

Editorial and Introduction

Tim Moulds

Western Australian Speleological Group Inc.

The 30th Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation was held in Exmouth, Western Australia from 21st – 26th June 2015. The conference was very well attended with delegates from across Australia coming together for a week of great presentations, socialising, fun and caving.

The presentations were all of excellent quality starting with an introduction to the Cape Range's unique subterranean fauna by Dr Bill Humphreys from the Western Australian Museum. Other highlights included a history of cave discovery and exploration on the Range by Darren Brooks and the in depth investigation of calcite straws on concrete by Garry K Smith. Several workshops also passed on valuable skills to conference participants such as building a DistoX during a fun afternoon in the Exmouth Shire Hall.

The field trip to Yardie Creek and the west side of the Range was very popular to explore some of the rockholes to see the stygobitic fish *Milyeringa veritas*.

A big thankyou for all who attended the conference, especially those who presented papers and then provided a written report to make these proceedings possible.

Organising committee members

Convener and local expert & organiser
Secretary, caving trip co-ordinator
Treasurer, registration
Program and proceedings
Bar Manager
Speleo Sports
Photographic competition
Website
Committee:

Darren Brooks
Greg Thomas
Fran Head
Tim Moulds
Ida Newton
Ian Collette
Ross Anderson
Dave London (not at conference)
Jackie Brooks, Dene Buckley, John Cugley, Rob Susac

Speleosports Report

Greg Thomas

Western Australian Speleological Group Inc.

The Speleosports was held at a local playground on Thursday afternoon, 25th June.

Each team of 4 had to do a compass reading and distance measurement or estimate by pacing between two set points, before proceeding to the main obstacle course which had been constructed amongst the playground equipment. First the "cave gate" had to be opened while lying under some spaghetti speleothems and using a large selection of keys. Each team member then clipped onto a rope which was followed maze like through the playground with numerous pasta and spaghetti speleothems to be avoided and a water hazard going up the slide.



At the “flying fox” platform more speleothem pasta limited the tread area with over and under exuberance during launch leading to some poor outcomes for the speleothems. From here one party member had to pass through a series of hanging car tyres and then a different party member had to harness up and climb a few metres up a wire rope ladder and swap out a self-locking karabiner.

Base times were adjusted with penalties for inaccurate survey measurements, damage to speleothems and loss of party members in the crevasse. (One team lost two members who dropped off the flying fox into the “crevasse”. Surviving party members were penalised for time spent in the Coroner’s Court).

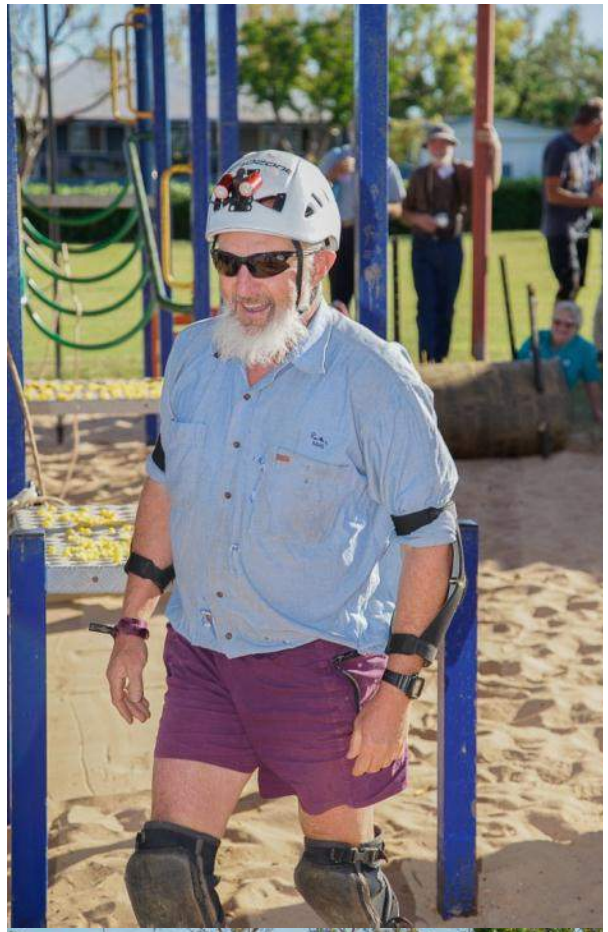
Placing	Team name	Members	Base Time	Time with Penalties
1	Flying Orange	Aimee, Tim, Asha, Brett	7:07	9:17
2	Hillbillies	Ros, Grant, Lara, Rod	8:00	10:53
3	Blind Eels	Kim, Janine, Rob, Barb	8:05	11:22
4	Nameless Team	Andrew, Fiona, Luana, Danny	8:59	11:44
5	Spunky Speleos	Dominique, Garry, Brian, David	8:25	11:54
6	Blind Gudgeons	Rod, Westy, Alan, Jim	10:00	15:10
7	Christmas Trees	Cathie, Sarah, Jay, Janice	11:36	15:48
8	Fantastic 4	Weidi, Cindy, Lisa, Rob	13:25	80 days



