

NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

August 2011



MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot:
Dried up calcite raft.
Photo by Rod Smith

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

Society News

Cliefden trip leaders

Recently Jim Crockett and Rod Smith become accredited to lead Cliefden trips. If you're interested in going caving at Cliefden feel free to talk to either of these gentlemen, or just keep an eye on the trip calendar.

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) with any feedback you have.

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.

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)

Previous meeting

The 406th general meeting was held at Chris and Helena Johnstone's place on the 26th August. The minutes from the meeting are attached as the first appendix.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Rod Smith's place on the 10th November.

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...

Early in August, New Zealand's back country claimed the life of a snowboarder from Sydney, who crashed down a 200m slope after slipping in icy conditions. He sustained serious head injuries and in spite of one of his two companions going for help immediately, rescuers were not able to reach him for several hours. He died soon after being taken to hospital. It is not known if he was wearing a helmet. Original report from the [SMH](#).

Shortly after this accident, and also in New Zealand but in the ski fields this time, a 29 year-old woman from the Netherlands fell 30 metres down a cliff while tobogganing with a friend after dark. She landed on a patch of snow amidst rocks and remarkably sustained no injuries. Original report from the [Herald Sun](#).

Not so lucky was an experienced skier in Australia, killed after falling 700 metres down an icy slope from the top of Avalanche Gully at Mount Feathertop in Victoria. The area is outside the Mount Hotham ski resort and is known for very steep slopes which are prone to becoming icy. He was stopped from sliding further by hitting debris from previous avalanches. He is believed to have died in the fall.

Photo and report from [The Age](#).



A prehistoric wallaby skull found in a Nullarbor cave is believed to be 700,000 to 780,000 years old and is

possibly a new species. As only a partial skull was found, further examination will be needed. The expedition, being funded by the Western Australian Museum, found the remains in Leaena's Breath Cave in WA, about 70km from the SA border. A day later an almost complete skeleton of an eagle was also discovered in the cave. Wallaby story from [ABC News](#), photo and eagle discovery from [Yahoo News](#). More information from [Karstworlds](#), [Flinders University](#) and the [Western Australian Museum Cave](#) site.

Also in Western Australia, researchers taking water samples in the far reaches of [Jewel Cave](#) have discovered a new set of Thylacine footprints, near to where the body of a Tasmanian tiger was found in the 1960's. The only other set of prints found in the soft mud of the cave were discovered twenty years ago. Photos of the new prints will be on display at the show cave, which is 12km north of Augusta. Report from [KarstWorlds](#).

Alan Blackshaw OBE, the author of the highly-regarded *Mountaineering – from Hillwalking to Alpine Climbing*, published in 1966, passed away on August 4th 2011 at the age of 78. Alan was a former president of the British Mountaineering Council. Report from [UK Climbing](#).

An accident at Urdukass on the Baltoro glacier on August 16th has claimed the lives of three porters from Shigar, who were buried under a boulder slide. Four other porters were injured in the accident, and were evacuated by an army helicopter to Skardu. Brief report from [ExplorersWeb](#).



Afghan climber Aziz Beg on the summit of Mount Noshaq, photo by Tim Wood

The first Australian to climb Afghanistan's highest mountain, the 7492m Mount Noshaq, did so with local climber Aziz Beg, who becomes just the third Afgan climber to reach the summit. Tim Wood, from Chinchilla in QLD, spent 10 days climbing the mountain, which is located near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. Report and photo from [ABC News](#).

In Pakistan itself, bad weather caused Pat Goodman, Matt McCormick and Will Meinen to miss out on climbing their intended target of K7. Instead, they were able to make a first ascent of a previously unclimbed pillar of 5350m, which they named Fida Brakk after their expedition cook Fida Hussain. The pillar was a rock climb (no ice or snow) which they thought would take them around 20 hours to climb but instead took them almost 48 hours of sustained 5.11+/5.12- climbing. Report and photo from the [Alpinist](#).



