

## JF8 Junee Resurgence For Your Eyes Only

Liz Rogers

8-9 March 2014

Party: Andreas Klocker & Liz Rogers.

It's been five years since I last dived Junee, and my main recollections are cold, dark, dirty and cold. Obviously the inner air chamber is gorgeous and on an even earlier trip I took my compact digital camera through Sump 1 in a dry tube. With a tiny tripod and dive torches I achieved a number of passable pictures, and caught the camera mid-tumble into the stream at least twice. The camera survived the experience and so did I, though it took a week for my feet to thaw.

This time around I was keen to explore the photographic possibilities of all those delicate decorations with a proper camera set up. On arrival we discovered beautifully clear water and I was able to get some nice shots as we transited Sump 1. The new line put in by Janine, Ken and Pax is very nice,

and the extra cable ties that were distributed along the route have now been removed. We dumped the tanks and headed up the streamway to the straws. Successful shots took a while as my strobes were lighting not only the straws (pretty) but also the roof (not pretty). A bit of fiddling around and some backlighting got them to stand out in the photos.

From there I tried half and half water/air shots, getting up high to shoot across the straws, getting down low to shoot through the water, silhouettes, balanced lighting, and every variation in between. Andreas's facial expressions gently morphed from happy smile to forced smile to gritted teeth, and it was time to head out. We returned Sunday and improved the Saturday shots, including a couple I was particularly pleased with.

Getting back into For Your Eyes Only with my underwater camera rig has been on my list for some time, and it was great to spend the weekend in there. It would be even nicer if some of the other sumps on the list to investigate felt like surfacing in similar chambers ... I look forward to finding out.



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JF8 FYEO, Andreas (not smiling).

## Tigers Eye and JF259 Gear testing and a surface recce in the Junee area

Andreas Klocker

10 March 2014

Party: Andreas Klocker & Liz Rogers.

After two days of photography in sump one of Junee and in For Your Eyes Only we had one day left of the long weekend. Our first goal was to test the gear set-up I was planning to use for a dive in Dreamtime in a cave which is easier to access than Dreamtime itself, so we headed for Tigers Eye. As usual, Liz was going to take some photos. Once we got there we saw that

the flow was very low (which was nice) but the viz was absolutely crap (it looked like someone poured some milky-white silt into the cave). Liz immediately pulled a mainlander "this-looks-too-cold-and-miserable" face and I knew I was going to do the dive on my own... But luckily I could use her heating vest which turned Tigers Eye into a warm bathtub! To sum it up: I turned the dive very quickly (due to the shocking viz), but the gear set-up which I want to use in Dreamtime worked great! Instead of a fragile drysuit I'm now going to use a wetsuit with a heating vest (thanks to superstar Damo Grigg my own heating vest is on the way!) and even though I'm getting lots of strange looks when people see my gear set-up, gumboots are the way forward as diving footwear and they definitely are the latest and

greatest fashion in the cave diving world!

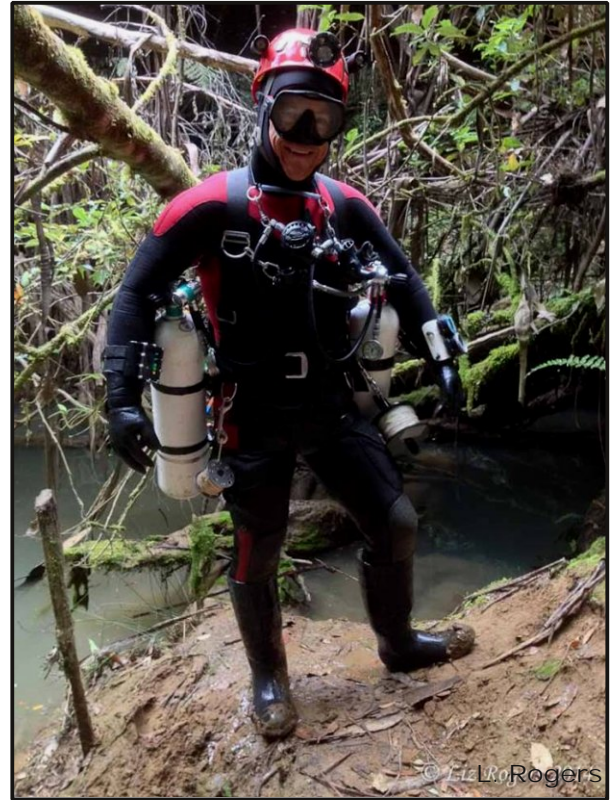
Having finished the gear testing, we headed up the Junee Quarry Road to have a look at the huge surface dolines upstream of the 'terminal' rockpile in the second sump of Junee. After seeing the size of those dolines I think the chance of getting through the rockpile are about as high as meeting the pope in a strip club, not impossible but... Looking for possible entrances upstream of the dolines we re-found JF259 (see photo) and a cave entrance which is likely JFZ74. Both entrances would need some Pommy-

