

Chillagoe Caving Club

Annual Report

2013



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The Chillagoe Caving Club was formed in Chillagoe at an inaugural meeting on 23rd April, 1973 with 16 persons present. The intention of forming the Club was to bring together the active cavers already in the area to enable them to share their knowledge, expertise and equipment, and to foster caving as a sport and a science, particularly in the Chillagoe area.

The Club became an Associate of the Australian Speleological Federation not long after the Club was formed, and voted to become a Corporate Member at the Annual Meeting in 1995. The Club was incorporated under the Queensland Associations Incorporation Act of 1981.

Full Membership of the Club stands at 44 with an additional 8 Novice Members as at the end of February, 2012. The Club has become well recognised by Australian and overseas cavers and scientists as an invaluable contact in relation to Chillagoe and the surrounding areas.

The Club has an established Clubhouse in Chillagoe for the accommodation of members caving in the area.

Chillagoe Caving Club
PO Box 92, CAIRNS QLD 4870. AUSTRALIA
ABN 52 614 187 726

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MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5th May 2012.

1. OPENING

The meeting was opened at 19:00hrs by the president, Paul Osborne.

2. PRESENT

Present were:- Paul Osborne, Winfried Weiss, Peter Bannink, Douglas and Mary Ann Irvin, Horrie Garth, Sue Jenkins, Paco Murray, Phil Harrison, Miriam Robinson, Van Christensen, Kimberley Bernays, Rob and Jonathon Ham, Mick Godwin, Greg & Tim Gurnier;

The President announced a quorum members (16) was present, a quorum being one third of the total number of financial members and life members (45), and that the meeting was duly constituted.

3. APOLOGIES

Judy Nickles, Grant Polomka, Dianne Vale, Les & Beth Pearson, Tom Gilmore, Alan Cummins, Margaret Cummins, Wendy Lander, Michael Cummins, Catherine Cummins, the Morgan family, Max Emeny, Bones & Elwing Mitchell, Axel Buthmann, the Offer family, Cheryl Belbin, Chris Head, the Forsyth family, Kris Lambert, Damien Tapp, Mike Tarburton, Berend Akkerman, Barry Wright.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting held on the 30th of April 2011 were read. Mary Ann Irvin moved that the minutes be accepted; this was seconded by Paul Osborne and carried by the meeting. The President then signed a copy of the minutes as a correct record. This was handed to the (acting) Secretary, Peter Bannink, to be kept with all minutes of the club as per the club rules.

5. Business arising from the Minutes

1) Accommodation and camping fees & restructuring the financials of the Club were held over to general business.

2) Photos and Storage - Paco is happy to look at going through photo library and start uploading them to the website. Then everyone can access the photos. The process for this was discussed - best to send them all to the website administrator who will put them up. It was further discussed that all photos have a copyright associated with them. Details should be provided with photos, but contributors should understand that they may be used by people in the public domain. A caveat re copyright usage might be added to the website for general purposes.

3) Asset Management - discussed the increase in value of the club facilities. Paul spoke about the fact that insurance has now been updated which now covers us for replacement value and public liability. The property is now valued at \$850,000. However the insurance cost is significant.

4) Money for Casey - the Club was going to contribute \$500 for him, but this has not yet been paid. This still needs to be paid. The reason for non payment is the fact that a lot of large bills have come in and Club finances are quite low at the moment.

5) Clubhouse cleaning - this continues to be a problem, particularly the mowing of lawns and the toilets. There is some cleaning gear there that we can all use for keeping the place tidy. Just a note, the toilets need to be cleaned with organic stuff, as the biolytix system does not tolerate harsh chemicals well.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2012

President's Report

Paul presented his report and read it out to the members.

Additional remarks:-

Extra discussion on trip leaders - Paul spoke about trip leader qualification and succession planning so that we have a few more people that can lead trips. Paco stated that the process needs to be simple. Winfried noted that maybe we need more assessors. Noted by Paul.

Carol given an extra vote of thanks. She keeps the place clean and tidy and looks after us. Paul emphasised that people need to let Carol know when they are here and what they are doing. Maybe this needs to be made clear on the website as well.

Treasurer's Report:

Additional remarks:-

Peter Bannink advised that he had not yet received the auditor's report. He briefly discussed a draft version he has put together to the standard of an audited report. He also discussed income and expenditure over the year. He stated that the club is only just solvent and this year unless camping revenue increase, there will be a \$2,000 or \$3,000 shortfall. The bulk of the clubs savings and donations monies have been consumed by purchasing the land, refurbishing the old school and building the amenities block.

Copies of the draft report are available for anyone interested in the club finances and the final auditors report will be added to the final version of the Annual Report.

In relation to finalizing the Conference finances over two financial years, Peter stated that there was a modest profit but that this was offset by the \$3000.00 of stock still left to be sold or written off. The final figure can only be applied when all this stock is sold. It would be beneficial to sell the stock at cost price or a little below.

Peter also highlighted a summary of building expenditure in relation to the large building donations the club has received over the last few years.

Peter mentioned that insurance was \$4,500 now and that this figure is vastly more than last time. The insurance is paid for this year but we need to consider options in case the Club does not have enough income to pay for insurance next year. To be discussed later.

Survey and Records Keeper Report

Peter Bannink highlighted that extra copies for a number of publications have been printed and they are available to sell to interested members. This is the Undara book and the Chillagoe Karst Supplement.

Peter has been doing some Government work in relation to karst in Queensland. This has focused on mapping exactly where the karst areas are, including features such as dolines and towers. This information is available for the Club via Peter.

Building and Maintenance Report

None this year, but Alan thanks everyone for their efforts.

Environmental Report:

No report required this year, but Doug spoke about mining lease applications in Broken River. Doug has co-ordinated with Metallica Minerals about this and they released a report recently

discussing their intentions. They are after scandium. They seem to be on top of their environmental requirements and have Tim Moulds from WA looking at stygofauna.

Tim Moulds was here last year and collected new insect species from Broken River. He is slowly processing these and good work is being done.

A cave was also discovered at Broken River full of bones. Gilbert Price is going to check it out with Doug to check on the contents.

Doug noted that Kagara Zinc is in voluntary administration and that they are in shutdown mode at the moment.

Tackle Keeper's Report

Van really has nothing to report. The new helmets have been used a lot and the donation box has been used to some extent. It is rare that something gets signed out or written down - this is an issue and may need addressing. Winfried suggested a large sign.

There are some orange helmets in the tackle room that magically appeared. They are not suitable for caving as they have no chin straps etc. Van will look at this.

Winfried raised the ropes that are in the tackle room. It was decided that because of the age of the ropes etc, perhaps they should find use in non critical areas.

