

NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

September 2011



MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot:

Dave admiring the Wishing Well in the Chevalier Extension of Glass Cave.

Photo by Dave Stuckey

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

Society News

NSWSC Meeting

There is a NSWSC meeting on the 15th October. If you wish to attend or have anything you wish raised, please talk to Jim Crockett (0407 284 256, jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au) or Rod Smith (0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com).

ASF Conference Meeting

There is a meeting of the planning committee of the 2013 ASF Conference on the 16th October. If you wish to help out or contribute in any way, please contact Jim Crockett (0407 284 256, jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au), Rod Smith (0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com) or Chris Johnstone (0401 988 096, chris_johnstone@hotmail.com).

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)

Letter to MSS

Friends,

I would like to share some thoughts with you, particularly in light of my recent award from the Australian Speleological Federation.

I was most pleasantly surprised when I read "Australian Caves" and noticed that I had been nominated for recognition. This is completely unexpected and I am most humbled. It has given me impetus to reflect on why I was nominated.

It is, sometimes, a thankless task being involved with the running of a society. At times there is conflict and confrontation, stress and frustration. Sometimes, as a club president, you begin to

wonder why you are allowing yourself to be exposed to these challenges whilst administering what is ultimately volunteer work. There are the rewarding times too. Introduction and instruction of new members. Watching them grow into experienced members, grow into trip leaders, grow into committee members.

I certainly didn't take on the role of club President for recognition. It is always a fact that the good times completely outweighed the challenging times.

Of course, our prime goals are all about the caves. How to find them, how to explore them and how to conserve them. As a club, I feel that MSS has fulfilled this exceptionally well.

I have been in a fortunate position in that I have known several of the club's foundation members. I am very proud that we see their vision continuing towards its 50th year. I well recall the patience and diligence of Ken Keck on the many trips to Yarrangobilly which we did together. He was present at a time when new techniques and equipment were being introduced. Such things as halogen bulbs for miners lamps and this crazy new method of Single Rope Technique. Amazing!

I am proud that I have been able to contribute, in some way, to the growth of MSS and I am touched that MSS thought enough to say "thank you".

So I say to MSS..."thank you too".

Regards

David Stuckey

Trip Reports

Jenolan – Glass Cave including Chevalier Extension

24th – 25th September 2011

Report by: Rod Smith

Photos: Dave Stuckey, Chris Johnstone, Jessica Swart, Rod Smith

Participants: Dave Stuckey, Jessica Swart, Beth Little, Chris Johnstone, Rod Smith (TL), Guy (from SUSS)

A couple of years ago Rob organised a trip to do False Frenchmans. There were a number of reasons for this, but one was to get some scaling pole practice before attempting another trip, Glass Cave with the Chevalier Extension.



Fast forward a couple of years and I decided to make Rob's vision a reality and applied for the permit to both the Chevalier and Loubens Extensions in Glass Cave. Rob was the first to know of my proposal and was keen to be a part of it.

Even though I didn't receive the permit until two weeks prior to the trip, I'd spoken with Stephen Reilly and knew well in advance that it was coming. So I let people

know and started filling up the six spots on the permit. In fact, it was so popular that I had, at one stage, 4 or 5 reserves!

Then a few pulled out, including Rob, who went on the family trip to Tasmania instead. I hope they realise the sacrifice he made. In the end there were five, so Dave begged and pleaded (actually just asked nicely) for a friend of his from SUSS to join us. I agreed.

So the Thursday night before I visited Jim to pick up some club gear. He had a large pile sitting there ready for me when I arrived. I loaded it all into my car then asked for more, you can never have too much gear!

Friday I left early, got the Cavers Cottage key, then the cave key before settling in at the Cavers Cottage and waiting for everyone to arrive.

We awoke early with the plan that when Guy arrived at 8:30am we would head for the cave. Guy arrived at the appointed time, but we

weren't quite ready. Some more preparations were made then we got the point where everyone was ready, but thought we were waiting on someone else. More time went by until we realised that we were actually all ready and that we should start caving.

