

# NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2011



# MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot:  
John Gray after the jump in Whirlpool Canyon  
Photo by Min Neville

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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.

### Future Trips

A number of trips were proposed at the last meeting. These have now been added to the Trip Calendar in the newsletter, with dates where they have been set. Please contact Jim Crockett or Rod Smith if there is a trip you would like to do that has not been proposed (this does not mean that you will have to volunteer to lead the trip)!

### National Geographic at Wee Jasper

On the Saturday 12th of March the National Geographic Channel is running a 'Live Curious' quiz night to raise funds for the Wee Jasper Reserves Trust. Entry is \$20 per person. Enter as an individual or part of a team, the winner or winning team goes in a draw to win \$15000 worth of travel plus a video camera! There's also a lucky door prize! All enquiries phone 62279626 or email [enquiries@weejasperreserves.com.au](mailto:enquiries@weejasperreserves.com.au).

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## Trip Reports



### Whirlpool Canyon

5th February 2011

Report by: John Gray

Photos: John Gray, Min Neville

Participants: Rod Smith, Warwick Blake, Min Neville, John Gray (TL)



A couple of years ago I heard about a canyon in the upper Wollangambe area called Whirlpool. It was located in the next side creek upstream of Geronimo Canyon. My annual birthday canyoning trip for 2010 was scheduled to visit this canyon which my information said contained abseils. Beyond this it was a mystery. Rod, Jim and myself turned up at Mt Wilson in atrocious weather and after walking down to the Wollangambe River we had to abandon the attempt as the river was in flood. (see last year's trip report).

The 2011 birthday trip was scheduled to go to Glen Davis to start investigating the list of new canyons that I had for that area. The weather forecast for the Saturday for Western Sydney was for temps to reach 42 degrees. A couple of days beforehand Min pointed out that lightning had started 2 fires close to Glen Davis so I changed the trip to again attempt Whirlpool. Strange how the first weekend in Feb for 2010 was cold and wet while the same weekend in 2011 was excessively hot and dry.

We arrived at the Cathedral of Ferns campsite on Friday night and were immediately attacked by swarms of small insects attracted to our headlights. It was impossible to erect the tent with the light on your head without breathing in several kilograms of unwanted protein. The night was hot but still bearable and we got up bright and early the next morning expecting a lengthy day.







To get to the canyon we followed the track down to the Wollangambe and climbed the ridge opposite on the Geronimo track. At the top of the hill we had a good break as the day was already hotting up. Next we dropped steeply down to the start of Geronimo Canyon for another lengthy re-hydration stop. From here we bid farewell to the track and bashed through thick scrub upstream until we found a break in the cliffs. Once again on a ridge we followed it for some time before dropping down a side ridge with a pleasant breeze and views of what lay ahead. Soon cliffhines once again blocked our path. A steep cleft seemed to go most of the way to the bottom but was obscured by King Ferns. I scrambled down and discovered that with a bit of care a rope was unnecessary. Soon afterwards we reached the creek where Rod lay in the water for the duration of lunchtime while we all consumed as much water as we could.



After lunch the walk down the creek was fairly pleasant until the first swim was encountered. Warwick donned his wetsuit but the rest of us enjoyed the refreshing dip. The next feature of note was a several meter jump into a nice piece of slot canyon. (maybe this canyon should have been called Geronimo). Several more abseils saw us arrive at the Wollangambe once again. Overall the canyon was quite good quality and certainly exceeded my expectations. At no point did we encounter any whirlpools but maybe the previous years flood would have been better for that.

As we had no intention of walking back up the hill in the heat of the day we took our time completing the many long swims downstream back to the access track.

We spent that night once again camped at the Cathedral of Ferns and woke up to a day that threatened rain. Our plan was to do Ashcroft Ravine near Wentworth Falls on the Sunday so we traversed off to a café for coffee. On arrival at Wentworth Falls shops the rain was falling steadily and the forecast thunder storms combined with our general feeling of lethargy, (Whirlpool was a long day in the heat!), to bring about the unanimous decision to go home.

## New Zealand Canyons

February 2011

Report by: Julie Burton

Photos by: Julie Burton

Participants: Julie Burton, plus Kiwis Jethro and Alain, and Jeff from Switzerland



I've just returned home yesterday after dodging earthquakes, and surviving European drivers and water hydraulics. The plan was to spend as much of my ten day visit in the Wanaka area on the South Island canyoning as the weather would allow. But the weather wasn't playing nice, so ended up spending more time in the Kai Whaka Pai cafe drinking beer than I did canyoning.

The water levels were rather high due to the considerably higher than usual rainfall in the area recently so that immediately limited what we could safely do. The dynamics of the canyons had changed significantly because of this rain. Pools that were previously 3m deep and could be jumped were now full of gravel, and several bolts on anchors were sheared off altogether. One hanger on a bolt had been flattened!

