

follows the old road and is then well signposted to show the turn-off to the last bit of the walk in. Here we encountered another walker coming out after visiting a cave. On our way back to the car we met another more elderly couple walking in. The gentleman was carrying a large tripod and impressive looking camera. It seemed pretty obvious that a lot of people know about these features and are keen to appreciate them. We all concluded that attempting to lock up the caves and keep people out was not a viable management nor desirable solution.

It seems even more futile to me that the name Growling Swallet has been delisted with the Nomenclature Board and that such a brilliant feature is no longer a place. This move was probably made so that it no longer appears or can no longer appear on official maps. As a member of a cave group I also find it very disappointing that land managers are making decisions about caves and acting on these decisions without the courtesy of informing us. They know we exist, they know who we are and yet they choose not to inform us. Such a contemptuous attitude cannot breed a healthy working relationship for the future.

So there you have it. We went on a non-club trip, to a cave that no longer exists as an official place, in order to showcase somewhere that everyone has a right to visit; a place that we should be proud of and exhibit as a natural wonder.

Despite the fact that it was unashamedly a lobbying day, Ken and I did very little preaching. We took the softly-softly approach and let the experience speak for itself. Scott and Richard had not done anything like this before. They realised this was potentially dangerous but with some common sense a lot of people could visit the entrance to Growling Swallet and find it a safe and worthwhile experience.

Scott and Richard are young and impressionable but they are also in a position to make decisions about management of places such as this. No doubt there will be other people giving them advice that they need to consider and we are powerless to stop this but hopefully they now have a better understanding of what it is that makes natural wonders and adventure activities such powerful experiences and such great drawcards.

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## **JF-14 Dwarrowdelf – Rigging Trip**

**Janine McKinnon**

**28 February 2012**

**Party:** Peter Buzzacott, Mark Euston (NUCC), Janine McKinnon, Pat Seiser (NSS), Ric Tunney

Peter is a cave diver, and had made the mistake of contacting Alan and asking him if we had any sumps we wanted pushing. This was his answer.

Pat and Mark were refugees from the Exit surveying week project with some time to spare, and a desire to do a little vertical work in the Florentine.

Ric & I were the transport and local knowledge (like, where the cave was), gear supply and technical expertise.

We all fitted into the Subaru, just, and were organised and walking the KD track by 9:30 am.

The plan was that I would go first, rigging, Mark behind with the bottom pitch rope, Pat, Peter, then Ric with the last of the ropes. This wasn't the best plan for efficiency but we had a conflict of interest with one of us needing to be last as well as not giving Pat or Peter heavy packs.

10.30 am saw the entrance pitch rigged and I started down with the 120 m rope and gear to rig the next three pitches. All went smoothly and Mark caught up to me somewhere before the bottom of the third pitch with the others somewhere behind. We got the back-up boulder selected,

and tape in place, and then waited for the next rope to appear.

Once this rope arrived I headed down to the top of the last pitch, got off rope, let Mark come down, and then got on the rope again as safety to rig the Y-hang over the final pitch. Ric arrived at the top of the previous pitch whilst I was rigging and had to wait until I had the pitch rigged and could get off rope before coming down.

He informed us that Pat and Peter had decided that they were going no further, and would have lunch and start heading out from the bottom of the 57 m pitch. Mark wanted to see the bottom, and we had a rope pack with stove, spare jumpers and food for the dive trip to take down, so Mark and I were going down. Ric put in the traverse rope at the 67 m pitch head and then planned to start out too, to be near Pat and Peter as they went out.

I descended first and then Mark and I went for a look at the big chamber at the bottom before starting up; Mark first and me at the back.

The trip out was fast and smooth. We caught the others at the entrance pitch, with Ric (the last of those three) just starting up. Good timing all around, I thought.

I was out of the entrance not long after 2:30 pm, so the trip had been quicker than we had expected.

We were now ready to go for the sump attempt the following Saturday.

Note: see SS350:12 for rigging notes.

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## **JF-8 Junee Cave**

**Janine McKinnon**

**1 March 2012**

**Party:** *Divers:* Janine McKinnon, Peter Buzzacott  
*Sherpas:* Ric Tunney, Pat Seiser

Peter was planning to dive the KD sump on the following Saturday but a fun tourist trip into JF-8 had been decided on as well. I was along as company and tourist guide on

the dive, and Ric and Pat had kindly offered to help cart gear to the sump.

The day was dry and pleasant when we arrived at the car park (using the STC key to access the Junee Quarry Road gate direction to the old car park). We went for a look at the resurgence and found the water levels low, which they have been for a few weeks. We all carried one pack load of gear to the viewing platform and then decided to have a coffee before getting geared up and taking a load into the cave.

Our first tourist party of the day came by as we were organising coffee. The numbers visiting this cave really amaze me.

