



FUSSI

Newsletter

Vol. 29 | No. 2 | 2017



THE SILK SHOP

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Front Cover Photo:

Kubla Khan cave, Mole Creek area,
Northern Tasmania.

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A message from your Editor:

Thanks so much to those who contributed to yet another successful newsletter, in particular to Ken Smith, Tania Wison and Clare Buswell for their Tasmanian cave articles. This is a trip I would loved to have been on, but sadly could not commit due to work obligations.

This month is a mixed bag with a couple of interesting articles on how to make life more comfortable when caving and camping, and an article from our Safety Officer on the importance of employing the correct knots.

We also have the AGM minutes, which I am sure will be the first article members will head for.

The next newsletter promises to be just as good, with an excellent article on the Southern Flinders Ranges already received and an article on the Eyre Peninsula that will include a number of time exposures in the wet section of Homestead Cave.

PAST TRIPS

Sat 4th – 14th February 2017

Tasmanian caves:

Participants: Clare Buswell (expedition organiser & leader), Heiko Maurer, Tania Wilson, Ken Smith & Kate.

Sun 26th February 2017

Murray River trip – Punyelroo & Gloop caves

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Janice Chan, William Cooper, & Neville Skinner.

Sat 25th - Sun 26th Mar 2017

Naracoorte Caves – Victoria Fossil Cave? & Sand Cave:

Participants: Clare Buswell (trip leader), Thomas Varga, Nicole Schiller, Janice Chan, William Cooper, Sarah Gilbert, Trudy Field and Neville Skinner

Sat 8th – Sat 22nd April 2017

Nullarbor caves:

Participants: Clare Buswell (expedition organiser & leader), Heiko Maurer, Deb Hunter, Clem Lawrie, Ian Lewis, Thomas Varga, Dee Trewartha, Roshan Vasani, Supriya Lath, Steve Coulter & Neville Skinner.

Sat 13th - Sun 14th May 2017

Southern Flinders Ranges – Clara St. Dora, Mairs Cave, Mt Simms Cave

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Nicole Schiller, Dan Dingwall, Janice Chan, Sarah Gilbert, Margaret Ting and Neville Skinner.

Sat 10th - Mon 12th June 2017

Eyre Peninsula – Homestead Cave, Chinaman's Cave & Honeycomb Cave

Participants: Dan Dingwall (trip leader), Jade White, Roshan Vasani, Supriya Lath and Neville Skinner.

TO P or NOT TO P, THAT IS THE QUESTION

By Ken Smith

Prior to our trip to our trip to Tasmania in February I gave considerable thought to an issue that has been on my mind in recent years. We were planning a Kubla Khan through trip, which would take at least eight hours. To be quite frank, eight hours is a long time and I doubted my ability to “hang on”.

As a cave diver I am used to using a device called a P-Valve. A small contribution to the water is of no consequence and even your closest dive buddy does not realise what you are doing. A dry cave is a different story of course. An empty plastic bottle can be taken, but this takes up space in your pack and you have the risk of the bottle breaking or leaking.

The internet has a wonderful ability to read your mind. Much of the spam I receive these days is related to incontinence products. Nappies and other devices seem to have uncanny ability to absorb liquid. But none of these devices seem appropriate to use when caving. However, the use of an absorbent material to safely immobilise liquid seemed like a good idea to me.

I consulted my friendly local chemical supply company for advice on gelling agents, carefully avoiding telling them what I was doing. They recommended methyl cellulose. This compound is a white powder but it has a strong ability to absorb water to form a gel. It is also added to some foods. For example, gluten free bread often contains methyl cellulose to prevent it crumbling

I spent significant effort, and significant pennies, in testing various mixtures containing methyl cellulose. My research finally came up with the following;

The Cave P-Bag

Ingredients:

- 10 grams (2 heaped teaspoons) of methyl cellulose.
- 50 grams (2 heaped soup spoons) of paper based cat litter.
- 2 Ziploc plastic sandwich bags.

The ingredients are double bagged in the Ziploc bags. The bag weight is only about 60 grams so several can easily be carried into the cave.

Continued next page...



The ingredients – Cat Litter and Methyl Cellulose

Using the P-Bag

Before use the bag is shaken to mix the ingredients. During use the bag should be gently squeezed to ensure that the contents and liquid are mixed. After use carefully squeeze out the air and seal both Ziploc bags. If liquid is visible a few more squeezes should ensure good mixing and absorption. Used bags can be placed in another large Ziploc bag to give more security.



After mixing the ingredients, place into small Ziploc bag, inside larger Ziploc bag

I found that one bag was ability to stabilise up to about 400 ml, larger than the average P in my view. However, I would recommend using more than one bag if an extreme situation makes it necessary. Remember, bags are small and light, so carrying several into the cave is not a problem.

Happy and comfortable caving.

Ken

WET (TASMANIAN) CAVES AGAIN

Sat 4th - 14th January 2017

By Ken Smith, Tania Wilson and Clare Buswell (as listed in text)

Trip participants: Clare Buswell (Trip Leader), Heiko Maurer, Tania Wilson and Ken Smith.

Although February was set down and organised as a FUSSI adventure to fun-land, the group going (and a few other FUSSI bods), spent many of the preceding warm summer evenings practicing SRT skills off the cliffs at Morialta. These practice sessions were sidelined only once by the lure of the local pub, but that was justified as we had to discuss the whole shebang in great detail, making sure that we all had our underwear, rope, wetsuits, karabiners, footwear and transport organised. Time passed: cars driven, boats sailed on, flights taken so we, Heiko, Clare, Tania and Ken, found ourselves happily ensconced in the only cabin at Mole Creek Caravan Park.

Croesus Cave.

February the fifth, was a cloudy morning at the Mole Creek campsite as we packed our caving gear into my Toyota Hilux. Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Tania Wilson and I were preparing for the first cave visit of our Tasmania adventure. We drove on a winding road through the forest and found a small parking area beside the river Mersey. Our priority, morning tea, was enjoyed as a fine drizzle fell. This was my first “dry” caving trip to Tasmania. I had previously cave dived at the Junee spring and Tiger’s eye. However, the drizzle and cold gave me an uneasy feeling as I pulled on my 3mm wetsuit and then my Warmbac nylon caving suit. I had heard that Croesus Cave was cold and wet, so I was hoping this would give me adequate protection.

We walked back along the road and then along a small track which led to the cave entrance. We had to cross a stream which emerged from the cave. As we approached we saw a platypus in the stream. He (or she) was not quite swimming, the water was too shallow, but was energetically slithering around on the weed covered rocks, obviously looking for food. Quite unconcerned by our presence this went on for several minutes as we silently watched. Heartened by this experience we crossed the stream on a wobbly plank and arrived at the cave entrance.



Our friendly platypus. Photo: Tania Wilson

A chill wind blew from the cave entrance as I fiddled with the padlock. As soon as we entered we were crawling in water. There was evidence of some damage by the recent flooding. We had to work our way around a large concrete block near the entrance. Further in we looked around to find the way on and soon realised that the only way was through chest deep water. There were a few screams as we proceeded, "water's fine...". However, we were soon standing up and walking through large passage. There was some wading involved but we found that the floor was made of large rimstone pools and we could follow the rims to stay mostly out of the water. This interesting floor structure continued for most of the cave that we saw.