First up I did Robinson Creek with Alain, then the following day it was multi-cultural canyoning in Wilson's Creek with me the Aussie, Jethro the Kiwi, Alain the Frenchman and Jeff from Switzerland.

The drive to Haast Pass had its share of hair-raising moments when the Swiss driver Jeff kept forgetting to drive on the left, and only when a car was coming the other way. Finally arrived at Wilson's Creek and began the very steep 2 hour vertical slog to reach the start of the canyon. Wilson's is one of the nicest canyons I've done in NZ in the 3 years I've been going there, and although the water wasn't its usual bright clear colour after the rain, it was still awesome.



I had an epic moment in a pool when I slipped whilst bridging and fell into the worse possible spot where the waterfall hit the pool and was immediately sucked straight under water unable to surface. Luckily some quick action and teamwork prevented me from becoming a statistic, although I was sucked under twice before I was clear. Very scary.

The next day was a designated rest day.

Our next canyon was to be in the Landsborough Valley, but a change in the weather caused that to be cancelled. The weather was crap for the next few days. Another canyoner from France turned up and there was a 1 day weather window so gear was readied and Frenchman collected. The canyon for the day? Wilson's Creek again, for the new guy. Another nasty slog up the never-ending hill. Part way up we heard a bird call and were lucky to see a very rare Kaka parrot which is related to the Kea. It was camera shy and eluded me in the tree tops before flying off. We began



our descent to the creek and it wasn't the same line that Jethro picked previously and it was the most hair raising slippery vertical descent I've ever done without a rope. But we managed to get down with breaking anything. I don't know how!

The water levels had dropped slightly and helped ease some trepidation I was feeling about doing this canyon again. I was very nervous when I approached the pool of my previous mishap but I triumphantly emerged on the other side. I'm glad I did it again.

Another wet day spent trying to clean and dry gear to appease Customs, and it was time to return home. After a delay at the airport because all flights being grounded because of the earthquake, I arrived back in Sydney in time to see 127 hours at the movies. A great way to finish a canyon trip.





Terrific canyoning over there, but make sure you go with someone who can steer you around the hazards associated with fast high volume water. And be Didymo aware. So far the Haast Pass canyons are clean.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/travel/entering-australia/didymo>

Photos - <http://imageevent.com/jburton/newzealandcanyons/robinsoncreek150211>

<http://imageevent.com/jburton/newzealandcanyons/wilsoncreek160211>

Huge thanks to Jethro and Alain in Wanaka.

## Sanctum 3D

15th February 2011

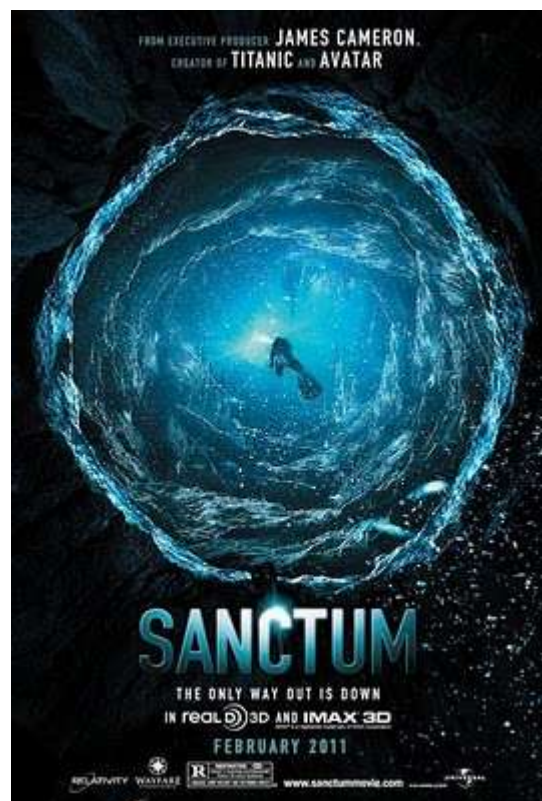
Report by: Jim Crockett

Participants: Jim Crockett, Rod Smith, Chris Johnstone, Rosetta Lidano

It's not often that we have social activities for MSS but in February we had 2 in 8 days. Both were dinner and movie nights.

The first was to see the new Australian made and directed movie Sanctum 3D on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Rod, Chris, Rosetta and I met at the recently opened Top Ryde shopping centre. This turned out to be a good choice of location as it was relatively close for all of us and there is a good choice of restaurants all located in a nice open plaza area. We all enjoyed a





variety of meals and drinks and left full and satisfied.