It was 10:30 am when we finished coffee and started putting on suits and organising to start the portage to the beach.

Ric did two runs into the cave, as usual, and I made my way in with one pack and started to get organised at the beach. We had decided to kit up at the first beach, which is a little further from the sump and requires a 20 m surface swim, but is more spacious and standing up straight is possible!

Ric also took some video footage of Peter as he walked up the streamway, for use in the promotional video he is doing for sponsorship applications.

It was decided that I would lead in, with Peter following about 5 minutes behind. We agreed that if he didn't arrive at For Your Eyes Only (FYEO) after 20 minutes I would assume he had turned back and exit myself. Likewise, if I decided to call the dive for any reason I could turn and pass him. This way, neither of us felt pressured to dive beyond what we felt happy with on the day.

I had an uneventful trip through, taking only 15 minutes, due to the low current. This time, I exited to the left and swam to the shingle bank to de-kit. This is much nicer than the mud wallow on the backwater on the right. It is in the flow of the stream into the sump however, and as the first person through, I had to get my tanks off with no assistance. Getting myself far enough out of the flow to take gear off without risking it being washed away was a little tricky. I took several minutes more than usual to get my gear off and safely stowed, and still managed to have the camera wash away into the sump. Luckily it sank to the bottom in 1m of water before the sump started, so I could retrieve it easily. I had just finished laying everything out neatly and safely when I saw Peter's lights coming through.

I went to help him de-kit and the first thing he said as he took his regulator out was that his fin strap had broken as he put it on and that Ric had given him a replacement shock cord. He also had a leaking connector on his regulator, which I just happened to have a tool that should fix it. How convenient that I had just added it to my kit.

I helped him de-kit and then we went for a walk to the second sump, taking photos and video along the way; or we thought we were taking video on Peter's "Gopro" helmet-mounted camera. We got to the second sump and found that it hadn't been turned on. So, it was on for the trip back.

Peter observed that the flow in the stream in For Your Eyes Only (FYEO) did not look anywhere near as much as exited the cave at the resurgence. This I confirmed. This was a very, very interesting observation that got us both thinking. We couldn't see any inflow in the chamber. More thinking ensued... to be discussed later about possible extra streams entering Sump 1 from undiscovered passages, how to measure flow rates, systematic searching for side passages and many other plans ...

We took more photos on the return walk and then started kitting up for the swim out. We had spent about an hour in FYEO.

I dived out first, taking 14 minutes to do the swim, and exited to find no sign of Ric and Pat but they had left two lights going which made it much easier for me to navigate to the beach. All had gone smoothly with the dive with no gear problems. My two new Apeks XTX 50 regulators performed well. I was just finished de-kitting when Peter's light appeared out of the sump.

We had both just finished packing the gear into the rucksacks when we heard Ric and Pat coming back in. I carried one pack out to the car, Pat took my BC, and Ric and Peter took a pack each. Ric returned for the second load and Peter went to help him. This managed to get all the gear back to the car.

It was now 2:15 pm, and we got changed and then had lunch before unpacking dive gear and sorting out the gear for the drive home. Most of the dive gear that was robust went into the tray of the truck, with the rest in the car.

Several more parties of tourists passed by as we lunched and packed.

I had used 40 bar, 30 from one tank, 10 from the other. Starting pressure 200 bar, 10.5 L tanks.

Peter used 100 bar, 50 from each, of my 72 cu ft tanks. Vis was good at about 2 m. Water temperature around 8°C. Line good, my jump still in place but starting to be lightly buried by silt in places. I expect it to be buried by next summer.

My gear again had fine silt throughout and I had to pull apart second stages, flush BC and Power Inflator, clean O ring on camera housing. Peter had two small stones jammed in his Power Inflator!

We did a side trip to Cauldron Pot to show Peter, Pat and Peter's wife Cheryl, the entrance doline.

Plans for the return expedition to survey and systematically explore are shaping up well.

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## **KD Sump Push**

***Janine McKinnon***

**3 March 2012**

**Party:** Peter Buzzacott, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Petr Smejkal, Ric Tunney

The cave was pre-rigged and now we were off to push the sump at the bottom of KD & Dwarrowdelf.

We picked up Peter and Petr in the city and then transferred to Alan's car at his place. With his flat tray we would be able to get all the gear back at the end of the day

(given the strength in the party to get it all back to the car from the cave).

We started underground relatively early, around 10 am, and made a smooth and fast trip to the bottom of the pitches, with all gathered at the top of the rockpile in the final chamber a little over an hour from starting in.

Alan and Petr were carrying the 7 L tanks (borrowed from Stefan Eberhard via Rolan; thanks to them for that), as they are the young, fit, hard boys. The rest of the diving gear was spread between the remaining three of us. This