

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012 Edition
Issued November 2012



MSS NEWSLETTER

Society News	1
UIS congress.....	2
Canyoning checklist	2
Trip Reports	
Jenolan Caves	2
Cliefden Caves.....	5
Wombeyan Caves	5
Training day.....	7
Tuglow Caves.....	7
Help required for Speleosports.....	7
Other news.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8
Trip Calendar.....	8
<i>Appendix 1 – 46th AGM minutes.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Appendix 2 – MSS Financial report</i>	<i>13</i>

Cover Shot: Laura Clyne in McKeown's Hole (J68,69,70,71) at Jenolan
Photo by Jim Crockett

Society News

2013 ASF Conference

The ASF Conference planning committee has finalised most of the plans for the upcoming bi-ennial ASF conference. If you want to go get in now as Bookings close on 14th December 2012.

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), jcrockett3@bigpond.com, has this, so please coordinate with him to collect it before your next trip.

MSS Officers list

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Jim Crockett
Secretary	Rod Smith
Treasurer	Jim Crockett
Equipment Officer	Jim Crockett
Librarian	Rod Smith
Training Officer	Beth Little
ASF Liaison	Jim Crockett, Rod Smith
Newsletter Editor(s)	Fedz Alfeche
Website Manager	Rod Smith
Public Officer	John Gray

MSS Subscriptions are now Due

At the AGM we agreed to keep the subscriptions fees the same as the previous year. The exception is the Non-Caving membership will no longer be available (there was only ever one person to take this up membership type) The other reason is that now ASF covers

members for public liability on club canyoning and abseiling trips in addition to the coverage for caving activities. But please remember this is “ Public Liability” insurance and not personal accident insurance. To cover for personal accident insurance would cost in the order of 100's of dollars per person which is just not feasible. I don't know what would have been the outcome if we had a non-caving member on an abseil trip with other full members should any incident have occurred.

Full member \$80

Prospective member \$30 (3 months)

Family membership \$160

Honorary membership \$45

Preference is for payment by Direct Debit to MSS Bank Account

BSB 062-021 Account 00901421 (Commonwealth Bank)

Cheques or Cash also accepted.

2013 UIS Congress in Brno Czech Republic

If anyone is interested registrations are still open to attend this event.

I have already made a commitment to attend it and will be combining the congress with a European family trip. The congress will be catering to cavers/speleologists at all levels and a great opportunity to meet and mix with cavers from all over the world as well opportunities to visit outstanding caves and karst areas.

When I recently made my bookings for the congress I was pleasantly surprised at the great value for money when making my bookings. It does help a lot now as the Australian dollar is at a high. For the AUD\$916 fee I got my registration to the congress, a t-shirt, a formal dinner, a midweek excursion plus my accommodation during the congress in a dormitory, then the following week I have booked a post-congress excursion on a caving trip to the High Tatra mountains in Poland which includes air transfer from Czech Republic to Poland, local transport transfers, accommodation for a week in a mountain lodge including breakfast and dinner and full use of team equipment. What a bargain for 2 weeks and an opportunity to bottom the deepest cave in Poland at 880m.

There is another reason why I am going to the congress. For the past 2 years I have been working on making a bid for the 2017 congress to come to Sydney, Australia on behalf of the ASF. So I will part of the BID team to present to the UIS bureau what Australia has to offer. There is a very good chance that the ASF will win the hosting rights for 2017 which would really put Australia on the Speleology map.

Jim

Canyoning Equipment Checklists

Are you always making lists of what equipment to take before you go on a canyoning trip ? Well I recently became aware of a local canyoner who has made available lists of equipment to take on various types of canyon adventures.

One for day trip – non technical canyon, one for day trip Liloing canyon, one for day trip -technical canyon and lastly one for multi-day canyoning.