Australian BASE jumper 'Lucky Chance' sustained multiple injuries in a BASE jumping accident in Europe. Toby Benham attracted massive internet attention after a [video](#) of a near-accident in the Blue Mountains of NSW (which was being filmed for a production by Rock and Ice called 'Smitten') showed him just getting his chute out in time to avoid a 600 foot ground fall. The cause of his current accident is unknown, but he has serious head injuries and remains in a critical condition in hospital. Report from [Rock and Ice](#).

In Kyrgyzstan at the end of July, Denis Urubko and Boris Dedeshko climbed a new route on the 6240m Prjevasky (or Przewalski) Peak. They were in the area looking for two Polish climbers, Piotr Zwolinski and Michal Kacperski, who went missing last year after using a mislabeled map given to them by a Kazach agency. In spite of a number of searches, there is still no sign of the missing men. Report from the [Alpinist](#).

The bushland off Loyalty Road in North Rocks NSW is an area familiar to many of us, being a popular place to practice abseiling because of easy access and several different grades of pitch. Police were called to the area around 10pm on Sunday August 21st by the family of a man who had failed to return home from abseiling. He was found dead against the dam wall - no other details have been released at this time. Report from the [Hills Shire Times](#).

As mentioned on the OzCanyons forum, the Mount Portal abseil site in the Blue Mountains has been closed following the removal of bolts due to safety concerns. Richard Delaney (OzCanyons post 31/8/2011) says he found the bolts to be very loose and moving, and he pulled them out by hand. The area is expected to remain closed until the end of September 2011.

In other Blue Mountains news, the Mt Hay Road is closed at the gate for road grading, the Tabaraga Ridge Fire Trail near Kurrajong Heights is closed 'due to dangerous road conditions' and the Burrallow Creek camping ground is also closed – Roberts Pass at Leura is closed due to a landslide and there is said to be no access to Valley of the Waters via Roberts Pass. Breakfast Point Lookout is also closed. Waratah Ridge (and thus Hole in the Wall) access is closed due to logging operations and is not expected to be open to canyoners until the October long weekend. Please check the [National Parks closure page](#) for current information.

Caverinfo brings news of a new cave being added to the system of Badalona (in the Sistema de las fuentes de Escuin, in the Spanish Pyrenees). At the end of July, a connection was made with C9 (-830m) 'via a small tributary near the siphon terminal to 610m at the Gallery of Velles', making a new cross trip of 1060m. Source: [Caverinfo](#), map of Badalona from [KarstWorlds](#).

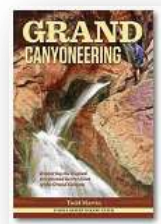


A 32cm long hollow print of a 56,000 year-old Neanderthal trowel has been found in the Abric Romani cave in Catalonia. The trowel appears to have been superficially burnt and may have been used for managing fires. Report from [KarstWorlds](#).



Bat lovers can now watch up to 20 million bats fly out of the Bracken Bat Cave near Natural Bridge Caverns in Texas on their evening foraging run, or witness their return to the cave in the morning. Bat Conservation International, who own the cave and 697 acres of land surrounding it, have opened up tours to the public in anticipation of next year being the International Year of the Bat. Previously, only members of the organisation or those invited by the BCI could watch the bats on their nightly summer food run. More public viewings are scheduled for this summer and autumn. Report and photo from [KarstWorlds](#).

Grand Canyoneering, an extensive guidebook covering technical canyoning in the Grand Canyon National Park, USA, has just been published and is available from the author, Todd Martin, at: <http://www.toddshikingguide.com/GrandCanyoneering/> The 500 page book took over four years to compile and includes 200 photographs of remote areas of the Grand Canyon, descriptions of over 100 canyons, maps, photos and locations of water sources.



A man has been killed after hiking in a canyon known as The Wave in Kane County, Utah. 37-year-old Bo Pian had a permit to hike the area. It appears that he fell 100 feet while returning in the dark on a moonless night after his torch failed. Report from [Canyoneeringnet](#).

