



# Metropolitan Speleological Society



**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**Spring**  
*Issued December 2016*

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*Cover Shot: Lisa Gausla climbing up from Daylight Chamber, Wee Jasper (Photo: Beth Little)*



## SOCIETY INFORMATION

**Club PLB** Just a reminder to all trip leaders that the Club PLB this should be taken on every remote trip. Our Equipment Officer, Jim (0407 284 256), [jcrockett3@bigpond.com](mailto:jcrockett3@bigpond.com) has this, so please coordinate with him to collect it before you lead your next trip.

### Office Bearers

President	<a href="mailto:president@mssadventure.org.au">president@mssadventure.org.au</a>	Jim Crockett
Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@mssadventure.org.au">secretary@mssadventure.org.au</a>	Rod Smith
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Public Officer		John Gray

### Membership Fee Details (2017)

Full member	\$80
Family (2 adults + children) membership	\$160
Family (1 adult + children) membership	\$120
Prospective member (3 months)	\$30
Social membership	\$45
Already a member of an ASF Club?	\$30
Preferred method of payment by Direct Debit to:	Account Name: MSS BSB: 062-021 (Commonwealth Bank) Account: 00901421
Cheques or Cash also accepted.	



## MSS GIFT IDEAS

Wondering what you'll get for Christmas (or give) and want something that's useful ...  
MSS has the gift for you!

	Price	Description
	\$10	<b>MSS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wine Glass</b> – tough polycarbonate which makes it virtually indestructible (cocktails not included). These wine glasses are a must around the campfire or at a car camp, super-sized possibly takes 2 standard drinks.
	\$10	<b>MSS Red Explorer Sox</b> – with MSS label (Volleys and good looking male legs not included). These sox are a must for MSS members, trips are often graded "Red Sox" (as opposed to Medium or Hard) which means that those on the trip will be wearing their Explorer Red Sox. These sox are scarcer than hen's teeth, only available through MSS, and at an unbelievable price – buy now while stocks last!
	\$8	Drink Bottle, tough as nails (just like MSS members) can be used on almost any trip, very versatile.
	\$25	<b>MSS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirt or Polo Shirt</b> – very versatile, can be worn anywhere, but a must for MSS social occasions. Front: Small Logo Back: MSS artwork Colour: Black T-Shirt Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL Polo Sizes: M, L
	\$30	<b>MSS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hoodie</b> – best buy yet, toasty warm for around the campfire, yet dressy enough for a winter's night out on the (small) town. Buy now while stocks last. Colour: Black Sizes: S, M, XL, XXL

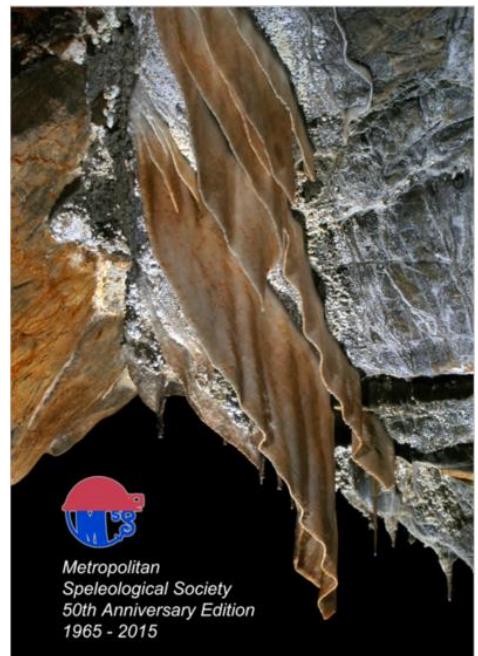
Postage not included but pick up can be organised. To purchase these unique items at these amazingly low prices, contact Rod, [secretary@mssadventure.org.au](mailto:secretary@mssadventure.org.au)!

# **50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

Here it is, hot off the press ... the long-awaited *MSS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition!* The publication was launched at the Christmas Party at Macmasters Beach on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The publication has numerous articles and historical photos painting a picture of MSS over the past 50 years. Long-standing members will be entertained by many of the articles recalling traditions and epic trips; those new to caving will get a glimpse of what's in store for them in the coming years.

## **Distribution:**

- *Full members* will receive a copy either
  - by hand when we catch up with you on a trip; or
  - if you're not planning on joining us on a trip in the near future we will mail it to you (beware it may be damaged in the mail)
- *Temporary members* will receive a copy (once you take out full membership in December) either
  - by hand when we catch up with you on a trip; or
  - if you're not planning on joining us on a trip in the near future we will mail it to you (beware it may be damaged in the mail).
- Non-members can purchase a copy for \$12 plus \$3 postage.



Contact [membership@mssadventure.org.au](mailto:membership@mssadventure.org.au) to organise your preferred method of delivery.

**PS:** prize awarded to the first person who picks the **two** typos that the proof readers missed!

## **FACEBOOK**



 [Find us on Facebook](#)

The MSS Facebook Group page is attracting some interesting posts from its members, particularly the one about the sink hole in Florida (thank you Min). So ... check it out and make sure when you see a post that's interesting, share your thoughts!

- **Trip leaders** - put reminders about upcoming trips on the FB page, particularly if numbers are low.
- **Photographers** - feel free to load photos taken on the trip (make sure you get permission of those photographed to put them on FB). Individuals can tag themselves but don't tag others.
- **Ask questions**, for instance technical questions or where to buy the best gear.

The FB Group is a great way to attract new members, it projects a vital active club. So ... go to <https://www.facebook.com/> > search on MSS Adventure Group and click "Join Group". AND, start communicating with other members!



## TRIP LEADERS WANTED!

We've got a bit of a human resources problem ... not enough leaders, and whilst the calendar is full (the fullest it's been for a while) we need some new blood to lead trips.

It's not hard, some of our existing leaders will mentor you along the way (and there's a leaders' checklist at the back of this edition of the Newsletter), all you need to do is put your hand up. You'd start slowly, maybe one trip a quarter until you get the hang of it!

To get started simply email [president@mssadventure.org.au](mailto:president@mssadventure.org.au)



## Diary Alert – MSS Decadence Walk – 19 & 20 March, 2017

We're resurrecting the **MSS Decadence Walks** – and the first one will be to **Box Creek Falls, Kanangra**.

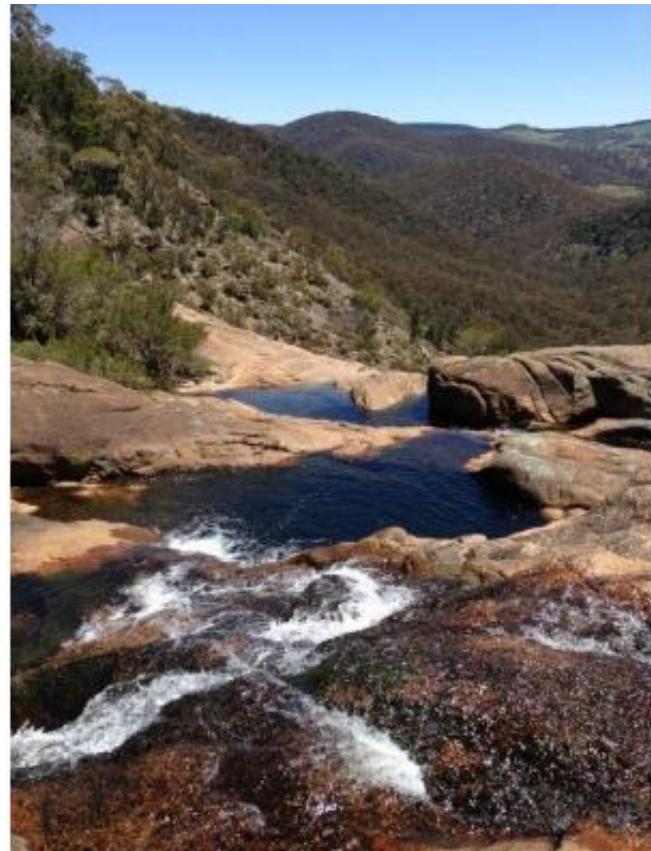
**The Walk:** a mere 2k, the route will be marked so participants can easily make a 2<sup>nd</sup> trip back to their cars for those decadent items (candelabra, easy chair, champagne, strawberries, tuxedo). Until the last 100m the walk is "relatively" flat, the last 100m involves a slight hill and some rocks.

**Campsite:** this is a bush campsite (sorry no facilities and no overhang/cave), but it's grassy, flat and beside a creek with heaps of firewood, AND the view is to-die-for.

**Heaps to do:** the campsite is at the top the Falls (300m of cascades), there are plunge pools (imagine laying in a pool with a cool drink!) and after the summer the water should be warm-ish. You can easily walk down to the bottom of the falls, it's an off-track adventure, and you can cross over to each level of the cascades with care. For the more adventurous, bring your abseil gear and helmet, I'm going to bring a couple of 60m ropes, if there's an anchor we'll try abseiling the falls!

**What to bring:** All you would need to spend the night in the bush under the stars, PLUS decadent items that you wouldn't ordinarily carry to a campsite (board games, blow up chairs, table cloth, dinner jacket, little black dress & pearls, champagne glasses, the more "out there" the better – points for the most creative and prizes awarded).

**Who should come:** Everyone! Decadence walks were the highlight of the year for some MSS members, and the "old guard" are still talking about them, be there, don't miss out on the fun!



