Push Day and the challenges of filming underground

FRASER JOHNSTON, Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

Film maker Fraser Johnston has had a fascination for Tasmania's underground since visiting Mystery Creek Cave as a child, but it was a chance meeting with Andreas Klocker in 2016 that introduced him and fellow film maker Andrew Terhell to the adrenaline-filled world of vertical caving and sump-diving in Tasmania's Junee–Florentine cave system. While a sometimes-reluctant caver, Fraser has been gripped by stories of past and present cave exploration in the JF and enjoys the unique challenges of filming underground, and has plans for a feature-length film focusing on the history and exploration of the Junee Florentine; just don't ask him when it will be finished ...

Push Day is an, as-yet, unreleased short film (22 minutes) following Stephen Fordyce and Andreas Klocker on a push dive trip into the upstream sump of Australia's deepest known cave, Niggly. This is a special pre-release screening of the film ahead of a planned 2019 festival run. Filmed over several years with the help and support of the STC, Push Day attempts to answer one of the big questions of the modern world: 'what is left to explore?'