An accident in Insomnia Canyon in Sedonia USA almost claimed the life of a 36-year-old man on August 13th after he lost control of an abseil on the canyon's final 300 foot drop and fell 100 feet before bouncing from a ledge and dropping another 40 feet into a pool of water. Even though his companions could not find a pulse, he recovered consciousness, after which one of his friends ran up the canyon to find a mobile phone signal. Paramedics reached the injured man at midnight (after eight abseils and three swims) but they were not able to remove him from the canyon until 1pm the next day. Once in hospital, he was rushed into surgery to reattach his pelvis, which had been disconnected from his spine. The man, a retired dentist, is expected to recover. Report from the [Payson Roundup](#).

Readers of Australian Lincoln Hall's experiences in surviving Everest might remember him recounting some tense moments with his Sherpas during the rescue. Recently, an unconscious Brazilian/American climber, Cleo Weidlich, was rescued by Anselm Murphy and Ted Atkins after reportedly being left head down on a slope by her Sherpas. Weidlich later defended the actions of the Sherpas, but other climbers have told a different story, and Alex Gavan was apparently attacked in base camp after condemning the Sherpas' actions. This disturbing report from [ExplorersWeb](#).

Lightning has killed a man on the Rim Trail in Bryce Canyon National Park. Around midday on August 18th, Volker Kunz and his family were returning to their car to seek shelter from an approaching storm. Mr Kunz apparently paused under a pine tree, which was then directly struck by lightning. Attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. Report from the [Salt Lake Tribune](#).

A man has been found dead near Tanner beach in the Grand Canyon National Park, after having earlier been seen in distress along the trail. He was given water by a party of backpackers who invited him to accompany them down to the river, an invitation he refused, preferring to hike back up. When they returned from the river the next day, carrying extra water in case they encountered the man again (which they did not), they reported the situation to rangers. Finding the man's car still in the carpark, the rangers

used a helicopter to mount a search, after which a body was found in a wash just above Tanner Beach. The temperature was in the low to mid 40's centigrade. Report posted by RAM on the Yahoo Canyons forum (31/8), more info [here](#).

On the same day, three children aged eight, nine and twelve were found in a distressed condition after being forced along several Grand Canyon trails by their grandfather. Several concerned hikers reported the group and rangers intercepted them, finding the boys dehydrated and badly sun-burned, with early indications of heatstroke. The children were treated and placed in the care of protective services; the man has been charged with child endangerment. Report from the [Arizona Daily](#).

Following the fatal mauling of a hiker in Yellowstone National Park last month, another hiker has been killed by a grizzly bear in the same park. 59-year-old John Wallace died while camping alone in a park campground on August 28th. There were no witnesses and rangers are unsure of what might have prompted the bear to attack. Report from [the Australian](#).

While the dangers from grizzly bears are well known, walkers in Switzerland have unexpectedly encountered another threat – cows with new calves. Three hikers in Switzerland were airlifted to hospital after being attacked by cows near Chur in southeastern Switzerland. This follows an attack on two hikers a few days earlier on August 14th. Authorities are warning people to stay away from the cows while they are calving. Report from [the Australian](#), additional info and photo from the [Swiss Local](#).



Upcoming Events

WEEKEND 10th - 11th September COLONG

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

Contact by: **7th September**

What's involved?

Downhill to the cave, exploring one of the longer caves in NSW, then the steep climb to finish.

You will need:

Horizontal caving gear. Camping gear.

WEEKEND 24th - 25th September JENOLAN CAVES

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

Contact by: ASAP (trip full – but you can be put on the reserve list if someone pulls out)

What's involved?

Chevaulier and Loubens Extensions of Glass Cave, and Dwyers if anyone's keen. Use of the scaling pole to gain access. Clean zone.

You will need:

Caving gear, including SRT gear. Clean thermals etc, for the clean zone. If you can come on Friday 23rd to help set up it would be good.