*At the top of Box Creek Falls*

## Canyoning - Newnes – Copper Canyon – 10 September 2016

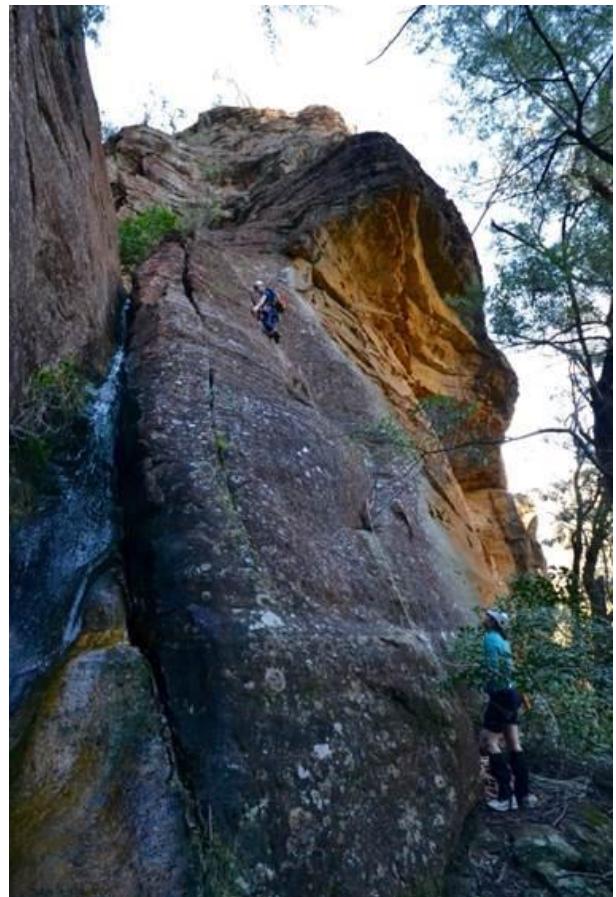
Report by: John Gray

Participants: Beth Little, Andre Munck, Nick Payne, Marcella Quintero, Heather Reid, Ed Squires, Marilyn Scott, John Gray (TL)

The weekend began with a Friday e-mail from Rod saying he was unwell and would I take over as trip leader. No problem. The plan was to do Copper Canyon on Saturday and Hole In The Rock Canyon on Sunday, both on a minimum of information available. This is a story about an epic Saturday and a cruisy Sunday.

We left the cars more or less on time for the 8 km walk down the Wolgan River along the gated fire trail. On arrival at the vicinity of the stated grid references, it became obvious that the canyon was not where it was supposed to be. A small gully ended in a 200m sheer drop in the middle of the Big Glassy cliff face. This actually made things easy for us as the gully at the right hand end of the cliff had to be it (there were no other alternatives).

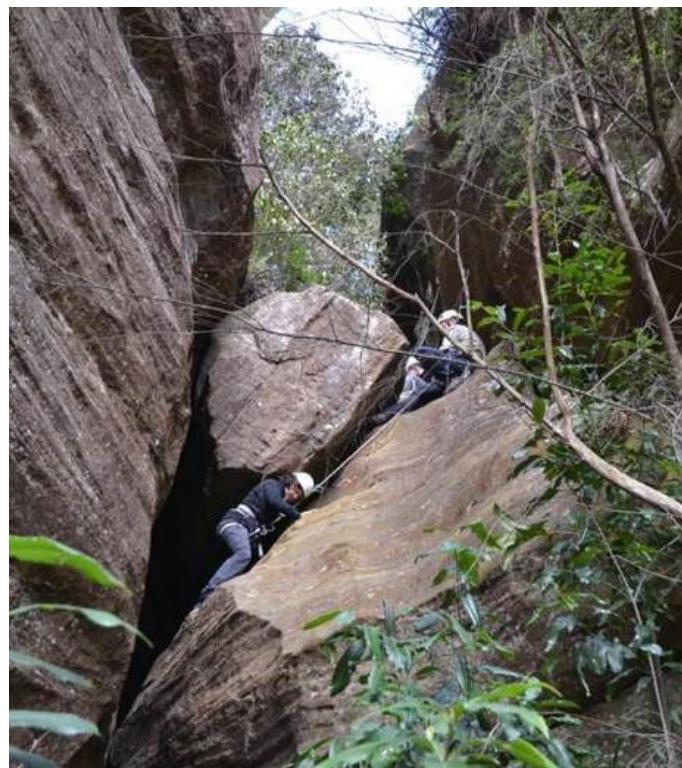
Acting on this assumption we scrambled up to the point where a 2nd gully breached the cliff line. We were immediately reassured that we were in the right place. A line of bolts could clearly be seen heading up a 10m high cliff next to a waterfall. Now, we had been promised a couple of easy climbs. What eventuated was one climb that got progressively harder as you went up and a 2nd climb that started in a wet and slippery cave and ended



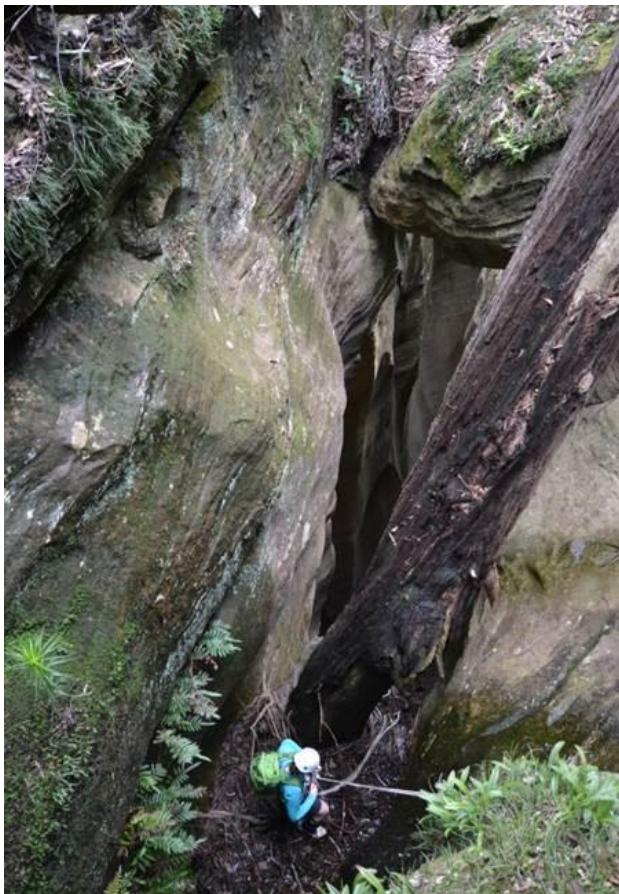
*Andre setting up the first climb - Beth belaying  
(Photo: John Gray)*

on a sloping slab bereft of holds. Fortunately, we had Andre with his full climbing rack at our disposal. He even managed to use a largish Camalot at one point. The rest of us grunted up the climbs pulling on the pro whenever possible. A few more tricky scrambles in the creek later and we arrived at the halfway ledge.

We arrived at the start of the canyon at about 2.30pm. It was impressive to look down the slot as it curved out of sight below. A short abseil placed us on a ledge where a large vertical log provided a rigging point for a much bigger drop. In hindsight we should have rigged a sling on this log as the pulldown proved difficult. Unfortunately, the rope then got snagged on a ledge part way down resulting in the need for one of the 60m ropes to be cut.



*Heather on the 2nd climb with Andre belaying (photo: John Gray)*



*Copper Canyon - the first abseil (Photo: John Gray)*

Two more abseils, including one that was more gardening than abseiling, got us to the end of the short but spectacular canyon. We arrived back on the fire trail just before dark and got back to the cars at 7.50pm.



*Copper Canyon - the second abseil (Photo: John Gray)*

## **TRIP SUGGESTIONS**

*by The Editor*

I always assumed the MSS meetings were just for committee members and, looking at past minutes, I could be forgiven for thinking so, the only people there were committee members! But, I've now found out that that's not the case, MSS meetings are for all members. I found at the last meeting (the AGM) that they're well-worth going to, and I'll be sure to turn up to the next one, bit of a drive for me as they're in Sydney, but I'm going to make the effort, and if I can't get there in person, I'll attend via Skype! (See the calendar for time and venue for the **next meeting on Thursday February 9**.)

The best part of the meeting was planning the **calendar** and it was great ... sitting around the table throwing suggestions out there and immediately there were calls of "yes, let's do that". The problem is that without feedback from other members, the calendar ends up being just trips that those who turned up at the meeting thought about doing ... not that I'm complaining, I want to do them all!

I also find that the same faces turn up on the trips that I go on, and there are heaps of people that I haven't met, are they armchair cavers/canyoners? Or is it that the trips on the calendar aren't the ones that these phantom members want to do?

So, let's have a little feedback from the rest of you ... email [secretary@mssadventure.org.au](mailto:secretary@mssadventure.org.au) or go onto the MSS=Adventure Facebook page and throw your suggestions out there. The Summer calendar (mostly canyoning) is looking great, BUT, at the next meeting we'll be talking about **caving** ... what caves do **YOU** want to do, that's what MSS is good at - caving! Don't be shy, give the leaders a location/area (Nullarbor, Cook Islands, Tuglow, stuff closer to Sydney?) and let them take it from there!

## Canyoning - Newnes – Hole in the Rock – 11 September 2016

Report by: John Gray

Participants: Heather Reid, Ed Squires and John Gray (TL)

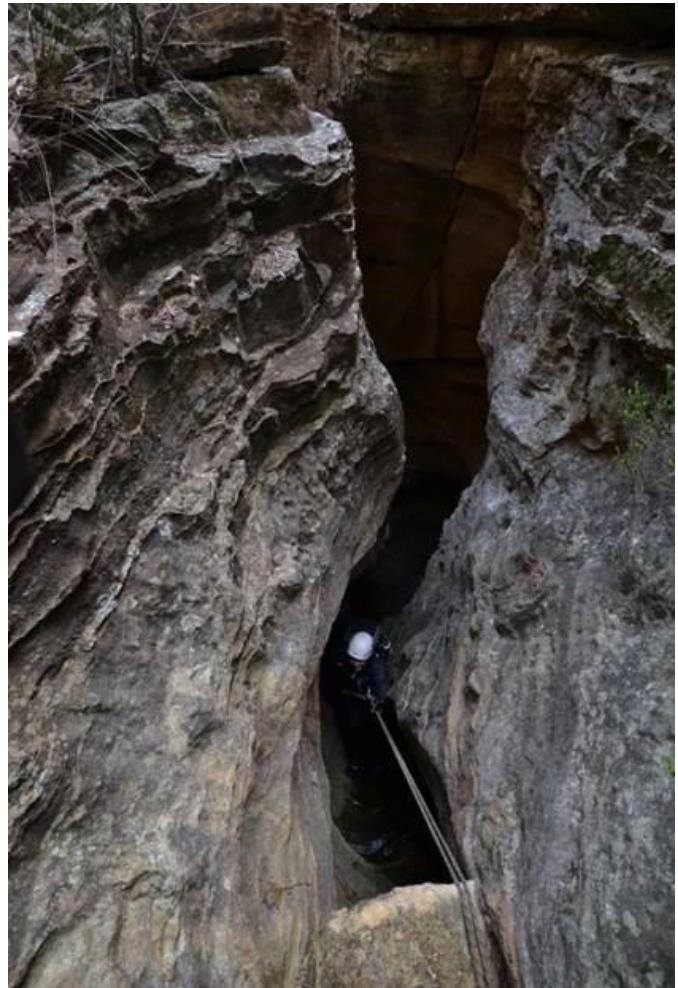
Sunday's trip was much depleted in numbers as Nick & Marcella had the long drive home to Narrabri, Beth and Andre had other plans and Marilyn developed a sore knee.