We were all soon handed our 3D glasses and seated ready to see some caving action.

The movie is about a cave diving expedition to a cave in PNG.

The leader of the expedition is a very hardcore caver and cave diver played by Richard Roxburgh. I was astonished by the amount of technology they were using on this expedition including a fibre optic cable to the underground advanced base camp. Things all goes wrong on the expedition when a large storm on the surface dumps massive amounts of water forcing the team to retreat deeper into the cave to find another way out. Tragedies unfold as they dive and cave deeper into the subterranean world until the end of the cave and the movie. I won't tell you what happens in the end as it might spoil it if you decide to go and watch it.



They got the technical side of the movie pretty right. All the rope work and equipment was the same as we would use, and yes Petzl seems to get a good bit of advertising. I don't know about the cave diving equipment but it all looked genuine. The other thing they got right was the actual look of the rock inside and outside the cave. The colour and texture looked realistic, I guess aided by the 3D effect which seems to work very well in a cave environment as we all know. I have heard that all of the diving scenes were done in a large pool on the Gold Coast Movie World set and they created floating cave walls, roofs, obstacles certainly an excellent job done there.

The idea for the Movie is loosely based upon an incident that occurred in Australia in 1988 when a group of cave divers were in Pannikin plains cave underneath the Nullarbor and a freak storm dumped twice the annual rainfall in 2 hours and the cave entrance collapsed in. Somehow they all found their way out and no one was injured. The director of Sanctum 3D Andrew Wight was actually on this same trip so he certainly had firsthand experience.

So overall I would recommend seeing this movie as it is probably the most realistic caving movie ever made and the first caving movie in 3D and also the first 3D movie made in Australia., The only criticism is probably it is a bit over dramatised but that I guess that is what people want to see. It has plenty of action and probably a few scenes where real cavers could point out mistakes. RECCOMENDED VIEWING!

## 127 Hours

22nd February 2011

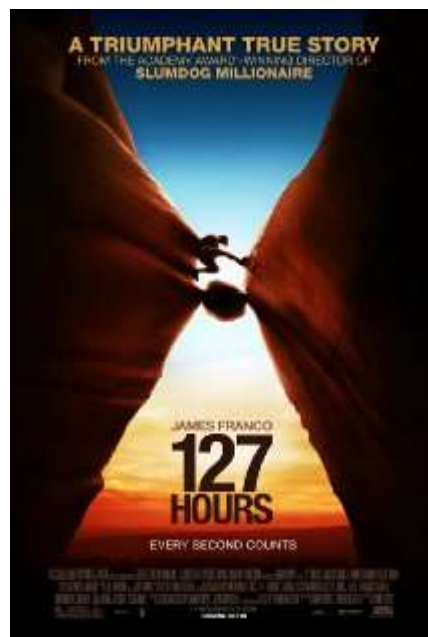
Report by: Jim Crockett

Participants: Julie Burton, Rod Smith, Jim Crockett

So now we go forward a week to the 22<sup>nd</sup> February for the next social event.

This time we are going to see the Movie 127 Hours.

That day I was in the Gym and looking at a breaking news story of the Earthquake in Christchurch New Zealand. It just happened that Julie was on her way home from Wanaka in NZ today and she was also coming to see the movie with us tonight. My thoughts were, was she alright and was she going to make it home in time. I was not sure if she was flying via Christchurch or Queenstown?



Just after the scheduled time Julie was to land in Sydney I gave her a call but the phone was off.

Almost immediately she calls me back having just landed and about to make her way to customs.

So I made arrangements to meet her in the city.

So Julie, Rod and I met at the Spanish club for dinner.

Julie was telling us how she had used up 3 of her 9 lives in NZ. The first was when the Swiss driver Jeff kept forgetting to drive on the left and narrowly missed cars coming the other way.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> was the same day in Wilson's creek canyon when she got caught in the hydraulics of a pool she fell into while making a bridging move. Fortunately Alain was able to pull her away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt. The 3<sup>rd</sup> incident was the earthquake that day but she did not feel it as she was on a bus at the time in the Wanaka area. But when they got to Queenstown all flights in the NZ south Island airspace were grounded as the air traffic control is done from Christchurch. Later that day they got operational again and were allowing some flights to take off including hers.

We all enjoyed a shared meat Paella which was more than enough to feed 3 people. This was nicely washed down with Sangria.

Then it was around the corner to the cinema and we seated ourselves for 127 Hours.

