

**P2 – 20 m:** Wire trace around sharp rock 2 m above floor on RHS 15 m back from lip of pitch. Rebelay on bolt RHS 5 m before lip. Rebelay on bolt 3 m below lip. 17.5 m drop to floor. About 40 m rope.

### Cañon de los Vejestorios route

Start is from LHS of Short Creek, about 20 m downstream from the waterfall which is just below the pond where the taped route crosses Short Creek. Cross the creek, descend into the doline & curve back towards the streamway along a rocky rib. Route drops down RHS of rocky rib into narrow canyon. You can see the abovementioned waterfall, falling into the canyon, from the pitch head.

**Canyon Pitch – 30 m:** Belay from two small trees, slightly on LHS of rocky rib, 5 m from lip of canyon – 5 m & 1.8 m tapes. Drop into canyon and rebelay on two bolts 8 m down. 38 m rope, but a 55 m will reach to start of next pitch and helps with downclimbs in streamway.

**Across the Misty Void Pitch – 28 m:** Belay from two bolts on RHS at log jam. Rebelay on 10 mm bolt LHS 5m down. Move out onto wall LHS of waterfall. There are now three rebelays on bolts, each about 3 m apart and 1.5 m offset to move away from waterfall. About 6m above the bottom there is a choice of routes, either straight down in spray, or rebelay on bolt LHS to drop down dry to stream behind rock wall. 50 m rope.

**Handline (tape) – 3 m:** Bolt LHS. Sometimes the plunge pool below is very wet.

**Bolt Outta Hell Pitch – 23m:** Tape through thread in floor 7 m before lip. Bolt LHS. Y-hang from two bolts LHS to give clear drop. If water is coming down passageway, this pitch will be wet.

**Notes:** All directions looking downstream. Bolts are 10 mm x 50 mm stainless steel Troughbolts; hangers left *in situ* December 2013.

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## MC-1 Kubla Khan and MC-130 Devils Pot

**Alan Jackson**

**27 December 2013**

**Party:** Alan Jackson & five SUSSers (Deb, Phil, Rod, Dennis & Thomas).

Deb Johnston asked if I'd guide a mob of visiting SUSS cavers through Kubla between Christmas and New Year. I was up north anyway and saw it as a great way of escaping family. Nothing spectacular to report; Kubla's still there.

**28 December 2013**

**Party:** Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney & the five aforementioned SUSSers

Ric and Janine had been beavering a way at their canyon project in Devils Pot the previous day or two and since I was in the area and had some SUSS cavers to entertain we descended upon the cave. Ric sunned himself on the surface while the rest of us caved. Some went the traditional way into the doline while some others descended the new route down the canyon. It's an awesome canyon and a pity it is so short. Janine and I headed right down to the bottom level passage, via the flood overflow passage (which was not flowing like it was back in April when I surveyed it). The last pitch, Bolt Outta Hell, was rigged so I took the opportunity to complete the survey loop

from the top of this pitch to the base of the adjacent pitch on the normal doline route. Two legs and it was done.

Janine and I headed back out the way we came while the SUSSers did their exchange and drilled. We surveyed the canyon route as we went so I could position it better on my map.

The next task was to check the 'diveability' of the sump in Devils Anastomosis and descend the flowstone ramp that had stopped us back in April. Janine liked the look of the sump. We descended the ramp and found a sump pool at its base (the survey later indicating that the two pools are less than one metre apart, so no point returning to dive it, although someone should do it as a free-dive/duck just to prove they're a hero). The passage continued with a lofty 15 m high ceiling and a flat sandy floor for about 40 m before terminating in a low, calcified choke with a nice draught. Without the draught it would not be considered a good prospect and even with the draught it elicits no enthusiasm from me.

As we exited the cave we bumped into the SUSS mob who had followed us down the hill for a quick look at the upper levels of Devils Anastomosis. We marched up the hill to Devils Pot and made our way back to the carpark.

I've now updated the map to include the data collected on this trip. The maps (plan and vertical sections) are now ready for publishing, appearing on pages 30 and 31 of this issue.

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## JF-390 Lawrence Creek Rising

### Replacing the permanent line

**Janine McKinnon**

**Diver:** Janine McKinnon.

**Support:** Ric Tunney [*oxymoron – Ed.*].

Prologue: On a trip to the cave last summer with Ken Murrey we found that the permanent line in the cave had broken. I decided that a replacement was warranted, as the cave has had a permanent line for divers to follow to the second restriction for many years. In the low visibility, and frequently high flow, it is much quicker and easier to follow an existing line than run one yourself. I planned to leave the cave beyond the second restriction free of line. Thus divers could run their own jump

past this point as they have had to do in the past. The status quo would be restored.

**30 December 2013**

This was the first dive here since last summer. I planned to remove an old, broken line and start placing the permanent replacement line. The water level was not very high and the flow rate reasonable.

As I checked my gear at the start of the dive though, I found my inflator hose for my buoyancy compensator was leaking a small stream of bubbles. It hadn't been doing that on a dive three days earlier. This was a concern as the small leak could become a major failure point without warning. Or it could just stay a small stream of bubbles. I decided to dive anyway but

keep the dive time short and not venture a long way into the cave.

As it turned out, the old line was a tangled mess just inside the entrance restriction and there was no line beyond that. I started laying the new line and progressed 5–10 m before reaching the steep slope dropping off to the left. Visibility was about 1 m, and I decided that a better plan would be to lay a temporary primary line, and follow with the permanent line afterwards. Of course I hadn't bought a primary line with me, just a jump reel (which has too little line on it). I left the bag and line safely (I hoped) tucked into a small hole and exited the cave.