After a lazy start, Ed, Heather and I climbed Penrose Gully on the now quite distinct track. The canyon itself consisted of 5 abseils, the largest of which was down the main cliff line at about 40m.

The canyon obviously gets a bit of use as there were newish slings and steel maillons making the rope pulldowns very easy.

The highlight was the narrow abseil into the bell like chamber on abseil number 3. Presumably the hole that you scramble through at the bottom was the inspiration for the canyon name. We got back to the cars mid-afternoon.

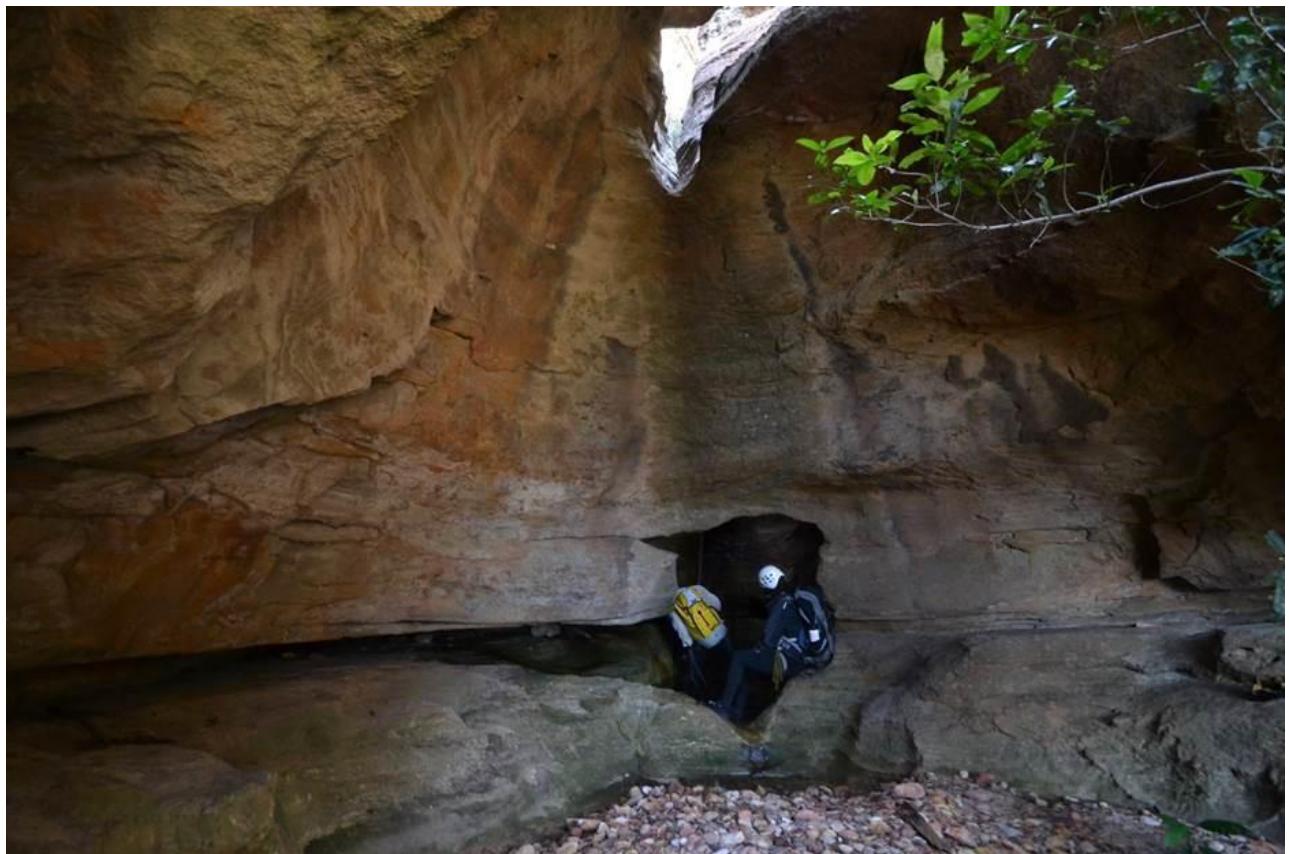
After 30 years of canyoning it was great to do 2 new canyons over the weekend. Many thanks to Rod for putting them on the programme.



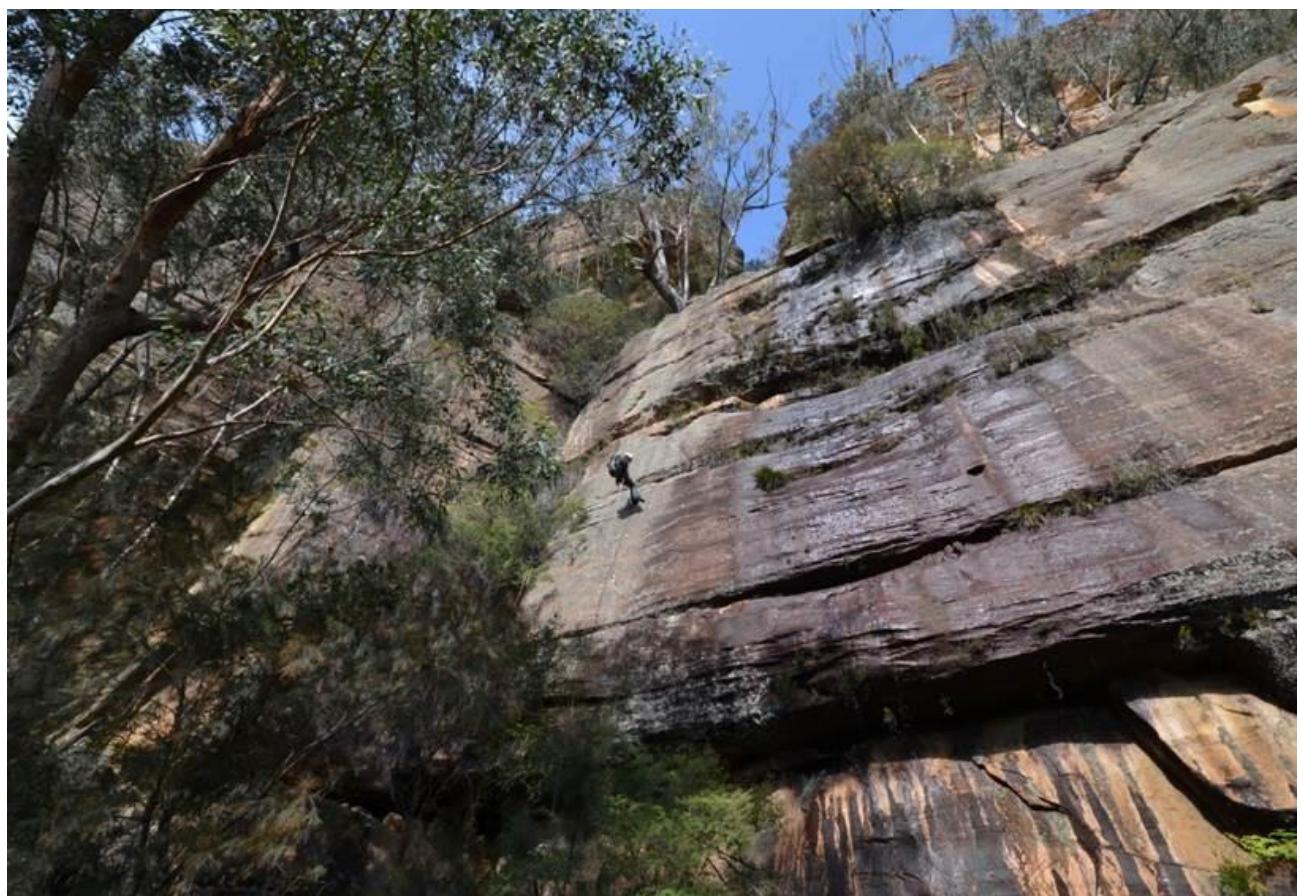
*Hole in the Rock canyon (Photo: John Gray)*



*Looking across to Hole in the Rock canyon from Wolgan Road (Photo: John Gray)*



*Hole in the Rock Canyon (Photo: John Gray)*



*Hole in the Rock Canyon - the final abseil (Photo: John Gray)*



# Caving – Abercrombie – Joint trip with SUSS

- 17-18 September 2016

Report by: Jim Crockett

Participants: Jim Crockett TL (MSS), Rod Smith (MSS), Rowena Larkins (SUSS), Oxana Repina (SUSS), Charmaine Pang (SUSS), Valerie Lim (SUSS)

Having decided it was not convenient to travel up on the Friday night meant an early start on Saturday morning. Up at 4.30am and on my way to collect two SUSS students at their Lidcombe campus. No trouble locating Valerie and Charmaine which surprised me when I discovered they were only carrying two small bags. Apparently, SUSS kindly supplies all the comfort items for camping and caving including their tent, sleeping bags and all their gear for caving, hence the shortage of baggage!

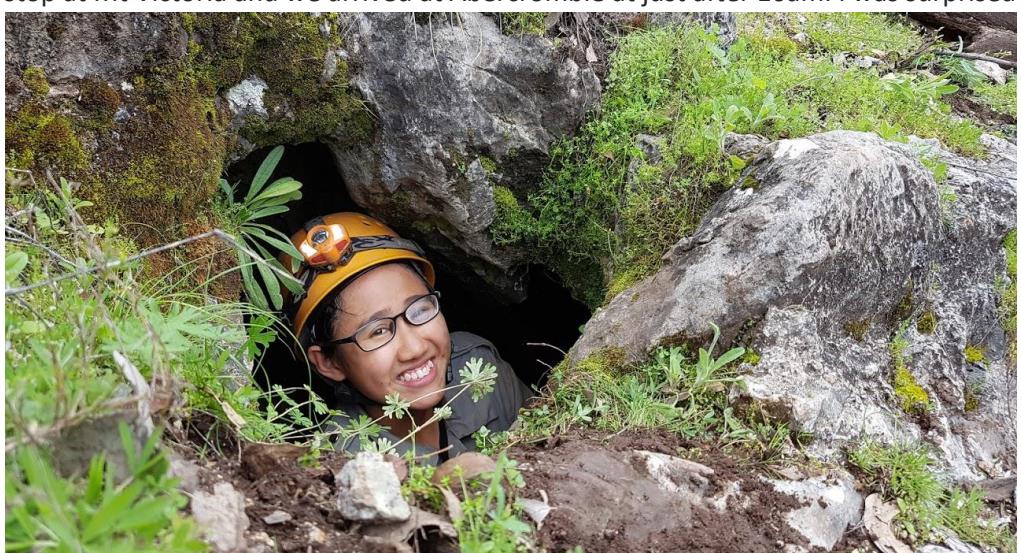
We settled in for the long drive after a bit of getting to know you chatting. The journey was broken by the necessary coffee stop at Mt Victoria and we arrived at Abercrombie at just after 10am. I was surprised at how green the land is especially between Bratwurst and Abercrombie, evidence that the amount of rain they'd received in the last 6 months was way above average. At Abercrombie we were able to cross the swiftly flowing Grove Creek but it was obvious that the water levels had been much higher recently. On the other side of the creek, we were greeted by Rowena and Oxana and offered tea while setting up camp.