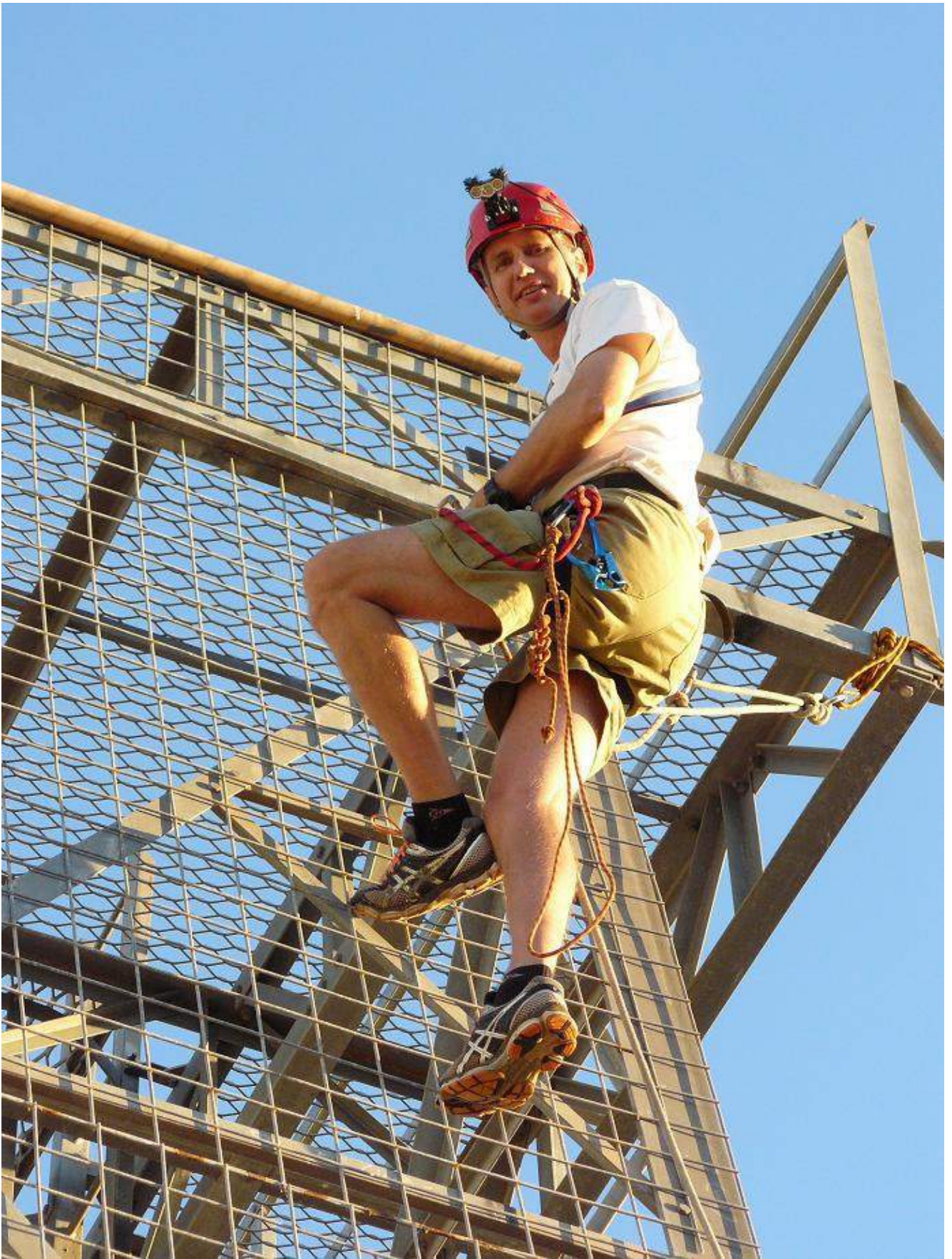
(all unattributed photos by Ross Anderson)











The dashing Ross Anderson (Photo Greg Thomas)





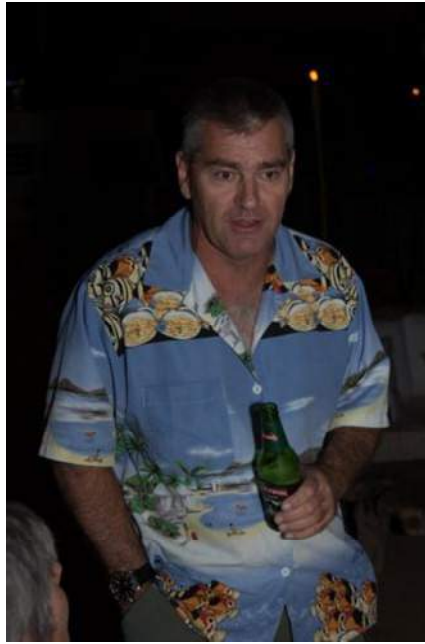
Janine McKinnon in action on the ropes course (Photo Greg Thomas)



Al Warild shows how its done (Photo Greg Thomas)







Photos of the Conference Dinner and Presenters (All photos Ross Anderson)