Ken Views the Way on Over Rimstone Floor. Photo: C. Buswell



The rimstone floor and some nice formation. Photo: C. Buswell

At one point, we squeezed through some holes in the cave wall to avoid getting into deep water. However, on the way back I found it was easier just to jump in and swim. I was pleased with my combination of a 3mm wetsuit with a nylon caving suit. When I got in the water the nylon suit clamped around my legs and stopped much water getting in. When I was out of the water, the nylon suit reduced evaporation from the wetsuit and kept me warmer. The others, wearing wetsuits with sharkskin thermals underneath, only seemed to feel the cold more. The water temperature is around 7 degrees.

Further into the cave we found a large chamber with some nice formation. The rimstone floor passage continued and we eventually came to a spectacular staircase of large rimstone pools. The calcite was pink brown in colour and the pools looked similar to the rimstone pools we later saw in the Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan. We looked at these for a while and then, feeling the cold, we decided to turn back.



Heiko and Tania in the main passage. Photo: N Skinner

We eventually saw daylight reflecting in the pool of water by the entrance. I saw some disturbance in the water and realised that large Harvestman spiders were jumping onto the water and skating around on the surface. I had never seen such large creatures supported by surface tension. We hoped they wouldn't attack us as we crawled out through the water. However, all was OK and we lived to tell the tale of a most interesting visit to Croesus Cave. **Ken Smith**



Thawing out: Ken, Heiko, Clare and Tania, after a successful trip. Photo: C. Buswell

After Croesus we trundled around the river's edge to visit Lynnds. As usual we got the full dunking crossing the river to the cave entrance. Whereupon we sat on a rock to get a bit of warmth before we resumed our acquaintance with the cold, wet stuff. The lock on the gate worked and then we followed the stream up to the small waterfall. This was easily negotiated and then we spent a couple of leisurely hours meandering our way along this very lovely stream passage. For a change, we had zero problems with the rockpile. The strategy is to stay low and wet and follow the streamway. The cold as per usual forced us out.`

Back at camp we proceeded to trash the joint hanging our gear all over the place. Well I mean, you can't go caving in dirty clothes.



Best Decorated Fence at Mole Ck. Photo: K. Smith.

Kubla Khan is widely regarded as one of the best decorated caves in Australia and with good reason – it is truly spectacular!!! It is also not for the faint hearted. It is cold, wet, over 2.5km long with multiple vertical pitches, many of which have redirections, oh and the River Alf thrown in at the end just when you think you can't possibly get any colder.

Having said that Kubla is well worth visiting. In fact it's the second time I've been into Kubla. The last time was back in the 90s and I was so overwhelmed by the size and beauty of the cave it caused me to stop caving for over 20 years! I came away with the opinion that unless I headed to Mexico nothing else would compare ... certainly none of the dusty little holes we have in SA captured my enthusiasm! Yes, I had become a cave snob! Anyway, back to 2017...

Our merry band was met by David Butler, our trip leader, and Henry Shannon both from Northern Caverneers, at the quite uncivilised hour of 7.30am for our day of caving in Kubla. Ken, Clare and I headed off each with a mountain of gear leaving Heiko behind to nobly guard the fort from the free-range chickens at the Mole Creek Caravan Park. After struggling up the hill we did the usual Tasmanian caving dance which involves trying to get dressed on a tarp and not drop anything or fall into the ever-present mud. With thermals, jumper, waterproof socks (best invention ever!), dry suit, beanie, gloves, wet suit boots and abseiling gear all in place Ken dutifully distributed the 'pee bags' and it was time to go caving.

We abseiled down the first three pitches (a total of 52m, first redirection) and regrouped at the bottom in the 'Waiting Room'. These entrance pitches are permanently rigged which saves a lot of time getting into the cave. Which is a good thing because by now we were cold and we hadn't even started yet! We squeezed through the 'Keyhole' and along 'Khyber Pass' taking a short detour to the 'Opium Den'. Quite appropriately named, the Opium Den is full of seriously bizarre helictites that could only have formed under the influence of some sort of illicit drug!

Heads reeling at 'how do such things form' we headed back to the main passage and the first of many boot washing stations. David very kindly scrubbed everyone's boots before continuing on...what service! Over the 'Rockfall' and on to the 'Forbidden City'. The track through the Forbidden City is over flowstone (yes, the Tasmanian caves have that much formation you have to actually, walk on it!) and it brought back memories of spending an afternoon scrubbing this very piece of floor all those years ago...



Silk Shop. Photo K. Smith

From here we took another detour down an 8m hand line to the 'Silk Shop' where some of the best and most colourful shawls you will ever see have formed. Just amazing!

Back to the main passage, a couple of boot washing stations and a rock pile later and we are having lunch overlooking 'The Khan', an absolutely enormous column. Stomachs full we then headed past The Khan and the Begum out to 'The Dungeons' for a look at...yawn...more formation! This is a new section of marked and gardened track that Karst Care have put in place. Well done guys.

Another boot wash back at the base of The Khan and we are ready to disappear down 'The Rift' which is an eight metre pitch starting in a slot in the floor, immediately followed by a five metre pitch that brings you to 'Sally's Folly'. This is a water-filled passage with columns and stalagmites that you hang off trying to shuffle along while desperately trying to stay as dry as possible for as long as possible. Then up through 'The Forest' to the top of the 28m pitch into 'Cairn Hall'.



Pleasure Dome. Photo: K Smith.

Having traversed Cairn Hall we then climbed up to 'The Pleasure Dome'. This part of the cave is a large chamber with giant rim stone pools and flowstone making up the entire floor which cascades down from the ceiling above. The size, the colours and the beauty are just mind-blowing. What is even more mind-blowing, especially as a South Australian caver, is that they let you walk on it!!! You do have to get changed first. You have to get out of your muddy overalls and boots and into clean warm trousers and wet suit boots. Of course, when you've finished you have to get changed back again. During this process of changing to continue caving Ken managed to lose a sock. Everyone changed and ready to go and Ken was still looking for his sock. Another five minutes later, everyone is getting colder and colder, and Ken finally locates his missing sock...on his foot! Ah Ken...Ken, Ken, Ken!!!



Pleasure Dome's Endlessness. Photo K. Smith

Then, with Ken's missing sock safely packed, it was on to the dreaded 'River Alf'. Imagine stuffing ice cubes down your front, back and pants simultaneously. That would be more fun than the River Alf, a stream passage with nowhere to go but into the water. We trundled through the neck-deep (deeper in some spots) ice bath called the River Alf, each in our own private agony...except for Clare. Clare, seemingly unaware that the first rule of triage is that 'if you're making noise you're the last one who needs help', proceeded to punctuate our individual private pain with constant squeals, yells, profanities and complaints for what seemed like an eternity. It was in fact only about ten minutes!

