

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2012 Edition
Issued June 2012



MSS NEWSLETTER

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Cover Shot: Party in Mammoth Cave Jenolan
Photo by Helena Johnstone

Society News

2013 ASF Conference

The ASF Conference planning committee has finalised most of the plans for the upcoming bi-ennial ASF conference.
Bookings are now being accepted, see flyer insert.

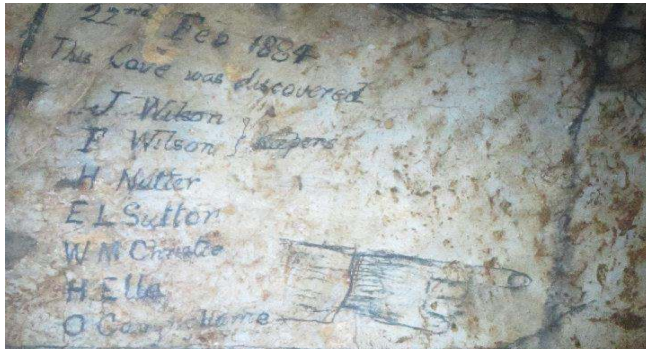
Club EPIRB

Just a reminder to all trip leaders that we have the new EPIRB and this should be taken on every trip. Our Equipment Officer, Jim (0407 284 256), jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au, has this, so please coordinate with him to collect it before your next trip.

MSS Officers list

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

Trip Reports



Jenolan Caves

A trip report from one of our younger members: Ben Johnstone

Date: 21st and 22nd April 2012

Who: Rod, Ken, Ben, Chris, Helena, Owen, Brenda, Denis, Laura and Rob.

We met up at cavers cottage on 21st and went down to the cave car park where we then got ready and set off to the caves

We all had to wear gumboots because of leaches but Denis and Brenda didn't have gumboots. The first cave we went to was Hennings, in which we saw lots of cave decorations.

Our second cave was Wyburds. On the way to Wyburds we had trouble finding the cave so some of us had to stand on rocks but



Above: Denis Novicki and Brenda Goodnight having a break (American visitors)

Below left: Ben Johnstone and Laura Clyne. Below right: Owen Johnstone



strangely Denis and Brenda were standing in the middle of the leaches eating chips. In Wyburds we went to the gulches via a long passage. Sadly the gulches were flooded. Helena got really stressed out because of claustrophobia. After the gulch incident we decided to head back.

The next day we met up at Cavers' Cottage and went down to the car park. We then set off to mammoth. In mammoth we went to mammoth squeeze but only two people went through, Ben and Denis and Ben had to turn around. We also went to the end of railway chamber via horse shoe cavern where we had lunch. We were going to go to oolite but we didn't have time so we went back up and headed back to the cottage.



Back row L to R : Rob Clyne, Ken Harris, Rod Smith, Chris Johnstone, Laura Clyne
Front row L to R : Ben Johnstone, Brenda Goodnight, Denis Novicki, Owen Johnstone
Photo by Helena Johnstone

Other News

Cotterill's Cottage damaged in storm

Unusually fierce November winds in the Yarrangobilly region proved devastating for Cotterill's cottage. Much of the roof was blown away with damage also done to the verandah. Parks are in the process of repairing the cottage using builders. At time of writing word is the damage had already been repaired and the cottage should be fit again for occupation.



National Parks mopping up the damage caused to Coterill's cottage

Abercrombie Caves damaged by 1 in 50 year flood event.

Unfortunately it has not been a good start to the year on the trip front.

The proposed Abercrombie caving trip had to be re-scheduled for later on in the year as the caves suffered significant damage from flooding that occurred in February/March this year and at the time of making the permit booking they were closed with considerable repair having to be made and it was recommended we re-schedule the trip for later on in the year.

The flooding was quite extensive and is considered a 1 in 50 year event. Many of the creeks and rivers were at record high levels for a number of weeks and there was significant damage to tracks, cave lighting and bridges. Stable arch cave had water flowing for a number of weeks with the possibility that it could have opened up new passages. It has also changed the creek flowing in the arch, the water is still flowing well now and is much clearer than normal and all the sediment is gone.

The managers are interested to find out what changes may have occurred due to the flooding and would like us to investigate and report our findings back to them.

Cliefden trip rescheduled

The proposed trip to Cliefden has also been re-scheduled as I had difficulty contacting the OSS co-ordinator as he was away on the Nullabour. This was probably a good thing as a number of people interested in going were having trouble making it on that weekend.