<http://fatcanyoners.org/bush-guide/canyoning-equipment-list/>

Trip Reports

Jenolan Caves Trip Report

By Laura Clyne

Trip Leader: Rod

Day 1: 1st September 2012

My Dad and I rose early Saturday morning to get a fresh start to yet another caving trip. As the sun peeped over the horizon, we headed off, slipping on the occasional black ice. When we were passing the pine forest, at the Oberon turnoff, we discovered a light dusting of snow across the ground. At my request, Dad pulled over and took a few photos of the memorable experience. We then continued on, battling the slippery two mile hill. After what seemed ages we finally arrived at the Caver's Cottage and I noticed a car parked halfway up the road. As my dad and I unpacked and greeted our fellow cavers, Dad asked why there was a car halfway up the drive. Helena had attempted to try to climb the hill up to the cottage the previous night but had lost traction half way up. With a snatch-um strap attached to Rod's 4WD and with lots of excitement and instruction, Helena's car was freed.

Time to go caving! We set off at the leisurely caver's time of 10:00am, with our overalls on and our gear packed. Some smaller caves towards the Devil's Coachhouse area were on the agenda. Helena discovered our first stop, 'Wallaby Cave' -J22/167. It was quite an open entrance set up on a hill, with a load of rocks and the odd bit of litter covering the ground. We explored the cave, climbing round a corner into a hole in the wall. There, sitting on the wall was a great, hairy spider which sent me running in the opposite direction as fast as I could. As the others explored further, I stayed in the entrance cavern, looking around the place. When the others got back, we took a couple of photos and headed off for our next cave.

We continued on, stopping to look at the 'Devil's Coachhouse' at Dad's suggestion. We then moved forward, climbing a lot of stairs that no one liked in the slightest bit. When we reached the top of the hill we sighted some picnic tables and stopped for lunch. The sun shining through the clouds made it quite an enjoyable time.

We then began looking for our next spot to cave. After quite a while of searching, looking for 'a cave at the base of a large rock' as the book said, Dad found 'Michaelmas Cave' – J156/157, just off the tourist track. All sucking our tummies in, we managed to get into the cave. After investigating the top chamber, a rather interesting steep climb down/pitch prevented us from going any further without the appropriate equipment. The lower chamber would have to be explored another day.

Out of the cave we came, gasping for breath after the tight exit. We then walked down the tourist track, right down to the village where Rod wanted to return the keys to 'Aladdin Cave' gate – J19 as we had run out of time to do it. We attracted a lot of funny looks in the village, dressed as we were, covered in cave dirt and sweat, with packs, overalls and helmets.

We next set off for a cave entitled 'Henry's Hole' – J134.

The cave was apparently 20m below the cavers hut and with much hard searching we gave up and went back to the Cavers Cottage.

That night we all had a slightly burnt but never the less yum BBQ dinner. Afterwards Dad, with all his hi-tech projection gear, showed everyone extreme sports movies. They were so action packed and exciting, they resulted in me falling asleep on the couch. I woke to a lot of talking about the thrill of the movies. Dad then packed up his gear and every one slowly drifted off to bed.



Day 2: 2nd September 2012

Everyone woke to another fine day. We all had breakfast and set off at the unbelievably early time of 9:30am. The caves on the agenda today were in Serpentine bluff and Century Bluff. We were aiming to do Century Cave J99/197 first up. After walking for what seemed forever, we climbed a hill seeking the cave. With no luck at first we continued on for what really was forever. Up and down the hillside we went, getting scratched by thorns and slipping every few steps. When it seemed like we would never find Century, Rod shouted out "It's here." We almost ran to the cave we were so happy to find it.

The entrances were in a jumble of rocks quite high up. After sussing the cave out, the more experienced cavers decided that a hand rope would accompany us into the first part of the cave. In we went, leaving all our packs at the top, as wouldn't be needing them in this type of cave. Using the hand rope to guide us we made it into the next part of the cave. At the back of the cave someone thought they saw daylight. Up we went to investigate. It turned out that there was a small opening in the cave wall. After a lot of effort and squeezing, Ben, Owen and I managed to get out and find the packs. After having a small snack, we crawled back into the cave to find the others. Back we went, through the cave and out into the sun. While Ben showed Rod the place we had squeezed out we all had a bit to eat. Rod came back and reported that it was another entrance to the cave. We then all packed up and made our way back down the hill.

Next up, 'McKeowns Hole' – J68/69/70/71. This was easy to find compared to Century. By comparing the picture in the book to the side of the hill we were able to find the entrance.

