

# NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

MARCH 2011



# MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot:

Beth Little on Diddy Kong at Thompsons Point, Nowra

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.

### Volunteers for bridge installation in B4/Kings Cross - Bungonia

Joe Sydney is looking for volunteers to help install a bridge in the Kings Cross area of B4-5 at Bungonia. The purpose of the bridge is to protect paleo-sediments from constant overuse. The installation will take place over the weekend of the 28th and 29th of May with a small number of volunteers required on the Friday before. For more information contact Rod Smith (0438 444 262 [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)) or Joe Sydney (0405 039 398 [jsydney@choice.com.au](mailto:jsydney@choice.com.au)).

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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...

A news report “Culling Can’t Control Deadly Bat Disease” published in Science Daily in February has given the results of mathematical modelling that show culling of bats will not help to stop the spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) throughout North America. Believed to be caused by the fungus *Geomyces destructans*, the disease is thought to have killed over a million bats in the last three years. Researchers Tom Hallam and Gary McCracken write “Our simulations indicated culling will not control WNS in bats primarily because contact rates are high among colonial bats, contact occurs in multiple arenas, and periodic movement between arenas occurs.” Culling has been considered as one way to stop the disease, but given that bat populations are under such enormous pressure already, this report will provide reassurance to those who consider culling would do more harm than good. Report from [Sciencedaily.com](http://Sciencedaily.com)

A climbing accident on Tasmania’s Mt Wellington has seriously injured a 45 year-old climber. He was found at the base of the Organ Pipes on the 13th March after taking a 10m fall and suffering abdominal and neck injuries. A [post](#) on the Chockstone forum adds that he fractured his hip and ribs, needed 12 teeth removed, his jaw repaired and had minor brain bleeding. He was in ICU for 3 days. First report from [SMH](#).



Photo from [Bushwalk Tasmania](#)



Photo from [Average Joe Roadtrips](#)

An uneven rope may have claimed the life of a 70 year-old canyoner in the North Fork of No Man’s Canyon in the US, leaving his 57 year-old brother stranded for 3 days until rescuers arrived. Louis and David Cicotello reached the final 140 foot abseil of the canyon, whereupon Louis rigged the rope and began the abseil. He called up that he was on the overhanging section and that “he could see the ropes were unequal but that it was ‘no biggie’”. The rope then flew through the rappel ring; David called out to his brother but received no answer. David did not have enough rope to abseil down nor was he able to climb back up. He had some food but no way of alerting rescuers and it was not until a concerned family member contacted Search and Rescue that help arrived and David was taken to hospital for rehydration. Louis Cicotello was an experienced mountaineer and rock climber and had been

climbing at a high level for more than 30 years. The height of his fall was not reported but was not believed to have been high. Initial reports from the [Salt Lake Tribune](#), detailed report from the [canyoneering.net forum](#).



A climber in the Pembrokeshire sea cliff area in the UK was killed on the 20th March when he was hit by a large rock. Jonathon Woods suffered chest injuries and died later in hospital. Report from [UK Climbing](#).



Scottish mountaineer Douglas (Dogie) Lang was killed while soloing in Coire Fee. His body was found in avalanche debris. Dogie, 69 years-old, had an illustrious climbing career, with first ascents including the Ardverikie Wall on Binnein Shuas in 1967 and the Great Stack of Handa in 1969. He was a former president of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. Report from [UK Climbing](#).

Dogie Lang in trad winter gear – 1968  
© hunter, Dec 1968  
Photo from: UK Climbing

The last 40 years of the Alpine Journal have been made available online, with free access to Alpine Club members and members of the mountaineering community. Plans have been made to digitise all volumes back to the first publication in 1863, though the Alpine Club is looking for donations to help with the estimated £3,500 cost of doing this. For more information see [www.alpinejournal.org.uk](http://www.alpinejournal.org.uk).

Just as Pete Rhodes has been eyeing off a winter ascent of the Troll Wall, Vertebrate Publishing have released a book about the British first ascent of the wall, written by Tony Howard. Located on the Norwegian west coast, the Troll Wall is the tallest vertical rock face in Europe at 1,100m. Tony Howard was part of a British climbing team who were beaten to the top by a Norwegian team, by just one day, in 1965 (from [Wikipedia](#)). Report from [UK Climbing](#).



A three-year climbing adventure was over before it really began for 38 year-old Australian Melissa Therese Martin, who was killed while climbing with her husband Brad Skinner in the Karako Glacier area near Lake Adelaide in the South Island of New Zealand. On March 23rd they were climbing on ice when Melissa slipped and fell, taking her husband with her. Brad Skinner was knocked unconscious but his injuries were not severe. The couple had planned a three-year trip as part of a biomedical research project. Initial report from [SMH](#), more details (with some slightly dodgy distances) from [Mojozone.co.nz](http://Mojozone.co.nz).