The movie is based on a true story of American Adventurer Aron Ralston who goes canyoning to Blue John canyon in Utah. He starts his canyon adventure in a very happy mood as it is quite clear that he is really at home in this environment. He commences a climb down a narrow slot over the top of a chock stone. But the chock stone gives way and he falls but as gravity is working on him he puts his arms out to brace the falls but the chock stone is also being affected by gravity and then both him and the chock stone come to a sudden halt when his right arm is stuck between



the chock stone and the canyon wall. He tries all he can to break free but he can't move the rock or his arm. As time goes on he tries lots of different methods to try and move the rock including using his rope rigged with for a mechanical advantage but all to no avail. He gets many flashbacks to his life because at this stage he thinks he is going to die. Eventually he is able to free himself by cutting off his own arm and then he escapes the canyon and is eventually rescued.

The performance of James Franco playing Aron Ralston is an outstanding piece of acting.

We were all prepared for some rather ghastly scenes when he cuts off his own arm as there have been a few people going into shock while seeing it but it seems not that bad to watch that whole scene.

Again another movie worth seeing.

One thing I can't quite work out is where they get the 127 hours from because the time he shows on his watch when he is trapped is 3.05pm on Saturday. So that would make the time that he frees himself from the rock at about 10.05pm 5 days later. But this scene is clearly during the day when he is freed and eventually rescued. Maybe someone who has read the book can enlighten me on this.

## Koombanda Canyon

27th February 2011

Report by: Rod Smith

Photos: Rod Smith

Participants: Chris Johnstone, Brad (Visitor), Rod Smith (TL)

The book (we all know which one I'm talking about) says that Koombanda is less than a day, so I decided an early start was not necessary. We met at 8:00am at my place, loaded the car, and headed for the mountains (we all know which ones I'm talking about).

The rain started while we were on Old Windsor Rd, but never got heavy. It had virtually stopped when we reached Bell, but couldn't really make up its mind. As such, Brad and Chris opted to wear their wetsuits, on their legs, from the car; I left mine in the bottom of my pack.



I didn't think we'd find a track, so I was presently surprised when we did. The track was heading in the correct direction, although slightly south of where we originally intended to go. It dropped into the top of a gully where we found three erected tents. We then lost the track, presumably Koombanda was not actually its destination, and climbed the ridge on the other side of the gully.

Descending the ridge on the east was not too taxing and we found the tributary mentioned in the book a short stroll above the abseil point. At first I thought I could just hand-over-hand the descent, but the last, vertical, bit convinced me otherwise.

Walking down the creek was reasonably easy and it wasn't long before the canyon started. The first drop Chris down-climbed before I spotted the sling around a small tree, but Brad and I just down-climbed anyway. The following swim was a bit bracing, especially since my wetsuit was still at the bottom of my pack.



The next drop required an abseil. There was much debating about the choice of abseil points, eventually settling on the tree on the lip on the dodgy ledge. I rigged the abseil from the other side, which didn't make things any easier as I'd hoped.

Brad and Chris traversed to the side of the abseil before descending, probably the better choice, but still not easy. By choosing this abseil point we'd avoided the pool, so Chris went in anyway, just to have a look.

One more drop, which I down-climbed and confirmed that Chris and Brad could jump it. Then the canyon ended and we arrived at the junction with the gully the tents were in (but much further upstream). Here we found a sunny spot and stopped for lunch.

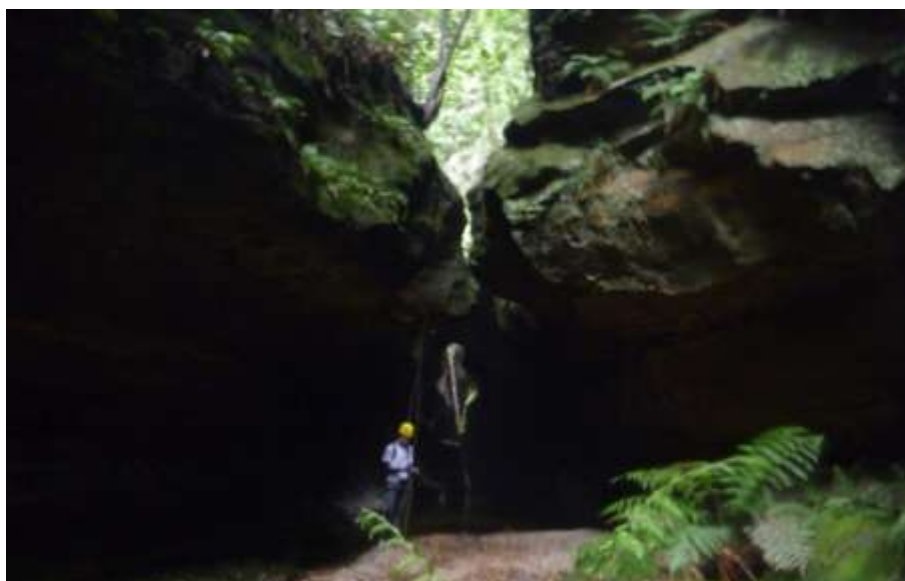
The book mentions two exit options. 1 – Kamarah Gully then onto Koombanda Ridge back to Bells Line Of Road; or 2 – down to the Coal Mine, up its access road, then back along the railway line. Looking at the map option 2 seemed much shorter and contained less bush-bashing. The decision was unanimous.