Publicity Officer's Report

Wendy has sent in a report. Not much has happened and no real contact with the media.

ASF Report

2013 ASF conference at Galong, 6th January. Doug and Mary Ann are going.

Librarian's Report

Miriam stated that Doug and Mary Ann have donated some books. Peter also has books overdue!

6. MOTION

A motion was moved by Paul Osborne that "The reports as tabled at this CCC AGM be accepted as presented and read". Winfried seconded this motion, and the meeting carried the motion unanimously.

7. EINSTEIN AWARD

Van nominated Paul for his efforts in relation to using advanced cave weathering techniques. He injured his finger for trying to blow up a rock with his modified .22 cal explosives system. Paul nominated Ben for the same thing. Paco nominated Van in relation to the 30m rope that he used to try and go down a 35 metre pitch today in Castle cave (he didn't fall off the bottom).

A vote was held and Paul was elected for the Einstein award.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2012/2013

Paul Osborne declared all the Chillagoe Caving Club (inc.) positions vacant. Paco was asked and agreed to chair the meeting.

President: Paul nominated by Doug, seconded by Paco. Paul nominated Paco. Paul accepted the nomination. Paco did not. Paul accepted the position.

Secretary: Paul nominated Winfried and Mary Ann Irvin seconded it. Paco nominated Van, but he declined. Phil Harrison also got nominated but he declined. Winfried accepted the position

Treasurer: Miriam nominated Peter, seconded by Van. No other nominations. Peter accepted the nomination and the job.

Other Office Bearers Nominee who accepted (nominator, seconded by)

Survey and Records Keeper –	Peter Bannink (Paco Murray, Phil Harrison)
Tagging Officer –	Paco Murray (Van Christensen, Greg Guernier)
Tackle Keeper –	Van Christensen (Winfried Weiss, Keith Offer), Bruce Dane was also nominated and Van was appointed by a majority vote.
Safety Training officer –	Greg Guernier (Mary Ann Irvin, Van Christensen)
Building & Maintenance Co-ordinator –	Van Christensen (Paco Murray, Paul Osborne)
Clubhouse Warden –	Paul Osborne (Winfried Weiss, Peter Bannink).
ASF co-ordinator –	Winfried Weiss (Miriam Robinson, Horrie Garth) with Douglas Irvin's help
ACKMA representative –	Winfried as part his job as Secretary
Photo Librarian –	Paco Murray (Van Christensen, Paul Osborne)
Librarian –	Miriam Anderson (Winfried Weiss, Peter Bannink)
Environmental Conservation Officer –	Peter Bannink (Greg Guernier, Douglas Irvin)
Publicity Officer –	Kimberley Bernays (Paul Osborne, Peter Bannink)
Webmaster –	Winfried Weiss (Van Christensen, Peter Bannink)
Auditor –	Kevin Ridgeway – all in favour
Solicitor –	Robin Smith – all in favour

It was noted that all non-executive committee members are invited to Exec meetings to co-ordinate any issues.

9. RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service)

It was noted that the \$150 donation was not made this last year. It was agreed to pay the \$150 for last year and if funds are available to pay an additional \$150 for the 2012/2013 year.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS 2012/2013

10.1 Modifications to Constitution

- Another missed opportunity. Mary Ann Irvin in August 2011 tried to get a quorum to change three aspects of the constitution last year but on the day, a quorum was not present. It's obvious we can only get a quorum at an AGM. Changes to the constitution will be next year as a priority

- The auditor Kevin Ridgeway wants to give up auditing our books. Once our current assets fall below \$20,000.00 we do not have to have our books audited by an auditor. Next year our current assets will fall below \$20,000. We also need to remove the need for an auditor to review the books from our constitution. This would save the club about \$600.00 per annum. We could look at changing the statement to have the books reviewed by an independent person for free. An audit still has to be produced by the Treasurer and made available to members and be send into the Office of Fair Trading.

10.2 Recognition for Barry Neale

The Treasurer noted that the efforts of Barry had not been recognised at the end of last year. Barry has done all the electrical work around the clubhouse in most cases at material cost only. This has been a substantial savings to the building projects.

The meeting gave Barry Neale a vote of thanks for his hard work.

10.3 Recognition for Bruce Dane and Paco Murray

The meeting noted that the efforts of Paco had not been recognised at the end of last year. Paco did all the plumbing design work for the new school at no cost. Bruce Dane (taking a break from the club this last year) with Casey are still doing work on finishing the disabled toilet.

The meeting gave Paco, Bruce and Casey a vote of thanks for their hard work.

10.4 Recognition for Casey

The gift of \$500 has not yet been forthcoming to Casey for the enormous amount of work he has done in plumbing the new Amenities block.

The meeting resolved to pay this amount asap once funds become available.

10.5 Club fees

- Motion to increase the clubs fees. Paul spoke about increasing Club fees and stated that increasing the fees for members is not going to make a lot of difference. The issue perhaps is novice membership. During the year Paul looked at this and found that pre the donation box there was no avenue for novices to give something back to the Club. We have been missing out on this revenue stream, particularly those who do not actually camp here. Everyone who comes caving should join as a novice member - the downfall here is that the ASF gets the most of that \$35 for the membership. The novice then gets discounted camping fees and the Club is again out of pocket. This is probably not fair. There are several ways around it and it has to be recognised that we need an avenue where people can come here, go caving, and the Club gets something for it. There could be a temporary membership that does not include ASF. People can then join for x amount of time, or novice membership can be changed to not include the ASF component, which could be added if people want to go to NP caves.

The other issues is camping fees re the above. Full members should get a discount, perhaps novices should get a scaled discount so that the Club is not out of pocket.

Note - Paco suggested that there could be something on the website where trip leaders are listed, perhaps people wanting to go caving can cover the TLs costs and make a club donation.

Paul moved a motion that we look at raising the camping fees. The meeting agreed that the prices need to go up to deal with rising costs. The exact price rise will be set by the Exec in the coming months. \$6 for members, \$8 for novices, other club people, \$3 for under 18 students who are members. \$10 for ASF club members and group bookings. Non members are \$12.

Sue brought up the 'day use' issue and that this should be what the fee is for. It needs to be considered as a Clubhouse fee rather than a nightly fee.

Discussion in relation to school groups and passing on the cost of cleaning to the groups that use the place. We can negotiate this with groups. Winfried raised that TAS had sent an email with some issues including mowing etc. It was discussed that a process needs to be put in place in relation to the cleaning of the place before groups use it. This is probably a critical part of the process as we need the groups to come.

10.6 Club membership categories

Motion to add a new category to the fee structure for a weekend caver (independent of ASF). These introductory cavers cannot cave in a National Park Caves but could go on Club trips.