It started with a steep but short decent into the cave. As we explored the cave, we all noticed all the other entries into the cave. Everyone looked around the cave at their

leisure. We came out of the last cave of the trip. Back down the hill to the path. We all walked at different paces on the way back to our cars, mostly in silence as we were all very tired. I was so exhausted I tripped over and fell into a patch of horrible stinging nettle. Ouch, it hurt! I had managed to survive the dangerous caves but not the lovely safe track back.

We made it to the cars and we all clambered in. Back at the Caver's Cottage, we took a shower, packed our stuff into our cars tidied the cottage and said goodbye to our fellow cavers. Dad started the car and we waved farewell. We then began our journey home to the Blue Mountains, the pleasant memories of our latest caving trip, fresh in our minds.

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Trip Report Cliefden Caves
15th & 16th September 2012

Party: Rod Smith , Harris, Jim Crockett

Fortunately we had just enough to make this go ahead with 3 people.

We had a lot of caves planned on the permit and so made an early start saturday morning. We reported in to Anthony and collected the keys. As this was the first MSS since our area familiarisation visit last year we had to re-aquaint ourselves with the location of the various caves and how to get there. A few wrong decisions later we finally found the correct crossing point of the Belubula river and made our way to Taplow maze.

We entered and made the short pitch below the entrance via a ladder. With Map in hand kindly supplied by Colin Tyrell of BMSC we made our way to the ticket office via Cirith Ungol, along the drum crawl to see the Aragonite crystals. Then it was back in the direction of the Saddle via the Pancake chamber. Now I can see why you need a map !

We then attempted go to Crystal Oasis via the direct route from the saddle chamber but could not find the way and so decided to go the long way. This led us to Taplow station and siding, it seems the map is a bit ambiguous in that area. We had a thorough look in that area but we soon realised how long it was taking to navigate and proceed through the tight sections and we were all getting a little tired so started making our way out heading towards the familiar ticket office area. It looks easy on the map but a wrong turn here and there and one soon works up a sweat. Eventually we made it to the surface and we all decided that was enough for the day. So much for overestimating how many caves you can visit in a day.

The next day we tried to make another early start the intention to go to Transmission cave. We again made a few wrong decisions of where the cave should be but we eventually found it. We spent about 4 hours exploring it before I found what looked like the end of the cave in the "Swiss Cheese" area and also found lone bat. It was here we turned around and exited. Once out our intention of visiting another cave changed as it would have meant a very late departure.

It was noted on the Sunday morning that the water supply ran out but fortunately we only had to finish the washing up.

We then signed out with Anthony and left for home.

One thing I have learnt from this trip is to not to expect to be able to visit too many caves on one weekend especially when we are not totally familiar with area.

Jim Crockett

Wombeyan trip report

Participants:

MSS - Rod Smith, Ken Harris

SSS - John Wylie, Peter Bauer, Ian Wild, Chris Curtis, Michael Zarb

Wombeyan - A ancient word meaning "too small for Rod".

Ken and I joined John, Peter, Ian, Chris and Michael from SSS for a weekend of caving at Wombeyan. Saturday morning John and I went to a short meeting with representatives from other clubs and Wombeyan management to discuss any issues, projects, etc.

After the meeting John and I returned to camp to find the others doing some SRT familiarisation for the less experienced of the group. They finished shortly and we were off.

Arriving at our first destination people started squeezing into Hot Pants. Some found it easier than others. I waited for last then had my go. I gave it a really good go, it was close, but I appear to be one size too big for Hot Pants.

Before anyone complains of mental scarring due to disturbing images, it's worth noting that Hot Pants is W386.

We then went looking for a cave apparently found in the 1980's but subsequently lost. John had some rough details, but it wasn't enough to locate this mysterious opening.

From there it was only a short walk to Moon Milk.

50th Anniversary was next on the list, and finally we'd found a cave I could fit into (just). From the entry the cave drops close to vertical but with plenty of hand and foot holds. At the bottom of this is a small chute that ends in a small hole under solid rock, but the hole's big enough for me to fit through. This deposited us in a chamber large enough to seat half a dozen people. From here it's a squeeze best attacked lying on your left side with a bit of a drop-off on the far side. After two attempts at this squeeze, the second with overalls, I decided I wasn't going any further and sat, listening to the numerous flies that had followed us underground.

From 50th Anniversary we traversed to Glass, a cave I had been in before, but Ken and Michael went in for a look. We were just starting to organise the search party when they returned to the surface.