Having not done this before, I came prepared with a mountain of gear; however Dave and Guy both assured us that only a small hillock of gear would be required. With most of us carrying two packs we left the cars behind us.



Chris had volunteered to take the scaling poles, which meant he didn't want to be carrying them any longer the necessary, so he and I led the way down the track. I turned up the Aladdin track with Chris right behind me. When the others got there, they kept going down the track. I was confused. While doing Aladdin earlier this year, Rob had pointed out to me where Glass was, and that's where I was going, so where were the others going? Apparently Guy knew a short-cut. I wasn't convinced and kept going, but Chris now didn't know where to go. He said, "Isn't Dave meant to be a great navigator, and he's not coming this way?" My reply was, "They're following Guy, and I don't know how good he is at navigating." Chris was still unsure, so I suggested we sit down for a rest and see what the others do.

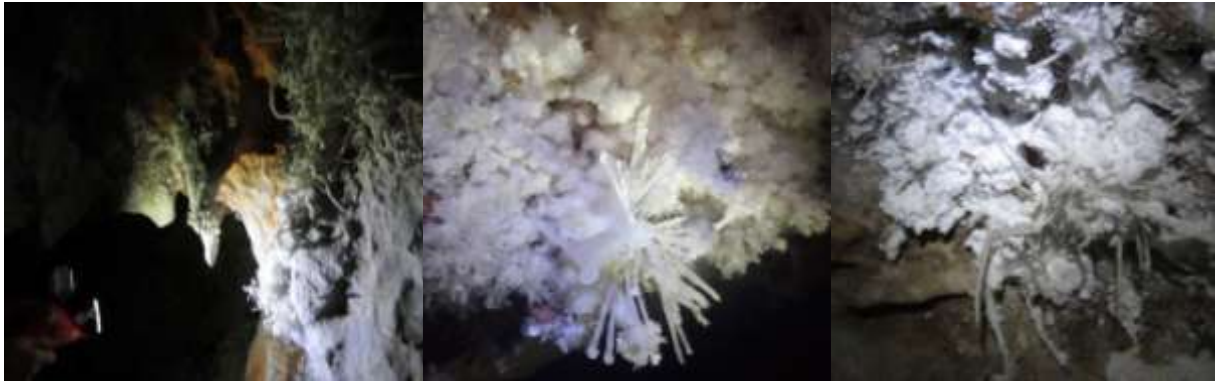


I couldn't help myself, although I dropped the packs I was carrying, I went looking for the entrance where I thought it should be. Sure enough, it didn't take me long to find it, and I confirmed it by unlocking the gate. I told Chris, who headed up while I fetched my packs. Meanwhile the others were heading up the slope further south, apparently the book says the entrance is 100m south of Aladdin, which is what they were going on. After a hairy traverse including dislodging large boulders we all regrouped at the cave entrance.



Guy was enthusiastic and was harnessed and into the cave quicker than you can say "Guy was enthusiastic and was harnessed and into the cave". Dave soon followed Guy's chorus of grunts, groans and other associated noises. We soon found out that Guy had decided he couldn't get up the slope with his harness on and had come back down to remove it, where Dave leapfrogged him and went to set up the first drop, down the historic ladder. Guy's second attempt, without the harness was successful.





Now it was my turn. I inched my way up, going faster was not an option. I was breathing hard, and by the time I got my hand over the lip I felt like I couldn't get my breath back. It felt like pushing that last bit may get me there, but I could pass out in the process, which wouldn't be good at the top of a pitch. Instead I opted for sliding back down, nearly taking out Jess in the process, and getting my breath back in a larger and, slightly, more comfortable position.



While I recovered Jess, and then Beth, went up without any effort at all. Beth happily waited at the top of the pitch to facilitate a pack haul, which would allow those already in the chamber to start constructing the scaling pole. With all the packs through it was time for me to try again. This time I tried going up on my back and, although still difficult, I succeeded in reaching the top. By the time I, and then Chris, reached the others the scaling pole construction was well under way.