Olivier Vidal has reminded cavers that if they wish to present at the Caving Symposium to be held in Marbella, Spain 19th to 25th September this year, that they will need to submit articles before the 15th June. The Symposium will include:

- 8th European Symposium of Explorations and Expeditions Speleology
- 1st European Day Women & Speleology
- 3rd EuroSpeleo Image'In Film Festival "Speleo Europa Cinema"
- 1st European Open Air Vertical Progression Techniques Games
- Exhibitions, Stands, Activities for Kids, Speleo Vacations, and lots of caves

For more information go to: <http://www.espeleo.es/euroespeleoforum/english/index.htm>

Exploration of the Abisso Led Zeppelin in the Canin Mountains in Italy have continued during March, with five Italian and Hungarian cavers pushing the surveyed depth of the cave to -1030m, to a point where water is disappearing beneath boulders. The cave had just pushed -1000m back in September 2010, with more sumps to be bypassed, making for slow progress. Source: [caverinfo.com](http://caverinfo.com).

[Caverinfo.com](http://Caverinfo.com) also brings reports of the French expedition to Khamouane, Laos, where 10km of new galleries have been explored in Koun Dun Cave, bringing the total length of the cave to 21km. New entrances were discovered in the massif and explored. One of the cavers injured his leg during the first week and was forced to retire. New discoveries were made in the valley of Nam Hin Boun, with further exploration of an opening discovered in 2002 bringing the length of the cave from 150m to 4.6km. Complex and branching, the cave required a number of different techniques to explore. Details (in French) and photos from [ExplosNews](http://ExplosNews).

Jean-Michelet Laurence Salmon in Houay Sai



## Upcoming Events

WEEKEND 9th – 10th March NEWNES CANYONING

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

Contact by: 7th April

What's involved?

Two days of canyoning at Newnes, actual canyons yet to be determined.

You will need: Camping gear, pack, wetsuit, abseiling and canyoning gear, headlight (just in case), food and water.

Chillicon, the ASF Biennial Conference

Easter 2011

Chillagoe

Please contact Jim for more details

0407 284 256, [jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au](mailto:jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au)

WEEKEND 30th April – 1st May LOOKING FOR CAVES AT CAPERTEE NP

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

Contact by: 27th April

What's involved?

Exploring the limestone, removing rubbish from a doline and, hopefully, exploring any discovered holes. Car camping. Contact Rod for more details.

You will need:

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

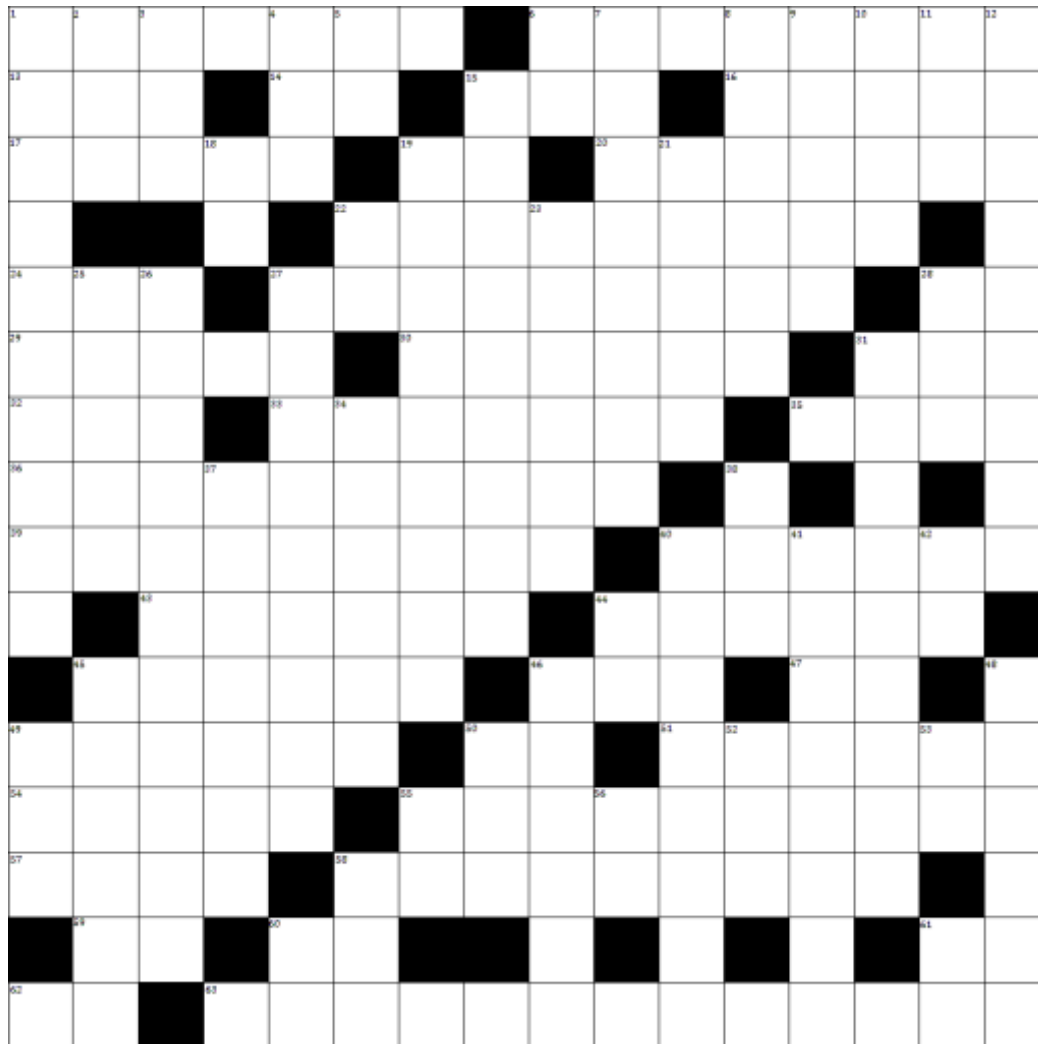
MSS Club Meeting 5th May

Jim Crockett's Place

Please contact Jim for more details

0407 284 256, [jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au](mailto:jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au)

## Crossword



### Across

1. Feature on track to Marble Arch
6. Weevil genus (variant spelling)
13. Night before
14. Fourteenth Greek letter
15. Charge
16. A negatively charged ion
17. 6N165
19. Telegraph Office
20. Liquid cosmetics
22. An organic ion containing a negatively charged carbon atom

24. International Seismological Center
27. Straws, stalagmites and shawls are types of ...
28. Mother
29. Grave robber
30. The intersection of the internasal suture with the nasofrontal suture in the midsagittal plane
31. Written acknowledgement of a debt
32. To enclose
33. A formal speech
35. Kiss (slang)
36. Inducement
39. Removal of hair

40. Missing
43. General understanding
44. Pinch
45. A thermonuclear reaction creating heavier atoms
46. Prefix meaning against
47. One hundredth of a kip
49. Australia is one
50. Cross Country
51. Two piece
54. A point at the external occipital protuberance of the skull
55. Not pertinent
57. The first meson to be discovered



58. The gradual recession  
of water leaving land  
permanently uncovered  
59. Old Norse  
60. Twelfth Greek letter  
61. Nobelium  
62. Upon  
63. Something transmitted

# Down

1. Blessed by the Queen  
2. I have  
3. Congeal  
4. Prefix meaning sharp  
5. Lithium  
6. Cerium  
7. Uncle is one  
8. A positively charged ion  
9. Worker organization  
10. Large feline  
11. An electrically charged  
atom

12. Violent attack  
15. A particular disposition  
of troops  
18. See  
19. Damnation  
21. Vegetable  
22. Cobalt  
23. The midpoint of the  
anterior margin of the  
foramen magnum  
25. Farm animal  
26. Pulverization  
27. Buoyancy  
28. Cow noise  
31. Contamination  
34. Allotted amount  
37. The audible release of a  
stop  
38. Reserve Bank of  
Australia  
40. Relating to rising air  
currents

41. Surveillance of a  
location  
42. Northern Hemisphere  
44. Tin  
45. A small flag  
46. Deed  
48. Sight  
49. Pinch  
50. Extra Extra Large  
52. International Nursing  
Index  
53. Thirteenth Greek letter  
55. Electrical Engineer  
56. Radio Controlled  
58. Alcoholic drink  
60. Molybdenum  
61. Negative

Last month's solution:

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

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## ***Trip Calendar***

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Weekend 9th-10th April  
Canyoning

Newnes, canyons to be determined  
Trip Leader: Rod Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: 6th April  
Grade: Medium-Hard

Easter 2011 (Early April)  
Cillagoe QLD

Chillicon  
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett  
Contact: 0407 284 256, [jim.crockett@reach.com](mailto:jim.crockett@reach.com)  
By: asap  
Grade: Conference with field trips

Weekend 30th April-1st May  
Caving

Capertee National Park  
Trip Leader: Rod Smith  
Contact: 0438 444 262, [roderick\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com)  
By: 27th April  
Grade: Easy-Medium/Exploratory

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

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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

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

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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 13 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  
Trip Leader: Danielle Lewin  
Contact: 0404 305 878, [danielle.lewin1@three.com.au](mailto:danielle.lewin1@three.com.au)  
By: TBA  
Grade: Surveying

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## 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>