The reasoning behind this was that for very short term novices there is no need for ASF membership.

Motion approved by membership and Exec to finalise details.

10.9 Clubhouse Cleaning

- There is the need to clean and close the facilities before the wet season and again before the new years caving season begins (March). The Old School needs to be closed to prevent rats, bats and birds from making a mess. Any takers!

10.10 Public Liability

- It was questioned whether or not the Club can afford Property Insurance at \$3500.00. If the revenue is down for any particular year we cannot afford this massive insurance bill, An option would be to reduce the infrastructure on the register.

The Executive should look at doing this, for example with the amenities block.

10.11 Motion to Ratify Decisions

- A motion was moved by Miriam Robinson that “The actions and decisions of the Management Committee over the past 2011 – 2012 year be ratified and approved”. This was seconded by Phil Harrison and the meeting carried the motion unanimously.

Next AGM to be held at Chillagoe Caving Club Clubhouse, Chillagoe on Monday 4th May 2013 commencing at 19:00 hrs.

Paul Osborne declared the meeting closed at 21:51hrs

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2013

It’s been another great year of caving with lots of local exploration and surveying of new finds, trips to other caving areas and pushing the extremities of known caves. Much of the Broken River cave systems have been surveyed thanks to the inspiration of Alan Pryke from SUSS.

New caves that have been right under our noses have been found in the Mungana area and we’ve finally pushed Rescue (CH69- 70) to find where that draft comes from at the back of the cave and found several new entrances. The cave is currently under survey and I ask that any members going in there make sure that no-one in their party moves any of the survey markers.

Kimberlee applied for and was granted \$1000 from Brother’s Leagues Club for a new plastic stretcher and rescue equipment. I’ve now got the stretcher completed and ready for use. The stretcher is of the designs by Ian Collette that we used when Ross Anderson came over to run the Rescue Weekend for us at Chillagoe. Paco and I participated in a SAREX with the Tasmanian Police Rescue Squad while we were down there this year and realise that to affect a rescue with the minimum of fuss and rigging

design problems, we need to aim for some more rigging kit to complete the set. Of course the next stage is training weekends for anyone interested in how to rig and carry a person out of a cave.

As I write I am staring at the Einstein Award that has been sitting on my desk for the last year. As much as I don't want it sitting there for another year, it's probably a good thing that I haven't seen or heard about any daring feats of stupidity to take it off me in the last year.

The cleaning and maintenance of the expanded clubhouse facilities continues to be a workload that sometimes seems overwhelming and I'm still advocating that we apply a budgetary allowance for the cleaning. I think I'm safe in saying that most members don't want to spend the weekend cleaning when they have driven so far to go caving. The other practical issue is that while most do their bit, the majority of the cleaning is left to the last persons to leave. I wonder if this also is a deterrent to the use of the clubhouse.

On a sad note, the past year saw us lose one of our earliest and longest serving members, Margaret Cummins. Margaret's passing saw an incredible number of members, past and present, come together and show that we really are one big close family.

Insurance

We've had to re-new the insurance for 2013. Public Liability is paid but when it came to the building insurance the club was not in a position to be able to make the necessary payment. Rather than choose to go uninsured we chose to re-value the buildings and contents. We also chose to insure only part of the year with the intent of renewing when we were more financial hopefully before the end of the year. There is risk here as the insurance company in the case of partial loss will only pay part of the insurance if it is deemed that the club is underinsured. Last year we were insured for \$800K this year we are insured for only \$500K.

Membership

With the expansion of our facilities and realisation that for the club to survive financially, we need to generate funds, most trip leaders are now requiring that anyone going caving be at least a temporary/novice member. I think this is working and that most people wanting to go caving don't expect a free ride and are happy to support the club in this small way.

Membership forms are available in the blue folder on or in the library cupboard and Carol is ready to write the receipts.

I notice that there has been a bit of attrition of members not renewing membership. I urge all current members to encourage those that have not renewed for whatever reason to lend their support to the club to ensure its future viability. Every member is a valuable asset.

The other area members can contribute is to encourage more groups to come and use the facilities. Without more use it's difficult to meet the costs of running the place.

Acknowledgements

My appreciation goes to Peter, Winfried and Kimberlee in the executive who have all contributed to the well-being of the Club over the past year.

Many of the club members have put in their little bits and sometimes big bits and I thank them for their contribution. It's what belonging to a club is all about and makes the experience more enjoyable.

And of course Carol, without whom we would not turn up to a clean, well-cared for and homey atmosphere. Special thanks should go to Barney as he has put in a considerable amount of time that most of us don't see. He's always willing to chip in with helping out round the place with those jobs we don't get around to doing.

I touched on it before but it's a credit to all that we have had an incident free caving year. Well done members, let's keep it up.

The Future

Whilst I've enjoyed the job, I think to take the Presidency on for another year is risking burn-out and me getting a little stale in the position. It's time for someone else to step up and provide new direction

and energy. If somebody wishes to nominate for the position at the AGM I would be happy to hand it over and provide mentoring and back-up assistance. I appeal to all the applicants to maintain civility towards other candidates in their campaign to gain votes for election to the Presidency.

Paul Osborne (President) (April 2013)

TREASURERS REPORT 2013

The clubs finances are only just ticking over, I am surprised we actually made the budget this year but that was actually due to a small amount of money donated to the club. Next years budget is going to be very tight as most of the available funds have been spent on the Building Insurance Premium which Paul recently reduced by \$2000 from \$3740 to \$1924. With the clubs current level of income stream the budget for 2014 is unsustainable and it is unlikely we will be able to afford insurance after October when another \$3500 is due. I just hope we can gain the levels of revenue required to pay, otherwise the club will have to move back to placing the buildings in a position of high risk. The Solar Hot water and Solar Energy panels installed by the Solar Grant have helped reduce our costs a lot. I hope with the separation of the Mareeba Shire from the Tablelands Shire Council that our reduction in rates continues or we may have an additional \$2000 cost per annum to deal with.

P. Bannink (Treasurer)

(April 2013)

CAMPING FEES 2012/2013

Full Members	\$ 6.00 per person per night
Novice/ Introductory Members	\$ 8.00 per person per night
Member Students (under18 school age) :	\$ 3.00 per person per night
Other ASF Member Clubs or Group Bookings:	\$ 8.00 per person per night
Non Members	\$ 12.00 per person per night
Non Member Students (under18 school age)	\$ 5.00 per person per night

Membership Fees for 2012/2013

5st May 2012 – 28th April 2013

Our Constitution indicates that fees become due on 1st May each year and must be paid by June 30th of that year to ensure that insurance cover available through the ASF Insurance Policy continues after June 31st of that year.