After reaching the junction with Kamarah Gully we stayed on the right side of the creek. We hadn't gone far before I decided to go high as the creek looked to be getting overgrown and we definitely wouldn't miss the road. Chris wanted to empty the sand from his feet, although I think he meant his shoes. As soon as he reached the creek he called us down as he could see a bridge. Sure enough, we'd already reached the road from the mine.



We didn't bother having a look at the mine, we just started the uphill walk. With purple jelly-bean supplied energy we found the walk reasonably easy, although there were a number of occasions when we thought we'd reached the top only to find the road still climbing. The road is in good condition and a car shuffle would make it an extremely easy day, if it weren't for the locked gate.

Arrived back at the car after approximately four hours, which included lunch. An easy day. Good canyon, but short.



## 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...

\* Apologies for the mix of units in this month's news – abseil and mountain heights are often rounded off to begin with, and as converting feet to metres only adds to the inaccuracy, these figures have been left in the units by which they were first given in the original reports.

Jan 31 – A mountain climber who was taking a walk with friends on the 3589ft Sgurr Choinnich Mor (around five miles east of Ben Nevis), is lucky to be alive after a slip sent him into a tumbling fall of 1000ft. Adam Potter had been concerned that conditions were becoming more slippery due to ice and snow and had just decided the party should put their crampons on when he lost his footing and began falling. While he tumbled and slid for much of the way he also fell over at least three cliffs that were around 100ft high, and he lost consciousness before coming to rest. At some point before rescuers arrived he woke up, stood up and pulled out his map because he couldn't remember where he was. His friends (who had thought the worst) were greatly relieved to find him alive. Adam had broken his back in three places and also sustained some cuts to his face, some bruising and a chest injury. He still hopes to be able to continue his planned expedition to Everest in March, saying "This is a bit of an inconvenience." Source: [DailyRecord.UK](http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk)

Feb 11 – Twenty-four year-old Matthew Pack died after becoming stuck on an abseil at Mildred Falls in the Cleveland National Forest, California. Hikers heard him calling for help on Friday afternoon and rescuers arrived around 5.30pm but were unable to make an attempt to reach him until Saturday morning. He was not seen to be moving when first sighted by rescuers, and was confirmed dead when finally recovered around 1pm on Saturday. The cause of his death is believed to be "mechanic asphyxia while suspended," and it is believed he died about the same time rescuers arrived on the



Looking up the valley toward Mildred Falls: photo by Lars Jensen, <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jensenl/visuals/album/2005/cedar/>

Friday afternoon. Mildred Falls only flows after rain and Matthew was suspended in cold rushing water for many hours, about 60m down from the top of the falls. From: [SanJuanCapistranoPatch](http://www.sanjuancapistrano.com).

Only one day after the death of Matthew at Mildred Falls, as the recovery of his body was underway, a similar tragedy was unfolding in Ellison's Cave in Walker County in Georgia. On Feb 12, two young men entered Ellisons as part of a group of 10 intending to do - not the famous 586 foot 'Fantastic Pit' (the deepest known unobstructed pitch in the USA) - but the one above it, the 125 foot 'Warm Up Pit'. At some point a pack was dropped and twenty year-old Grant Lockenbach abseiled down to retrieve it. He did not use the usual rig point for the drop but instead followed a line close to the waterfall. Some time later another man, Michael Pirie, went down to aid Mr Lockenbach. Both of them were wearing shorts, T-shirts and tennis shoes, but



only Mr Pirie was wearing a helmet. When rescuers arrived they found both men dead about 40 feet from the bottom of the pitch. A LED mini-mag was lying (on) at the bottom and a headlamp was found on a nearby ledge. It is believed that both died from hypothermia. A similar accident occurred in the same cave around 10 years ago, claiming the lives of three cavers. From [GADailyNews](#) and [JoCoSARBlog](#).



Photo of Mt Elbrus by mhpederson, from [UKClimbing](#)

Feb 18 – A terrorist attack has closed access to Russia’s Mt Elbrus after three people were killed by gunfire when a tourist van was shot at in the Mt Elbrus ski area. Three car bombs were then diffused outside a ski hotel and forty-five gondola cars fell from lift towers following an explosion – fortunately no one was injured. Police have shot and killed several suspected terrorists but others are still at large. Report from the [Alpinist](#).