Guy found that one of the hardest things with the scaling pole is lifting the end into place while a rung of the ladder is caught under a rock. It became a lot easier once Guy stopped trying to lift the cave wall into the chimney.

With the scaling pole in place the sacrificial Beth was sent up the ladder. I know she appreciated the fact we'd taken six lengths of pole instead of the five that was suggested at one point. At the





top she rigged the rope and ladder off a column, trying to match the instructions yelled at her from below. There was no question that the rigging was safe, but it didn't quite match the intention. We could change it later if necessary.

Lunch time!

After a quick search we found the only passage that didn't end in a dead-end and followed it. This lead to a chamber with two ways on, both squeezes. No-one could remember a squeeze to get into Chevalier, although four of us hadn't even been there before. Dave remembered one of the squeezes as the way into Loubens, so we took the other.





Shortly after the squeeze we detrogged and started admiring the helictites and rim pools. Although very beautiful, we were assured there was even better further on, once we found the way.

After exhausting all other possibilities, and taking numerous photos, we were left with one option. Apparently a tape might help, but we should be able to descend without it. Dave had a look and decided that he wanted the tape, so that was fetched. After getting a little further down he decided he wanted a ladder, so that was fetched. A little further and he decided he wanted a belay, so I found an old laid rope in a pack and threw him one end while I rigged a munter hitch on the other. Dave now could descend over the overhang and all the way to the end of the ladder, which was still well off the floor. He came back up looking like a few extra years had been taken from him.



Dave had seen mats on the floor in the chamber beyond, so we knew that was where we had to get to, but we couldn't figure out how. With more searching we retraced our steps back to our overalls and back through the squeeze. Maybe the squeeze into Loubens was not the squeeze into Loubens after all, but was just a squeeze masquerading as the squeeze into Loubens. Beth went through first, followed by Dave and Jess. Chris had a go but decided he couldn't fit. Based on that Guy and I decided not to even try.

Dave reported that it was in fact Loubens, now what?

The decision was made to exit, take the scaling pole with us but leave the rigging, check the map and come back in Sunday. First thing we did when arriving back at the Cavers Cottage was look at the map, and immediately the kicking ourselves and saying "why didn't we look there?" started.



Unfortunately for Guy he had to leave, but the rest of us enjoyed our evening meals and the evening conversation before going to bed.

By Sunday morning the rain had set in which dampened everyone's enthusiasm. Knowing we had to go back in to get the gear we'd left, if nothing else, we eventually braved the precipitation and headed back underground. Thankfully it wasn't raining there.





Another battle with the squeezes, my pack going up the scaling pole pitch, coming back down, then getting stuck at the bottom, repairs to my light, and we were soon ready to venture further than the previous days effort.

Beth led the way and soon called for a hand-line. This time, however, a hand line was all that was required. Two small drops and we arrived at an intersection. Turning left, a short walk saw us arrived at the Wishing Well. Quite an amazing feature, but difficult to photograph, you just have to see it.

Turning right from the intersection took us past where Dave had hung the day before (the map has this as a dotted connection with a question mark; we now know it definitely does connect!). From there we could climb up a section of flowstone and over some rimpools to have a look into the mothball chamber. All through this extension are an amazing array of helictites, some thicker than fingers and some thinner than hairs. Other parts of the walls look like they're covered in calcite fur. Needless to say we spent a lot of time in this part of the cave just admiring the beauty of it, and taking photos.

Soon the time came for Beth to go to the toilet, so she and Jess headed back (girls can't seem to go on their own). Chris, Dave and I caught up to them in the main chamber; Beth had already been outside and come back in. With minimal fuss we derigged and made our way back to the surface.

All that was left was to pack up, drop off keys and head home. Driving through the fog around Hampton was like driving through a large amount of condensation suspended in the air.

Now to use my bath for its intended purpose, cleaning caving gear!

Rod Smith



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...

An August canyoning accident claimed the life of three people in the river Ucja, after a woman slipped and fell into a 'hole' in the river. Two men in the party jumped in to help and also became trapped. One of them was pulled out, but neither the group at the time nor the paramedics who attended later were able to resuscitate him. The victims were all Polish. The report, from the [Slovenian Times](#), also states (from police statistics) that 173 people have drowned in Slovenian rivers in the last ten years.

