

point we began the survey back to the last known survey point. The new cave section explored would only amount to approximately 30 metres in distance.

On the return journey we stopped briefly at a drop of about 5 m close to APK20 that Andreas was able to chimney down to investigate. It did not go any further; in the process we discovered some large fossils.

We made our way back to the Dodgy Climb and then back to Hang Glider, now with SRT equipment almost indistinguishable from the mud I attached my mud paddy to the line and made slow progress on our exit. Petr raced ahead and made what appeared as an effortless ascent, meanwhile I floundered around like a Junee Salmon* on the rope with ascenders that took preference to the open position.

Petr commented later that the only difference between

a hard cave and an easy one is mud. Having had a reasonable ascent the day previous and now to be faced with what felt like three times as much work with the mud, I tend to agree.

Thanks Andreas and Petr for taking the time to share with me these amazing places and your patience with my mainland SRT skills and for Janine for taking the time to train me up last year.

*A Junee Salmon is a rare species indeed, often seen on beginners' trips on slippery rappels. Characterised by its distinct wriggling motion as it tries to find a footing on the wall it resembles the powerful motion of an Atlantic Salmon writhing around on the deck of boat.

Reference

JACKSON, A. 2014. JF-463 Constitution Hole. *Speleo Spiel*, 400:16.

Jenolan Caves

5-6 July 2014

Andreas Klocker

Cavers/Divers: Adam Hooper, Andreas Klocker, Liz Rogers, Greg Ryan & Al Warild.

(Awesome) Support: Tabitha Blair, Deborah Johnston, Rowena Larkins & John Oxley.

While mainland caves are known to Tasmanians as being boring with no potential for exploration, this is certainly not true for the cave diving exploration to be done on Australia's northern island. Jenolan Caves has huge potential with lots of active exploration going on. After a break from Jenolan diving for me (I haven't been there since I moved back to Tassie) it was time to head up for another trip to do some great dives, catch up with the local cavers, and practice my sump diving skills for some Tassie projects next summer. At the same time Liz was keen to head back to Jenolan to take

photos since on her last trip the weather gods weren't happy and caused a flood, limiting the viz to zero. Luckily for Liz and myself, being the only two cavers who had to fly in to get to Jenolan, Greg offered us lifts from and to the airport, his place to stay, a lift to Jenolan, and organised (and even cooked) food for us – has anyone ever enjoyed more luxury on a caving trip?

When we arrived at Jenolan Saturday morning, the first thing that needed to be done was to fill tanks ... this almost didn't happen due to the compressor not behaving as planned. Luckily Adam knows how to fix engines, and after some messing around we got it to fill tanks. Another thanks to Nipper for lending the group the compressor, and Greg for picking up the 100 kg beast before the trip! Since Adam, Liz and myself haven't seen lots of the classic sumps in Jenolan before, we planned a tourist dive from Blue Lake via Cerberus and Two Bridges to the Mud Tunnels, finishing off with a quick dive through the restriction in Upstream Lethe



L. Rogers

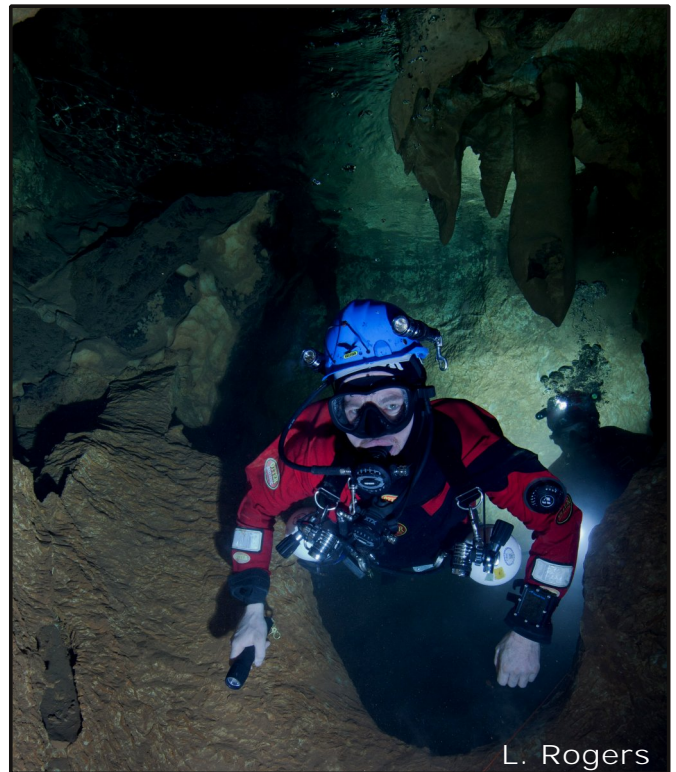
Jenolan Caves, Greg and Liz in Downstream Imperial.