Anton Yushko from Russia has won section 1 of the 4th Balkan Photo Competition “Me and the Caves”, while the prize for section 2 “The Beauty of the Caves” was won by Borut Lozej of Slovenia. Some of the photos can be seen at: <http://speleo.blogspot.com/2011/02/fotocontest.html> and the winning photos are shown at: <http://www.photosynthesis.bg/?konkurs=56> . The prize for section 1 was a pair of binoculars and for section2, a Petzl headlamp. From: [Caverinfo.com](#)



First Prize in the 4<sup>th</sup> Balkan Photo Competition, by Anton Yushko

Another photography competition has also announced their winners, this one being the “Speleo Photo of the Year 2010” held by the Lithuanian caving club Aenigma. 270 photos were submitted and the results were voted on over the internet. The winning photo (below) received 122 points out of 180 possible points and was taken by Roberto F. Garcia of Spain. From: [Caverinfo.com](#) .



It has just been announced that Doug Scott will receive the 2011 Piolets d'Or Lifetime Contribution award when the ceremony is held in Chamonix this April. For those not familiar with Doug's achievements, he was the first Englishman to climb Everest in 1975 and he has reached the summit of at least 40 peaks. He has been working with charity organisations in Nepal for over twenty years and is a recipient of the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographic Society. From [UKClimbing News](#).

The US National Speleological Society Convention will be held in July 18 – 22 in Colorado. The convention will include trips to wild caves, a photography exhibition and geological field trips. Sessions are still being planned. For more information see: <http://nss2011.com>

Petzl have published warnings on their website about imitation products – cheap copies of the Croll ascender, Attache locking carabiner, Ascension handled ascender (the old blue right handed version) and the old version of the Rescue Pulley, have all been found in the market. While Petzl says this is not the first time their products have been copied, this is the first time they have seen them carrying the Petzl logo. The copies do not meet safety specifications. For more information see the warning bulletin: <http://www.petzl.com/us/outdoor/news-2/2011/02/11/warning-regarding-presence-counterfeit-versions-petzl-products>

Some confusion surrounds the rescue of a snake bite victim from the Wollangambe area on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Dave Noble reports on the OZCanyons forum that he spoke to someone who told him a member of their group had been bitten by a snake that “looked like a python” – and who deteriorated fairly quickly. That group activated a PLB. Because there was no sign of a rescue and another group who also had a PLB met up with them, this was activated also. Apparently confusion arose because the first signal *had* been picked up, though only weakly, and rescuers were unsure whether or not they had two separate incidents on their hands. There was also confusion reporting the incident due to a number of helicopter sightings over different canyons at different times. There has been no official word on what actually happened or how the victim is doing.

This snake bite incident follows another the previous weekend where a 21 year-old bushwalker was bitten by a (suspected) tiger snake while walking up Mt Stormbreaker. He fell and twisted his

ankle while trying to escape the snake, and was rescued after activating a PLB. He was put into intensive care at Bankstown Hospital. Report: [ABC News](#).

A promising cave diving career came to an end in South Australia's Tank cave on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February when 29 year-old Agnes Milowka drowned about 500m from the entrance to the cave. The Tank Cave system is shallow but complicated, with many narrow sections and unexplored areas stretching to a huge 7km. Agnes, an experienced cave diver who had worked as a stunt diver in the recently released cave

dive movie Sanctum, was returning from exploring unmapped areas of the cave when her cave buddy lost sight of her. She had dived the cave many times before and was aware of its characteristics. It is still not known why the accident happened. Report and image from [SMH](#).



Finally, researchers working in the Wellington Caves in NSW have discovered that the Bell River is an underground water source for the caves. While studying the formation of stalactites, they found that high water flows in the Macquarie River held up water in the Bell and caused water levels to rise in the Wellington Caves. The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training is now developing a new model to study how water moves through the caves. Information from [ABC News](#).

## Upcoming Events

WEEKEND 12th – 13th March DUMBANO CANYONING

Trip Leader: Julie Burton, 0423 085 365, [julbur@tpg.com.au](mailto:julbur@tpg.com.au)

Contact by: **9th March**

What's involved?

Could be anything... Car camping, and two mystery canyons.

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



WEEKEND 2nd – 3rd April CAVING AT WALLI OR BORENORE

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

Contact by: 29th March

What's involved?