We were soon visited by the new guide, Steven Babushka, and then followed his recommendation that we move our cars to the other side of the creek as more rain was expected and he didn't want us to have the same fate as another group in the last week who were stranded for more than 24 hours. If the downpour did occur, we'd still be able to pack up our tents and carry them back to the other side via the Mt Gray track.

With our safety requirements met we geared up for our caving adventure to some unknown

cavernous holes big enough for a battleship, oops wrong cave here that's the one at Nolan.

On the way to the cave evidence of the amount of water that they've had since I was last there became obvious. The low level track was totally washed away! The only way to the caves now is via the swinging bridge. We were soon at A13, A14 with our group



SUSS member, Valerie (photo: Jim Crockett)



Valerie in the squeeze (Photo Jim Crockett)

entering by both entrances and meeting underground. We then proceeded down the lowest possible point to where we found one lonely bat. This is a good cave to practice your squeezing techniques as many of us found out.

We had a quick snack before going down to visit Stable Arch cave entering via the gate on the lower entrance. It was pretty obvious that this entrance is rarely used as the gate was wedged shut with soil. Once inside we scampered along the 1m high passage until it met the main chamber. Here there are a few possible ways leading off but we chose to follow the rock pile going up. At the mid-level there is a 10m pitch leading to a small passageway but we did not have the correct gear as well as some of the group being beginners. Further up the rock pile another exit can be reached, this is grated and gated and much larger than the bottom entrance but we had no plans to exit here. Back down the rock pile to the main chamber I was trying to encourage the beginners to find an alternative way back to the lower entry/exit. A flattener at the base of a wall was spotted and Oxana proceeded to enter followed by Charmaine and Valerie. It was now a good time for Rowena and me to enter after the pool of water had been soaked up. The flattener leads to a small low chamber with some decoration. Another low section leads out back towards the exit, although Oxana found a much smaller hole which looked impossible but showed amazing squeezing skills to get through.

We soon reached daylight and regrouped under the arch. We had to detrog here as the guide had advised he did not want cavers to be seen by tourists in their caving outfits. Luckily we obeyed the



Valerie in another squeeze (Photo: Jim Crockett)

instructions as we soon saw a group exiting Bushrangers cave. We continued up over the main arch sighting a number of holes which would have required some sort of vertical gear. It was not possible to cross Grove creek here as the water level was 0.5m over the top the low-level path just outside the arch. The alternative was to go up and follow the road down and then back to our camp.

We had to wait until 4pm to access the main arch so another cup of tea was on the agenda. By this time Rod had turned up but Peter Dykes was not sighted.

At the stroke of 4pm with keys in hand we headed off to the main arch. We spent a number of hours exploring every possible part as well as looking for tags as part of Rod's project. The night was finished off with an excursion to Bushrangers cave.

Back to camp and I was starting to feel tired having been up since 4.30am, so I gulped down some food and hit the bed. The others stayed up for a few hours longer.

The morning brought a change in the weather, no torrential downpour but a consistent trickle. We packed up camp and moved across to the other side of the creek for breakfast in the shelter. As there were not really any more caves to see, Rod suggested an excursion to the "Age of Fishes" museum at Canowindra. Everyone agreed that was a good idea even though it was a considerable round

trip. So we were on the road again and heading nor west. We had a minor hiccup when the GPS led us to a road blocked by a fallen tree. We had a small detour eventually meeting up at Canowindra outside the museum.

The museum is excellent with an outdoor Geological walk as you are led through the various geological eras to the present day. The real highlight is the room filled with rock slabs of the Devonian rock outcrop first discovered nearby in the 1950's. This is an outstanding collection of fossils from the Devonian era, definitely world class and most notably known by the high concentration and variety of fish fossils found on the slabs. I have been waiting a very long time to see these, having seen one of the slabs at the Australian

Museum a numbers of times and I was not disappointed. That same slab is now proudly on display here and it is something to awe at.

Having spent about 3 hours at the museum we were all impressed but had to move out. Rod was heading south to attend a meeting of the Kosci Karst reference group and rest of us were heading back to Sydney. This was a simple but worthwhile trip.



# Canyoning – Newnes 15-16 October 2016

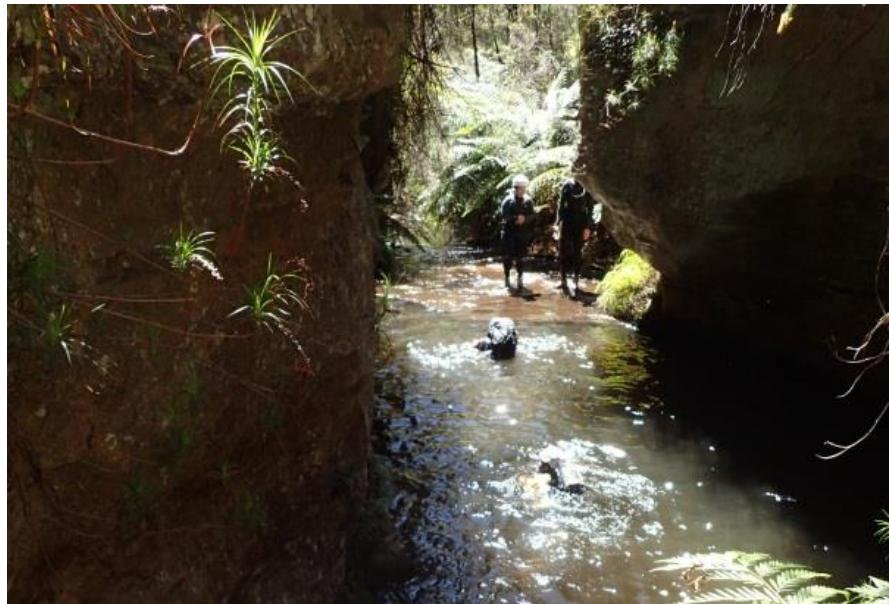
Report by: Marilyn Scott

Participants: Marilyn Scott (TL), Roderick Smith, Jo & Ed Squires, Nick & Marcella Payne & Trish Neil

This was a combined MSS & BWOC trip but as it turned out, everyone was a member of MSS. We were looking for *Stuntman* and *Millennium* canyons, both unpublished canyons on the Newnes Plateau. I did say to everyone not to expect much, maybe there'd be some constricted canyon, maybe not. Am pretty sure that the weekend's canyoning exceeded our expectations, PLUS I gave Rod the opportunity to gloat! We found *Stuntman* but the canyon we did wasn't *Millennium*, it was actually *Up and Over* canyon.

We met up at the Zig Zag Railway and then made our way in convoy to the Mt Cameron Fire Trail. The adventure started then for those in small 2wd vehicles with not much clearance, but, we all arrived at the start without incident.

By about 10am we were on the track and made our way to a highpoint and then veered off towards the junction of a side creek and the main creek, pretty straight forward. We got into the main creek and felt the temperature of the water (freezing), so despite the fact that it was a nice sunny day, we donned our wetsuits, good thing too! The creek has lots of jump ins and a few slides. One of the jump ins had a nasty start (very slippery), so we all abseiled the jump (about a 3 - 4m abseil). The water was absolutely freezing and we all had numb feet, so half way through we were all trying to find ways to stay out of the water! Whilst it wasn't the best canyon we'd ever been in, it wasn't the worst either. We were at our exit track by about 1.30pm. Rod and Jo decided that they'd had enough of cold water and frozen feet for the day but the rest of us went and did *River Caves* which is always worth a visit.



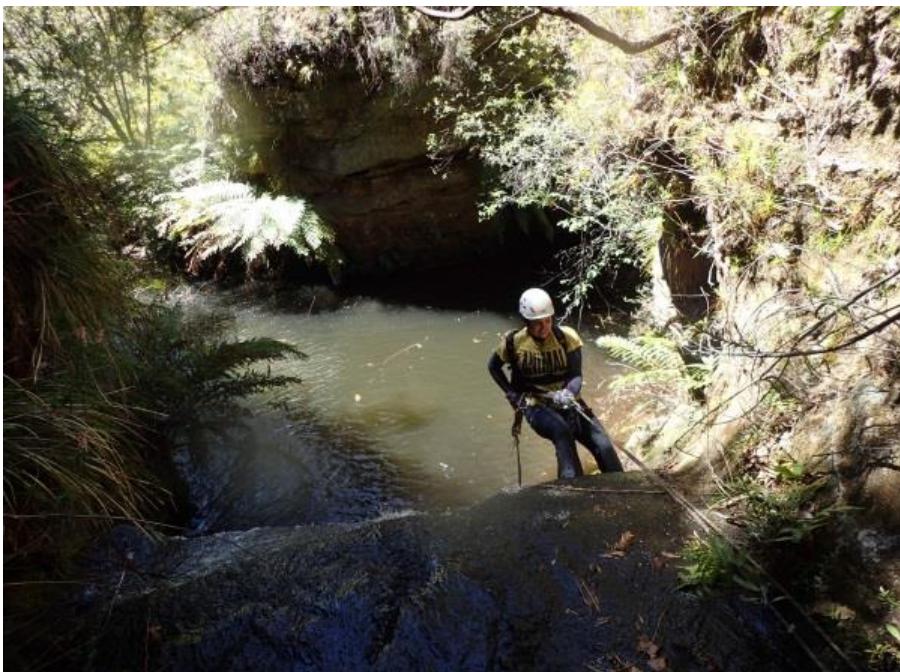
One of the compulsory swims in *Stuntman*



*Stuntman* Rod on a climb down - could probably have been jumped

We then drove over to the area of *Alcatraz* Canyon and found a good place to camp, didn't have the promised nice grass (I remembered it as being grassy), but it was off the beaten track and we didn't have to share it with anyone. We set up camp, Ed got out his slack-line and Ed, Nick, Jo and Marcella tried it out. Nick excelled with 7 steps and Ed introduced an interesting sideways shuffle.