Dive time: 30 min.

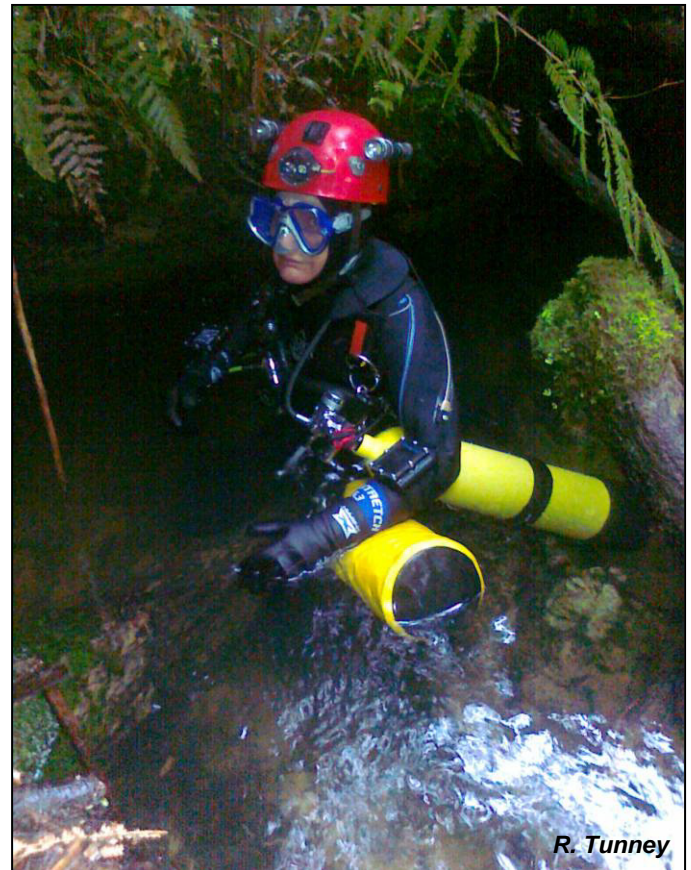
### 7 January 2014

Leaking hose replaced, primary (temporary) line to hand, and I was back for attempt two. I thought I may get the primary line laid AND then permanent one installed as well today. Famous last thoughts. It had rained over the weekend but I, amazingly foolishly for a long-term Tassie resident, had not actually checked how much rain had fallen in Maydena (20 mm on the previous Saturday). It had only drizzled a bit in Hobart ... Yes, I know.

We got quite a surprise to see the stream flowing briskly and the water level at the resurgence almost a metre higher than last week. Still, I had been in moderately high flow in there before, so it was worth a shot, seeing we were there.

I realised I had a bit of a problem as I approached the entrance restriction. It was a battle. I finally dragged myself through the entrance but it took many minutes. Once inside, where I should have made easier progress as the passage is a little wider, this didn't seem to be happening. I clawed my way a few metres but it was getting harder by the minute. The flow rate was still increasing. There was little to grab to pull on, as the rock is very friable and broke off as I pulled on the few hand holds I could find.

The flow kept pushing water into my mask and trying to push my helmet off. My second stage regulator (the one I wasn't breathing from) kept free flowing when the water pushed in the mouth piece and I had to keep turning it inwards. Eventually I turned the tank off. I had progressed about 5 metres past the entrance and could not move forward any further against the force of the water. I was using my feet against the roof to stop



R. Tunney

[Having fun yet Janine? – Ed.]

being pushed backwards and they weren't strong enough to push me forward. This was stupid and pointless. Time to leave.

The next bit of excitement was turning around. I didn't want to go out backwards through the squeeze. Being small has its advantages sometimes. I was able to turn around in the confined passage, by lots of wedging bits of myself as I turned. I was then spat out the entrance as soon as I stopped bracing, with a fair bit of banging about as I was pushed through. Lucky all that cold water insulation provides a lot of padding. Good argument for wearing a helmet too.

Dive time: 35 min. Achievement: zero.

## JF-2 Cauldron Pot

### Poles

Janine McKinnon

2 January 2014

**Party:** Andrzej Ciszewski, Ewa Ciszewski, Michal Ciszewski, Janine McKinnon & Ric Tunney.

A family of visiting Polish cavers had contacted us in pursuit of a caving trip. They would be around for the first week of January. Rolan (Eberhard) had already arranged with me to return to Cauldron Pot on the weekend of 11–12 January, to follow up the lead we found in the cave last summer (McKinnon 2013). I perceived a wonderful convergence of interests. I would use the Poles to rig the cave, and give them a great Tassie caving experience at the same time. All winners.

The Poles stayed with us the night before the trip and we got a 7.30 am start from home. We dropped in on the SUSS group (from Devils Pot trip the previous week) at the house they were renting in Maydena, and arranged for the Poles to stay there for a couple of nights and join them on their caving trips. This took half an hour and we left them at 9 am.

The day was fine and we had a pleasant walk to the cave. They were all amazed at the forest and declared it worth the trip in its own right. They were impressed with the entrance to Cauldron, as everyone is, of course. They have caved all over the world (just back from China two months ago) and said it was unique, in their experience. And that was before they went down!

I started down the first pitch in front, and we all gathered at the start of Bills Bypass, after photo time, naturally. I wanted Andrzej to see it before anyone started down. He is a stout, somewhat rotund man in his sixties, with back problems, and I was a little concerned what Bill would do to him. He seemed