One more cave on the way back to camp, Velcro. So named because the cave has a habit of clinging to peoples overalls. Or so we were told, none of us found it any worse than other caves we'd been in previously. Oh, and I actually fit into this one too.

Sunday morning we started at Yulfest Cave. John believed this connected to one of the tourist caves but needed some small people to push the squeeze not far from the entrance. Needless to say I stayed on the surface while Chris and Michael went in. After a while they decided that with the loose rocks and horrible angle it wasn't worth pursuing this lead at the time.

Our next stop was Gut cave. Gut is effectively just a pit with a tight entrance. In fact only one person had ever successfully entered the cave, and I certainly wasn't going to be the second. After this trip there has still only been one person to enter the cave.

From here John took us to Kangaroo. This cave can be done as a through trip to one of the tourist caves, but involves a couple of pitches and is apparently rather horrible. We decided to give it a miss.

Next on the itinerary was Butterfly Cave, and the first for Sunday that I entered. A rift cave with a reasonable height, but not a huge amount of width.

Slightly uphill from Butterfly Cave is W313. Once the rope was rigged Ken and Chris entered, but, although it would have been big enough for me, I hadn't brought my SRT gear for the day.

On the way back to camp John pointed out Guides Hide, a large hole surprisingly well hidden from the track despite it's close proximity.

And thus ended another trip to Wombeyan, and more additions to the list of caves I will only enter when I lose weight.

Rod.

MSS Training Day

27th October 2012

Participants: Beth (TL), Rod 1, Chris & Helena 1, Ben, Josh & Owen, Lelien & BFree, Rod2, and Helena2.

A bright and sunny Saturday accompanied our training day, to go along with our bright and sunny moods! We had a good crew of abseiling beginners to go throw off the cliffs at Yellow rock. Starting slabby and finishing on some trickier starts. The more experienced of us got to practice rigging and our training techniques. A few upside down moments, and many a laugh. Bfree kept good watch dog over the gear in the shade, and even got to do its first abseil with Lel. Everyone did great with their confidence improving as the day went on.

Tuglow T1

10 November 2012

Participants: Beth (TL), Andre, Rod, Eric, Natalie, Ken.

Tuglow still remains one of those stand out caves for me. There is something so inspiring about the sounds of underground water falls and streams in a cave. Maybe it's the sensory feast, when your eyes and ears adjust in the dark muffled underground. - you can hear the different personalities of the stream way. Its stillness in the large deeper pools as our voices tremble across the top...the dripping and tickle of a pool overflowing down a flowstone rimmed section...or the mighty roar that even a little 10metre waterfall can have underground echoing off the small chamber of wet limestone that glistens with the fall of your head torch. Or maybe the sense of awe is inspired as you are there to experience a point in time of an ever-changing system, this water a powerful action of change, forever carving its journey through the limestone - too slow for us to see on our short visit, but part of it all none the less. Yep, I do love a cave system with underground streams. Good stuff.

Stream passage are also my favourite caves in that they always offer so much adventure - and this is definitely the case for Tuglow. Usual entrance pitch (I rigged a 20m off a tree at entrance to use for the abseil further down entrance pitch after the scramble. I just find this easier then rigging from further inside the cave). Our trip route for today's journey took us down the 60 metre pitch down to the stream way passage which we re-belayed at the approx 20 metre mark of some chocked boulders to avoid rub points and for cleaner ascension. I wouldn't recommend doing this full pitch without a re-belay. There was also a rusty looking bolt about another 5 metre below the chock area we used - but it didn't look a viable option for any future rigging in my opinion. Thanks Rod for the help with the rigging. We travelled upstream and higher up in slot to the Knights knobbly knob chamber. We tried to sign in on the logbook but sadly time and moisture appear to have gotten the better of this - perhaps the next trip down could look at bringing a replacement. After some photos in the chamber, we travelled on through and out past the singing shawls. Some lovely shiny hangers in situ to abseil down to the stream passage upstream of the waterfalls. (Although this can be down climbed pretty easily too at that point). We travelled upstream from here a ways just to check it out - Eric in his wading suit gracefully moving through the pools and up the waterfalls while the rest of us bridging and contorting our bodies around sections to try to stay dry. Back down stream and abseil down the waterfalls, three metre (rigged of rings up at the shawls) and than the stunning ten metre (again a ring bolt avail). We did rope pull downs canyon style and kept heading downstream. Water that awesome cobalt blue in this section and still...until we get there that is! Didn't get too far when we came to our decision point, do the short swim with an almost duck under through the low section (bout 5 metre swim)...or the little dynamic climb back up and over. Most of us choose the dryer option. We all met back at the ropes for exit. A big day all in all, with about 10 hours underground. Great day - thanks guys!