Next morning Nick and Marcella headed back to Narrabri (great effort guys), and the rest of us headed out



*Stuntman - Marcella on the jump that we elected to abseil*

at 8.30am to where I suspected a small canyon may be. It was at this point that I decided not to carry my GPS and for some reason also decided against taking a map, after all, it was a no-brainer I knew exactly where I was going. Sadly, I didn't factor in that I'd entered the creek 200m down from where I thought I was.

Anyway, we found the canyon, abseiled down into it (about 15m), took a peak at the waterfall (very nice), and then scrambled another 15m down to a boulder block and to the creek junction. It was at this stage that Rod said we were in one place and I insisted

we were 200m upstream, and the words "humor me Rod" were uttered. We walked downstream for 200m. The compass and Ed's map were brought out and it was agreed by all that yes, I'd gone downstream 200m that we didn't have to go down (lots of gloating on Rod's part here), learned my lesson will never leave the GPS back in the car again!

Rather than walk in scrub back upstream for 200m, Rod suggested we just scale the cliff from where we were. This sounded like a fruitless exercise to me but up we went (cautiously because Trish and I don't rock climb) but we decided to give it a go anyway. Rod went to the right at the cliff-line looking for another route and I went around to the left. After about 100m I found a good gully with some climbable pagodas, so we regrouped and started up. It was pretty easy right up until the end which proved difficult but trusty Rod climbed up a very exposed spot and put up a handline for us. We were up the top on the plateau and 50m from our exit track.



*Ed on the slack line*

We retrieved the cars from the other side of the valley and were ready to head home by 3pm. So, we found a couple of unpublished canyons, which is better than finding nothing! Would I do them again, well, maybe Stuntman on a really hot day if I had nothing better to do, and will probably go back and do *Up and Over* just to do the little waterfall - a lot of effort though for just 20m of canyon and one abseil! Thanks everyone for coming on the journey with me, and for humoring me with that extra 200m of creek walking!

# Canyoning – Wounded Knee – 29 & 30 October 2016

Report by: Marilyn Scott

Participants: Marilyn Scott (Co-ordinator); John Gray; Roderick Smith; Brad Moore; Trish Neil; Klaus Thoeni

*Bucks Pass 5* in the Colo Wilderness, is nicknamed *Wounded Knee Canyon* because one of the members of a group back in 2003 (possibly the first descent), hurt his knee on the way in. It's a Grade 6 canyon with 8 abseils. It's a long trip and it's advised to do it over 2 days, camping on the Colo. Other parties have walked up-stream to Crawford's Pass (*Bucks Pass 1*) but I knew that *Bucks Pass 6* was a lot closer, downstream and an easier walk out, so that's what we did, camping on a sandy bank on the Colo at the entry to Pass 6.

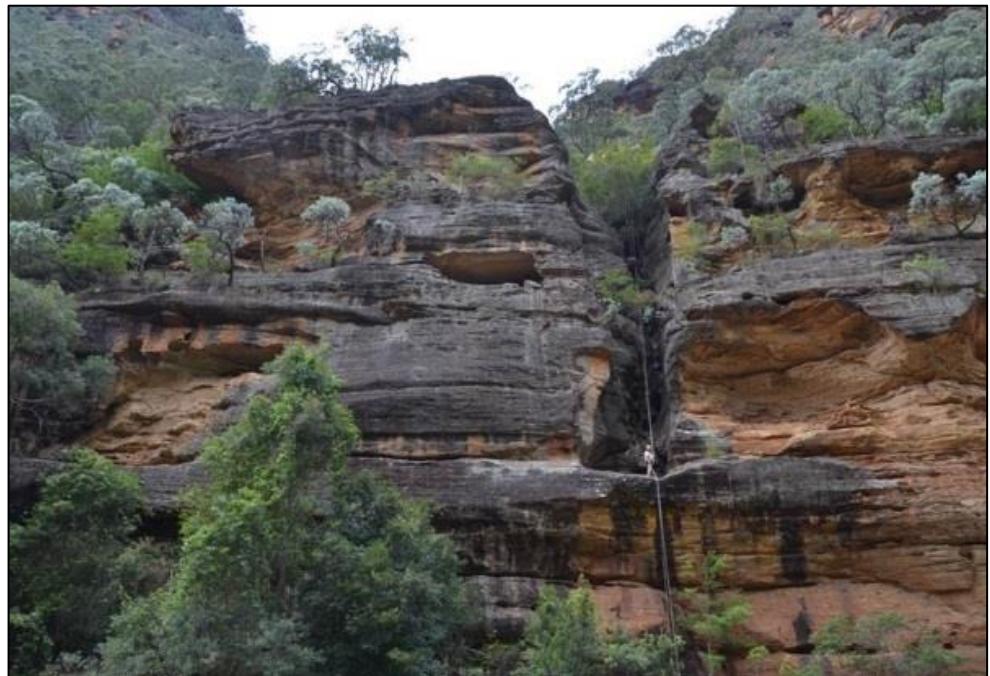
Luckily we had four strong guys on the trip so Trish and I didn't have to carry the 60m ropes, but we

carried a 30m rope, all the survival gear and tube tape for replacement anchors and the climb out.

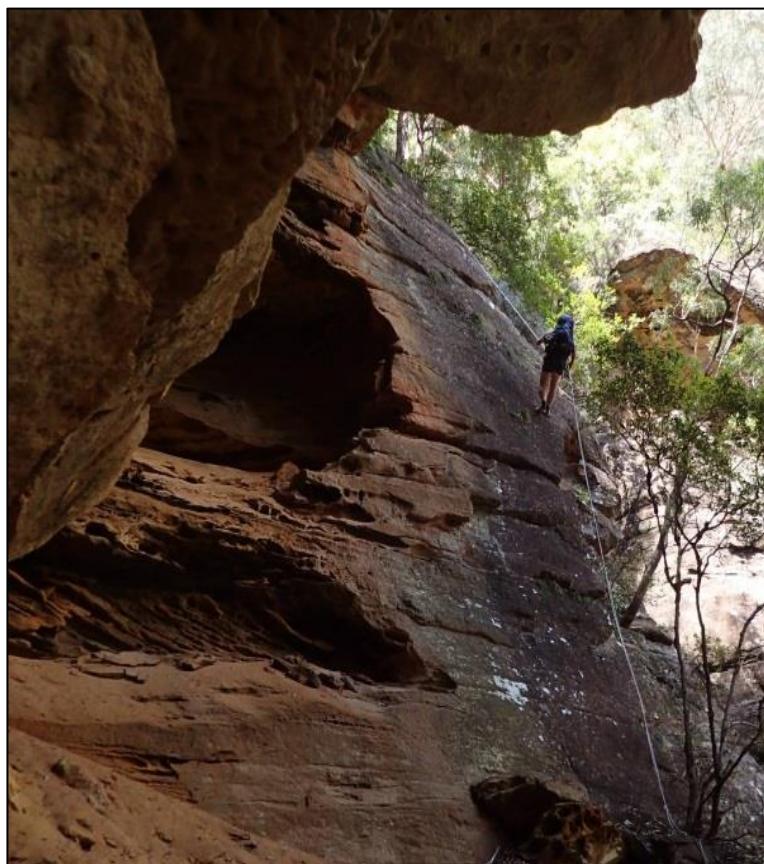
For a while it looked like all the planning would be for naught as the weather forecast was for showers and rain, but gradually it improved and on Friday after talking through the options with Rod, we decided to give it a go regardless. It did sprinkle on the way up to Colo Heights but that was about all the precipitation we got. Brad, Klaus, Trish and I met up with Rod and John at 9am and we headed off.

At the jump off point on the Crawford's Lookout track, John led us to a great spur down to our creek. We had to do a little back tracking when presented with a cliff-line but found a good ramp down with little effort and were soon at the creek junction we were looking for.

A lot of people don't think Wounded Knee is a "true canyon", but we decided that a canyon can be classified as such if "it is deeper than it is wide" and "if it has some constricted



*Rod on the final 60m abseil (photo: John Gray)*



*Rod on the 7th abseil*

sections". Wounded Knee ticked both those boxes. There was quite a bit of constriction and it was very narrow in spots.



*John Gray on the first abseil*

The creek that you walk down is very nice, quite open with coachwood trees and no scrubby understory, lawyer vine that some parties have mentioned wasn't a problem at all.

There are 8 abseils (approximately 15m, 25m, 28m, 20m, 28m, 4m, 28m and 60m). All but the last two abseil starts were awkward (possibly contributing to its Grade 6 rating) ... either difficult starts, or very constricted, way slippery or your pack got in the way for where you wanted to go. The last 3 big abseils were fabulous, particularly the 60m one. All but one of the anchors were in good shape, so that was a bonus. I doubt that the canyon gets much visitation, there were very few wear marks on rocks or moss worn away and there was no evidence of a worn pad to the creek.



*Walking down the Colo*

We started around 9am and were down at the river by 4pm and then spent an hour walking along the bank or in the river to the campsite. Walking down the Colo is quite slow in places, particularly when you encounter quick sand. The campsite is really good, although used quite a bit and there's not much firewood around, that's offset though by a nice swimming hole and spa baths and easy access to the exit pass for the next day.

Pass 6 is really easy these days, when I first did it many years ago (as part of a bushwalk), it was a little challenging to get up the four climbs that you have to negotiate, nowadays though, someone has chiseled foot and hand holds into the rock and placed ring bolts in convenient locations for handlines, so the climb outs are much quicker and easier. Whoever put the infrastructure in though couldn't have been a climber/bushwalker/canyoner as the handline they had in place was window sash and cheap Bunnings rope, we used our own tube tape instead.

After the climbs, it's a simple creek walk, usually along the banks up above the boulders. Camp site to car took about 3.5 hours, so we were out in time for lunch!



*Pass 6, you can just see us on the ledge as we walk around to the chimney climb. (Photo John Gray)*



*Klaus on the last climb (which you can actually walk around) (Photo: John Gray)*

Thanks so much to Rod, John, Brad and Klaus, I had wanted to do this trip for many years and couldn't have done it without their support, thanks guys!