I have also been advised the property owner wants to do a lot of tree planting and is asking the help of cavers for a weekend of tree planting and of course caving. I will let you know when this will happen.

Scrubby Creek Cave Appeal

Purchase of the Scrubby Creek Cave Property, Murrindal, Victoria

Scrubby Creek Cave is a 1.5 km stream cave with a difficult roof sniffing passage leading to the main cave. It is extremely beautiful and the streamway deposits calcite along it. There are extensive tufa banks at the outflow at the base of a cliff.

There are several related caves on the property.

The Rimstone Cooperative directors have signed contracts to purchase the property. It has arranged with the ASF Karst Conservation Fund to have donations through the Fund for this acquisition to be tax deductible. The Fund directors have now approved this as a Fund project. Victorian cavers and Rimstone Cooperative members have promised significant donations for this project.

Rimstone Cooperative Ltd is a Community Advancement Society with speleological aims. It cannot distribute dividends or property to members but on winding up it has to give its assets to an organization with similar aims. Rimstone Cooperative has for 38 years owned and operated Homeleigh at Buchan for its members and the caving community. Rimstone Cooperative Ltd is an ideal vehicle for establishing a caver owned and operated Karst Conservancy in Australia. The 105 acre property will be managed to protect the caves and karst. VSA will be asked to continue the Scrubby Creek Cave leadership scheme that it has had in place for several decades and advise on cave access. The tufa terraces will be protected from stock and blackberries and weeds removed. The property will be available for agistment to provide income for rates, fencing and other improvements. Rimstone will work towards a protective covenant for the property. Interpretive information for the tufa banks area is being considered.

This project is at a critical stage. Rimstone has signed the contracts to buy the 105 Acres Allotment 18c at Murindal and paid the deposit. It is not possible to obtain bank finance (it has been investigated). **Therefore, we need to raise the money ourselves.**

A number of people have “promised” money in the initial discussions as to whether the purchase was possible. Rimstone directors are now asking for you and others to make donations. There are two main ways in which people can donate.

We are also looking for people who are able to loan money; please contact Nicholas White on 03 93284154 or email: nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au, if you are able to assist.

Donations can be made in the following way:

1. **Directly to Rimstone Cooperative Ltd.** All donations will be put to the Scrubby Creek Cave Acquisition Project. For details contact Nicholas White (nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au).

2. **Via the ASF Karst Conservation Fund.** If you wish to donate through the KCF please use the form on the back of the brochure and follow those instructions. These donations will be tax deductible.

ALL donations are welcome and are urgently needed. For any further details contact the Rimstone Secretary,

Nicholas White. The opportunity to buy a cave property does not come often. We would all regret it if the opportunity was lost.

The support of all Australian cavers and friends of karst is needed now!

HELP! – WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WE NEED OVER \$120,000 FOR THIS PROJECT BY EASTER!

For further information contact Nicholas White, Secretary, Rimstone Cooperative Ltd (phone 03 9328 4154 or nicholaswhite@netspace.net.au).
M49 Extension: High level decoration, Scrubby Creek Cave, Photo D Carr

[http://www.caves.org.au/downloads/Scrubby Brochure 5.pdf](http://www.caves.org.au/downloads/Scrubby%20Brochure%205.pdf)

The significance of Scrubby Creek Cave is that it is Victoria's premier sporting cave something along the lines of Wyanbene or Colong. The property houses a lodge which is available for visiting cavers and Rod's trip in July will be using the lodge.

The Scrubby Creek property purchase was finalised recently but this required personal loans from a number of dedicated people.

The ASF is still accepting donations to pay back the people who took out the personal loans.

I am recommending that MSS make a donation to the fund of up to \$500.

I would like some sort of indication from members if they approve of this and what is an appropriate amount to donate.

The financial position of MSS is fairly healthy at present.

We have an account balance of \$4589.90 plus cash of \$244.25 and most of the ASF subs have already been paid for 2012 (except for 2 single memberships) the only other spending we are committed to is to purchase 2 x portable hard drives for data backups. We may also want

to spend money some to purchase the surplus caving equipment from Peter Shaw plus some LED headlights as mentioned below.

I

Caving lights

I have recently come across some good quality LED headlights and handtorch that are available for a reasonable price.