Zion Canyon Rescues

The park's search and rescue team conducted four canyoneering rescues in three days, then took on a big wall rescue of two injured climbers:

*July 16th – On the morning of July 16th, a 20-year-old man suffered a lower leg fracture after a short fall while descending into Mystery Canyon. When the injury occurred, he was over a quarter mile and 400 vertical feet below the canyon rim in a steep, heavily-vegetated gully. When rangers arrived on scene, he told them he'd be willing to assist with his evacuation, but that he could not bear any weight on the injured leg. Over the next six hours, he laboriously worked his way to the canyon rim with rangers' assistance while the park's contract helicopter staged at a nearby landing zone. His fortitude prevented the need for a complex technical rope rescue or a helicopter short haul. When he arrived on the East Mesa Trail, the helicopter evacuated him from the wilderness.

While this incident was occurring, rangers were alerted to a 37-year-old male in the Narrows who was unable to stand or walk. The man, who was suffering from cumulative knee and lower leg injuries, had stopped hiking and sent others out to seek help. Though he had intended to complete the strenuous, 16-mile route as a day trip on July 15th, he spent an unplanned night in the Narrows. Members of the park SAR team conducted a six-hour litter carry of the patient via the park's SAR pack raft.

*July 17th – A group of seven canyoneers in Imlay Canyon requested help for two people who had taken separate falls. Members of the group began their descent of Imlay on July 16th. This canyon has one of the park's more difficult canyoneering routes, with over 20 rappels, extremely cold water, and numerous potholes requiring specialized techniques for escape. As group members were completing a 10 foot rappel using a log jammed crosswise in the canyon as an anchor, the log anchor failed and the 20-year-old man who was on the rope suffered a possible lower leg fracture. The injured man was moved a short distance down canyon to a wide area and all spent the night there. In the morning, one party member stayed with the injured man while the remaining five canyoneers continued on the route, promising to send help once their trip was complete. Early in the evening of July 17th, they arrived at the last rappel 140 feet above the Zion Narrows. The first canyoneer to complete the free-hanging rappel then hurried to the Temple of

Sinawava Trailhead two miles downstream to report the incident. Group members were using the carabineer block technique at the anchor, allowing party members to rappel on one strand of rope while using two strands of rope tied together to function as a pull cord. If used correctly, a carabineer and knot jam against the anchor prevents the rope from pulling through the anchor while the canyoneer is on rope. Connecting the rappel device to the correct side of the anchor is critical. The second-to-last party member to descend the last rappel attached her device on the wrong side of the anchor; when she put weight on it, she fell the entire distance into the shallow water below – a distance equivalent to 13 stories. Her life was likely saved by the friction or bunching of the rope whipping through the anchor, slowing her fall just enough at the last second. While a ranger at the trailhead was taking information concerning the initial lower leg fracture, a visitor rushed to the trailhead to report that a woman had fallen 140 feet. Rangers quickly organized a carryout via raft litter and evacuated the woman to the trailhead, arriving shortly after midnight. Her most serious injury was a shattered ankle. On the morning of July 18th, Grand Canyon National Park's contract helicopter and short-haul team evacuated the man with the initial lower leg fracture out of the center of Imlay Canyon. The use of short haul prevented the need for a long, difficult technical rope rescue. Charges concerning the group's wilderness permit violations are pending.

*July 19th – Just after 11 p.m. on July 19th, flashing lights and shouts for help were seen and heard from halfway up the vertical cliff face below Angels Landing, prompting a shuttle bus driver to alert park rangers. Using a patrol vehicle PA system, spotlight and headlamp flashes, rangers were able to communicate with the climbers. They determined that there were two climbers on the Northeast Buttress and that at least one had fallen and suffered a head injury. Before calling for help, the climbers had attempted to retreat but did not have enough rope to clear a huge free hanging rappel. They'd also discovered that their single 70-meter rope had been badly damaged. Members of the park's technical rescue team rallied early the next morning at the top of Angels Landing for the rescue. The Zion helitack crew supported the team with recon flights and a sling load of ropes and equipment. Helicopter recon proved critical in establishing the appropriate fall line for the ensuing 1,300-foot lowering operation. The team used two high directionals to help keep the mainline free of obstacles. As ranger/paramedic Brandon Torres was lowered approximately 700 feet to the climbers, he carefully cleared debris to significantly reduce rock fall hazard. The climbers, brothers aged 34 and 31, were in stable condition and able to describe the events of the previous day. They'd gotten off route on the fifth or sixth pitch of the Northeast Buttress. Once off route, each had taken separate and substantial falls – one had sustained hand injuries and the other hit his head and lost consciousness for a short time. Torres connected the climbers to the rescue system and all three were lowered another 600 feet to the ground. The climbers were on the ground by 1:30 p.m. Ranger Therese Picard served as operations chief.