After ten minutes of hell on earth we clambered up out of the river to a ledge where we waited for David to unlock the exit gate and rig a hand line to climb up a short but very steep (approximately 50° slope) piece of flowstone. I was the first up onto the ledge and was feeling really good. I'd made it out of the river, I'd climbed well up to the ledge, I was helping others who seemed in much worse shape, and much colder, than me...and then I had to get on the hand line. I was second to attempt this and I think I had sat still just a bit too long. I had nothing left! All my energy had leaked out of my boots along with the water from the River Alf. I was trying to push myself up from the wall but only seemed to push myself away, I wasn't making any progress, David was yelling 'Use your legs', I was yelling 'I'm trying'. It was taking forever, it was actually only about five minutes but it felt like forever! About halfway up I stopped and thought 'I'm happy...just leave me here, I don't care anymore'. The thought of cold people behind me getting colder kept me moving and eventually I made it through the gate to find our trip leader huddled up, visibly trembling with the cold. Poor David, he couldn't leave until we were all out!

Up the steps to the final climb, a 40m prussik with another redirection, and then sunlight and warmth...well sunlight and the promise of dry clothes at the bottom of the hill at least!

We were underground for a total of 9.5 hours and saw some of the most amazing cave system this country offers. It's hard work, it's cold...but it is well worth the effort!!! Get yourselves down there! We all thank David for his leadership, patience, encouraging words, putting up with us and the cold. **Tania Wilson.**

Ida Bay is south of Hobart, we stayed as usual in Dover, so as again, to feast on the delights of the offerings of the German Bakery, and the pizza joint. Alas both were closed. To top it off the pub had burnt down so eating out was a wee bit challenged.

Midnight Hole in the Ida Bay area of Tasmania is a grand place to start doing a bit of depth SRT caving. Its 5 pitches of varying depth leading to a total of 160 odd metres, provide beginners and ol' timers with a bit of fun. So, about 9am, we stood on the track that leads to Mystery Ck Cave, staring into the impenetrable biomass, AKA the Tassie scrub, looking for the track to Midnight Hole. The idea is to stay out of any leach infested creeks, and out of the dense leafy green stuff. Mmm, we stared a bit more....

Over the years, I've been up to Midnight Hole about a dozen times and each time the bush bash up the hill till you reach the remnant logging cables, has always been a character building game. This time did not disappoint, with four of us carrying what seemed like a couple of tonnes of gear: 170m rope, associated 'binners and the usual Tassie caving attire. About half way up we found the creek and then came out of it to view two massive Swamp gums that had fallen one on top of the other. An impressive site and an equally impressive land mark.



Two Trees mark the way. Photo: K. Smith

About this time one of the party mutinied, taking to gnashing his teeth and mumbling about dust, being able to drive up to cave entrances and reminiscing about how great SA caves are. Clearly, major intervention was needed. Packs were dumped, chocolate found and administered with a thorough shakedown about the Mecca that Tassie caves are. This seemed to work and we continued till we reached the entrance of Midnight Hole.

However, the mutiny continued and in the end only three of us went on a shortened SRT adventure, doing all but the last, and best pitch. Midnight Hole's pitches are all bolted so Ken, Tania and I went rigging, 21, 11, 39, 8, 34 metre pitches.



Midnight Hole P-hangers

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers, with funding from Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, has installed P-hangers, maillons, chains and rings in Midnight Hole.

BEFORE EACH USE TEST:

This test should be conducted by the party using the anchor EVERY time an anchor is used. The following points must be checked.

- 1 The surface of the resin/mortar breaking away from the rock (indicating possible internal fracture of the resin/mortar, or a poor chemical bond).
- 2 Fracturing of the rock within 200 mm of the anchor placement.
- 3 Looseness of the anchor placement in the rock (this should not be confused with flexing, as a 0.06 mm deflection occurs when an anchor is loaded in line with its axis with 85 kg, and a deflection of 0.13 mm occurs when an anchor is loaded against its axis with 85 kg). Looseness should be defined as actual rotational movement in excess of 1 mm.
- 4 Egress of the anchor from the resin/mortar, or the anchor and resin/mortar from the drilled hole.
- 5 Significant reduction in the thickness of the anchor or any attached ring or maillon used for pull-through trips.

If any anchor fails test, please report to Southern Tasmanian Caverneers.

If you are abseiling on one side of your pull-down rope, please note the rings are large. Use a knot that will not pull through the ring under load. Check this, to be sure you are safe.

Enjoy your trip!

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers PO Box 416 Sandy Bay 7006 (February 2009)

P-Hangers. Photo: K. Smith.



Ken about to descend. Photo: H. Maurer

It was all pretty simple, as doing the cave as a bounce trip required no pull downs. The process was: rig, descend, rig descend, rig descend etc. Having bottomed the our final pitch, we reversed the order, with Ken leading out and Tania and I de-rigging as we went, but leaving the rope hauling till the second last pitch. Ken had waited for us and was looking decidedly chilled, we suggested he move out and we would haul everything up.



Looking up the pitch. Photo: K. Smith.



Clare descending 38m pitch, Midnight Hole. Photo: K. Smith.

We all eventually cleared the darkness an hour later than we agreed. We found a tired and chilly Heiko waiting for us. Then began a repeat of the walk in. We got to the two fallen trees pretty easily, and again all agreed that we did not want to go anywhere near the creek - except to immediately cross it. We ended up in the bloody thing, scrambling, like demented ants on hands and knees, under trees, over boulders, along logs, up embankments till we found a flat-ish bit of dirt that resembled the track to Mystery Ck.

We made our way to the quarry, rearranged our collective bits, bags and what remained of our dignity and trundled back to the awaiting car. We were all well pleased with a great day out in the underground. Prove that I lie. **Clare Buswell**

HOW TO SEAL TENTS (or Tarpaulins)

By Neville Skinner

After suffering from plastic particles getting all through my gear, dirt coming up through the floor of my tent during the last Nullarbor trip and water ingress from previous trips, I realised that if I was to keep my tent and be comfortable in it, then I needed to repair the holes in the floor and seal the floor. There is much on this subject on Youtube, but I soon worked out most of it was uneducated nonsense, and those ideas that were good, lacked information that related to products available in Australia, and how to calculate how much ingredients one needed to buy. This is what I learnt...

Ingredients:

2 x 460gm tube Clear Silicone Caulking compound (available in black, grey or clear)

2 litres Low-odour Mineral Turpentine or Mineral Spirits

4-litre bucket and Stirrer (see below).

Old long sleeve shirt and silicone/rubber gloves

I used the Low-odour Mineral Turps as this is more highly refined and contains less harmful fumes. Expect to pay around \$22 for a 4-litre container from Bunnings.

**** Do not use Pure Turpentine** - this is a natural, double distilled spirit often used by artists for oil painting (not for cleaning brushes) because of the quality of its finish. It is very expensive and more toxic, since it dries faster and therefore fumes are more concentrated. It is distilled from the leaves and wood shavings of the Australian native Turpentine tree, which were used for Jetty pylons because termites and other wood eating nasties will not go near it. It is a high quality and expensive product, extravagant and wasted on a job like this.



Sealant



Low Odour Turps



Mixing apparatus

You will need a stirrer capable of evenly mixing a thick sticky sludge with a thin watery liquid. Do not underestimate the challenge of this task, as the silicone will gravitate straight to the bottom of the bucket and not want to move from there. Any stirrer that can effectively reach all parts of the bottom of the bucket should be okay, as long as the end result is a consistently blended mix with no lumps remaining.