Help required for SpeleoSports

Help is required in organising the Speleo sports for next years ASF conference.

If anyone would like to help or have any more good ideas for obstacles suitable for a Speleo sports event than please contact Jim Crockett: 0407 284 256 or email: jcrockett3@bigpond.com

The following are suggested obstacles for the Speleosports.

If anyone can help out with obtaining any materials for their construction then please advise me.

Team of three as minimum for safety reasons maybe 4 if we follow our own guidelines.

Possible item	feasibility	Materials required	Who can provide this
1.Stalagmite obstacle crawl (conduit with table tennis balls on top, note: this one could be blown away is the wind is up !) Possibility of making some sort of electronic alert when the stals are pushed too hard/far.	Yes	Conduit, table tennis balls, metal bars (reo or metal tent pegs). Electronic version: battery and tilt switches (mercury wetted relays ?, wire etc.	JC
2.Fossil dig - chicken drumsticks with secret code written on them and then encased in a sand/dirt/plaster of paris mix. Uncovering with reveal what type of fossil you have found	Time to construct? begin NOW?	Old bones, sand, plaster of paris, moulds.	JC
3. Milk bottle crawl in caged area - Rod's trailer	Feasible need rear supports Need soft drinks bottles as well	Trailer currently not available ?	
4. Lasso tree limb with rope.		Rope	
5.The Labyrinth maze. - Lead other team member on correct path thru cave with verbal direction (maze cave)	done	None required	
6. Ladder climb up tree and then abseil.	I was thinking that the dead tree maybe a risk in itself. maybe use a live pine tree	Ropes.ladder, rigging gear	MSS eqpt
7.Roof sniff in pool (covered by canvas)	This is good	canvas	
8. Tube confined space crawl (Rod has something in mind for this)	good	Narrow tube	
9. Walk on timber plank suspended at one end by rope and other rope line at approx chest height done above pool. Timber plank only goes to half way across pool, they have to spin plank around to other side of pool.	We just have to find tie off points in right spot	Timber plank, ropes	JC
10. Key positioned so that teamwork is required to retrieve. Then next	Yes – read on		
11. Awkward gate opening exercise. (we might be able to use the doors to the subfloor area under the retreat house, but not enter it ?)	The is a couple of old gates down by the farm or could use the gate on the way to the grotto then continue up the hill to an activity there	Padlock, chains,krabs	

Upcoming Events

26th to 27th January CANYONING NEWNES PLATEAU
Trip Leader: Rod Clyne, 0409 033 224 , caver@people.net.au
Contact by: 24th January
Grade: Easy/Kid friendly
Twister(sheepdip)/Rocky Creek + Another canyon
Camping at Yobbos.

2th - 3rd February GLEN DAVIS CANYONING
Trip Leader: John Gray, 0427 876 679 , gray.johnandkathryn@gmail.com
Contact by: 31st January
Grade: Medium/Hard
Car camping at Corrongooba campground