Lightning Causes One Fatality in Bryce Canyon National Park

An international visitor was killed by lightning along the Rim Trail between Sunrise and Sunset Points in Bryce Canyon National Park on Thursday, August 18. The victim was identified as Volker Kunz, 51, from Hamm, Germany.

At approximately 12:20 PM, Mr. Kunz and his family were on the Rim Trail near Sunset Point when a rapidly developing thunderstorm approached the area. The family began returning to their vehicle to seek shelter from the rain. Mr. Kunz sought refuge under a large ponderosa pine.

Lightning directly struck the tree Mr. Kunz was standing under and its energy was transferred to him. Family members ran to the Bryce Canyon Lodge nearby to call for help. A registered nurse and her husband, visiting from Washington State, were first on the scene and determined that Kunz had no pulse. They immediately began performing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Park rangers and Garfield County emergency medical technicians soon arrived and continued CPR. Attempts to revive him continued while he was transported by ambulance to Garfield Memorial Hospital in Panguitch, Utah, 25 miles away. Hospital staff took over care of the patient but attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. Mr. Kunz is survived by his wife and two sons.

This incident is a tragic reminder that summer storms in the Southwest, including at Bryce Canyon National Park, are often accompanied by potentially deadly lightning. Visitors to the park are reminded that if the sound of thunder follows a lightning flash within 30 seconds or less, they should seek shelter immediately in a building or vehicle and not under a tree or near any high point of land. The last lightning-caused fatality in the park was in 2004.

For more information on lightning safety, see the park's newspaper, the "Hoodoo", at <http://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/park-newspaper.htm> or visit <http://www.nps.gov/brca/forkids/lightningsafety.htm>