The body of polish cave diver Artur Kozlowski, who went missing in a south Galway Cave (believed to be Pollonora) and who was found drowned at the known limit of the cave, was brought to the surface six days after his accident in early September. The recovery operation was slow due to heavy siltation in the cave. Report from [rte.ie](#) and [Karstworlds](#).

The condition of BASE jumper Lucky Chance has not improved since his accident last month. His family have told the press that his injuries include a fractured jaw, two open fractures in his femur and foot, collapsed lungs and serious head injuries. He remains in a coma and his prognosis is not good. The [SMH](#) article reporting these details goes on to say that 171 BASE jumpers have been killed worldwide in the past thirty years (unfortunately they do not give the source of their data).

Three large rockfalls on Les Dru in Chamonix Valley on the 10th of September have dropped around 12,000 cubic metres of rock. There were climbers on several routes – fortunately no one was injured but a group was later rescued from the American Direct route. That route, according to the Office de Haute Montagne, is still there but they are advising people to avoid it until summer finishes. Story and photo from [UK Climbing](#).



Rockfall on the Petit Dru, 13 Sept 2011. Photo by Bobby Drury

If you fancy some 'Spelunking in Samar', the 9th Spelunking in Calbiga Caves - "3 days of caving explorations & 2 nights inside the caves" will be happening on the Philippines island in October 28-30, 2011. Report from [Karstworlds](#), see www.samarcaves.multiply.com for more details.



Another legend of climbing and mountaineering has left us - Walter Bonatti passed away on the night of September 13, at the age of 81. Aside from his role in the first ascent of K2 - the fallout from which cast a terrible shadow over his life before he was finally vindicated - his accomplishments in the golden age of mountaineering were many and spectacular. In 1955 he ascended the southwest pillar of the Petit Dru which later took his name, although parts of it have collapsed in rockfalls in recent years. Report and photo from [ExplorersWeb](#).

If the mountain won't come to Mohammad... perhaps we can build one. Thijs Zonneveld proposes to make the two-dimensional Dutch landscape more three dimensional with the addition of a kilometre high mountain in the province of Flevoland. [The Alpinist](#) asks the question of whether, should such a structure gain approval and eventually be built, new routes would count if a mountain is artificial? Or would it be more akin to playing in a huge outdoor climbing gym?

Just add water... and stir. Mountain House has produced a freeze-dried camping food that does not require boiling water to reconstitute. Mountain House 'Chicken Salad' requires only cold water and a ten minute wait. [Karstworlds](#) reports it is available in the US for \$6.50 a pack. Anyone willing to try some?



Several teams have reported the death of a climber on Cho Oyu, who is believed to have died of natural causes (rather than a fall or avalanche). The climber's body is believed to be attached to fixed ropes at 6,700m. According to [ExplorersWeb](#), there have been only four summits of Cho Oyu this year and that weather conditions on that mountain have been very bad. The South Korean team are the only ones to have made it so far, putting four climbers on the summit during a recent weather window.

Alex Honnold has been having fun in Yosemite, with solos of *Cosmic Debris* (5.13b/8a, finger locking, at Chapel Wall) and *Heaven* (5.12d/7c at Glacier Point). He decided not to onsight *Heaven* but first belayed Mason Earle who worked out the moves, after which Alex climbed it without a rope in about 4 minutes. Story from [UKClimbing](#), and comments from Alex reported by [Rock and Ice](#).

For those interested in ice caves, [Karstworlds](#) links to *Ice Caves: The Cryosphere Special Issue*. [The Cryosphere](#) is an interactive open access journal of the European Geosciences Union and it looks at frozen water and frozen ground on Earth or elsewhere in the Solar system.