To enable the Club to function, early payment of fees is necessary and the Management Committee would appreciate your prompt payment.

Fee Structure is as follows:

• Single Members (including full year ASF Fee)	\$98.00
• Family (including full year ASF Fees)	\$182.50
• Student Members (12 months - including full year ASF Fee of \$61)	\$78.50*
• Novice Members (6 months - including 3 months of ASF Fees)	\$35.00**
• Student Novice (6 months - including 3 months of ASF Fees)	\$30.00 ^^
• Inactive Life Members (ASF Fees only)	\$23.00
• Active Life Members (ASF Fees only)	\$68.00
• Single Members (without ASF Fees)	\$30.00#

* - Students including those attending Primary or Secondary Schools who cannot be included in a family membership.

** - The novice fee of \$12.50 is for 6 months, but ASF Component of \$20 is only for trial period of 3 months and beyond this a club fee of \$14.50 and ASF fee of \$48 will have to be paid to make up to full single membership.

- ^^ - The student novice fee of \$6.00 is for 6 months, but ASF Component of \$20 is only for trial period of 3 months and beyond this a club fee of \$6.50 and ASF fee of \$41 will have to be paid to make up to full student membership
- # - While it is intended that all active members join ASF some existing members, who are no longer active cavers, are continuing as Club Members only.

Please note: a major component of the ASF fees is insurance which needs to be paid by all active members of the club, especially those intending to cave in National Park area's and Reserves.

Membership Fees can be paid either by cash or cheque to the Treasurer, or direct to the Club's bank account. Should the latter method be chosen you must advise the Treasurer where the money was deposited, the date of deposit, the amount deposited, whom the deposit is for and what it was for? In the absence of this information it is not possible to give the member concerned any credit for the payment until the information is received. It is possible for this information to be made by your bank if you make a miscellaneous deposit and request that the above detail of payee and purpose of payment be included for listing on the Club's account statement. If paying by internet Banking or by direct deposit please email the details to the Treasurer, Peter Bannink, preferably by email : peter.bannink@derm.qld.gov.au or by phone (4092 6036)

For direct banking please deposit funds into the Club's Commonwealth Bank account at any local branch. The account number is BSB 064804 A/C No 00912281.

SURVEY AND RECORD KEEPER'S REPORT

It's been a fantastic year of cave discovery in Chillagoe and Broken River. At last members are tagging new caves and extensive efforts have been made to survey the new systems. Quite a lot of data has flowed to the Records Keeper who has also been able to include some of these trip reports in this years newsletters. Eileen Carol who was on cave fauna biological expeditions in North Queensland between 1882-1985 has copied her photos for the club archives onto 4 CD's . This is s great contribution to the clubs photo archive documenting some very exiting work contributed by the club as the time and people involved.

The tagging is again in a state of shambles with records not filled in the tagging book correctly, tagging sheets not filled out and/or missing tags. New cave tag numbers have started at CH532 after a gap in the book. Anyone who knows where the numbers CH527 – CH531 are allocated, please tell the tagging officer and fill out the tagging book. I have listed the new cave entrances below, many of these have yet to be explored, some link into known systems.

TAG	NAME	TOWER	DATE	LOCATED BY
CH532	KERRIN'S DILEMMA	4CH5158	1.12.2011	M. Tarburton
CH533	KRYSTELLS'S DELIGHT	4CH5158	1.12.2011	M. Tarburton
CH534	SAMCIA GUESS CAVE	4CH5158	1.12.2011	M. Tarburton
CH535	DIRK'S BACKYARD	4CH5255	7.12.2011	M. Tarburton
CH536	LISETTE'S ART SHOP	4CH5255	8.12.2011	M. Tarburton
CH537	VERTICAL MUMS	4CH5239	18.12.2011	M. Tarburton
CH538	COLUMN CAVE	4CH5239	08/10/2011	D. Irvin and P. Osborne
CH539	BLINDSIDE	4CH5239	02/04/2012	P. Osborne & M. Pryke
CH540	BLINDSIDE E2	4CH5239	~ 2008	P. Osborne & D. Irvin
CH541	KERRIN'S DILEMMA E2	4CH5158	28/06/2012	M. Tarburton
CH542	ELLA BELLA CAVE	4CH5242	19/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH543		4CH5246	16/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH544	GRUNTA GRIKE #2	4CH5239	18/12/2011	M. Tarburton
CH545	CH412 SWIFTLETS	4CH5239	8/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH546	KEEFS CAVERN #2	4CH5329	18/12/2011	M. Tarburton
CH547	MIKAEL'S DROP IN	4CH5242	20/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH548	SWIFTLET SWALLET #2	4CH5240	18/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH549	HERCULES #3	4CH5240	13/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH550	CAM'S SHAFT `	4CH5242	22/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH551	SECOND CHANCE	4CH5242		G. Polomka

CH552	TELICIA'S TWIN CAVE	4CH5242	22/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH553	FIRST PRUSSIK CAVE E2	4CH5158	1/07/2012	M. Tarburton
CH554	JOSEPH'S PIT	4CH5240	27/07/2012	M. Tarburton

Sixteen new cave entrances have also been tagged at Broken river, some which have been documented and explored on previous expeditions. With Alan Pryke and Paul Osborne coordinating the surveying some impressive maps have been produced by Alan. There appears to be many more years of cave mapping and exploration ahead. The tagging at Broken River is in an even greater mess with different caving groups tagging in the past. New cave tags laid down by CCC have started at BR181.

BR181	SNAKE PASSAGE	4BR245	
BR182	SLIP SLOP SPLAT	4BR245	
BR183	THE SHARK	4BR245	Paul Osborne
BR184	DUSTY DRAIN	4BR245	Van Christensen
BR185	PINK ENTRANCE	4BR245	Van Christensen
BR186	BIG HO	4BR245	Paul Osborne
BR187	TRIPPERS DELIGHT	4BR245	Paco Murray and Van
BR188	BEEHIVE 1	4BR245	Alan & Margaret Cummins
BR189	GREEN ROOM	4BR245	
BR190	TWISTIES	4BR245	
BR191	SMOKO TIME	4BR245 24/06/2012	D. Irvin
BR192	MANGROVE CAVE	4BR245 02/07/2004	Van, D. Irvin and A. Bushby
BR193	FIGTREE	4BR245 25/06/2012	Grant Polomka
BR194	BEE STING	4BR245	
BR195	SPIDERPIG	4BR245 25/06/2012	Grant Polomka
BR196	MERECAT MANOR	4BR245 25/06/2012	Grant Polomka

I welcome more documentation, exploration and surveying in 2013.