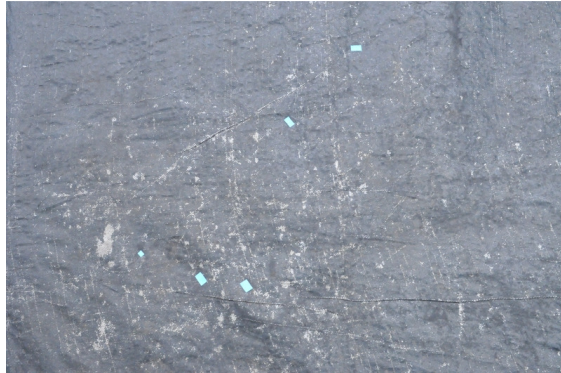
I took a 300mm long masonry drill bit (no sharp cutting edges) and attached three 5-6mm cable ties to the pointy end. I cut the excess length off the cables ties such that they can spin inside the bucket without pushing against the sides. When finished, I attached the stirrer to an electric drill. The first time I tried this it was not as effective as I would have liked, because I had dumped most of the silicone in the centre of the bucket, where my stirrer was least effective. Do not use high speed, otherwise you may end up with a hair colour change. Wear your grottiest painting clothes for this task!

You need to locate the tent or tarpaulin where you can get to it to apply the sealant, either with a paint brush or (disposable) roller. A flat patch of lawn where you can peg the tent or tarp down so that it cannot be dragged by the friction of the brush is ideal. And its hard to stain grass.

CAUTION: This needs to be done in an area of good ventilation. If you are planning to do the inside parts of the tent (e.g. the floor) align the tent into a slight breeze and open both ends (if possible). If not, then use breathing apparatus. DO NOT EXPOSE YOURSELF TO THE FUMES AS THESE ARE EXTREMELY HARMFUL. If you are pregnant, get the man who put you in that state to do it.

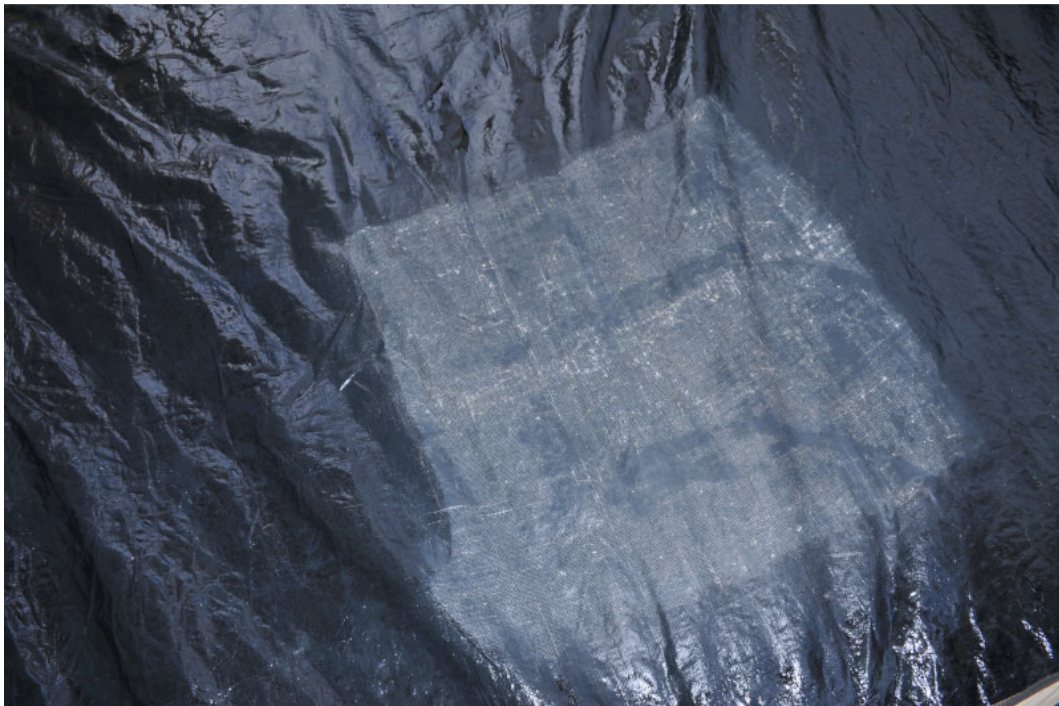


Before repairing holes



After repairing holes

Pour the Mineral Turps into the 4-litre bucket, then add the Silicone. Insert the stirrer and stir thoroughly, ensuring no lumps remain in the mixture. Stop and let sit until foam settles, then mix one more time. Apply liberally with brush, doing the topside first. This provides the best finish and seals the material sufficiently such that when doing the bottom side, the sealant does not readily run through and leave blobs on the topside.



First coat being applied, showing uncoated section

A 4-person tent floor in poor condition may consume all 2 litres over two coats – be prepared to make a second batch for the bottom side. Any remaining sealant can be set aside for a second coat. In this case place a lid over the bucket to prevent the remaining material drying out. A second coat may be applied after about eight hours drying time, and will be faster and use much less mixture. Focus the second coat on the high-wear areas that need it most.



Finished, like new and ready to do the underside

Take care to seal the topside of the tent floor before doing the bottom side, otherwise the compound will run through to the tent walls underneath and stain the outer walls of the tent. Alternately, a plastic sheet could be placed over the floor once dry, the tent then collapsed and turned over, with the sheet acting as a barrier to the tent walls and roof.

Allow 24 hours to dry before disturbing. Material can then be turned and the other side done, if required. Remember to remix the remaining material; this time you may get away with using a stirring paddle.

Technical talk:

A 460gm tube contains 400gms of Silicone Compound, with a displacement of 300cc.

I used 3 tubes, or 900cc (0.9 litre equates to a cube of approx. 96.5mm each dimension).

My tent floor area was approx. 2 x (5 x 2.5) sq.m = 50 sq. m (incl. topside & underside).

Therefore thickness of coat:

= Volume of caulking consumed / Area coated

= 900/1000000000 cubic metres / 50 sq.m

= 0.18 microns each side, which does not seem much given **I just added 1.2 kg weight to my tent!**

Keep your eyes open for future article – “*How to waterproof boots and bags for use in wet cold weather*”.