Crossword

Across

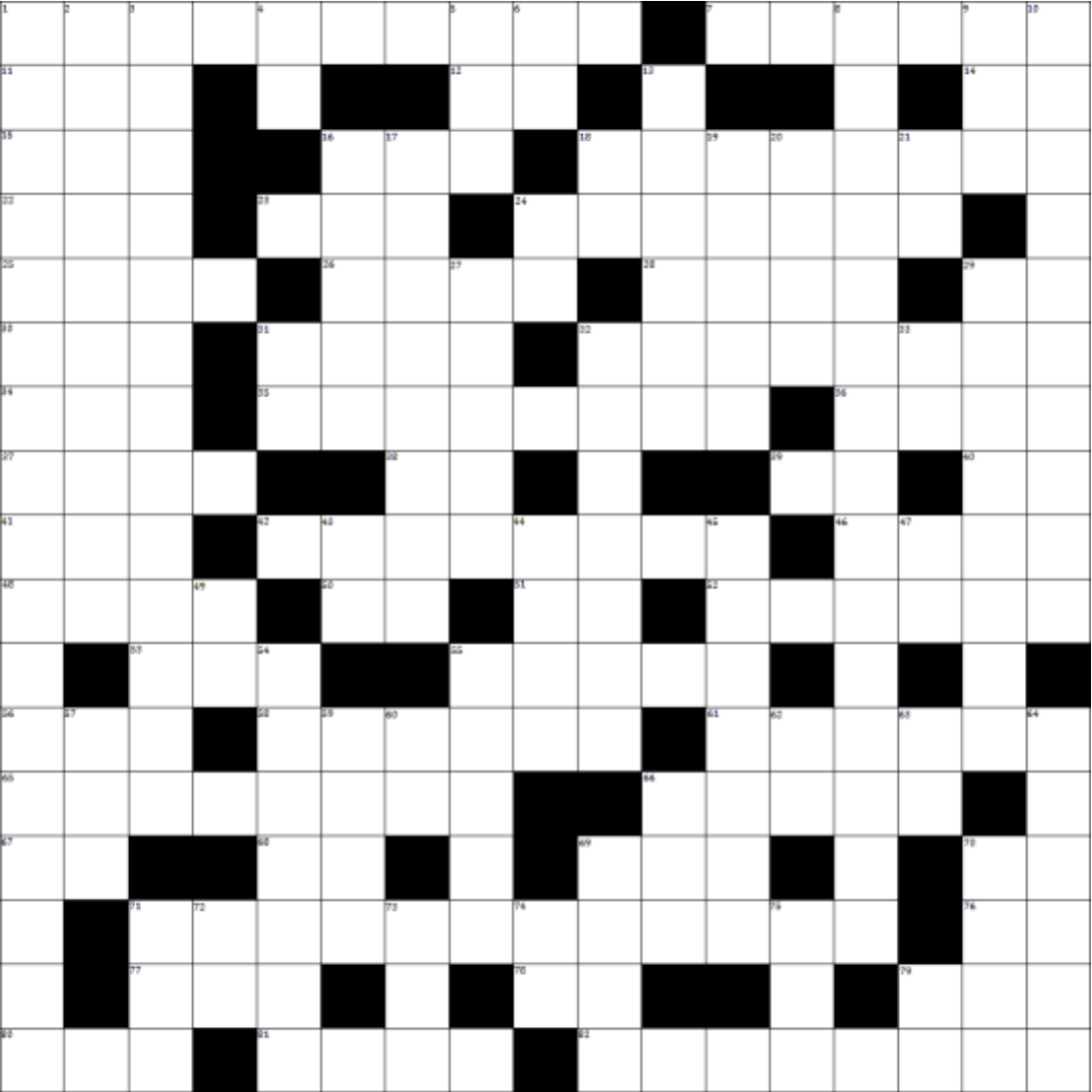
1 & 3-Down & 10-Down.
ASF
7. The reflexive form of it
11. Regional Network
Provider
12. Central Time
14. That is
15. Request For Evidence
16. Protrude
18. Storage location for
watercraft
22. Evaluation Assurance
Level
23. Writing implement
24. Longest cave in the
world
25. Captain Hook's right-
hand man
26. Fifth longest cave in
the world
28. Eating establishment
29. Public Relations
30. Technology Innovation
Office
31. Jeans brand
32. Longest lava tube in the
world
34. English Language
Learner
35. With a separate price
for each dish offered on the
menu
36. To encourage, usually
in wrongdoing
37. Large feline
38. Left Hand
39. Multiple Sclerosis
40. Texas Instruments
41. Insurance Australia
Group
42. Web site listing cave
statistics
46. Prefix meaning self
48. Operatic solo

50. Methyl
51. Office Equipment
52. A mischievous boy
53. Central Intelligence
Agency
55. First name of Pope
John Paul II
56. Female reproductive
cell
58. Diagram
61. Grasshopper
65. Third longest gypsum
cave in the world
66. Next after fifth
67. Information Warfare
68. Adult Education
69. However
70. Turn Over
71. Twenty first longest
lava tube in the world
76. Holmium
77. Sick
78. Information
Technology
79. In what way
80. Thirty fifth longest lava
tube in the world
81. Twenty fourth longest
underwater cave in the
world
82. Twenty fifth longest
lava tube in the world

Down

1. Thirty eighth longest
cave in the world
2. Not known
3. See 1-Across
4. Regarding
5. In Circuit Test
6. Astatine
8. Sixth longest cave in the
world
9. Untruth
10. See 1-Across