The crash of a small Beechcraft plane has killed 19 people near KTM airport in Nepal, The aircraft was operated by Buddha Air and the accident happened on Sunday 23rd September 2011, in cloudy conditions. The plane hit hilly ground some 15km south of the airfield and there were no survivors. Report from [ExplorersWeb](#) and additional details from [Aviation Week](#).

There has been no trace of 120 people still missing from a North Sikkim village following a 6.9 magnitude earthquake on Sunday 18th September. Rescue teams searching for survivors have been hampered by flash flooding in the Lachung area, with the threat of new landslides posed by the water-weakened soil. The death toll from the earthquake has passed 100 people, and the quake, near the border of Indian state of Sikkim and Nepal, has also affected Tibet and Bhutan. [Report from Decca Chronicle](#). [ExplorersWeb](#) reports that climbers were surprised by the shocks from the earthquake in the base camp at Cho Oyu.

A four-man Russian team has put up a new route on the northwest face of Trango Tower in Pakistan. Dmitry Golovchenko, Sergey Nikov, Viktor Volodin and Alexander Yurkin have called their 1120m 6B+A3 route 'No Fear'. The route runs along a corner and overlaps with a previous route called 'Insumisioa' for three pitches before it angles left toward the summit. It took eight days to establish. Report and photos from [The Alpinist](#).



Viktor Volodin displays his climbing club's colors on the summit of Trango Tower, with Sergey Nikov and Dmitry Golovchenko. (Photo) Alex Yurkin

At the end of August, a British caver was rescued from the Diau Cave System in France after she fell 11m into a pit while on a through trip of the cave. She was assisted by Speleo Secours Français and carried 1.5km out of the cave on a stretcher before being taken to hospital with fractures to the pelvis and femur. Report from [CavingNews](#).

[Karstworlds](#) links to a series of eBook chapters from *Cave Diving: An Introduction to Guideline Procedures* by Fred Devos, Chris Le Maillot and Daniel Riordan. The links are copied here if anyone is interested:

Part 1: Equipment - http://www.gue.com/files/page_images/expeditions/Mexico/guideline1.pdf

Part 2: Methods - http://www.gue.com/files/page_images/expeditions/Mexico/guideline2.pdf

Part 3: Navigation - http://www.gue.com/files/page_images/expeditions/Mexico/guideline3.pdf

The First International Meeting of the Photographers of the Underworld was successful, with 80 people attending. Another meeting will be scheduled in a couple of years time. For more information, see [Karstworlds](#).

Digital technology has been assisting in re-imaging the contents of sixth-century cave temples in China's Hebei Province. The old temples in Xiangtangshan caves had sustained damage due to erosion and human activity such as looting, but no photographs had been taken of these Buddhist shrines until after restoration began early in the twentieth century. In a project that began around 2005, many of the damaged statues and artworks have been digitally restored, using 3D images of the items taken in conjunction with images from similar works elsewhere in China. The restored image is then mapped on to the original broken piece so that the viewer can see how the whole statue would have looked. The University of Chicago Smart Museum and the Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery are showcasing the results of the project in an exhibit called "Echoes of the Past." Report from [Karstworlds](#). To learn more about the caves and the restoration, see the [Xiangtangshan Caves Project](#).

The NSS recently held their 2011 Art and Music Salon competition for cave-related art and music. The winners of the competition have been announced and the results are available for [Fine Arts](#), [Prints](#) and [slide](#) categories among others. Report from [CavingNews](#).



The Merit Award for the Technical Print category of the Print Salon, "Crystalline Delight" by Peter and Ann Bosted

A cave rescue exercise involving 100 people has been held successfully in the 286m deep Gargantua Cave system in Canada. The cave, which is 6km long and located in the Crowsnest Pass, has been the site of several accidents, the latest one having occurred in the past month. 'Operation Dark Squeeze' was organized by the Alberta Cave Rescue Organization and made use of a \$80,000 provincial training grant issued by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. Report from [CavingNews](#).

[CavingNews](#) also links to a photo [story](#) published in the British Telegraph showcasing the work of cave photographer Robert Shone from a recent trip to Geoffre Berger in France where he spent four days photographing the famous cave. The photographs are beautiful and well worth a look.



