, 28, did the run on May 27th in 3 hours, six minutes and 10 seconds, beating the previous record set in 1981 by only 36 seconds. Even in early summer and with moderate temperatures, Jared struggled with the rising heat and used the occasion as an opportunity to remind people how critical sufficient water supplies are to hiking in the Grand Canyon. Report by [Grand Canyon News](#).

Another speed record was set on the Cassin Ridge of Denali in Alaska, when Jon Griffith and Will Sim made a fast ascent in 14 hours and 40 minutes. They intentionally took the climb only to the 20,000 ft top of Kahiltna Horn and not the summit of Denali (320 ft higher). Starting at 8.15 pm and climbing with day packs, they reached their goal at 10.55am the next day, including time lost when one of the climbers tripped over his crampons and punched a hole in the side of his calf. Report from [UKClimbing News](#).





Will Sim near the summit, photo by Jon Griffiths, from [UK Climbing News](#) and [Alpine Exposures Photography](#).

With summer warming the northern hemisphere and winter (mostly) putting the stops on enthusiasm for canyoning in Australia, much of the news regarding this pastime is shifting to focus on these areas.

The US Grand Canyon area figures prominently, due to the high number of visitors and the number of technical canyons feeding into the system. On June 8, a Dutch visitor fell down a 10ft rock section in Hidden Canyon and required rescue by helicopter after sustaining head injuries. Shortly afterward, on June 12, a 39 year-old man drowned after a boat carrying three people from a private rafting trip flipped in Hance Rapid. Members of a passing commercial trip located the man floating face down in the water, but he could not be revived. It is not known if he was wearing a life jacket. (Reports by RAM from the US Canyons Yahoo forum).



Waterfall in Pussy Canyon, in the Savoy Region of France  
French report (and photo) from [France2.fr](#)

And in Europe, three people were killed at the beginning of June in the Pussy Canyon in the Savoy Region, after a sudden rise in the water level - said to be due to the failure of a retention basin - swept them away. Four other people survived. The man (26) and woman (28) were from Belgium. The body of their guide (50), was found at the bottom of a 45m waterfall.

A woman has survived a 100ft fall from a trail on Red Rock Canyon in Colorado Springs, USA. She slipped while walking with a friend and sustained several bone fractures. She is expected to recover. Story from the [Gazette](#).

Sadly, a slip for a climber in Queensland did not end so well. Ross Miller, a well-known and experienced climber, was killed after he slipped near the top of Mt Lindesay in South East QLD while climbing with a number of other people. He fell 50m. Original report from [ABC News](#).

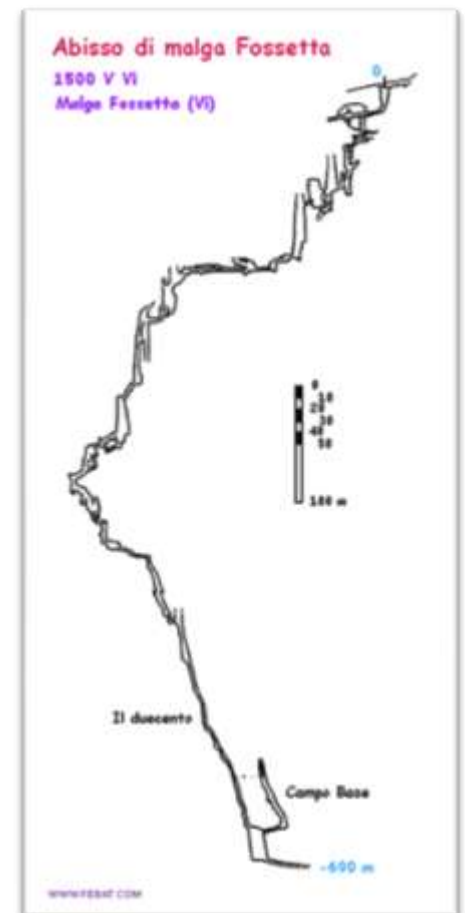
Within 10 days of this accident, another life was claimed in QLD climbing. Clint Westbrook, 34, was found at the bottom of a cliff face on Mount Greville on June 28th after he failed to return from a solo climbing trip several days earlier. It is not known exactly how or when he died, but it is thought that a rope broke. Report from the [Brisbane Times](#).

In between these tragedies another climber sustained serious injuries in a ground fall from the Frog Buttress climbing area in QLD. He sustained facial injuries, but will be alright. Details on the Qurank Climbing forum.