A KNOTTY INCIDENT

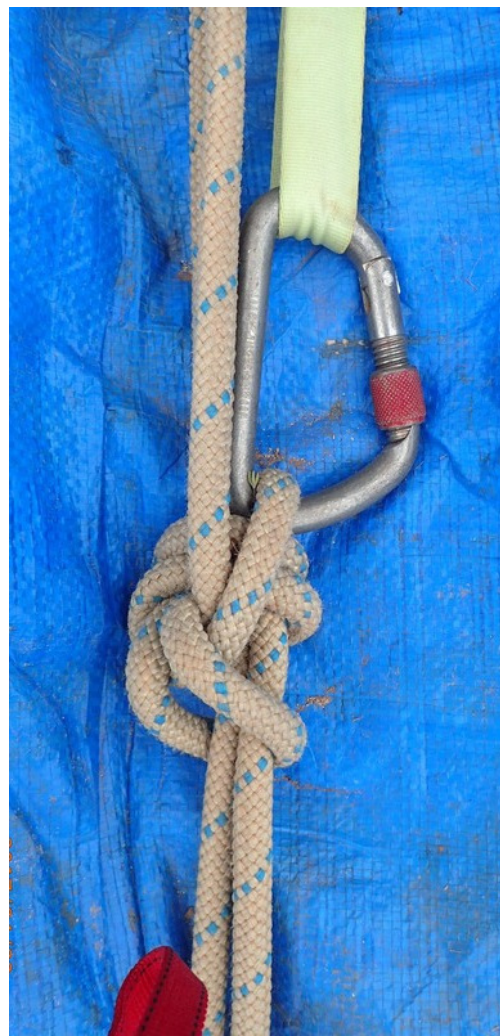
By Clare Buswell

On a recent Nullarbor trip, we had a fusion knot slip a rigging line for an SRT system. This was only discovered on packing up, although it was noted that a member of the group had taken a small fall on this rope at the edge, the morning this rope was rigged. The fall was put down at the time, to those on the surface, as a slip at the edge. It was only later found that it was indeed a fall of about half a 0.5 metre.

The edge in question had a ladder, belay line, a separate abseil line and a hauling system rigged back to a tree anchor. Yes, it was busy rigging area but it was loaded with only one line or system being used at a time. The system was rigged over the course of a six-day trip with the abseiling line being added on the last day. All systems had its own anchor rigging, being tapes or rope wrapped around the tree.



The edge in question. Photo: N. Skinner.



Slipped Fusion knot. Photo: C. Buswell

The knot in question, a figure eight fusion knot, was attached with two separate karabiners so that it tied into the end loops of the tape. The rope was anchored to the anchor point with three line, 1 inch tube tape, tied with what is known as a Dead knot. This is a tape knot, but it allows you to quickly adjust and equalise both the length and thus the forces on the loops of a tape if it is going around a difficult to access anchor.

One of the problems is that we did not take a photo of the tape that was used to tie the rope to the anchor either in situ or of the dead knot that was tied in it at all. We have also had difficulties trying to recreate what happened to obtain the slippage in the system that occurred. We can only conclude that either the tape was not set with equally loaded loops and that equalisation occurred when the full weight of the abseiler was placed on the system with the knot taking up the slippage. Or the knot was not set correctly so that one side of the ears slipped.

On return to Adelaide a group of us set about trying to recreate what happened, to experiment with cutting the loops of the classic 'bunny's' ears and the figure eight fusion knot that resembles a bowline on a bight, but is not. We were looking to see if and how much slippage and knot deformation occurred. Our results were not conclusive nor was our experiment done in a scientifically controlled way. All were cut under load, i.e. both ears were equally and fully loaded before one ear of each knot was cut. The distance of fall for the person was about 6 inches, in all cases one ear of the knot held.

Below are the results.



Bunny's ears cut.



Fusion figure of eight with loops cut.

Photos: Clare Buswell

Annual Reports – 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

2016 has been yet another BIG year for FUSSI. Major trips for the year included:

- Yarrangobilly,
- the Nullarbor
- Bullita

Yarrangobilly is in the Australian Alps and offers fabulous scenery and, of course, caves. Bullita is run by FUSSI member Dr. Mark Sefton as a very long-term mapping project of the Bullita cave system, which has over 122kms of surveyed cave passage (so far), making it by far, Australia's longest cave. So, if you are survey-inclined and like the idea of poking your head into a cave or part of a cave that no-one has ever been in before, this is the trip for you! (Aside: some of the early mapping of Bullita was done by ex-FUSS members Drs. Bannik & McGraith when they were doing their residencies at Darwin Hospital).

The Nullarbor trip was to the SA side of the SA/WA border for the start of a 3-year scientific project, run by FUSSI institution Dr. Clare Buswell. It involves scientific work in some of the world's most restricted-access caves, and Clare did a lot of very hard work to get this project approved and running, including flying to Ceduna to make our pitch for a permit to allow access. I thank her for a **huge** effort.

There were, as well, the ever popular Wet-n-wild trips, along with other monthly trips to the South East, Murray River, Corra-Lynn (on the Yorke Peninsula) and the Flinders Ranges. There was also a trip to Mt Eccles in Victoria to give members an opportunity to descend into the cone of a volcano.

We had 39 members last year with the core group taking lots of beginners caving. We still have the problem of getting students to get involved. Any suggestions are welcome. I do note that the club does attract a disproportionate number of doctors – both medical and PhD – but don't ask (*name withheld on legal advice*) about her thesis.

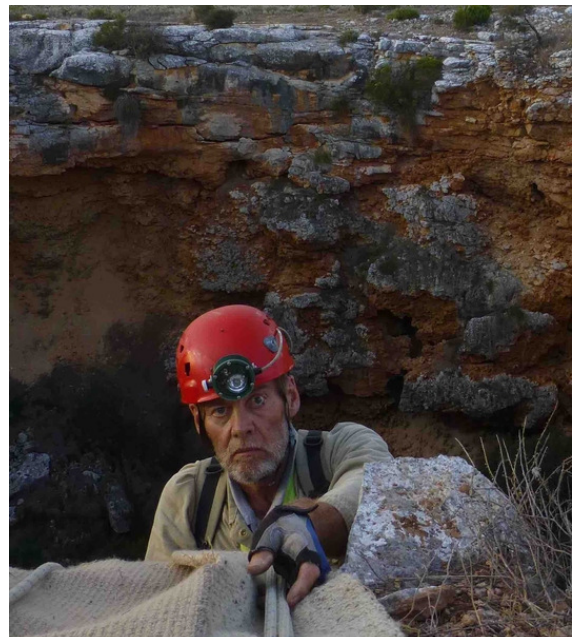
General meetings continue, but are generally poorly attended, despite featuring entertaining guest speakers and I particularly thank Ken Smith and Tania Wilson.

I note with some surprise that we did buy a Disto-X2, as I had wanted in 2014&15, and at time of writing we had even bought a second one, so now we can do a decent survey of 'The Cleft' in Yellow-Footed Rock Wallaby reserve in the Flinders. We also bought 'Nesty', a litter for rescuing and transporting injured people in caves. It is available for any caving emergency in the state.

Despite these outlays, our finances continue to be in good shape (in no small part due to Bunnings BBQs) and the Newsletters have been filled to overflowing – in large part to Neville's efforts. I thank him for his many and interesting contributions.

Lastly, I will not be standing for President in 2017, due to health reasons. I also understand the position should be held by a current (not past it) student. I hope the club prospers and I wish its members an enjoyable and dirty 2017.

Heiko Maurer
FUSSI President, 2016



Annual Reports – 2016

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT:

I don't think that any FUSSI members met with caving accidents over the course of 2016. We did, as the year ended, undertake a great deal of SRT training and practice for a trip to Tasmania and this certainly caused the usual statements: 'if you do that you will kill yourself'....

We did have an incident on the Nullarbor in September, when I dislodged a small rock, and I mean probably no more than a couple of centimeters in diameter, which managed to hit Tania's helmet, putting a small dent in it. Moral to the story - be exceedingly careful at the top and bottom of pitches.