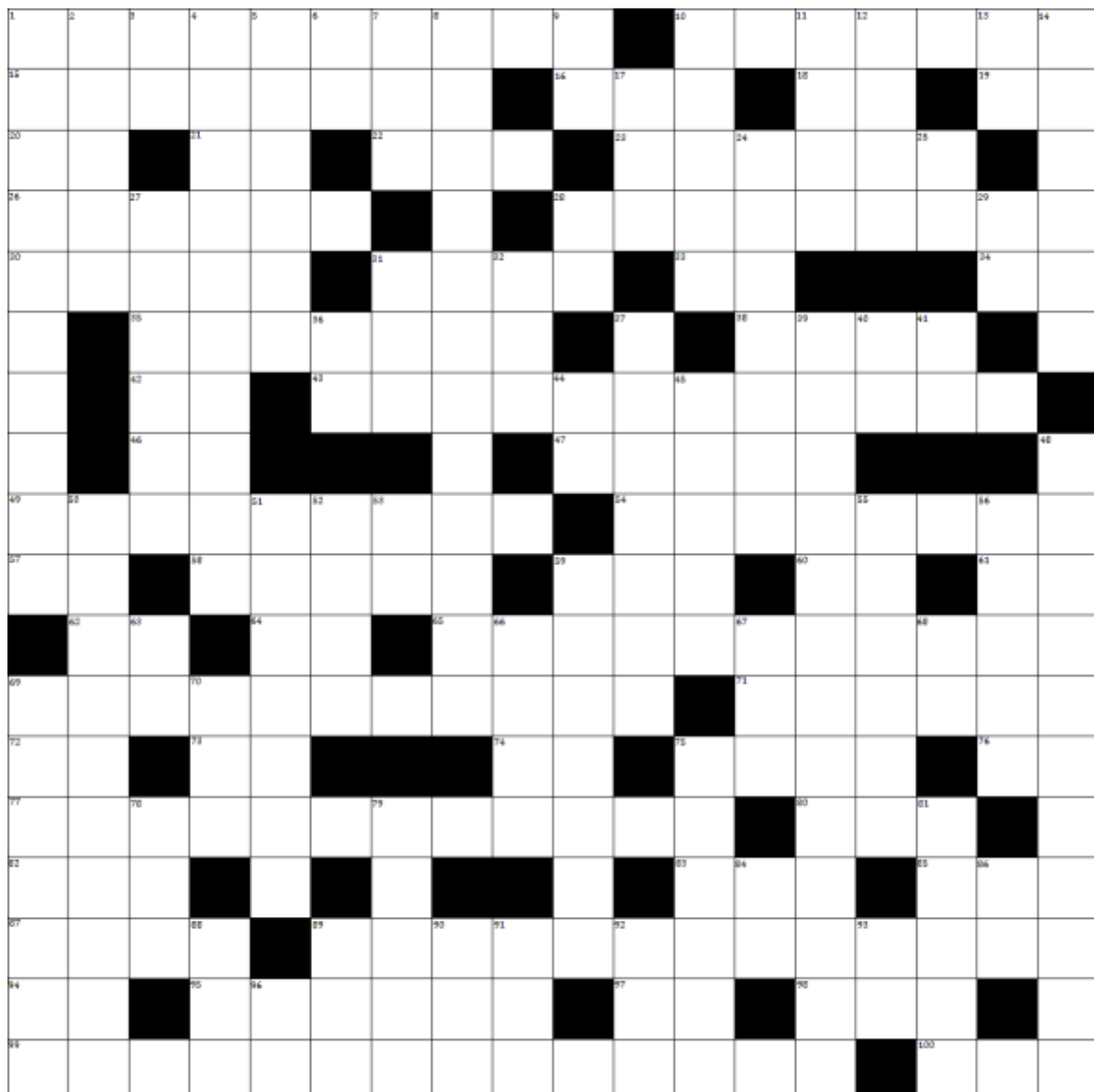
Caving at one of the above locations. Car camping.

Contact Jim for more details.

You will need:

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

## Crossword



**Across**

1 & 10 Across. This publication  
10. See 1 Across  
15. Someone who descends a rope  
16. Estimated Time of Arrival  
18. Used to indicate hesitation  
19. Artificial Intelligence  
20. Receiving Officer  
21. The second tone of a diatonic scale  
22. Brazil, Beer, Pea, Almond  
23. A receptacle for fire refuse  
26. Absence of sight  
28. Anticipatory  
30. Dogwood flowers are this type  
31. Card game  
33. Nevada  
34. To \_ or not to \_  
35. Not friends  
38. Chocolate bar  
42. Northern Territory  
43. Study of codes and ciphers  
46. The seventh tone of a diatonic scale  
47. People live in blocks of them  
49. 70 Down is one type  
54. Rules for evaluating  
57. Electrical Engineer  
58. Type of lyric poem  
59. Animal doctor  
60. Direct Current  
61. Title  
62. Calcium  
64. Aluminium  
65. Referring to water moving at speed through a

passage zone liable to be temporarily in flood  
69. Current MSS president  
71. Sheep  
72. Extra Terrestrial  
73. Used to indicate position  
74. Early English  
75. September (Abbrev.)  
76. Operation (Abbrev.)  
77. Location near Wee Jasper  
80. Canadian Expeditionary Force  
82. Office of Technology Assessment  
83. What we breathe  
85. One who maintained true allegiance to king David when Adonijah rebelled  
87. Capital of Peru  
89. Canyon off Waratah Ridge  
94. Audio Visual  
95. Departs  
97. Expression of surprise  
98. One mixed up age  
99. Y7  
100. Canberra Speleological Society