P. Bannink

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

There has little been done in terms of building and maintenance in the past year due to our low financial status. Two water leaks were fixed, one which cost us \$700 in excess water use charge. Club members have been keeping the place reasonably clean and with Paul taking away lots of the junk lying around. I thought it looked much better this year. There is still more to get rid of and please do not bring any old thing to the clubhouse without checking with the executive first. Hopefully the facilities will become easier to maintain in the future. (Peter Bannink)

Another year has passed, somehow; with the passing of Margaret my life for the last year is a big blur. The grounds are looking great, the accommodation is being used, the toilet block has progressed a little, the disabled toilet is now working but not the shower, progression is slow but happening. Let us see what we can do this year. (Alan Cummins)

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION REPORT

There is only one main issue which came to light in 2012. There is a new mining lease over the Easter kast block of the Wallace Creek Limestone Region, northeast of Lakeland. While the lease still has to be pegged and is currently not active, it prompted Les and Peter to write a report on the caves in the area to be passed on to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DHP). The report was received in late 2012 and hopefully DHP will take the clubs findings into consideration when granting the lease. It would be good for the club to actively explore that area before mining commences, so all the caves in the area can be located and documented. The report has been lodged in the clubs archives as TR424 if anyone would like to read it.

Other mining leases around Chillagoe are currently being renewed, many are not being mined at the moment. Please seek advice from Peter Bannink if you seek to cave in one of these areas, as permission needs to be granted from the owner of the lease.

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY, 2013

INCOME

2012		2013	2013	2013	2013
		Membership	Buildings	Conference	Sales
<u>Receipts</u>					
4,382.50	Membership Fees	3,646.05			
73.00	Tackle Hire	20.00			
<u>Bank Interest</u>					
3.47	Commonwealth	2.45			
113.15	Bendigo Bank	4.96			
<u>Chillagoe Property</u>					
2,880.00	Rent Received		2880.00		
8,027.00	All Camping Fees		4356.00		
8,800.00	Donations Building Fund		500.00		
859.45	Donations - Other		134.00		
27,635.50	Grants		1000.00		
<u>Fund Raising</u>					
200.00	AGM Auctions		0.00		
144.00	Club BBQ		0.00		
<u>ASF Conference</u>					
8,483.00	Conference registration			0.00	
3,884.00	Conference food			0.00	
<u>Trading</u>					
964.35	Publications		55.00		
380.00	Bunk Beds sold on				0.00
3,524.00	Conference Sales				25.00
-----		3673.91	8870.00	0.00	80.00
		-----	-----	-----	-----
69,972.92	<u>Total Receipts</u>				12,623.91

EXPENDITURE

2012		2013	2013	2013	2013
		Membership	Buildings	Conference	Sales
<u>Less Expenses</u>					
3,606.00	ASF Fees	2202.50			
0.00	Incorporation Fees	45.00			
45.00	Stationery & Postages	13.05			
86.00	PO Box Rental	93.00			
360.00	Website Expenses	410.00			
440.00	Audit Fees	0.00			
0.00	RFDS Donation	150.00			

0.00	Gift to Casey	500.00		
	<u>Subscription</u>			
92.00	ACKMA& Helictite	65.00		
	<u>Chillagoe Property</u>			
470.90	Council Rates			
	& Water Charges		1279.10	
3,064.10	Property Insurance		4666.87	
1,533.55	Electricity	247.75		
275.00	Workcover	290.00		
12,388.95	Purchases (Freezer, etc.)		0.00	
216.27	Old School Building Refit		0.00	
0.00	Gas Cooker Upgrade Supply	155.08		
23,121.27	Amenities Block		0.00	
1,920.00	Caretaker's Costs		1920.00	
0.00	Maintenance		621.20	
60.65	Sundry Expenses		0.00	
0.00	Solar power		14148.00	
	<u>ASF Conference</u>			
17,609.20	Conference Expenses		0.00	
	<u>Trading</u>			
321.20	Purchase Book Resale			109.20
6633.44	Conference Purchases			0.0
-----		-----	-----	-----
	<u>Sub Totals</u>	3,478.55	23,328.00	0.00
		-----	-----	-----
	<u>Receipts less Expenses</u>	195.36	(14,458.00)	0.00
				(29.20)
\$69,296.12	<u>Total Expenses</u>			\$26,915.75
-----				-----
<u>(\$31,760.29)</u>	<u>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURE</u>			<u>(\$14,291.84)</u>

CASH BOOK BALANCE

21,230.36	Opening Balance as at 1 st March 2012	18,959.75
(2,270.61)	Less: Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	(14,291.84)
-----		-----
<u>\$ 18,959.75</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS – 28TH FEBRUARY, 2013</u>	<u>\$4,667.91</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION

19,426.39	28 th February, 2013 Commonwealth Bank Balance	4,616.24
40.00	Add: Outstanding Deposits	6.00
-----		-----
19,446.39		4,622.24
1,047.35	Less: Outstanding Cheques	500.00
-----		-----
18,419.04		4,122.24
540.71	Add: Bendigo Bank Account	545.67
-----		-----
<u>\$ 18,959.75</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS AS ABOVE</u>	<u>\$ 4,667.91</u>

TRIP REPORTS

New cave discovered and mapped

Text: Alan Pryke & P.Bannink

Over the Easter members of the SUSS were encouraged to explore and map as much karst in Chillagoe as they were able. Paul Osborne knew of a few holes on in Ryan Imperial Tower he had been planning to explore in greater depth.

The short pitch at the entrance was descended, and a second pitch that had stopped exploration previously, was rigged.



Entrance doline © Alan Pryke

In the meantime Megan Pryke descended another 3m pitch nearby which descended into a pit. She then disappeared through a squeeze, and after some time, returned reporting an entrance to plain level.

We had all imagined that the previous pitch would drop in to Ryan Imperial Cave, but to our amazement, entered an unknown system, which connected back to Megan's alternative entrance.

The cave was later surveyed to nearly 400m with more to go. It has two tagged entrances CH539 and CH540. The cave has been called Blindsight, for the fact that a large walk in entrance to such a

large cave (400m) had not been discovered in 40 years of cavers caving in and around the Tower.



Van exploring another entrance © Alan Pryke

June Caving - CH351

Peter, Van and Kimberlee visited CH351 to explore some new leads in the cave and add to the survey.

This cave was completely flooded in March 2011 and it's taken some time for the cave to dry out again. It was a worthwhile visit as the receding waters have left the place literally sparkling.



Kimberlee examining roof formation © P.Bannink

Great care was taken moving through the cave as the dusty muddy floor has become hard and

calcite covered. Large oolights were scattered over the floor.