A couple of useful rules, if you are at the bottom of a pitch:

1. Don't hang around the drop zone at the bottom. Get out of the way and wait until all clear has been called at the top. If you can't get out of the way, put your caving pack over your head to protect yourself from possible injury.
2. If the word "BELOW" is called, it means: DO NOT LOOK UP, place yourself close to a wall thus getting out of the way and/or protect yourself with your caving pack.

At the top of pitches:

1. Look closely at the surface, is it broken up with bits of stuff that can come with you or will fall when you scramble over the edge? If so, and it is possible then remove the loose material.
2. Be mindful of where you place your feet when going over edges.
3. Communication is very important at the top and bottom pitches, be clear with your calls. Use the standards set out in the ASF Safety guidelines.

Finally, it is now a requirement of the ASF insurance that trip leaders are qualified in first aid. Can we all check and if necessary, update our First Aid Certifications. If you do not have a first aid certificate, do a course.

They are great fun and you will learn a lot.

Have a safe 2017 caving year.

Clare Buswell
FUSSI Safety Officer, 2016



Annual Reports – 2016

ASF REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

The ASF had its annual Council meeting here in Adelaide in early January and FUSSI was well represented by three FUSSI members. Discussions over the course of the day included a couple of things FUSSI members should keep an eye on and may well be interested in:

- **Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)**

The Adventure Activity Standards are minimum voluntary guidelines for organizations conducting recreation activities where the participants are dependent on the activity provider.

These are being developed nationally. Several State based versions have been operative and have been very effective for land managers instituting controls on caving ethics, group sizes, leadership skills and requirements for two leaders per caving party. There has been variation between states on the effectiveness of the existing standards and what dependent groups fall under the AAS. There are several groups which are not regulated in this manner which leaves a nasty taste amongst users where commercial operators must comply but “educational users” to the same caves do not.

These AAS referred to several the ASF Codes of Practice such as the Code of Ethics and Conservation and the Minimum Impact Caving Code (with permission and acknowledgement).

We have a policy that “there not be sacrificial caves”. One of the most effective ways of the ASF being proactive is to participate in the specialist committee developing the AAS for caving. Nominations to this expert group will be called for in the first quarter of 2017. Watch this space.

FUSSI has in the past donated funds to help save the Cliefden Caves from flooding and the ASF Karst Conservation Fund Commission provided funds in 2016 for:

- **Save Cliefden Caves Project (ongoing).**

A dam is proposed for the Belubula River. Such a dam could flood or impact the Cliefden Caves and hot springs on the Belubula River. ASF is assisting Orange Speleological Society with a campaign objecting the construction of such a dam. The Fund has been assisting with research projects to assist this campaign and better inform our knowledge of this karst system.

- **Population dynamics of the critically endangered southern Bent-wing Bat.**

The Southern bent-wing bat has suffered serious population decline in the last 50 years. Despite being the most studied cave dwelling bat in Australia there is very little knowledge of factors contributing to this population decline. The Fund provided equipment to microchip and monitor the bats at Bat Cave, Naracoorte, SA.

These are just a few of the things the ASF and its members have been doing in 2016 and 2017 looks to be very busy with the IUS conference which is soon to be held in Sydney in July. <https://www.speleo2017.com> (Go to it, it will be full of cavers!)

Tania Wilson
FUSSI ASF Representative, 2016

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Stuff, what would we do without it? Recently read, on cellulose technology, that sales of e-readers have gone down and sales of real books with pages, binding and paper bookmarks have increased! And so it is that the FUSSI library is full of very useful stuff, both electronic and paper. Want to run a trip to Bungonia or Jenolan, then the FUSSI library is the place to go. You will find previous trip reports, maps, contact details, permit requirements, info on where to stay, what to bring and what to expect re the caves you will visit.

The library holds books on caving techniques, histories of caving areas, journals from overseas and local caving clubs, and of course FUSSI's own history. The library is part of the club store, and is found in the FUSA Club's Store Room. Contact anyone on the FUSSI exec if you want anything in the library and I am sure we will help you find it.

Clare Buswell
FUSSI Librarian, 2016

Annual Reports – 2016

TREASURERS REPORT:

for the period 1 Jan 2016 – 31 December 2016

Overall Summary

| Opening balance | Income | Expenditure | Closing balance |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| \$10,890.29 | \$12,655.87 | \$8979.23 | \$14,566.93 |
| | | Difference | \$3,676.64 |

| | Main bank account | Debit card account | Petty cash | Term deposit | Total |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Opening balance | \$3,503.34 | \$877.31 | \$900.78 | \$5,478.55 | \$10,759.98 |
| Closing balance | \$6,763.48 | \$348.22 | \$1,890.94 | \$5,564.29 | \$14,566.93 |
| Difference | \$3,260.14 | -\$529.09 | \$990.16 | \$85.74 | \$3,676.64 |

Breakdown of income

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Term deposit | \$85.74 |
| FUSA Grants | \$7,061.92 |
| Member contributions: Membership fee Gear hire | \$1,729.00 \$747.00 |
| BBQs | \$3032.21 |
| TOTAL | \$12,655.87 |

Breakdown of expenditure

| | |
|--|------------|
| ASF fees | \$1,086.00 |
| Gear purchase (DistoX, Stretcher, etc) | \$6,264.87 |
| Operational (Catering, photocopying, Nullarbor trip associated costs) | \$1628.36 |
| TOTAL | \$8,979.23 |

Comments:

1. FUSSI monies were stored in four locations: two bank accounts with ANZ, a term deposit and petty cash. \$5,000.00 has been allocated to the term deposit that matures every 3 months at a rate between 2-2.5% per annum.
2. We managed to secure significant grant money from the Flinders University Student Association.
3. The club bought some long term gear with high initial outlay.
4. Two BBQ events were held, bringing in a total of just above \$3K.

Thomas Varga
FUSSI Treasurer, 2016

Annual Reports – 2016



FUSSI Treasurer - Thomas Varga

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT:

The last year has seen 3 newsletters published. These were Vol 28 No1 (April 2016), Vol 28 No2 (Aug 2016) and Vol 28 No3 (Oct 2016). All newsletters can be viewed on the FUSSI website.

Although we aim for 4 newsletters per year, there was a shortage of articles during the second half of the year, combined with a very busy period, which impacted on the newsletters.

Contributors for 2016, in chronological order of articles, included Neville Skinner (Lower South East, Rapid Bay), Jade White (Mt Gambier), Clare Buswell (Yarrangobilly, Ken Grimes, Naracoorte), Tim Featonby (Yarrangobilly), Ken Smith (Yarrangobilly), Dan Dingwall (Rapid Bay, Southern Flinders Ranges), Lucy Glocke (Corra Lynn), Lauren Jones (Corra Lynn), Supriya Lath (Naracoorte), Chris Terrington (Naracoorte) and Heiko Maurer (a cave that cannot be mentioned).

Thanks you to all those who contributed articles – you make the newsletter what it is.

I would like to make special mention of Clare Buswell, who contributed much to helping out with the newsletter during the year. Thank you Clare.