Away from the injuries from slips and falls (though we get back to them in a moment, unfortunately) and to some caving progress – Italian cavers have pushed the 1000 metre depth mark in Abisso di Malaga Fosetta, making it the deepest cave in the Veneto region in Italy and the first past 1000m. The map at the right only goes to 690m and this rather vertical cave was earlier predicted to go only to 700m or so. It is now at -1011m, making it (only) the 93rd deepest cave in the world... Brief report from [KarstWorlds](#) and [Caverinfo.com](#).

Map of Abisso di Malga Fosetta from: [Feebat.com](#)

Three Spanish cavers from a group of 5 attempting a deep cave traverse of 7.7km from the Tete Sauvage entrance of the Pierre Saint-Martin / Gouffre des Partages system were assisted by French rescuers after they stopped near the bottom of the cave suffering from hypothermia and exhaustion. The two others who were capable of continuing went on and alerted authorities, who provided warmth and supplies, allowing the affected cavers to recover their strength. Report from [Karstworlds](#).



80 year-old cave diver John Buxton has marked his birthday with a dive through 20 chambers of Wookey Hole, possibly making this the longest cave dive ever made by an octogenarian diver. John was disappointed not to have reached the 22nd chamber, but an air leak forced him to turn back. Originally a dry caver, he started cave diving in 1953. Report and photo from [KarstWorlds](#).



Also from [KarstWorlds](#) comes news that a new issue of the irregularly published Speleonics, a cave electronics magazine, has been published. Issue VII #3 June 2011 (issue 26) is available for download as a pdf file (2.15Mb) from:

<http://www.caves.org/section/commelect/splnics/splnics27.pdf>

Contents include a simple remote trigger for cave flash photography, radio propagation testing in lava tubes, a phone line amplifier and a look back at an old TP-6N Field telephone.

## RECALL NOTICE



Within a month, Singing Rock have become the second major company (after Petzl) to issue a recall on equipment following a possible manufacturing defect on their Crux, Nemo and Nara harnesses. There have been no reports of incidents so far, but Singing Rock are asking anyone who owns one of these harnesses to check the serial number against those listed in the [RECALL NOTICE](#) and return

them for a replacement.

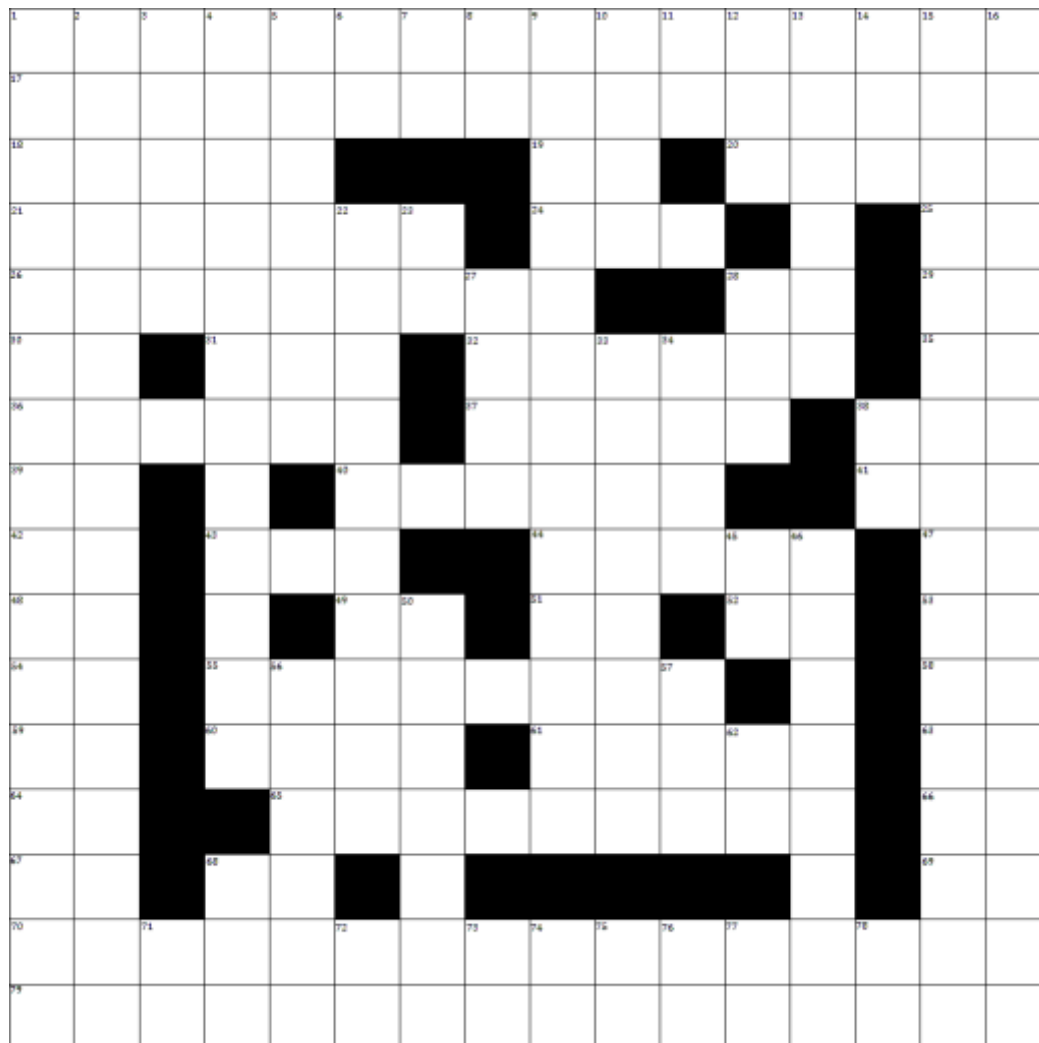
The 2012 RIC International Canyoneering meet will take place in Brazil, in Sierra da Canastra, Minas Gerais, between the 21st to the 28th April. See [RIC2012Brazil](#).