## Field Day Wee Jasper – 21 – 23 October 2016

Report by: Beth Little

Participants: Beth, Andre, Danielle, Lisa, Ed, Jo, Cahie, Aengus, Elswyth

CRAAACK BOOM!!!! A huge lightning strike whipped across the sky and struck the Wee J hills in the early hours of Saturday morning. The ensuing lightning terrorised some campers to pack up and leave, with a few hardy souls waiting out the lightning storm in their cars. Ed & Jo, sound sleepers, slept through the storm, none-the-wiser of the disaster. A large Eucalyptus tree was struck, about 300metre away from their tent, and had been completely blown to pieces.

Andre, Danielle, Lisa and I were late comers to the camp ground and had caught the lightning show on our drive across the ranges - a reason we were so late as was due to very slow driving in the limited visibility and



*Lightning struck tree (photo: Cathi Humphrey-Hood)*



*Heading into Dip Series of Caves (photo: Cathi Humphrey-Hood)*

sheeting rain! We arrived at about 2am Saturday morning to a chorus of chirping and honking frogs. Yep, Honking. So loud they were echoing around the valley.

The morning sun rose onto a slightly deserted camp ground, and the massive stump of the disintegrated eucalypt. The wreckage was phenomenal. Man-sized shards of tree were flung in multiple directions and speared into the ground, with some smaller pieces going almost up to hundred metres from the tree. Thanks goodness we hadn't chosen to camp in that part of the grounds. An exciting way to start the weekend.

This year Wee Jasper was in all its green glory, lush from the recent torrential rains and floods. The rolling green hills are cut with dramatic limestone bandings, and a few limestone outcrops add a bit of drama. Although a very popular area it still has such a charm.

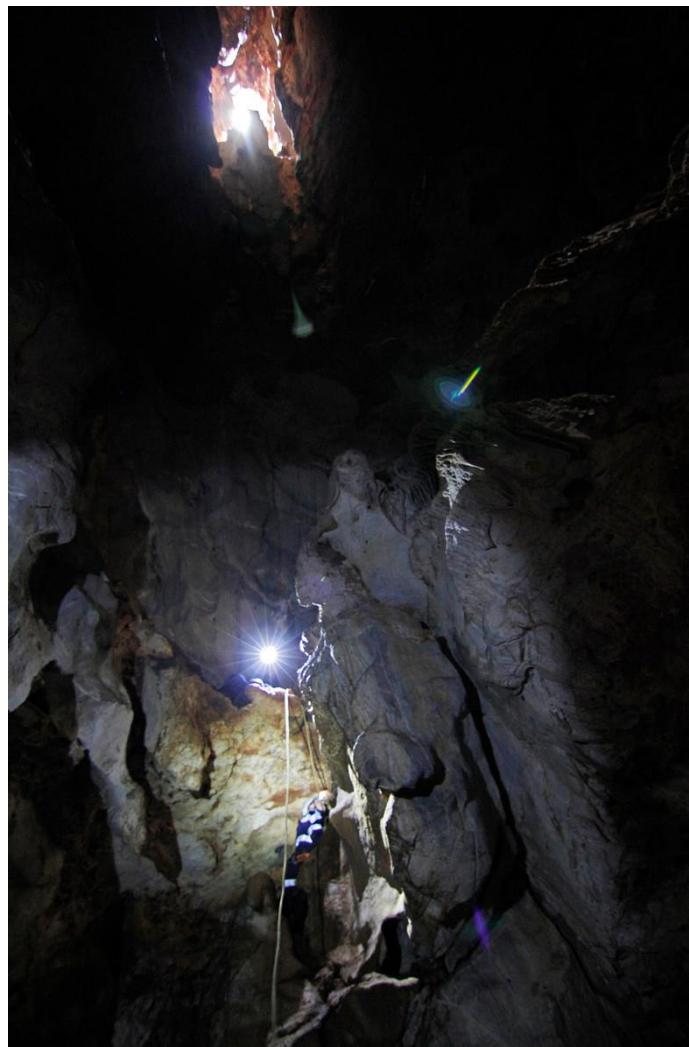
Saturday's training was an introduction to basic map reading/navigation for Ed & Jo, and some experiential training for Danielle, Lisa, and Aengus who have rarely been underground. We hung out in Dip Series, climbing up from the Daylight Chamber and across the balcony into the rat hole. Special mentions have to go to:

- Ed for his great job finding the route through all the chambers of Dip and back again independently,
- Lisa for making the climb up from Daylight Chamber, and
- Aengus for his amazing effort on the Ladder climb up and down

Sunday was planned as a lazier day. We walked up to the collapse on the top of hill (which I call the Quarry because of how it looks, but it is not an actual quarry). Great place for future abseil training. From there we cut across the hill top, avoiding stinging nettles and blackberries, and down to Punchbowl (top chamber only) and Signature Cave. Classic dramatic entrances.

We finished with an early afternoon trip down Carey's Cave, where our tour was extended (despite us saying we had to leg it back to Sydney) due to the guides enthusiasm to have actual cavers on his tour. He wouldn't let us leave! He was very entertaining and we thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

My very first memories as a child are caving in Wee Jasper. I think I was only about three at the



*Photo Cathi Humphrey-Hood*

time. The big square dolphin torch felt almost as big as me. They were such tough old things. Dad had industrial thick hemp rope he had borrowed from work, thick as my leg, and I still remember how dusty it smelt and the coarseness in my little hands. I remember also my first encounter at three with the HUGE jumping Meat Ants there on the hill near Punchbowl, and a panicked run in gumboots back to camp in the long grass when I thought I was being chased by a pack of them. They really had a vicious bite! I can laugh about it now, as did all the adults at the time watching me did.

Wee Jasper today still feels just as lovely a place. Always worth that little extra drive from Sydney to make it down there. Hopefully we will see Wee J again soon.



*Off on another adventure - Lisa, Ed, Jo & Andre (photo: Cathi Humphrey-Hood)*



## AGM & Christmas Get-together – 19 – 20 November 2016

Report by: Marilyn Scott

Participants: Beth Little (co-ordinator), Jim Crockett, Rod Smith, David Stuckey, Cathi Humphrey-Hood (and Elswyth & Aengus Porter), Chris, Helena (and Owen) Johnstone, Heather Reid, John & Cathy Gray (and Keely & Isabella), and Marilyn Scott

A big thanks to Beth Little's parents for the use of their Macmaster's Beach house, the location is fabulous and the back of the house has a wonderful rainforest setting.

The first ones to roll up arrived at 3pm and the rest straggled in over the course of the afternoon. Cathi arrived with recycled Christmas decorations and proceeded to drape tinsel in strategic spots.

The back deck was the perfect



*Happy Hour on the deck the deck (l - r Rod, Chris, Cathi)*



*Owen with the resident Kookaburra, he was very tame (the Kookaburra that is), ate right our of your hand*

Changes to the Constitution were ratified and fees for next year set, then we got into the really serious business of trips for the calendar.

Obviously lots of wine had been consumed because we got some trips out of unexpected sources, thankfully in the cold light of day there were no regrets.

place to sit back with a cool drink and nibbles for happy hour (which went on far longer than an hour), then the bbq was fired up. Everyone brought along something to share, great salads, fresh bread rolls and fruit platters.

The kids entertained themselves with board games and then set out on an adventure down to the beach, it was with some trepidation that we sent them on their way, but they managed to find their way back without a search party having to be sent out.

We then decided that we should probably have the AGM before some of us drunk too much more wine.



*The kids on their beach adventure (Photo: Elswyth Porter)*



*Moonmilk (left), Helictite Hole (right) (Photo: Cathi Humphrey-Hood)*

We got the AGM out of the way and Cathi started mixing up her lethal cocktails (Moonmilk – vodka, blue Curacao, cream ... incredibly pretty to look at, very rich; Helictite Hole – Brandy and Butterscotch Schnapps topped up with mineral water ... scrumptious; and Rimstone Pool– Gin, Blue Curaco and lemonade ... Cathi didn't actually make this one as we were all still recovering from the Moonmilk).

By this time we thought it a good idea to give the cocktails and wine a rest so we moved on to board games. Settlers of Catan was a hit, Cathy Gray surprised everyone by winning (beginners luck!).

This is the only club I'm in that has a fascination with board games, and I love that!

Next morning, Beth spoiled us with delicious bacon and egg wraps then it was off to the beach for a swim. After a big dose of sun (and a little sunburn all around), we retreated back to the house and had coffee and cheesecake and more Settlers of Catan as by this time we're all addicted to the game. This time Owen was the winner, with an interesting strategy cutting the board in two with the longest road.

The group broke up just after noon with a few addicted members staying well into the afternoon still trying to win at Settlers of Catan (despite Rod requesting a change in board games! I guess there's only so much Settlers that a person can take!)

A great AGM / Christmas get-together (more get-together than AGM and a wonderful opportunity to get to know members that you might not see in a cave/canyon) thanks for organizing it Beth.



*Owen showing off his red road right across the board, cutting everyone else off from expansion.*



*Everyone High Fiving Owen the winner!*

# Overnight Walk – Wollangambe Crater 26 & 27 November 2016

Report by: Marilyn Scott

Participants: Marilyn Scott (TL), Mark, Kai and Hugo Hornshaw, Steve Rowse and Jeff Boyd

Mark posted on FB that he wouldn't mind doing an overnight walk to the Crater and asked if anyone wanted to go along. No-one responded to the post, and having done the trip more times than I can remember, I volunteered to go with him, but it's a very easy walk so I added a bit of a challenge, to do some off track and give him some navigating pointers.

As Steve and Jeff came along, all I really had to do was wander along in the background, Jeff took charge of the navigation pointers and Steve did his usual sterling job of route finding.