CH351 Main Chamber © P.Bannink

We were also treated to a fantastic light display at 10:15am as a light beam lit up the main chamber to reveal fantastic formation in the roof arches.



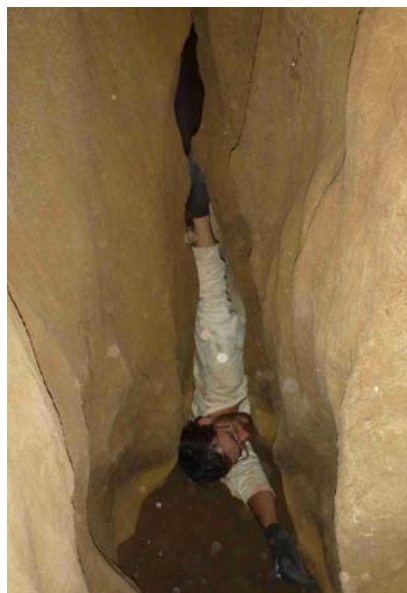
CH351 Giants Oolights © P.Bannink

A lower section was explored but did not extend beyond a lower formation chamber. It was decided not to survey the area as it was too delicate. An upper level lead extended the cave into a new section but only by about 40m. The new section contained a 8m solution pit which reached the water table. After a some basic survey legs, we left as two cavers got headaches, which may have been due to high CO².

Peter pushed a small lead through rock pile into some passage beyond the back entrance. Though promising it did not link to Markham Cave.

Broken River – 2012

Douglas, Kimberlee, Van, Russel and Paul have been caving at Broken River in early June. Over 10 new entrances have been tagged and nearly 1km of cave surveyed. A fantastic effort to all those who have attended.



BR191 Van trying another squeeze © D.Irvin

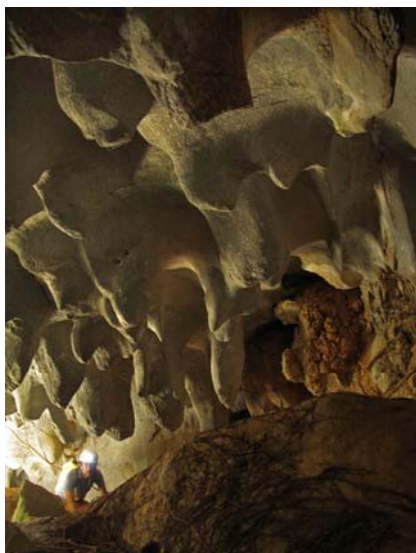
Tagging has been a problem in the past with so many different groups caving and not maintaining any records. New caves tagged began at BR180. Anyone exploring caves in the region please coordinate your tagging with Paul Osborne or Douglas Irvin.



BR191 Grant & Dianne at entrance © P.Osborne

In September another trip was held with Paco, Alan Pryke and four other cavers continuing to explore the caves they are mapping out there.

Beehive Cave has been extended to 1.3 km while the Three Avenues increased to 1.9 km. This is a massive effort to all involved. Below are two photos provided by Alan Pryke showing some amazing passages found in the caves.



Michael Casteleyn in Geologists Find © A.Pryke



Michael Casteleyn in Three Avenues © A.Pryke

Swiftlet Study

Prof. Mike Tarburton and his wife Shirley stayed in Chillagoe for three weeks in June studying the roosting and nesting sites of the Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae chillagoensis* Pecotich, 1982. Peter joined him last week to explore some of the new caves he discovered in December, containing Swiftlets nesting sites.



Mick climbing out the 8m entrance pitch © P. Bannink

Mike recently discovered a new entrance (now tagged CH541) near CH532, which allowed an easier climb into the system. Initial exploration has not discovered where the swiftlets are nesting. The main lead (a steep phreatic slot) requires more gear to descend the 6m pitch beyond. Beyond this more phreatic passage continues, which may or may not lead to other entrances which have been tagged in the area.



Long shawls in CH541 © M.Tarburton

There is an abundance of air flow which is a good sign. The other new entrances were examined but large loose rocks above the pitches have prevented any vertical exploration.

CH 543 explored

Winfried Wiess and Bruce Dane recently explored CH543, another cave Mike Tarburton discovered in the vicinity of the Beefeater extension on the Queenslander Tower. 'Luckyly'

for us he was unable to explore it at the time so it was explored on the 26th of August.



CH543 Vertical Entrance © M. Tarburton

The cave entrance is vertical and very jagged, so it was decided to use ladders to explore it. The first pitch is approximately 8 metres down to a small ledge and a few boulders chocked into the slot. A smaller hole then leads to a second, free hanging, ladder pitch of about 10 metres. This lands you at the bottom of the entrance shaft and from there it is another 4 metres via a ladder to the bottom of the cave itself.



Laddering into CH 543 © B Dane

The cave develops into one large chamber of about 5 x 10 metres with a rubble slope at one end. A couple of smaller chambers (2 x 4) make up the cave's entirety. There are nice formations throughout the cave.



Swiftlet guano pile in CH 543 © B Dane

At the far end of the main chamber a swiftlet colony was located. Approximately 40 nesting spots were counted (the swiftlets didn't sit still for us ☹) and a large guano pile on the floor is evidence that the colony has been there for some time.

Unfortunately the survey equipment was forgotten, so a return trip will be needed to complete the exploration.

Above is a view of one of the new entrance shafts on the Queenslander Tower complex, recently explored by Winfried and Bruce in August.

Fossil finds

Members might have recently received some e-mail links to newspaper articles about recent fossil finds in North Queensland. This work was the result of recent trips conducted by Paul, Douglas and Paco in late May.

Dr Gilbert Price and Dr Julien Louys from the University of Queensland collected a large amount of material from several caves in the Broken River region.

A preliminary report from Gilbert (April 2013) indicate that the collection they are currently examining is quite diverse and contains 19 species of vertebrate with quite a few species that only recently became extinct. A firm date for the

fossils has not yet been obtained but the current estimate in 20-30 thousand years old.



Dr Julien Louys from UQ collecting © D.Irvin

That would suggest that these caves have been around for quite some time. While most of the fossil deposits are from the prey of predators (such as an owl), the bone deposits of small mammals and reptiles, larger fossils have also been collected.



Typical fossil breccia deposit © D.Irvin

Chillagoe Cave fauna

An extensive cave invertebrate survey was conducted in Chillagoe in the 1980's by Br. Nicholas Sullivan, Fred Stone and Francis Howarth from the USA.

Quite a few insect species new to science have been described from this work. Peter has been photographing some of the interesting invertebrates found in the Chillagoe caves so the average caves knows what all these tiny animals look like.