It is very rewarding for authors of articles when they see their article in print, and especially when people come up and thank you for writing the article. Yes, people do notice and do appreciate. If English is your second language and you are worried about this, don't be. It is the job of the editor to support the author and to ensure the article is well presented. Where possible, pictures can be sourced from others to support and enhance your article.

So keep the articles coming and let's make 2017 an even better year for articles.

Neville Skinner
FUSSI Newsletter Editor, 2016

FUSSI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

18th May 2017 6.30pm,

Noel Stockdale Rm, Central Library, Flinders University

Meeting welcome: 6.45pm

Present:

Sarah Gilbert, Daniel Dingwall, Supriya Lath, Roshan Vasani, Heiko Maurer, Clare Buswell, Janice Chan, Mark Sefton, Thomas Varga, Neville Skinner, Ken Smith, Ian Lewis, Edwina Virgo via phone hook up. Dee Trewartha

Apologies: Tania Wilson

Chair: Heiko Maurer

Minutes Taker: Dee Trewartha

1) Review minutes from AGM 2016

All: Accepted Minutes of AGM 2016

2) Reports for 2016

President's report: Heiko Maurer

- Scientific work has been the focus for FUSSI this year,(2016) based on research on the Nullarbor with speleos from Tassie and ACT joining us. Clare successfully organised trips. Nullarbor area of focus for next 2 or 3 years.
- 39 Members last year, no new executives. Many PhD students now. Usual trips done, but how to retain new members?
- Requirement for student president.
- 2x Distos purchased in 2016/17. Heiko resigning due to health reasons. Newsletter going well, finances good.
- Guest speakers have been great.

Treasurer's Report 2016: Thomas Varga

- Verbal only. Much gear has been purchased this year, stretchers, distos etc. FUSA has funded much of this.
 - Membership fees etc. matches previous year.
 - Operational cost increase due to Nullarbor airfares etc.
 - Bunnings BBQs are going well, and together with some grants means FUSSI bank account is up financially (approx. \$3000) from previous year.
- [Heiko moves, Roshan seconds] Treasurers report accepted.

Safety Officer's Report: Clare Buswell

- No major incidents in the last year.
 - Small incident on the Nullarbor 2016, rock dislodged from the top of the pitch onto person below. Helmet was damaged and discarded. NOTE: Don't stand at the bottom of the pitch; Be careful of loose rocks at the top of the pitch.
 - Requirement of ASF trip insurance that trip leaders have current first aid certificates.
- [Dan moves, Neville seconds] Safety Officers report accepted

Secretary Report:

As there has only been an acting secretary there was no secretary report.

Equipment Officer's Report: Tania Wilson

- During 2016 FUSSI purchased the following equipment:
Satellite Phone, Satellite Phone Charger, DistoX 2, EPIRB, Petzl Nest Stretcher and Rigging Bridle, Mobile Phone, 2 Camp Snap Gate Karabiners, Helmet
Total: \$6926.00
\$6821 of this was funded by FUSA.
- So far in 2017 FUSSI purchased the following equipment:
Bluewater II Rope 65m, DistoX 2, Deep Cycle Battery and cables, Battery Box
Total: \$1723.44
- During 2016-2017 FUSSI has retired the following equipment:
1x Helmet 1x 50m Bluewater II Rope

Clare moved, Heiko Seconded, Gear officer report accepted

Library Officer's Report: Clare Buswell

List of what's in the library provided in report. Library working bee required, next general meeting will be a library maintenance and pizza evening. We have some journals coming in from clubs in electronic format: (NCC, CEGSA, STC ISS, CCC and the ACKMA newsletter.) Sydney University Speleos library is now online. FUSSI has access to this. We should put some of FUSSI's library online or digitised parts of it. Since 2000 FUSSI newsletters have been digital issues. Digitizing permits etc. in terms of FUSSI records would be good. Suggested to split up library items amongst members for digitizing to lighten load. Photos from trips can be sent to Heiko for uploading to website
Report be accepted. Moved by Sarah, Seconded by Supriya.

Newsletter Editor's Report: Neville Skinner

Last year 3 newsletters were sent out, all are available on the FUSSI website. There was a shortage of articles in the second half of the year. Special mention for Clare for helping with newsletter. Writing articles can be rewarding, so get writing!

[Moved Heiko. Supriya seconded] Report accepted.

ASF Representative's report- Tania Wilson

International Union of Speleology Conference in July in Sydney. Tim Featonby, Mark Sefton and Ken Smith are attending.

- Adventure Activity Standards are being discussed at a national level for organised outdoor activities, rock climbing, kayaking, caving etc.- In the 1990s there was a move to standardise training across the country for speleos, by the ASF, but didn't happen. Now ASF is using info from the 1990s project as a possible set of standards to put forward to the AAS. Need to keep an eye on the proceedings.
- ASF looking for volunteers to help with these standards.
- FUSSI has donated to the save the Clifden caves campaign, the ASF Karst Conservation Fund is trying to heritage list them.

[Heiko Moved, Neville seconded] Report accepted.

Nominations for 2017:

Discussion about the number of executives required by FUSA. They want at least two of three main executives to be students, or 66% of total executives. The FUSSI Executive consists of: Pres, Immediate past Pres, Sec, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Equipment Officer, Librarian, Newsletter Editor, ASF Rep.

- President:
Thomas nominates Janice Chan, Seconded Dee, Vote passed
- Secretary:
Thomas nominates Dee Trewartha, Supriya seconded, vote passed.
- Treasurer:
Dee nominates Thomas Varga, Heiko seconded, voted in.
- Safety Officer:
Heiko nominates Clare Buswell, Thomas seconded, Voted in
- Equipment officer:
Clare nominates Tania Wilson, Dan seconded, voted in
- ASF representative:
Dee nominates Tania Wilson, Sarah Seconded, voted in
- Librarian:
Edwina Virgo nominated by Clare, seconded by Heiko, voted in.
- Newsletter:
Roshan nominates Neville Skinner, Dan seconded voted in.
- Public Officer:
Dan Dingwall nominated by Ken, Neville seconded, voted in

Future trips

- Nullarbor in July, border crossing and food exemption? Steve Coulter mentioned exemption, food needs to be sorted before the trip in terms of border crossing. Ian Lewis volunteers for trip leader, or to help with organisation.
- Need more one-day trips. Ian suggested the Sellick's Hill cave working bee as a good opportunity to see the cave with an experienced person. Ian will email details. Ian found some places worth investigating at Whistling Rocks near Streaky Bay.
- Dan might organise an Eyre Peninsula Trip including Whistling Rocks, possibly June long weekend. Yarrangabilly in Feb next year. Possibility of diving at Cooleman Plains. This will need to be limited to a small number of divers due to the type of caves concerned. And some horse riding?
- 4 day Tassie trip in December was discussed, either visiting the North or the South of the Island

Any Other Business

Finance: Grants

\$1000 Grant money allocated for club from FUSA.

Application lodged for the Grant \$1000.00 to cover the cost of Disto-x2 and rope.