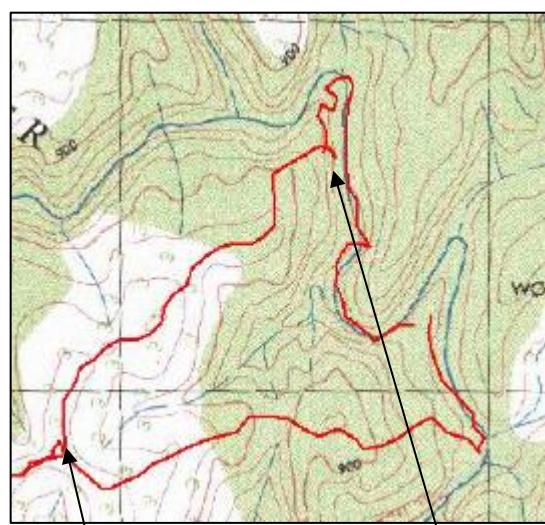
Everything started out well, although it was a very hot day and the flies were atrocious. We hit the high point we were aiming for about 3/4 of the way along the tourist track and then headed down a spur to Wollangambe River, so far so good. We veered a little too far to the right off the spur and hit a cliff-line at the river, Jeff and Steve looked around for a way down and it was all about 30m of air. This is when I usually start berating myself ... what was I thinking bringing three beginners (2 of them children), into unknown country? ... even though it



Mark Kai and Hugo on the track (note the vegetation 3 years after the 2013 fires still not fully recovered)

was only 1k of off track I should know better ... and although the contour lines did indicate a promising route down to the river, what if we didn't find a way down?

We backtracked a little and got onto the nose of the spur which is where we should have been all along and (I am truly blessed) we had a clean route down to the river. We were all hot and bothered by this time and were really pleased to get to the water and cool off. I had indicated that it was an "easy" one hour downstream, I'd done this section twice before and that's how long it had taken us both times. And although I had said that there shouldn't be any deep pools, I did say to waterproof packs just in case. Well, that was before the fires of 2013 and before the massive flooding a few years back, now the river is chocked up with huge dead trees, and there were a few sections where I was up to my chest in water (the depth sounder), the others found a way of not getting that wet. It took us an hour and a half to walk the 750m downstream, a lot of which was



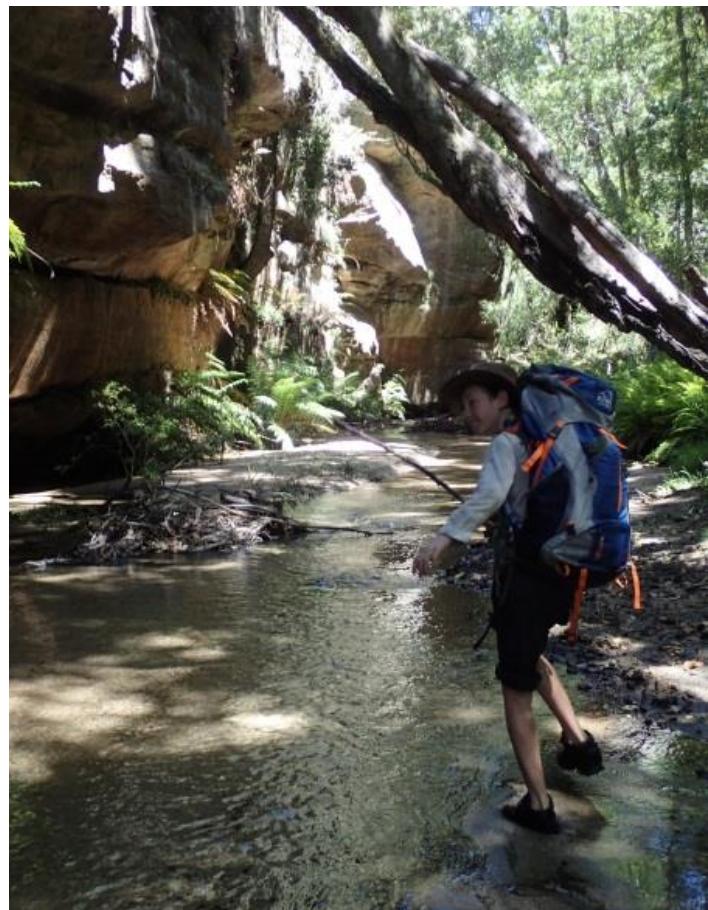
The start of the off track section and the point where we were too far to the right

climbing over dead trees.

We made it to the overhang (our campsite for the night) by 3.30, which all things considered, wasn't too bad and I think after the day's walk, everyone was happy, pleased to be in camp, and at this point none



*Hugo trying to keep his pack dry.*



*Nice canyon section*

of them looked like they'd never walk with me again (well, it goes without saying that Jeff and Steve will, I think they'd pretty much follow me to hell and back provided I spun a good story as to why we should go).



*Kai and Hugo Crossing the River on logs (the camp cave in the background)*

Day 2 was to be a walk around from the overhang to the campsite that most people use. Again, the fires had changed the vegetation completely, gone was the nice footpad that I have followed in the past and we had about a k of battling through scrub. Eventually we got to the campsite dropped our packs and had a lovely walk up to the Crater (not really a crater but more like a big swamp).

We returned to our packs and started up on the tourist track which I had said would take us all the way back to the cars, no more off track adventures, and we'd be at the cars by about

12.30. Again, since the fires, the tourist track in some places isn't as distinct as it used to be. We were probably half way along the track when we discovered that it had "disappeared". Instead of backtracking or getting out the GPS, we blundered around in the bush looking for it and eventually ended up on a small

outcrop where we could see exactly where we'd made our error. We spotted a nice "route" that would save the effort of backtracking and headed for a saddle in the distance. As far as off track routes go, it was a good one, although by this time some of us were quite tired, hot and bothered, so it was a slow trip. Never the less, we were eventually back on the track having had a little 45minute detour.

The rest of the trip was uneventful, although it was bloody hot. We arrived back to the cars to find a note from (another group that visited the crater) that all their vehicles had sustained

"damage", someone had visited the parked cars during the weekend and had jimmied open all the fuel access doors and siphoned off petrol, Mark lost a full tank, Jeff's had been opened but the "diesel only" sign deterred them. We're going to have to park our cars elsewhere in the future.

The stats are impressive ... Distance - 20.01k (about right for an overnight walk with me); Ascent - 851m (felt more like 2,000m); Moving Time - 6.07 hours (doesn't sound like much does it?); Stopped time - 5.36 hours (we took a lot of breaks due to the heat); Average moving time - 3.3k per hour, considering that we were only doing 1k/hr in the river, that's pretty impressive! Thanks for the stats Jeff (he's found new things that his GPS can do!)

So, will Mark and the boys ever walk with me again? The jury's out there ... Kai and Hugo you did a great job this weekend, you were both good company and didn't complain about the hardships, lovely kids Mark! All I can say is thank goodness that I just didn't post on FB to Mark that "there's a tourist track all the way - just go for it" I certainly would never send a novice bushwalker out on that track at the moment, it's too indistinct in places! Thanks to everyone for spending the weekend out in the bush with me.



*The unplanned off track adventure through sedge grass to our destination, a saddle where the track should be*



*Mark and the boys on top of the morning tea pagoda 1/4 way through the 1st day.*



## MSS TRIP CALENDAR

Dec 10 – 11 Canyoning Newnes Valley		Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Hard Exploratory – <b>Hartleys Mistake</b> on Saturday – camping on Deanes Creek and then <b>Bigfoot</b> on Sunday
Dec 26 Canyoning Wollangambe		Trip Leader: Jim Crocket Contact: <a href="mailto:jcrockett3@bigpond.com">jcrockett3@bigpond.com</a> Grade: Easy – the Club's Annual pilgrimage to <b>Lilo the Wollangambe</b> River - Section 1 on Boxing Day!
Dec 27 Canyoning Mt Wilson	NEW	Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: <a href="mailto:marilyn_scott@bigpond.com">marilyn_scott@bigpond.com</a> or 0417 453 170 Grade: 4 <b>Yileen</b> – five abseils, many swims. We will do the final waterfall abseil that most people over-look.
Dec 31 Canyoning Newnes Plateau	NEW	Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: <a href="mailto:marilyn_scott@bigpond.com">marilyn_scott@bigpond.com</a> or 0417 453 170 Grade: Medium Details: <b>Death Trap</b> (Grade 3 – 1 abseil – a fun canyon with lots of jumps and slides)
Jan 1 Canyoning Newnes Plateau	NEW	Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: <a href="mailto:marilyn_scott@bigpond.com">marilyn_scott@bigpond.com</a> or 0417 453 170 Grade: Medium Details: <b>Upper Deanes Creek</b> (ungraded, a rarely visited section of Deanes Creek which has a couple of abseils)
Jan 1 – 14 Caving South Aust.		Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Easy coinciding with ASF Council Meeting 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan in SA
Jan 26 - 29 Canyoning Newnes Plateau	NEW	Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Hard Details: Either <b>Dumbano</b> or <b>Yarramun</b>
Feb 4 – 5 Canyoning Bungonia		Trip Leader: Murray Newman Contact: <a href="mailto:mnewman174@yahoo.com.au">mnewman174@yahoo.com.au</a> Grade: Easy – Medium (Grade 3s) Details: Saturday <b>Bungonia Creek</b> (3 abseils and several swims); Sunday <b>Jerrara</b> (3 abseils and several swims).
Feb 9 (Thurs) <b>General Meeting</b> <b>Canada Bay</b>		Time: 6.30pm Address: 15 Regatta Rd, Five Dock Out of Towners: join meeting remotely via mob or Skype Details: after General Business is concluded discussion of future trips, plus supper and slide show if time permits
Feb 18 – 19 Mystery Canyoning Newnes Valley	NEW	Trip Leader: John Gray Contact: <a href="mailto:JOHN.GRAY@sydneywater.com.au">JOHN.GRAY@sydneywater.com.au</a> Grade: 3 Details: Back by popular demand, John Gray's Mystery Canyoning. One day will be <b>Looking Glass</b> but the other day will be a mystery until you turn up, but guaranteed to be a surprise and one MSS probably hasn't done before! Saturday early 7am start from the campground.