An accident in the Hautes Alps on June 25th has killed 6 climbers who were making the 1,500m ascent of the Pic de Neige Cordier. A British climber came across the bodies while taking the same route the following day. It is not clear what happened, and while original reports suggested an avalanche, it is possible the group, who were on two separate ropes, reached the Breche de la Plate des Agneaux at an elevation of 3,217m when one of them slipped and pulled the others down, colliding with the second group in the process. They all fell between 150 and 200m. Two days later another accident in the Ecrins occurred while two mountaineers were crossing the Col du Pave. One of them slipped, falling 20m into a crevasse where he died. His companion was seriously injured and was airlifted to hospital. Report from [UKClimbing.com](#).

Finally, research from North Carolina State University suggests that cave adaption is a very slow process, after it was shown that the fertility of surface dwelling fish plummets when they are placed into a dark environment like that of a cave. Not only did female surface fish have trouble reproducing, they also showed signs of severe stress. Cave fish, on the other hand, did quite well in diurnal environments. Report from [Science Daily](#).



## Crossword



### Across

1. The state of limited familiarity with someone

17. Contrary queries

18. Thigh guard

19. In the direction of

20. Spiteful

21. Once

24. Individual

25. European Community

26. Statement

28. Hello

29. Rhodium

30. Neon

31. Repetitive Strain Injury

32. Pertaining to the North Pole region

35. Cobalt

36. Distinguishing characteristics

37. Donut

38. Policeman

39. Arsenic

40. Edible marine bivalve

41. Deoxyribonucleic Acid

42. Bankers Trust

43. Hotel

44. Prefix meaning below

47. Teletype

48. In Absentia

49. Extra Terrestrial

51. Cerium

52. Objective case of we

53. Infectious Hepatitis

54. Local Time

55. Intestines

58. Nickel

59. Internet Explorer

60. Bestow excessive love

61. Guns 'n' Roses guitarist

63. Established Church

64. Trademark

65. Technology allowing remote measurement

66. Not Applicable

67. That is

68. Falkland Islands

69. Thallium

70. Relating to the study of the bodies hormones and glands

79. Displaying 2D images  
in a manner giving the  
illusion of depth

#### Down

1. List of answerable items
2. Opposing declarations
3. Without noise
4. Not cleaned
5. Having a keen desire
6. Industrial Engineer
7. Not Required
8. Tourism Queensland
9. Self arousal and  
satisfaction
10. Inert gas
11. Cesium

12. Et cetera
13. Having the  
characteristics of saliva
14. Not cold
15. Involving two or more  
of the largest land masses
16. The act of committing  
antisocial behaviour  
without feeling guilt
22. A small house
23. Half an em
27. Felines
28. Possessive form of he
33. Opening on the top of a  
battlement wall
34. Grass
38. Compact Disc

45. Ruthenium
46. Suffocation
50. Lattice
56. See
57. Took a seat
62. Senior
68. Purpose of
71. Doctor of Enginerring
72. Read Only
73. No Charge
74. Object Oriented
75. Long Play
76. Opportunistic Infection
77. Gigacycle
78. Chlorine

Last month's solution:

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

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## ***Trip Calendar***

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Weekend 2-3 July  
Part 1 of the Caver Chef Series  
Plus a walk

Timbergetters – Kanangra  
Learn how to cook a leg of lamb in a camp oven  
Celebrate some birthdays  
Trip Leader: Johan Verhagen  
Contact: 02 4758 9811, [johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au)  
By: 29th June  
Grade: Easy/Delicious!