Pool funding- Application for SRT workshops being run by the NSW Cave Rescue Squad and gear; \$2000 allocated. We asked for \$5000.00, FUSA is allowing us to allocate this money as we deem fit. Discussion ensued on how to divide up this money:

Club benefits from training in SRT because of increased safety, and from trainer training. General notion that gear hire fees are for gear replacements and purchases, but some money goes to Sydney SRT participants. General trend to support training. Possibly fund airfares and car hire. Motion put to allocate Pool funding money to SRT training in Sydney. Motion carried.

Petty Cash- \$500ish. Most of the petty cash will be banked by Thomas. Petty cash is to be \$100.00 or less.
Bank Signatories: Motion: Remove Bronya Alexander as a signatory from all FUSSI accounts as she is no longer a club member and we add our new secretary, Dee Trewartha as a signatory to all FUSSI accounts.
[Clare Moved, Thomas Seconded] Motion passed.

ASF Membership Fees: Tanya and Bronya paid FUSSI's ASF membership fees of \$1203.00 and the ACKMA subscription of \$40.00 for 2017

FUSA reaffiliation: Dee to email Adam regarding reaffiliation timeline and changes to criteria.

Gear Stocktake: Clare's shed has been a revolving door of FUSSI gear. Stocktake to be combined with library night to check all gear is present. Still missing a steel Screw gate karabiner from the Naracoorte trip. Trip leaders to be responsible for returning gear clean.

Safety and Training: Training program put together by Tania, Clare and Dee for group advanced SRT training.

Nullarbor research project: Clare needs Data ASAP. Clare will send out an email of who needs to submit what, and a date they MUST be in by.

Fees: gear hire are they too high? Currently they are set at: \$5.00 for one day trips E.g., Corra Lynn, \$10.00 for weekend trips, \$25.00 for three days and onwards.

FUSSI executives? still paying gear hire? Proposed \$5 for rope wear and tear, \$5 for anything else. Proposal: do FUSSI executives get charged for gear hire, i.e. committee members are exempt as a thank you for their contribution to the club, or just keep gear hire to a minimum for everyone. Motion that: FUSSI exec members are exempt from gear hire fees. Put by Thomas, seconded by Mark. Not passed. Dan raises point that FUSA pays most of gear money therefore students should be exempt from gear hire? Dee raised the point that the real costs for Students was not gear hire, but ASF fees. Thomas raised the point that petrol costs also deter students and those on low incomes. Gear hire fees are minimal by comparison.

Motion to delay decision to next meeting. [Dan Moves, Thomas Seconds}. Motion passed.

Future Purchases: new ascenders. Some safety issues with 2 of the ascenders, Clare proposes they are discarded and two new ones purchased.

[Clare moves, Sarah seconds] Motion passed.

Student Members: Dee to discuss date for Corra Lynn trip for new members and set date with Thomas and Clare, with minimum three weeks lead time for permits etc. The current Corra Lynn trip is set down for the 18th of June and the farmer has been notified of this trip.

NEWS & TITBITS

The SRT training has been a great success, with several members having now gone to Sydney to undergo SRT Rescue training with Al Warild. This involves taking people off the rope that have suffered collapse or some other issue that immobilises them and prevents them from getting off the rope.

The members that have completed this training are now passing that knowledge onto other SRT trained members, so that eventually all SRT competent members will have knowledge of rope rescue techniques.

On our trip to Clara St Dora cave on Sat 13th May we discovered graffiti just after the first restriction, in the spot where people wait while those in front negotiate the twisted tunnel that leads to the room with the stalactites. What a disappointment to find that 'trusted' people can do this in a site that is kept locked from the public. The last time FUSSI visited Clara St Dora was on 23rd April 2016, and it was not there then.

If you know who this person might be, please let us know so that we can follow through on that information. People like this should be banned from all caves, forever.



Graffiti found in Clara St Dora cave Photo: Sarah Gilbert

If you would like to join in on some of the advanced trips involving SRT (Single Rope Techniques), then speak to Clare or Tania.

What it's about?

It's all about Abseiling down into a cave and Prussiking out of the cave, where there generally are no ladders to climb. Often these caves are in isolated locations (for example, Flinders Ranges, Tasmania, and Nullarbor Plains).

What is involved?

Learning the correct techniques in a safe environment, and gradually building up on the skills learnt, so that you become competent in safely negotiating difficult cave access and are able to recognise dangers specific to each cave, and your own limits.

It will take a lot of practice, perseverance and discipline, but it will empower you and increase your confidence in yourselves.

This does not happen overnight – it will require a big commitment from you, but you will be rewarded with the skills to enable you to tackle any cave, cliff or other obstacle at any time, for the rest of your lives.

And you will be fitter and healthier.

PICK OFF PRACTICE SESSION

Photo: N. Skinner



FUSSI PROGRAMME 1st July – 19th Oct 2017

Note: *FUSSI holds a general get together/meeting on the Third Thursday of each month, except where notified otherwise. Programme subject to change.*

MID-YEAR BREAK: July 3rd – 24th

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Thu 13th -16th July: | Flinders Ranges trip | Expect lots of walking, caving and other fun stuff. Suitable for all. BYO Hot water bottle. Clare Coordinating. |
| Thu 27th July: | 7pm Workshop | Using Nesty and Other Methods of Self Rescue. Noel Stockdale Room, Flinders Uni Library. 6:30pm Executive Meeting. |
| Sun 30th Jul: | SRT Training | 9-4pm Clare & Heiko's shed. Pulleys and Pickoffs, Cheese and Coffee. |
| Thu 17th Aug: | General meeting | 7pm - Clean up the Library & the Pizzas. On campus; at the Club Store, under the Union Hub. A social activity of a sort. 6:30pm Executive Meeting. |
| Sat 19th - 20th Aug: | Search and Rescue Practice | Flinders Ranges. A hands-on weekend. Putting the Theory into practice. Weekend Coordinators: Dee, Tania, Clare |
| Sun 27th Aug: | Stretcher lifts and pickoffs | 10-4pm Car Crash Corner, Old Belair Road. TBC. Clare, Dee, and Tania Coordinating |
| Sun 10th Sep: | Yorke Peninsula | Explore Corra Lynn cave. BYO lunch and knee pads for a fun day. Suitable for all. Thomas Coordinating |
| Thu 21st Sep: | General meeting | 7pm Guest Speaker/Presentation. Nullarbor, exploration, flint and other rocks. Speaker to be confirmed. Noel Stockdale Rm Main Library. Flinders Uni. 7pm |
| Sat 30th Sep: | Bunnings BBQ | 8:15am – 4:30pm Fund Raiser. Setup starts at 8:15am, selling starts at 9am. At 4pm we are free to stop selling; we start the clean up. From 9am until 2:30pm we will need your help. |

MID-SEMESTER BREAK: Sept 18th – Oct 3rd

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Thu 19th Oct: | Library and pizza night | 7pm - Clean up the Library & the Pizzas. On campus; at the Club Store, under the Union Hub. A social activity of a sort. 6:30pm Executive Meeting. |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|

Looking ahead...

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat 3rd - 11th Feb: | Buchan or Yagby trip | TBC by the FUSSI committee. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

CONFERENCES:

Sun 23rd – 29th July: **IUS international Caving conference, Jenolan, NSW.**
Pre and post conference caving trips around the country and New Zealand.
See: www.speleo2017.com