Mar 18 – 19 Decadence Walk Box Creek Falls, Kanangra		Trip Leader: Marilyn Scott Contact: <a href="mailto:marilyn_scott@bigpond.com">marilyn_scott@bigpond.com</a> or 0417 453 170 Grade: Easy The <b>Decadence Walks</b> are back – with a twist – an easy 2k walk to arguably the best campsite in Kanangra, Box Creek Falls.
Mar/April Caving Yarrangobilly	NEW	Trip Leader: Beth Little Contact: <a href="mailto:littlebeth78@hotmail.com">littlebeth78@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Medium Details: This is primarily a familiarisation trip for the guides who will be involved in the UIS trip
Apr 14 - 17 Kites over Kosci Kosciusko NP	NEW	Trip Leader: David Stuckey Contact: <a href="mailto:stuckedl@cba.com.au">stuckedl@cba.com.au</a> Grade: Medium Details: Back by popular demand, “ <b>Kites over Kosciuszko</b> ” is a multi-day walking trip in Australia’s alpine region. As the name implies, you need to bring a kite which will be flown from the summit of Mt Kosciuszko and just about anywhere else we go as we are above the tree line. <u>Numbers are limited to 10 adults only</u> . Participants need to be prepared for strong sunlight with high UV levels, due to the altitude, as well as the possibility of a full-blown snow storm. All supplies need to be carried in and camping is “bush camping” ie: there are no facilities. Further details will be published closer to the trip. Kites need to be single string only. No stunt kites, fighting kites or aerobatic kites are allowed.
Apr 22 – 25 Caving Glenrock		Contact: Rod Smith <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> Details: This is a NHVSS trip that MSS members are welcome to attend. Contact Rod for more information.
April/May TBA Caving Abercrombie	NEW	Trip Leader: Rod Smith Contact: <a href="mailto:roderick_smith@hotmail.com">roderick_smith@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Easy Details: This will be a joint trip with BMSC
May 28 Caving Field Day	NEW	Trip Leader: Beth Little Contact: <a href="mailto:littlebeth78@hotmail.com">littlebeth78@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Details: Field Day – location TBA
June TBA Caving Jenolan	NEW	Trip Leader: Chris Johnstone Contact: <a href="mailto:chris_johnstone@hotmail.com">chris_johnstone@hotmail.com</a> Grade: Easy This will be a kid-friendly trip
TBA Caving Jenolan	NEW	Trip Leader: David Stuckey Contact: <a href="mailto:stuckedl@cba.com.au">stuckedl@cba.com.au</a> Grade: Medium/Hard Details: Mammoth Cave - <b>Naked Lady Circuit</b> (not suitable for kids)



Beth on belay at the top of the ladder climb Wee Jasper (photo: Cathi Humphrey-Hood



# APPENDIX 1 – MEETING MINUTES

## MSS 51st Annual General Meeting, 19 November 2016

Held at Macmasters Beach

Meeting Opened: 1940

**Present:** Rod Smith, Cathi Humphrey-Hood, Chris Johnstone, Helena Johnstone, Jim Crockett, Beth Little, John Gray, David Stuckey, Marilyn Scott and Heather Reed

**Apologies:** Ed and Josette Squires

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

### Correspondence:

Mail: Non

Email: Rick Webber wants to do a joint trip with BMSC to Abercrombie

### Committee Members Reports:

President: This coming year, 2017, includes the UIS conference. This conference could have great benefits for MSS. One benefit we've already achieved is a great working relationship with CSS, mainly through John Brush. With the pre-conference Yarrangobilly trip looking like it'll happen there's also a great opportunity for networking with international visitors..

Treasurer: Motion by Marilyn (second Jim) to leave fees at

Full member \$80

Prospective member \$30

Family membership \$160

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

Honorary membership \$45

And to add the below fee

Single parent family membership \$120

Carried.

Bank balance around \$4600.00, please see the report which follows minutes.

Equipment Officer: We need to start thinking about replacing ropes. This doesn't need to happen in the next twelve months, but possibly over the next few years.

Training Officer: The Wee Jasper training weekend was a success, despite the training officer being unwell.

This year we will have at least one field day concentrating on more advanced SRT techniques.

Librarian: We have a stock-take of 50th merchandise:

(There is one hoodie not accounted for on the below list)

Item	Quantity	Cost/item	Total Value
Bag	54	\$2.50	\$135.00
Bottle	7	\$8.00	\$56.00
Mug	5	\$5.00	\$25.00
Wine Glass	14	\$10.00	\$140.00
Red Explorer Socks	11	\$10.00	\$110.00
T-shirt (small)	8	\$25.00	\$200.00
T-shirt (medium)	5	\$25.00	\$125.00
T-shirt (large)	6	\$25.00	\$150.00
T-shirt (x large)	6	\$25.00	\$150.00
T-shirt (xx large)	3	\$25.00	\$75.00
Polo (small)	0	\$25.00	\$0.00
Polo (medium)	2	\$25.00	\$50.00
Polo (large)	1	\$25.00	\$25.00
Polo (x large)	0	\$25.00	\$0.00

Polo (xx large)	0	\$25.00	\$0.00
Hoodie (small)	2	\$30.00	\$60.00
Hoodie (medium)	1	\$30.00	\$30.00
Hoodie (large)	0	\$30.00	\$0.00
Hoodie (x large)	3	\$30.00	\$90.00
Hoodie (xx large)	2	\$30.00	\$60.00
<b>Total value:</b>			<b>\$1491.00</b>

Web Manager: None

**Elections:**

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

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

**Status of Action Items:**

Bolting Course – Rod Smith: None

Resurveying Stable Cave – Jim Crockett: None

Abercrombie surface survey – Rod Smith: None

Abercrombie documentation – Rod Smith: None

Documentation – Chris Johnstone: In the general business we will vote on a large number of changes to the constitution.

Electronic Meetings – Rod Smith: None

UIS Yarrangobilly Trip – Cathi Humphrey-Hood: Looks like it will be happening with 5 people signed up to date.

50th Publication – Beth Little/Marilyn Scott: The publication has now been printed and distribution has begun.

Facebook – Helena Johnstone and Marilyn Scott: Engagement slowly increasing.

**New Members:**

Trish Neill – Temporary until end of 2017

**New Business:**

Constitution changes: All changes to the constitution were voted in unanimously. The updated constitution is on the MSS website, or you can request a copy from Rod.

Fair Trading NSW: Rod went through a list of the changes that have been brought in regarding incorporated bodies. It was agreed that none of the changes had any significant impact on MSS.

NSWSC: Rod went through a number of points raised from the recent NSWSC meeting he attended. These included:

- Ensure that any permit application includes everything we expect to be doing, including leaving any gear anywhere.
- We are seeking volunteers for a number of positions.
- A discussion started in regards to collection and storage of cave information. The ASF decision of a centralised database is no longer happening with various states and clubs doing their own thing. The question of what the standard should be will be raised at the next ASF council meeting. MSS agreed unanimously that there should be a centralised database of all cave information.

Membership: Discussion started regarding membership types. This was largely around the exact types of membership we should be offering and what those types should be called. Dave pointed out that the name Honorary was misleading for the type of membership it actually was. Jim suggested Social as a better name. It was decided that there were some good points raised and the membership types need to be reviewed.

Membership Form: Marilyn raised a query regarding the membership form and whether it should include a signed waiver for acknowledgement of the activities to be undertaken as a member of MSS. Rod pointed out that the form was also a bit dated in relation to some of the questions being asked. Chris Johnstone has volunteered to review the membership form. This will be included as a part of the documentation action item he has been assigned.

With the UIS Yarrangobilly trip looking like it'll go ahead a deposit will need to be sorted soon.

Dave thanked Marilyn and Beth for the effort they put into making the 50th publication happen. Everyone agreed the publication was excellent and both Marilyn and Beth had done a superb job.

**New trips:**

Date	Leader	Activity	Location	Grade	Notes
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Marilyn	Canyoning	Yileen	Med/Hard	
June-ish	Chris	Caving	Jenolan	Easy	
18-19 Feb	John Gray	Canyoning	Mystery Canyoning	Medium	
April/May	Rod	Caving	Abercrombie	Easy	
March/April	Beth	Caving	Yagby	Medium	This is primarily for the guides for the UIS trip
Australia Day	Rod	Canyoning	Dumbano/Yarramun	Hard	
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Beth	Field Day			
Easter	Dave	Kites over Kosci			
New Year's Eve	Marilyn	Canyoning	Death Trap	Medium	
New Year's Day	Marilyn	Canyoning	Upper Deanes Creek	Medium	
	Dave	Caving	Jenolan, including Naked Lady Circuit	Med/Hard	No kids trip

**Next Meeting:** Canada Bay SES 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Meeting Closed:** 22:10pm

## Treasurer's Report

### Metropolitan Speleological Society Inc.

A member of the Australian Speleological Federation  
PO Box 178  
Thornleigh NSW 2120

### Metropolitan Speleological Society Treasurer Report

For Period: 01.11.2015 to 31.10-2016

The bank account sits much where it was at the start of the year. There were still some 50th Anniversary related expenses, with \$1864 being spent on t-shirts, poloshirts and hoodies. The club has made \$1005 back from sales of these items. The past two years has seen higher than usual transactions due to the 50th Anniversary - this is expected to return to normal in following years.

#### Opening Balance

At 01.11.2015	\$4720.40
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#### Income

Membership Subscriptions	\$2323.00
Trip and hut Fees collected	\$509.00
Merchandising (50th Anniversary T-shirts, polo shirts and hoodies)	\$1005.00
Bank Account Interest	\$0.44
Bank cheque deposited (by bank) in error	\$290.00
Total income as at 31.10.2016	\$4127.44

#### Expenditure

ASF Subscription Fees	\$438.00
Bank and Transaction Fees	\$15.10
Miscellaneous Costs :	\$1112.50
(Postal, Annual Statement & Equipment, includes Lithgow-Mudgee Karst project)	
Printing 50th Anniversary T-shirts, polo shirts and hoodies	\$1864.40
Bank cheque withdrawn (by bank) to correct error	\$290.00
Hut fees paid	\$470.00
Total Expenditure as at 31.10.2016	\$4190.00

#### Closing Balance

Total Balance at 01.11.2016	\$4657.84
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## APPENDIX 2: MSS Trip Leader Checklist

This is a checklist for trip leaders within MSS. It is primarily aimed for newer trip leaders, but can be a useful resource for all trip leaders.

### Before the trip

- Plan details of the trip, ie date, meeting place and time, etc.
- Keep track of trip participants. In most cases this will also include having a maximum number of participants. Also ensure participants are capable of completing the trip.
- Borrow any club equipment that may be required
- Organise any permits that may be required.
- If appropriate or desired, set an RSVP date.
- Ensure either yourself or someone else on the trip has all the technical knowledge to run the trip, such as navigation, rigging skills, etc.
- Ensure conditions, such as weather, park closures, etc, are suitable for the trip going ahead

### During the trip

- Ensure any participants that are unfamiliar with any aspect of the trip are instructed appropriately. This includes things like minimum impact travel, no-go zones, etc.
- Collect trip fees

### After the trip

- Ensure trip report is written, usually by yourself unless you can convince someone else to do it.
- Return any borrowed club equipment, and notify the equipment officer if there are any issues with the equipment, such as wear and tear.