style digging to get in but with the potential to find the streamway so close to the resurgence it might be worth some effort!

To finish the day off we headed back to the bridge heading over the creek coming out of Junee in case Liz would be more lucky to shoot a platypus with her camera. But as the afternoon before, there were no platypuses. Instead I heard from a friend that they saw a platypus the same day in a creek in Hobart ... wrong place and wrong time!



JF259, Andreas diligently recording this gap in the soil for posterity.



I am the Frog Man, I am the Walrus, Coo Coo Coo Choo.

## Mole Creek Search and Rescue Training

**Matt Cracknell**

**29-30 March 2014**

Party: Matt Cracknell, Milos Dvorak & Petr Smejkal. Several NC and MCCC members including David Wools-Cobb & Deb Hunter. Lots of SES volunteers.

Tasmania's northern cavers had organised a joint caver search and rescue (SAR) retreat weekend with the mostly local (northern) State Emergency Service (SES) at Mole Creek. Saturday was booked out with general background information for the specifics of cave-based SAR procedures. Sunday involved participating in a mock but relatively realistic cave SAR scenario.

The STC contingent for the weekend decided to take their families up to sunny Mole Creek for a holiday. So at about 10 am on Saturday morning the Cracknell/Smejkal convoy headed off out of the pouring rain to warmer climes. We had a pleasant and safe drive up. On the way we enjoyed our now obligatory and highly recommended pitstop at Ross.

(Ross is a beautiful town with tree-lined streets, heritage buildings, clean toilets, two great bakeries full of banbury slice, scallop pies and good coffee, and it's only a minute's drive off the highway. Why would you want to stop at Campbell Town? ... Err maybe only to sit on the steam punk sundial in the field near the playground that Andy Sprent forged out

of old tractor parts but you should only do that on a sunny day.)

By the time we made it to Mole Creek a couple of hours later the rain had cleared. We booked into our rooms at the Mole Creek Hotel and settled in. After a pleasant meal at the "bistro" we then watched *Antiques Roadshow* and bundled into bed ready for the coming day's shenanigans.

The morning came and we left the girls and Paddy (Sarah & Jasmine Cracknell, Lucy & Patrick Smejkal) to go op-shopping and eat raspberry pancakes at about 9 am. Milos, Petr and I turned up at the Wet Cave Reserve and were greeted by the "comms" bus, several large marquees (the biggest of which contained a field kitchen and seating), porta-loos and several dozen SES volunteers lead by Northern Region Regional Training Officer, Gerald Van Rongen. We were warmly received and quickly briefed on the day's activities. The plan was for a small party to go in and place a live patient (a caver) into the labyrinth that is Honeycomb Cave. Two parties of 4-5, a mix of cavers and SES, would then conduct a search for, locate and extract the patient.

We kitted up, took our allocated teams and planned our search while the patient was getting ready to need finding. After about 20 minutes of searching our team located the patient down the "back-end" of the cave. A couple of us stayed to stabilise the patient while the others marked a route to mission control. A Michie phone and extraction gear (the MCCC cave