13. Male feline
16. Second longest cave in
the world
17. Gastropod
18. Bachelor of Arts
19. Astound
20. Meat substitute
21. Hand Held
24. Medical Doctor
27. Ornamental wall recess
29. Slang for cave
decorations
31. Los Angeles
32. Deepest cave in the
world
33. Unaccompanied
Baggage
43. Americium
44. Wander
45. Longest cave in
Australia
47. Unavailable Hours
49. Artificial Intelligence
54. Onslaught
55. Eleventh longest lava
tube in the world
57. Pledge
59. Cook
60. Hong Kong
62. Bovine
63. Unaffected Hemisphere
64. Thirtieth longest lava
tube in the world
66. Sports Utility Vehicle
69. Cave dwellers
70. The personal pronoun
of the second person
singular in the nominative
case
71. Recline
72. Air Lock
73. Prohibit
74. Lithium
75. Hot drink
79. Mercury



Last month's solution:

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

Trip Calendar

Weekend 10th-11th September

Caving

Permit Approved!

Colong – Joint trip with CASM

Trip Leader: Rod Smith

Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: weekend before

Grade: Hard

Weekend 24th-25th September

Caving

Jenolan

Trip Leader: Rod Smith

Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: weekend before

Grade: Hard

Weekend 8th-9th October

TBA

Trip Leader:

Contact:

By: 5th October

Grade:

Weekend 22nd-23rd October

Caving

Capertee National Park and Coco Creek Cave

Trip Leader: Rod Smith

Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: 19th October

Grade: Easy

Thursday 10th November

MSS MEETING

Quarterly MSS Meeting – incorporating the AGM

To be held at: Rod Smith's place

Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

Sunday 13th November

Field Day

Lower Blue Mountains

Trip Leader: Beth Little

Contact: 0450 226 811, littlebeth78@hotmail.com

By: 7th July

Grade: Instructional

21st November to 2nd December
2011

Caving

Tasmania

See the appendix for more details

Trip Leader: Danielle Lewin

Contact: 0404 305 878, danielle.lewin1@three.com.au

By: TBA

Grade: Easy-Hard (depending on the caves you do)

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: 20th July
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

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

March 2012
Caving

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

April 2012
Caving

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

2012
Caving

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

2012
Caving

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

MSS 406th General Meeting, 26th August 2011
Held at Chris & Helena Johnstone's place

Meeting Opened: 7:30pm

Present:

Roderick Smith, Jim Crockett, Chris Johnstone, Helena Johnstone

Apologies:

Bob & Pam Horn

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes: None

Correspondence:

None

Committee Members Reports:

President: None

Treasurer: None

Equipment Officer:

Extra bolts and joints have been added to the scaling pole to increase the available length.

Training Officer: None

Librarian: None

Status of Action Items:

Constitution updating: None

Web site hosting:

The site is now under the new hosting. We need to fill the role of the Web Master Committee position. We are considering various candidates, but if anyone else is interested in the position, please contact any member of the committee.

Updating membership details: None

Back issues of Helictite magazine: None

Other bank account options:

Helena is going to investigate whether SunCorp can provide a cheap option.

ESRI GIS Software: None

New Business:

Trip planning:

8th-9th October – TBA

26th December – Canyoning, Mt Wilson area – TL Jim - Grade Easy

27th December – Canyoning, South Bowens – TL Jim – Grade Medium

14th – 15th January – Canyoning Newnes area – TL Me

Wombeyan – TL Me - April

Cliefden – TL Jim - March

Jenolan Cavers Cottage fees – These have been increased to \$40 for the weekend and \$15 for each additional day. Do we wish to increase what we charged our members on trips, and, if so, to what? We agree it should be increased to \$10 per person per trip.

Due to the fact the Rod is the current Librarian, he is nominated to be the current cave numbering representative for MSS. He will co-ordinate with the NSWSC to ensure the Abercrombie records in the KID is up-to-date.

Next Meeting:

Rod's Place – will incorporate the AGM - 10th November

Meeting Closed: 8:45pm

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 (matress, 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