16th - 17th February

WARATAH RIDGE CANYONING

Trip leader: Beth Little 0450226811 littlebeth78@hotmail.com

Contact by: 14th February

Grade: Hard

Overnight trip to some remote canyons

1st - 2nd December

Canyoning Glen Davis

Trip Leader: Rod Smith

Contact: 0438 444 262,

roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: 29th November

Grade: Medium/Hard

6th - 11th January 2013

ASF Bi-annual Conference

TROGALONG

26th - 27th January

Easy/kid friendly Canyoning Newnes

Twister(Sheepdip)/Rocky creek

+ Another canyon

Trip Leader: Rob Clyne

Contact: 0409 033 224,

caver@people.net.au

Camping at Yobbos

By: 24th January

Grade: Easy

2nd - 3rd February

Canyoning Glen Davis

Car camping at Corrongooba campground

Trip Leader: John Gray

Contact: 0427 876 679

gray.johnandkathryn@gmail.com

By: 31st January

Grade:Medium/Hard

7th February

Meeting

At Chris Johnstone's Place

Contact: 0401988096

chris_johnstone@hotmail.com

16th - 17th February

Canyoning Waratah Ridge

Overnight trip to some remote canyons

Trip leader: Beth Little

Contact: 0450226811

littlebeth78@hotmail.com

By: 14th February

Grade: Hard

2nd - 3rd March

Canyoning Sunnyside Ridge

Some exploring required but nothing too difficult

Trip Leader: Rod Smith

Contact: 0438 444 262,

roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: 28th February

Grade: Easy/Medium

16th - 17th March

Canyoning Bungonia

Trip leader: Beth Little

Contact: 0450226811

littlebeth78@hotmail.com

By: 14th March

Grade: Medium

24th March

Field Day

Somewhere in the Dural area ?

Trip leader: Beth Little

Contact: 0450226811

littlebeth78@hotmail.com

By: 21th March

Grade: Instructional

24th March

Social BBQ at John Marshalls place

Hosts: Beverly and John Marshall

Contact: 0407220948, 9654 1158

6th - 7th April
Caving at Abercrombie
Surveying project

18th - 19th May
Caving at Jenolan

25th - 26th May
Caving at Bungonia
Lots of Vertical caves
SRT skills required

8th - 10th June (Long Weekend)
Caving at Cliefden

15th - 16th June
Caving at Bungonia
Lots of Vertical caves
SRT skills required

20th - 21st July
Caving at Jenolan

21st to 28th July 2013
UIS – International Caving Congress
Brno – Czech Republic

19th - 20th October
Caving at Jenolan

October or later (TBA)
Caving at Colong

Address: 32 Sagars Rd Kenthurst
Time: approx 3pm
Grade: Delicious, Food supplied,BYO

Trip leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407284256
jcrockett3@bigpond.com
By: 4th April
Grade: Easy
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 16th May
Grade: TBA

Trip leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407284256
jcrockett3@bigpond.com
By: 23rd May
Grade: Medium/Hard

Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 6th June
Grade: TBA

Trip leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407284256
jcrockett3@bigpond.com
By: 13th June
Grade: Medium/Hard

Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 18th July
Grade: TBA

<http://www.speleo2013.com/>
contact: Jim Crockett 0407 284 256
jcrockett3@bigpond.com
for more details

Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 17th October
Grade: TBA

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

Meeting Opened: 19:40

Present:

Rod Smith, Beth Little, Jim Crockett, Albert Hakvoort, Chris Johnstone

Apologies:

Rob Clyne, John Gray

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes:

None

Correspondence:

Post:

Caves Australia 189

Caves Australia 190

SUSS Bull 50(4)

SUSS Bull 51(1)

Email:

ESpeleo #5 for 2012

Other:

NHVSS Newcaves Chronicles Volume 37

Trade & Investment, Resources & Energy – Quarterly News No. 138

Ngalina, Trickets Arch – Peter Dykes

Committee Members Reports:

President – None

Treasurer – Motion by Beth Little to leave fees at

Full member \$80

Prospective member \$30

Family membership \$160

Honorary membership \$45

Non- ASF (No Caving) \$30

Cavers already registered with ASF (other clubs) \$30

Carried

See appendix for financial report

Equipment Officer – None

Training Officer – We had a successful field day at Yellowrock.

Librarian – None

Web Manager - None

Elections:

President declared all positions vacant and called for nominations. Officers elected:

Position	Name
President	Jim Crockett
Secretary	Roderick Smith
Treasurer	Jim Crockett
Equipment Officer	Jim Crockett
Librarian	Roderick Smith
Training Officer	Beth Little
ASF Liaison	Jim Crockett, Roderick Smith
Newsletter Editor(s)	Jim Crockett
Website Manager	Roderick Smith
Public Officer	John Gray

Status of Action Items:

Updating membership details – Jim Crockett – None

Bolting Course – Rod Smith – A number of preliminary discussions have happened and there's certainly some interest in this sort of course. No firm arrangements have been made to date.