Two species of cave cockroaches have been described from Chillagoe in 1990 by Louis Roth. *Paratemnopteryx stonei* from Royal Arch Cave and *Paratemnopteryx howarthi* from Christmas Pot and Tea Tree Cave. The juvenile specimen shown below (about 7mm in length), cannot be identified but it may belong to one of these two species.



Cave Cockroach (Juvenile) © P.Bannink

Psocids or Booklice are tiny insects can be seen where guano is scattered on the floor or over rocks in the cave. The picture below shows two specimens each about 2mm in size.



Cave Psocids or Booklice (Juveniles) © P.Bannink

Slaters or pill bugs are also commonly found in caves. Slaters are not insects, spiders or centipedes but are a group of animals called crustaceans, more commonly found in ocean or freshwater environments.

The largest isopod (slater) so far seen at Chillagoe (12mm), is shown below. I am not sure if this species have been formally described, but it is very conspicuous in the caves and is largely immobile during the dry season, hiding in wall or mud cracks as the passages dry out. They are another two types of slaters I have observed in the caves. A medium sized slater 8-6m, which cannot be identified, while the

smallest one, about (2mm) is most likely *Armadillo cavernae* described from the Chillagoe caves by Ragnar Wahrberg in 1922.



Large Cave Isopod (slater) © P.Bannink

Below are two plant hoppers located in Ryan Imperial Tower. This mating pair may be a new species, or *Solonaima irvini* (Hoch & Howarth 1989) which is described from the nearby Markham Tower complex. Juveniles can often be seen sucking sap from fresh tree roots hanging in the caves.



Two *Solonaima* sp. mating © P. Bannink

Gryllid crickets are commonly seen near cave entrances, though sometimes found well into the cave systems. The specimen shown below is a juvenile (body: 12mm) but its antenna are about 65mm long.

Adult specimens have a pair of small wings just behind the thorax (body segment behind the head). Several species are describe in Australia and occur in a wide variety of habitats, not only in caves but also in log hollows, rocky fissures and rock piles.



Chillagoe Cave Cricket (Juvenile) © P.Bannink

The strange creature shown below in called a scutigrid and is related to centipedes. They are very fast moving predators so try not to disturb them.. The species at Chillagoe is quite small (about 10cm long, including their legs) but specimens can grow much larger. A species found in the cave of Katherine (NT) can grow to a length of 18cm and can be quite scary.



Scutigromorph © M.Tarburton

Piano Tower Exploration

There is a planned expansion of the Red Dome mine in the direction of Piano Tower National Park. An examination of the existing cave locality maps indicated very little speleo work has ever been done in the area. Two major karst towers with no caves recorded in them at all. This is a bit of a mystery!

Peter and assistant Ben took the opportunity in late September to explore the area for new caves. Limestone towers are rarely solid rock but you never know, this area could be like the Ramparts just east of Chillagoe Town which have very few documented caves.

It was about 10.00am when we got going and drove out to the locked gate near the Red Dome pit.



Piano Tower - view over eastern section © P.Bannink

Walking in along the old railway track (very easy), the limestone towers appeared to be larger than first thought. We started on the eastern side and walked up the back (northern slopes) of the outcrop, encountering lots of scrub and boulders. Near the top the distinctive smell of a bat colony wafted through the air but we could not find where it was coming from (under the boulders?).

We worked our way west through thick scrub along the top of the tower and eventually around the base of a distinctive tower block. Only one small entrance was located, but this closed down very quickly. Climbing down the southern face nothing was located, all promising hollows leading nowhere.

We had lunch at the bottom and then walked around the western part of the outcrop and finally located a most promising vertical entrance and a deep narrow grike (7m) nearby.

With no vertical gear, exploration would have to wait for another time. We then walked west onto the next massive tower but found nothing significant. The top of the Tower did offer magnificent views over the whole area. Hot and bothered by 2.00pm we got out of the area before the heat really began to set in



Piano Tower (central section) - view south © P.Bannink

A new cave on Piano Tower

In October Peter, Kimberlee and Ellen headed out to the eastern section of the Piano Tower complex. We took some basic equipment to explore the new doline which had been located in September. The walk is about a kilometre, and with a bit of scrub bashing the entrance was easily located. Peter rigged a small ladder to enter the small collapse doline (only 4m deep), a large nearby tree located provided a convenient anchor point.

Once down, Kimberlee descended the entrance rift and reported a 6m pitch beyond the entrance. Peter put on his vertical gear, rigged a rope and descended carefully into a small chamber. A quick scout around indicated there were more rifts to explore, so Kimberlee and Ellen then climbed down using some convenient footholds and the rope as a handhold.



Kimberlee exploring a large rift © P.Bannink

The entrance chamber contained some great formation and above opened up as a large phreatic rift. Leading off the main rift (to the left) were three intersecting rifts smaller in size and

about 20m in length. At the far end the passages all closed down to impassable rocky passage with little prospect for further extension.



View of the formation area © P.Bannink

Beyond the third rift the passage sloped upward into a small upper section with a few small passages, all closing down (with no air movement). Peter spent some time carefully sketching the cave; we forgot the survey gear again.



Kimberlee examining an upper rift © P.Bannink

There were no bats and the only wildlife seen were spiders and some cave crickets in the upper rifts. One passage was not explored as there was delicate formation to cross, but it looked to have little prospects.

The cave was tiny covering an area of only (20x60m) and it was disappointing that none of the leads extended further into the outcrop. The cave is large enough to document, so Kimberlee though of the name Beethoven's Blimping

Boutique Bar, (shortened to B4 minor), as it's a minor cave on the outcrop - the name has nothing to do with actual acoustic scales. Once out we examined a second entrance rift nearby which did not join to the cave we had just explored. A small team still has to go back to push this one, the second entrance is a little more difficult to enter (a 40cm wide, 6-8m deep narrow rift with very sharp limestone).



Ellen with a large flowstone formation © P.Bannink

Colless Creek Griekfield (CK)

The September school holidays began with the ambitious plan to visit Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park near the NT Boarder about 1000km west of Cairns. Three days of driving with hyper-active kids really tested our resolve, but we got there in the end.

Close to the camping area is a large karst area in which are reported to be four cave entrances. I thought a day walk to the area would make a nice change from the days of swimming and walking we were doing around the gorge.

I started off at 5.00am and got half way there before a brilliant dawn signalled the start of the coming heat wave. Crossing the river above the upper gorge lookout, the first outcrops of Thornton Limestone were encountered. A short climb up the moderately steep side of the gorge, allowed access to a ridge-line which lead to the Colless Creek Griekfield, after about a 1 km of walking.