One of the 17 beautiful photographs taken by Robert Shone that were recently showcased in The Telegraph

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY 8th October MALAITA WALL

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

Contact by: 7th October

What's involved?

Abseiling one of the classic abseil routes around Katoomba. With a choice of walking back up, or catching the Scenic Railway

You will need:

Abseiling gear. Lunch. Camera.

WEEKEND 22nd – 23rd October CAPERTEE NATIONAL PARK AND COCO CREEK CAVE

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

Contact by: 19th October

What's involved?

Some digging, if you feel inspired. Camping in a lovely area. Plus a visit to a horizontal cave on the Sunday.

You will need:

Caving gear. Car camping gear. Digging equipment is optional.

MSS Club Meeting, including the AGM, 10th November
Rod Smith's Place

Please contact Rod for more details

0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com

Other, Non-MSS, Events

The Reel Rock Film tour is on again this year at Mt Vic Flicks. Due to great demand, we are offering two screenings :

Saturday 22nd October 8pm (nice and late for the adults!)

Sunday 23rd October 4pm (bring the kids!)

Tickets are \$15 each and available online and instore.

For of taste of what to expect, go to <http://www.reelrocktour.com/>

Call us on (02) 4782 3018 if you have any questions about the show.

See you in the bush

The Summit Gear crew <http://www.summitgear.com.au/>

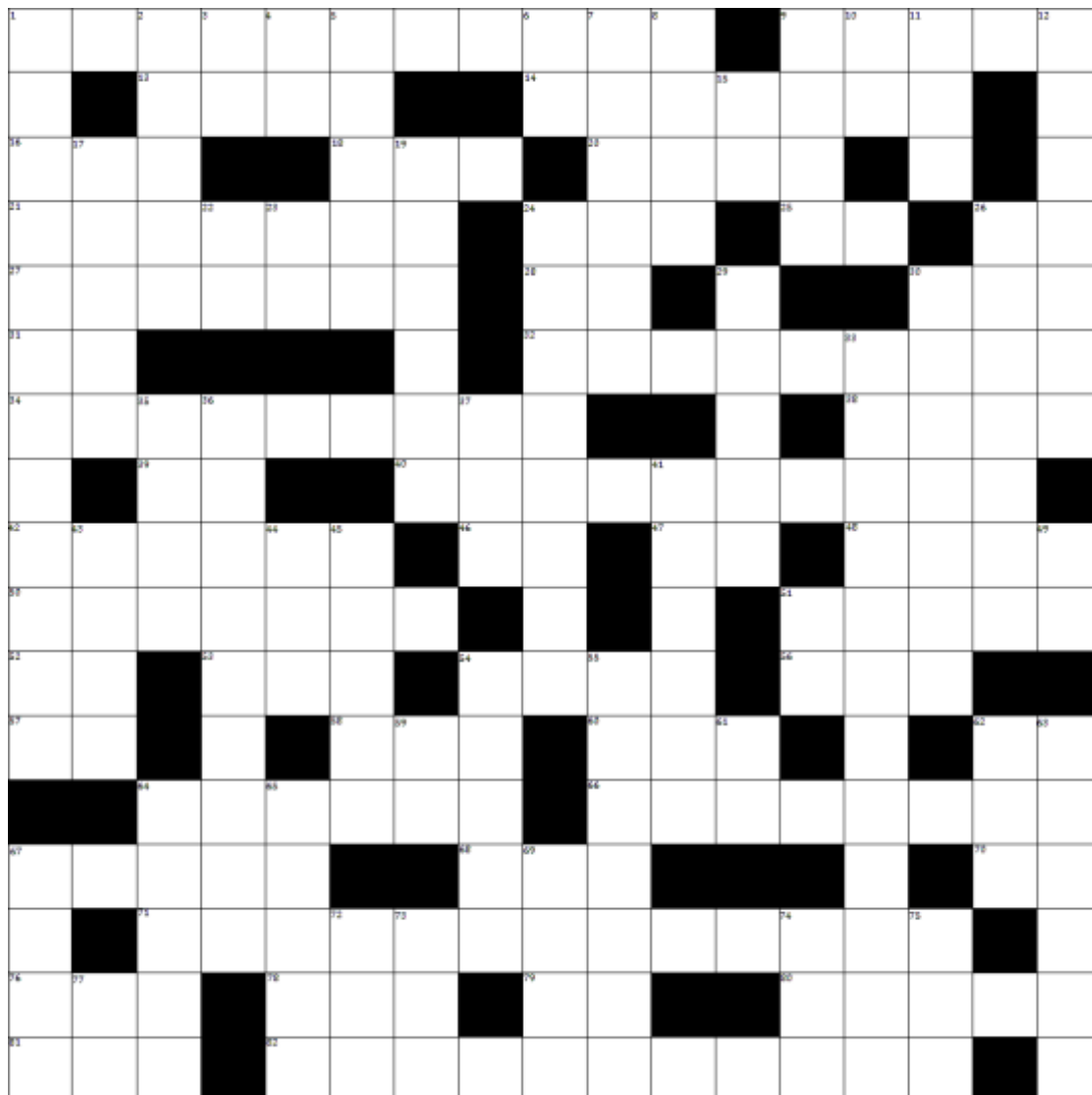
Radical Reels are a selection of high adrenaline short films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival.