Sunday 10th July  
Field Day

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

Weekend 16th-17th July  
Caving

Capertee National Park  
Trip Leader: Ray Etherton  
Contact: [sox@soxelectrical.com](mailto:sox@soxelectrical.com) or Rod Smith on 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: 13th July  
Grade: Easy/Exploratory

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 August  
Caving  
Being planned

Cliefden  
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett  
Contact: 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)  
By:  
Grade:

Thursday 25 August  
MSS MEETING

Quarterly MSS Meeting  
To be held at: Chris Johnstone's place  
Contact: 0401 988 096, [chris\\_johnstone@hotmail.com](mailto:chris_johnstone@hotmail.com)

Weekend 10th-11th September  
Caving  
Permit Pending

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

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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

TBA  
Trip Leader:  
Contact:  
By: 26th September  
Grade:

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

November or December 2011  
Caving

Tasmania  
See the appendix for more details  
Trip Leader: Danielle Lewin  
Contact: 0404 305 878, [danielle.lewin1@three.com.au](mailto:danielle.lewin1@three.com.au)  
By: TBA  
Grade: Easy-Hard (depending on the caves you do)

2012  
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](mailto:johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au)

2012  
Caving

Sri Lanka  
Expressions of interest at this stage  
Contact Jim Crockett on: 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)

2012  
Caving

Buchan  
Expressions of interest at this stage  
Contact rod Smith on: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)

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## Appendix 1 – Proposed Tasmania Trip Schedule

### Tasmania Caving Trip

Proposed dates:

21 Nov - 2 Dec 2011

Sail to Tas: 19 - 20 November 2011

4 berth (\$140 per person), Car (\$79) each way.

Arrive Davenport - drive 5 hours to Ida Bay 280km + 2hrs from hobart to Ida bay.

Begin Caving trip In Ida Bay (Hastings Caves)

20 Nov - Settle in Day Ida Bay

Accommodation- Ida Bay Railway Carriages (\$30 single, \$60 couple, \$ 5 extra people ... use of communal cabin.)

#### **21 Nov** Ida Bay

Midnight Hole IB:11 to Mystery Creek Cave IB:10 (through to Exit Cave)

Time 4hours

- vertical cave - good beginners abseil cave - relaxing vertical cave for experienced.

#### **22 Nov** Ida Bay - Mini Martin IB:8 to Exit Cave IB:14

Time 5hrs - plus time to explore

- vertical cave - ascent and descent cave work required

- considerable bush walk in (7km - with steep parts).

#### **23 Nov** Ida Bay - Maydeena (drive / rest day)

Accommodation at Madena (checking out Junee homestead or Maydena youth hostel.)

Mt Field Park Government Cabins

6 bunks per cabin (mattress, cold water and toilet block. Fire wood etc provided. no electricity.)

Fuel stove required \$45 per cabin

#### **24 Nov** Junee - Florentine Cave area

Cave: Three Forty One JF:341

-limited vertical however visit for the formations in lower chambers.

-Time: 5 hours.

#### **25 Nov** JF Caving area

Cave: Satan's Liar JF:365

-time 5 hours

-Sporting cave; spectacular formations and absence of mud

-some vertical and climbing.

#### **26 Nov** JF Caving area - Rest day

#### **27 Nov** JF Caving Area

Cave: Serendipity JF : 344

-Sporty cave - 12 hours

- vertical / horizontal caving; endurance required.

**28 Nov** JF Caving Area to Mole Creek Karst Area

Rest / driving day

Accommodation:

camping unpowered: \$15 per one person / \$25 for 2 people

Cabin - one only beds up to nine people?

\$75 for 2 people / \$20 per couple / bed more.

**29 Nov** Mole Creek Karst Area

Kubla Khan Cave MC:1

Time: 7 hours

- some vertical ..... predominant decorations and photography

**30 Nov** Mole Creek Karst Area

Caves: Croesus Cave MC:13

(horizontal, decorations)

Time 1 - 2 hours

Cave: Wet Cave (3 hours) MC:203

Good for beginners/ easy caving good decorations

**1st Dec** - travel to Davenport spare day

Catch Spirit of Tasmania 1930hrs .... or holiday / rest.

**Key Costs:**

Travel down to Tas. (dependant on mode; Spirit of Tas vehicle is \$79-\$96)

Accommodation:

Ida Bay (\$30 - \$40 per person/ per night)

June - Florentine (\$45 per night between 6 people = \$8 per person per night)

Mole Creek - (\$15 - 35 per person / per night)

Food / Fuel

National Park Entrance Fees