They are 3W and have an alloy housing with a separate battery enclosure for the headlight. I am suggesting we purchase 4 of these for the club equipment, even though most members are aware we have collection of miners lights kindly maintained by Johan these would prove very useful as we all know how heavy and awkward miners lights can be especially for beginners. (yes I know we are not as hard these days). I am also considering purchasing a couple for myself. The same supplier also has very high quality (Envelop and Beston brand low natural discharge technology) AA and AAA rechargeable NiMh batteries available at about ½ retail. They also have available a 1200 lumen rechargeable LED array suitable for video photography.

If anyone is interested in these I can do a bulk order.



Both the handtorch and headlight use a 3W Cree LED and the main body of both is aluminium, powered by 3x AAA batteries, with adjustable beam focus with a luminous flux of 90 lumens. The handtorch is \$10.73 and the headlight is \$10.07, cheaper for bulk order in quantities greater than 10.

Used caving Equipment for sale

Recently ex MSS member Peter Shaw contacted me asking if the club was interested in purchasing his used caving equipment.

Rod and myself were hoping to call in and have a look at the equipment on our way to Bungonia for the NSW Speleo Council meeting a few weeks back but were just could not find the time as we had a very busy weekend as we went down to Galong to view the venue for the ASF Conference early next year.

Peter has sent me a list of what he has and we can have some discussion of whether we want any items and how much we would be prepared to offer him for them.

Help required for SpeleoSports

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

If anyone would like to help or have any good ideas for obstacles suitable for a Speleo sports event than please contact Jim Crockett: 0407 284 256 or

email: jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au

For the Batty types

A new Australian bat book

[View bat book](#)

Upcoming Events

23rd to 24th June

KANANGRA BOYD NP Camping

Trip Leader: Fedz Alfeche, 0466 440 925, flyingcolors_30@yahoo.com

Contact by: 21st June

Grade: Delicious

Camping With Birthday Celebrations including Presidents 50th

Boyd River Camping area

30th June to 1st July

JENOLAN CAVES

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

Contact by: 26th June

Grade: Medium - Easy

General Caving – Suitable for beginners

Stay in the caver's hut.

7th-15th July 2012

BUCHAN CAVES

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

Contact by: ASAP

Stay in the caver's hut.

Be on the first trip to this area in Victoria.

Trip Calendar

9th - 11th June 2012

Caving at Glenrock (long weekend)

Contact Rod to see if there is space to join this NVHSS trip to Glenrock.

Contact: 0438 444 262,

roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: ASAP, limited availability

23rd - 24th June 2012

Camping with birthday Celebrations

Kanangra: Camping with birthday celebrations Presidents 50th

Trip Leader: Fedz Alfeche

flyingcolors_30@yahoo.com

Contact: 0466440925,

By: 21st June

Grade: Delicious

Weekend 30th June-1st July

Caving - Jenolan

Jenolan

Trip Leader: Rod Smith

Contact: 0438 444 262,

roderick_smith@hotmail.com

By: 26th June

Grade: Medium-Hard

7th-15th July 2012

Caving in Victoria- Buchan

Buchan- be on the first MSS trip to this area, if the spots dont all fill this trip will be opened to other club's membership.

By: ASAP

Contact Rod Smith: 0438 444 262,

roderick_smith@hotmail.com

4th-5th August 2012 (Permit pending)
Caving - Abercrombie

9th August 2012
MSS Meeting

Bolting Instruction Course
Date and venue to be advised

18th - 19th August 2012
Caving – Colong (permit pending)

Weekend 1st-2nd September
Caving - Jenolan

15th - 16th September 2012
Caving Cliefden - (Permit pending)

13th - 14th October 2012
Caving at Wombeyan

2013
Caving in New Zealand

6th- 11th January 2013
ASF Bi-annual Conference

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

Abercrombie – Rescheduled the Postponed May trip due to flood damage.
SUSS are also interested in joining us on this trip.
By: 2nd August
Contact: Jim Crockett, 0407 234 256
jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au

At Beth Little's place in Woodford
Contact Beth: 0450 226 811
littlebeth78@hotmail.com

Contact Rod Smith: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
Instructor is Al Warild Australia's most experienced Vertical Caver.