The films are showing at a number of venues across Australia in November. For details of where and when the films are showing, go to:

<http://banffaustralia.com.au/dates-venues.html>

Tickets are \$30 each and are available now from the website.

Crossword



Across

1. Eleventh highest peak
9. Verses
13. Mexican dish
14. Attempted a summit of
- 27 Across in 1924
16. Rocky star's nickname
18. Consumed
20. First name of SUSS cave diver
21. First to summit 27
- Across
24. Most
25. Second highest peak
26. Thanks
27. Highest peak

28. Aluminium

30. Wild animals home
31. Regarding
32. Implying
34. Twelfth highest peak
38. To harass with humiliating tasks
39. Manganese
40. Seventh highest peak
42. Uranium dioxide
46. Allan Border
47. Human Resources
48. Ratio of opposite to hypotenuse
50. Eighth highest peak
51. A lesser noble

52. Even though

53. Twenty third Greek letter
54. Prefix meaning thin
56. Owns
57. Information Technology
58. Farewell
60. Fire remains
62. Alternating Current
64. Partner of 14 Across
66. Study
67. Pasta variety
68. Columbia Broadcasting System
70. Toward

71. Third highest peak
 76. Primate
 78. Charged atom
 79. Titanium
 80. Abundantly
 81. Young goat
 82. Ninth highest peak

Down

1. Thirteenth highest peak
 2. Elegance
 3. Hahnium
 4. European Council
 5. Howls
 6. Interjection of doubt
 7. Fifth highest peak
 8. Holly
 9. Swine meat
 10. Otherwise
 11. Organ of sight
 12. Odd
 15. Lithium

17. Internal organ
 19. Charged a tenth
 22. Lawrencium
 23. One (Scottish)
 24. Able to be disguised
 26. Partner of 21 Across
 29. Pointed weapon
 30. Journals
 33. Fourteenth highest peak
 35. Arabian country
 36. Tenth highest peak
 37. Area Hazard Analysis
 41. Fourth highest peak
 43. Buoyant platform of logs
 44. Illawarra Speleological Society
 45. Excuse
 49. Half an em
 51. Thorium
 54. Bloodsucking worm

55. Vegetable
 59. Young Numismatist
 61. Hassium
 62. Perform
 63. Sixth highest peak
 64. Painted
 65. Poisonous constituent of venom
 67. Alp
 69. Competition to VHS
 72. Gazelle
 73. Cable News Network
 74. National Australia Bank
 75. Likely
 77. Ratio of diameter to circumference

Last month's solution:

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

Trip Calendar

Saturday 8th October

Malaita Wall
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262, roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 7th October
Grade: Easy-Intimidating

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 Montains
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 possibly March or April
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

May 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

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