Resurveying Stable Cave – Jim Crockett – This action item is dependent on trips to Abercrombie. One has been planned for the new year.

New Business:

NSWSC Committee positions - At the next NSWSC meeting they will be electing new committee members. Each position has a limited time in which a single person can hold it, and some positions will need new people, including the president. If anyone is interested in volunteering for a position please contact Jim Crockett or Rod Smith.

Abercrombie surface survey – This is a new project that Rod Smith is proposing. The idea is to survey between the various Tags at Abercrombie in order to produce an accurate surface map of the features. Anyone interested in assisting please let Rod know.

Abercrombie documentation – This is a project that Rod Smith has already started and is required to provide information to the CNDC (Cave Numbering and Documentation Committee). It is also to make sure the MSS records are all up-to-date on Abercrombie. Included in this project is getting accurate GPS coordinates for all known features at Abercrombie. If anyone is interested in assisting then please let Rod know.

A motion was proposed by Rod Smith to purchase Volume 1 of the NSW Karst Atlas. This was approved.

Trogonlong Speleosports – Jim Crockett asked for assistance from club members to collect items to be used for the Speleosports at the upcoming ASF Conference in January. Jim also moved a motion to purchase items if required. This was approved to a limit of \$50. If anyone can assist Jim collect items please let him know.

New trips –

Date	Leader	Activity	Location	Grade	Notes
26/27 Jan	Rob Clyne	Canyoning	Twister (Sheep Dip) and Rocky Creek on the 26th.	Easy	Camping at Yobbos. Canyon for the 27th yet to be decided
2/3 Feb	John Gray	Canyoning	Glen Davis	Medium/ Hard	Car camping at Corrongooba camp ground
16/17 Feb	Beth Little	Canyoning	Waratah Ridge	Hard	Overnight trip to some remote canyons
2/3 Mar	Rod Smith	Canyoning	Sunnyside Ridge	Easy/ Medium	Some exploring, but nothing too difficult
16/27 Mar	Beth Little	Canyoning	Bungonia	Medium	
31 Mar	Beth Little	Field Day	TBA	Instructional	
13/14 Apr	Jim Crockett	Caving	Abercrombie	Easy	Will include some of the projects mentioned in the minutes
4/5 May	Jim Crockett	Caving	Bungonia	Medium/ Hard	SRT, SRT and more SRT
18/19 May	Rod Smith	Caving	Jenolan	TBA	Date confirmed, any ideas for caves?
8-10 June	Rod Smith	Caving	Cliefden	TBA	Date not confirmed yet
15/16 June	Jim Crockett	Caving	Bungonia	Medium/ Hard	SRT, SRT and more SRT
20/21 July	Rod Smith	Caving	Jenolan	TBA	Date confirmed, any ideas for caves?
19/20 Oct	Rod Smith	Caving	Jenolan	TBA	Date confirmed, any ideas for caves?
Oct or later	Rod Smith	Caving	Colong	Medium	Date to be confirmed

Next Meeting: 7th Feb Chris Johnstone's place

Meeting Closed: 10:15pm



Metropolitan Speleological Society Inc.

A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

P.O Box 178, THORNLEIGH, N.S.W. 2120

Metropolitan Speleological Society Annual Accounts 01.11.2011 - 31.10.2012

Opening balance

Bank Account	\$ 4256.10
Petty Cash	\$ 296.60
Total At 01.11.2011	\$ 4552.70

Income

Membership Subscriptions	\$ 1890.00
Trip Fees collected	\$ 487.00
Bank Account Interest	\$ 0.46
Accommodation monies collected	\$ 101.00

Total Income **\$ 2478.46**

Expenditure

ASF Subscription Fees	\$ 1424.50
Bank Account Fees	\$ 4.05
Miscellaneous cost (Postal, Annual Statement & Equipment)	\$ 511.64
Accommodation	\$ 210.00

Total Expenditure **\$ 2150.19**

Cash Balance

Petty Cash	\$ 300.00
Bank Account Balance	\$ 4580.97

Total Balance at 31.10.2012 **\$ 4880.97**

This is true statement representing the accounts of the Metropolitan Speleological Society as submitted after the Annual General Meeting 08th November 2012

Jim Crockett – MSS Treasurer