**Down**

1. Cave area in South Australia  
2. Goes with ivory  
3. West Saxon  
4. J72  
5. Maintain contact  
6. Elevated railway  
7. Lowest 2-digit number  
8. Location near Abercrombie (7, 5)  
9. Regarding  
10. Person who dresses stone

11. National University Caving Club  
12. Used to indicate something  
13. The sixth tone of a diatonic scale  
14. Canyon south of Bells-line-of-road  
17. Bitumen  
24. Type of cheese  
25. Nickel  
27. Folds of peritoneum connecting abdominal structures  
28. Personal Trainer  
29. Victoria Bitter  
31. Title  
32. Snake  
36. Microphone Controller  
37. Idea  
39. Y4, Y5  
40. Regius Professor  
41. Ohio  
44. Half a ballerinas outfit  
45. Circumference  
48. 6YN53  
50. A musical style resembling recitation  
51. Austere  
52. Horseback sport  
53. Overdose  
55. Card game  
56. Containing the NH group  
59. Character played by Saro Urzi in The Godfather  
63. Americium  
66. Rind  
67. Rapeseed Methyl Ester  
68. Titanium  
69. Karst area south of Oberon  
70. Vehicle  
75. Handle of a scythe  
78. Male sheep  
79. A9

81. Currency of France  
 84. Infectious Hepatitis  
 86. Twelfth letter  
 88. High in pitch

89. Used to own  
 90. Protective shelter  
 91. Extra Sensory  
 Perception

92. Norway  
 93. War Office  
 96. Internet domain for  
 Western Sahara

Last month's solution:

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



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## ***Trip Calendar***

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Weekend 12th-13th March  
Canyoning

Dumbano  
Trip Leader: Julie Burton  
Contact: 0423 085 365, [julbur@tpg.com.au](mailto:julbur@tpg.com.au)  
By: weekend before  
Grade: Medium  
Note change of trip leader!

Weekend 2nd-3rd April  
Caving

Walli or Borenore  
Trip Leader: Jim Crockett  
Contact: 0407 284 256, [jimcrockett@unwired.com.au](mailto:jimcrockett@unwired.com.au)  
By: 29th March  
Grade: TBC

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)

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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

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

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

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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

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

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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## Appendix 1 – Meeting minutes

MSS 404th General Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Held at Danielle Lewin's place

Meeting Opened: 8:00pm

### **Present:**

Danielle Lewin, Roderick Smith, Jim Crockett

### **Apologies:**

Chris Johnstone, Michael Reifenstein, Tim Grimes

**Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes:** None

### **Correspondence:**

ASF request for membership payment

### **Committee Members Reports:**

President: None

Treasurer: None

Equipment Officer:

Looking at the gear and assessing its condition

Training Officer: None

Librarian: None

### **Status of Action Items:**

Constitution updating: None

### Web site hosting:

Sent email to various people regarding hosting under the ASNSW website. Since there were no objections, the next step is to set up the environment on the new hosting, including passwords etc. Then transfer the content across. Then point the domain to the new hosting.

UIS Conference feasibility study: Jim is preparing the feasibility study to present at Chilicon

### EPIRB quotes:

EPIRB has been purchased

### Updating membership details:

Jim to ask ASF membership secretary if extra fields can be added to the ASF database to store the extra info that we capture, namely emergency contact details.

Back issues of Helictite magazine: None

Sourcing 4-drawer filing cabinet: Managed to source one for free

Other bank account options: None

**New Business:**Trip planning:

Capertee: 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May, Trip Leader: Roderick Smith - Easy

Abercrombie: 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June, Trip Leader: Jim Crockett TBC - Easy

Kempsey: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Trip Leader: Danielle Lewin TBC - Surveying

Newnes Canyoning: 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April, Trip Leader: Roderick Smith – Medium - Hard

Walli or Borenore: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Trip Leader: Jim Crockett - ??

Timor: 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May, Trip Leader: Roderick Smith - Easy-Medium

Glenrock: June long weekend, ask NHVSS if we can join their trip - Medium/Surveying

**Next Meeting:**

Jim's Place – 5<sup>th</sup> May

Meeting Closed: 10:05pm

## 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>