(which was first broken through and explored just last year by the SUSS divers), and obviously (at least for everyone who knows Liz) her camera came along. Lots of strobes were tied to Adam and myself. After a not very pleasant start of the dive heading away from Blue Lake towards Cerberus (you have to push yourself backwards down a tight rock pile) the sump started to turn into a very pleasant tunnel and a really enjoyable dive – a look at Liz' photos does it much more justice than my written descriptions. Luckily on this dive we surfaced in several dry chambers on our way, giving us a chance to chat and get instructions by Liz for the photo shoot of the next sump. Deb and Greg also followed us from dry chamber to dry chamber via the tourist caves, pointing us towards the right way on as the line is tied out of view of the tourist groups in sections making it hard to spot. When we arrived at the Mud Tunnels, Al jumped into the water as well to have a look at a lead in Upstream Lethe. He was followed by Liz with her camera and Adam, who on this dive figured out that a drysuit is not ideal in tight restrictions – a good laugh for me and a reason for Liz to take a selfie since her model didn't fit through the restriction!

On Sunday Greg joined us for a dive into Downstream Imperial, with Rowena and John helping us get the dive gear to the sump via the Wool Shed which involves a short climb and a ladder. As we then found out, this many people in a sump are a bit much. We had Liz and Greg in front to take photos and start the silt cloud, with me being third and occasionally being able to sneak up on Greg and Liz close enough to enjoy the good viz, and producing more silt, and Adam being at the end practising his zero-viz technique!

After getting back to the cavers' hut not too late, and socialising a bit more, Greg, Liz and myself drove back to Sydney, well knowing that the 4 am start Monday morning to get flights and to the office would be a lot of pain but it was definitely worth it!

As all cave divers know such a weekend would not work



Jenolan Caves, Adam and Liz.

without amazing dry caving support, so THANK YOU to Greg, Deb, Tabitha, John and Adam (both Greg and Adam spent lots of time in the freezing cold on compressor duty)! I have rarely been as spoiled as much as by Greg this weekend with lifts from/to airports, to Jenolan Caves and Greg feeding us all weekend!

Thanks guys!

Looking for the legendary lost cave at Hastings

12 July 2014

Chris Sharples

Cavers: Arthur Clarke & Chris Sharples.

Legendary lost caves are a bother. Even more so, if they're known then lost, e.g., Hairy Goat Hole in JF and Cub Hole at Hastings. Then there are the rumours of caves which you don't even know who was supposed to have actually once found them. You know that most such stories of the latter sort are probably garbled misinterpretations of something somebody thought somebody else had said they once found "in them thar hills" but can't seem to remember or clearly describe its exact location anymore. Nevertheless, stories got repeated and like whispers in the dark, they take on a life of their own until nobody actually remembers how the story started, but it has become an established part of caving folklore. So you know there's probably nothing in it, but then again you can't help wondering "what if...?"

Ever since Chris conducted his early mapping of the geology of the Lune River – Hastings area during his UTAS Honours year (Sharples 1979) and Arthur commenced his own studies in the Lune River area and North Lune karst (Clarke 1990a; 1990b), we have been spasmodically returning to try and tidy it up by slowly piecing together a geological map of this area (see Clarke 1998a; 1998b; 1998c; and Sharples 1994; 2003). Phil Jackson (Jackson 1990) has also provided some information on dolomite on the north side of Hastings Ridge. Interestingly, the Geological Survey of Tasmania

has never bothered to devote resources to mapping this area in any systematic way. That's probably good for us, since it provides an excuse to go blundering around in the bush down south, indulging in what some readers might consider a somewhat nerdy hobby of compiling a geological map outcrop by outcrop and donga-bash by donga-bash. It's kind of like doing a jigsaw puzzle where you only get a new piece every few months, but it keeps us off the streets and in the bush, and Chris has now got to the stage where he thinks we have more or less pinned down the boundaries of the Hastings Dolomite – at least as far as will ever be possible from surface mapping, since a big chunk of the boundary is probably covered by superficial Quaternary sediments in the floor of Creekton Rivulet valley on the north side of the Hastings Ridge.

In the course of his mapping, Chris had repeatedly heard a rumour of a legendary "lost cave" in the dolomite on the north side of the Hastings Ridge. He first heard the rumour from Kevin Kiernan, and subsequently Arthur passed on some more details (see below). The basic story is that prior to the discovery of Newdegate Cave on the south side of the ridge (probably in late December 1917: Clarke 1999a; 1999b), timber getters working in the Creekton Rivulet valley on the north side of the ridge had found a stream cave that was well decorated with straws so there was talk of opening it up for tourism via the logging tramway. However, the idea was dropped after Newdegate Cave was found and the cave (if it exists) was subsequently forgotten and 'lost'.

In June 2014, Arthur provided the following additional information to Chris in an email: "I first lived down south at Dover around 1971 and in my early days down