Colong: Superb Horizontal maze system with a difficult walk in. Possible joint trip with CASM
Contact Rod Smith: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: TBA
Grade: Medium

Jenolan
Trip Leader: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com
By: 27th August
Grade: Easy/Child friendly

Cliefden
Trip leader: Jim Crockett
Contact: 0407 284 256
jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au
By: 13th September
Grade: Easy/Medium/Child friendly
Hut accommodation

Wombeyan - Joint trip with SSS
Trip Leader co-ordinator: Rod Smith
Contact: 0438 444 262,
roderick_smith@hotmail.com

New Zealand
Trip Leader: David Stuckey
Contact: 0414590305, stuckedl@cba.com.au
By: Expressions of interest

See flyer

<http://www.speleo2013.com/>
or contact: Jim Crockett 0407 284 256
jmtcrockett@unwired.com.au
for more details



TROGalong 2013
29th Biennial Conference
of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc
Information Sheet

When: 6th January 2013 to 11th January 2013

Where: St Clements Retreat, Galong NSW. Location information on the website.

Program

6th January: Registration from noon until 7pm then the Welcome BBQ at 7.30pm
7th 9am sessions and opening. 2.30pm ASF Council meeting session 1, Trivia night
8th 9am Presentations and workshops followed by Speleosports and prussic challenge
9th Presentations and workshops and the Formal Dinner at 7pm
10th Presentations and workshops and the photographic competition at 7.30pm
11th Presentations and part 2 of the ASF council meeting at 1.30pm
Leave for Post conference recreational and caving activities

There are a variety of Pre and Post Conference trips being organized by Denis Marsh.

See the website for more details and contact Denis to get in early.

WAC Program- Wives and Children Program will be on an ad hoc basis but Anna Binnie is organising a workshop in some variety of patchwork or quilting and producing something small such as a pin cushion and/or a small block which could later become part of a community quilt or for the ASF auction for the Karst Fund.

Photographic Competition

this is being organized by Gary Smith and the rules and registration form are on the website.

First Aid

there will be qualified persons on the site to assist us if there is a need.

Financial assistance maybe available from ASF towards cost of attending this conference if you meet the following conditions:

1. if you are a new club and ASF member or and existing member who has not attended a conference in the last 10-15 years;
2. The grant is to assist with travel expenses and at the organising Committee's discretion may assist with registration fees; and
3. You present a session at the conference where possible & appropriate, other than in exceptional circumstances and provide a Paper / article for the Conference Proceedings.

Website: www.asfconference.org.au for more details regarding the conference

Petert Shaw's Used caving Equipment for sale

Hi Jim, list of gear I have.

Bolt Kit	No 8 Rock	11 Crabs
16 Hangers	No 1 Rock	5 10ml maillon
42 Bolts	No 6 Rock	SRT Stop Decender
Bolt Hammer & Driving Tool	No 5 Rock	1 10ml D Maillon
100 meters rope 11ml	No 3 Rock	1 7ml Maillon
3 No 6 Hex Nut	2 No 2 Friend	SRT Jumar
1 No 8 Hex Nut	2 No 3 Friend	CMI Jumar
1 No 9 Hex Nut	2 No 1 Friend	6 Pittons
1 No 7 Hex Nut	2 Gibbs Shunts	2 Small Gear Bags
2 No 5 Hex Nut	3 Small Pulleys	1 Rope Bag
1 No 3 Hex Nut	2 Big Pulleys	2 S/S Thimbles (end of rope)
1 No 11 Hex Nut	11ml Stitch Plate	
6 Bolt Plates	Wales Tail	

Regards

Peter

Meeting Opened: 7:35pm

Present:

Roderick Smith, Jim Crockett

Apologies:

Beth Little, Chris Johnstone

Any Corrections to Previous Meetings Minutes: None

Correspondence:

Post –

SUSS Bull

The Very Latest - CSS

PO Box Bill

Committee Members Reports:

President: None

Treasurer: None

Equipment Officer:

Chris Johnstone borrowed some gear for a scout camp, which may get us some new members. Also Dave Stuckey borrowed two 60m ropes last weekend.

Training Officer: None

Librarian: None

Web Manager: None

Status of Action Items:

Updating membership details: None

Other bank account options:

Jim verified that the fees we were getting charged has been substantially reduced and thus there's no need to change bank account. Action item finalised.

New Business:

Speleosports:

Jim will raise it at the NSWSC meeting to try and get people from multiple clubs involved. If anyone from MSS is interested in helping, let Jim know.

Peter Shaw's gear:

A list of the gear Peter is looking to sell will be published in the next newsletter. Feedback will be sought from the members regarding making an offer.

Trip planning:

Capertee – 2-3 June

Wombeyan – 13-14 October

Abercrombie – 4-5 August

Next Meeting:

Beth's Place – 9th August (TBC)

Meeting Closed: 8:45pm