

He disappeared out of sight and was gone 5 minutes or more, and then reappeared to announce the disappointing news that he couldn't climb any further as he couldn't get a round the large, overhanging boulders. He detected no draught. All this effort to get here again and our hopes were dashed so quickly. Despite the lack of a positive outcome, at least another cave lead has been crossed off the list. Time to retreat.

Rolan retraced his steps, we packed up, and started out. It was still early (around 1 pm) and so we were in no rush, and wandered back up the streamway looking up high for other possible leads as we went. We didn't quite know what to do with all this spare time we had now. Trips never finish this early!

Rolan climbed up at one likely spot, and explored ten metres up the rift before being unable to climb higher. The rift continued upwards. Another promising upwards lead was spotted by the ever observant Rolan in the small chamber just before the crawl. Whilst he climbed up I went to look at a draughting hole that Stefan had found on the opposite side of the chamber that was too small for him to fit through. I squeezed through and found myself on a shelf above the passage we had just returned from. I was unable to climb down though. I returned to the chamber as Rolan re-appeared. He had climbed some tens of metres upwards and found himself looking up an aven. He thought it might parallel the final pitch

in the main cave. This is worth a look, even though it appears it will just join two known parts of the cave.

With no other objectives to complete we decided we may as well head for home. After confirming with Stefan and Rolan that they would exit together, and pull the ropes tight again, I started up Au Cheval pitch, and out of the cave alone. I really enjoyed that. I don't feel the psychological pressure to keep up with anyone else. I didn't see them again until they joined me at the surface about 40 minutes after I got out at 4.30 pm. It was a warm, sunny afternoon. We had a leisurely beer and chat back at the car before heading home after a thoroughly enjoyable day's caving.

#### REFERENCE

McKinnon, J. 2013. Cauldron Pot, 9 Feb. 13. *Speleo Spiel*, 395: 4.

**Postscript:** Despite telling one of the visiting mainlanders several times that the hangers were to be left in-situ, AND sending a ne mail to all the members of the de-rig party outlining what was to be done, including leaving the hangers in place, they removed the hangers on the de-rig. We had removed the tags on our trip as they were no longer needed (with the hangers staying in the cave). Now the bolts have no hangers, or place markers. They may be a bit difficult to find for the next party.

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## JF-8 Junee Resurgence Permanent line replacement

*Janine McKinnon*

14 January 2014

**Divers:** Janine McKinnon, Ken Murray & Michael Packer (Pax).

**Support:** Peter Freeman & Ric Tunney.

The permanent line that runs through the first sump of JF-8 was laid by TCC in 1981 and 1982, over many dives. It has certainly stood the test of time. The resurgence takes extremely high flow and fierce currents for much of the year and it is a testament to how well they did the job that the line has remained intact and taut for three decades.

However all things decay with time, and this line reached the end of its useful life when, last summer, a section broke whilst we were in the cave (McKinnon 2013). This meant the whole line was now no longer trustworthy and needed replacing. Summer came to an end before I got the job planned.

So, with summer here, line purchased, and plan for how to re-line determined, it was all go. I had expected to have to do this job alone but fortunately Ken was visiting and offered to help, and Pax bounced with enthusiasm (literally) when I mentioned it and asked if he was interested in being involved. It was looking like a lot less solitary task than I had thought.

I cut 100 m from the 400 m roll of line, and put that aside. I then found an old travel bag large enough to fit the spool of line still coiled as I had bought it. I had decided to go with the "Telstra" 7 mm polypropylene line (called that because Telstra use it to pull cables). Several cave divers who have lined sumps recommended it as the line they use. It is quite cheap (at

\$65 for 400 m spool), compared to \$143 per 100 m roll of 8 mm rope that was the alternative I had found.

This is significantly thinner than the current line (which looks like 11 mm rope) so I just hope it has reasonable longevity and that I have made the right decision using it. Mind you, the old rope is far thicker than any permanent line I have seen in a cave.

Ric and I met up with Pax at Jackman & McCross and he jumped into our car. We managed to fit his diving gear in too, which I thought was a bit stunning as I usually fill the car with my stuff alone. We met Ken and Peter at the Maydena shop at 9 am and convoyed to the car park.

It took about an hour to get us divers, and all the gear, to the beach near the sump. The flow was higher than usual summer conditions and I decided to start the dive from the end of the



J. McKinnon

*A small pile of gear.*



**M. Packer**

*JF-8 For Your Eyes Only.*

beach, not the usual mid-beach launching off spot. This made the swim to the start of the sump much shorter. High water is needed to get across the rocks from there though.

Ric and Peter headed out to the warmth and sunshine as soon as their sherpaing job was finished. They would return to help bring gear out when we reappeared at the cars. We had discussed our plan over lunch at our place on Saturday. We would follow the old line and lay the new one along the same course, using the same tie-offs where possible. Why tamper with a successful job?

Pax had been very keen to head in first with the bag of line. As a very good diver and generally all-round practical person (he is an engineer, enough said) I thought he would probably do a better job laying the line than I. So he was the lead diver. Ken was to follow and tidy up any loose bits, and put cable ties where needed. I was following last to check how it all looked, and fix any bits that looked wrong.

I gave them a 10 minute head start and started in, checking the new line, and expecting to run into Ken before half way. I just kept swimming and swimming. The line was lying nicely and tied off to the old line with cable ties at intervals. This is temporary until the old line is removed on a later trip. I caught Ken just before the end of the sump. Pax was already out into For Your Eyes Only (FYEO) chamber. The job had been achieved so much faster than I had expected.

Pax had carried in camera gear (I had his tripod) and Ken and I had Go Pros, so a pleasant hour or so was spent in photography

in the chamber. For the return, I started out first and inspected the line again as I went, mainly looking at placement and tautness. All looked good. I will check again on the old line removal trip. The tie-offs need closer inspection.

I arrived back at the car three and a half hours after starting the exercise. It took another half hour to get all the gear back to the cars – longer for Pax as he didn't have a personal Sherpa like Ken and I.

It was a hot afternoon, with lots of flies and the odd passing tourist. After a leisurely lunch we all moved up to the KD car park and walked in to Cauldron Pot, so Ken and Peter knew how to get there for the de-rig trip they were joining a few days later.

Note: I was using 2 x 7 l tanks (Ken had my 10.5 l tanks). The flow was strong enough to require reasonable effort on the swim in (I have done it in higher flow, but with the bigger tanks). I used 70 bar from each tank and just reached the end of the sump with less than 10 bar to spare on thirds on each tank. I used 10 bar total from each tank on the trip out. Any future divers should not underestimate how high air consumption can be in this sump when the flow is up.

REFERENCE

McKinnon, J. 2013. Junee Cave, 16-17 Feb. 13. *Speleo Spiel*, 395: 6.