The walking was very easy and trusting my field map I reached the outcrop by about 7.15am. The area is very like karst at Bullita in the Northern Territory. A very large flat lying limestone outcrop (karrenfield), with increased levels of karst exposure and development as one trends

towards Colless Creek. The area is quite large 1.2km x 700m so I was not quite sure where to start..



Colless Creek Karst Landscape © P.Bannink

The first objective was too relocated and GPS the existing entrances but as I proceeded walking on the exposed outcrop, navigation became very difficult. I encountered quite a few vertical entrances which dropped into rifts about 7m below the surface. I decided to instead walk around the perimeter and record any entrances which I located.



Colless Creek Vertical Entrance © P.Bannink

I only had an hour before I had to head back and this was just enough time to record the locality of four entrances, two of which looked to have good prospects. My boot began to fall apart at the start of my return journey so I had to hobble back at a slow pace. I nearly missed the ridgeline I used to climb out of the gorge (which would have been a horrible mistake), but got down to the river for a cool swim before the long walk back. Despite the loss of one boot I still got back at me estimated time of return (10:15am) the thermometer was just reaching 36 C (it was 40.5 by 12.30pm).

It may be best to visit the area in June/July and camp in the karst area as the 3.5km walk (one

way) will become a little tiring. It's a long way to drive for a few days caving but the gorge and local walks in the area are worth a look. Take an extra tyre, we got a flat 10km from the gorge (on the return journey), but luckily made it to Normanton without another.

Drum Cave – Bungonia (NSW)

My first impression of Bungonia was that the camping ground was completely full. Admittedly when we arrived it was 11pm on a Thursday night, but we certainly didn't expect dozens of PE teacher students to have converged on our particular patch and taken all the best spots. So, like most cavers who arrive late at night, we chucked up a tent beside the car and didn't worry about the niceties of finding a level (or soft) patch of ground.

The next morning we were up early, keen to begin the day exploring one of the more famous caves of the area – Drum cave. Breakfast consisted of bacon and egg burgers which we deliberately cooked on a BBQ in the middle of the campground. The sounds of despair arising from the PE teacher tents as the bacon smell wafted around gave us some small revenge for the previous evening – they obviously weren't as well provisioned as we were.

After breakfast it was off to Drum Cave which was a short 500m drive along a nicely kept gravel road. We could have walked I suppose, but why strain ourselves? After all, we were then forced to actually walk another 200m to the doline containing the entrance.



Drum Cave Entrance © W. Wiess

The entrance itself is a reasonably large opening at the base of the doline, leading into a small chamber. The first obstacle encountered is a 4 metre pitch leading to a ledge just beside the main pitch of 60 metres. The cave is bolted the whole way through making it much easier to rig.

Once on the first leg of the main pitch I was struck by the clean rock surrounding me. The abseil is spectacular as it drops down a circular shaft, before bellling out slightly into a large chamber at the bottom. A rebelay about halfway marked the free hanging part of the pitch and was passed without incident.



60m pitch © W. Wiess

From the first pitch the cave then continued along a narrow boulder floored passage before coming to the 'squeeze'. Joe had warned me that this bit was tight, and might cause some difficulty. Being a bit larger than most cavers I was a bit worried about this, and when I turned around to ask where the squeeze was I was told that the metre long and half a metre high grovel I just went through had been it! Lol.



The tight bit..... © W. Wiess

The cave then continued along the rift and opened out into a series of chambers containing some formation and fossils. The cave kept

descending and soon we were at the next pitch of about 20 metres. The rock at this point was wet and slippery, but posed little drama as the bolts were well placed and easily accessible. The final part of the pitch dropped some 6 metres back into the streambed and the beginning of the cave's largest chamber – the Railway tunnel.

Climbing down over a series of large cascading rimstone pools allowed me to appreciate the size of this part of the cave – some 30 metres of passage, 15 metres wide and 20 high. The rock in this part of the cave was inky black and seemed to absorb our light, as did the silt and mud on the floor, but luckily Joe had his version of the venerable 'bat fryer' along. It seemed an obvious place to stop for a breather (about 3 hours in) and it also gave us the chance to use another piece of specialised equipment I had never used – the CO2 meter.

Bungonia is noted for its high levels of CO2 in various caves, and Drum cave proved no different. Ambient CO2 levels in the atmosphere are usually about 0.038% or thereabouts, but in these caves can rise to well over 5 percent. At higher levels (2% and above) it is possible to notice that breathing becomes harder and that everything requires more effort. Higher levels still can lead to serious complications for cavers and are best avoided.

In our case, the initial reading obtained was 0.5%. This level didn't affect me at all and was for all intents and purposes negligible. However as we continued to explore the cave we noted steadily increasing levels, peaking at 3.5% in the Drum Cave extension. Needless to say we all noticed that at that concentration of CO2 breathing became much harder. Luckily our stay in that part of the cave was relatively short.

From the Railway tunnel we made our way down to the Drum Cave's current end point, the sump. Another short (6m) pitch led us into the final part of the stream passage which dropped down over mud and gravel banks to where the cave roof met the murky water of the stream. I noted that the high water mark was at least three or four metres up the wall, which was covered in sticky mud. Combined with high CO2 this was not a particularly inviting place to linger.



The end.... Sump 1 at the bottom of the cave.

After bottoming Drum Cave (about -120m) we made our way back to the Railway tunnel, which held a surprise. Sometime during the reign of the dinosaurs (i.e. more than 20 years ago) a very enterprising group of cavers looked at the roof, and noted a large hole about 15 metres off the floor. As there was no way to climb to it a scaling pole was used to get up there and Drum Cave extension was found. A pull through rope was then installed for future trips.

We spent 20 frustrating minutes pulling our rope through, finally securing it correctly. Then we prusiked up into the extension. The extension itself is a single oval shaped tunnel of quite large dimensions. It sits almost directly above the main passage of the cave, and extends beyond the 'first sump' before coming down to its level and also sumping out. To me this was the best part of the cave, with interesting formations, particularly the scalloping on the tunnel ceiling. The tunnel is also a really classic example of passage that we don't often get up in the Chillagoe area.



Drum Cave extension © W. Wiess

The CO₂ content was very high in the Extension (2.5 – 3.5 %) and after taking an easy stroll to its end, we abseiled back down into better atmospheric conditions in the main cave.

We spent the next few hours slowly working our way back out of Drum Cave, de-rigging as we

went. I won't lie and say the prusik back up the main pitch was a breeze... it was a solid effort. But it was worth every minute and every bead of sweat. Drum Cave is an awesome sporting cave and after 8 hours of exploring its depths all I can say is that I would love to come back and explore the rest of Bungonia's treasures.



Back up the main pitch © W. Wiess

My thanks go to Joe Sydney for organising a great trip for myself and Seamus. We are always happy to return the favour in the north!





















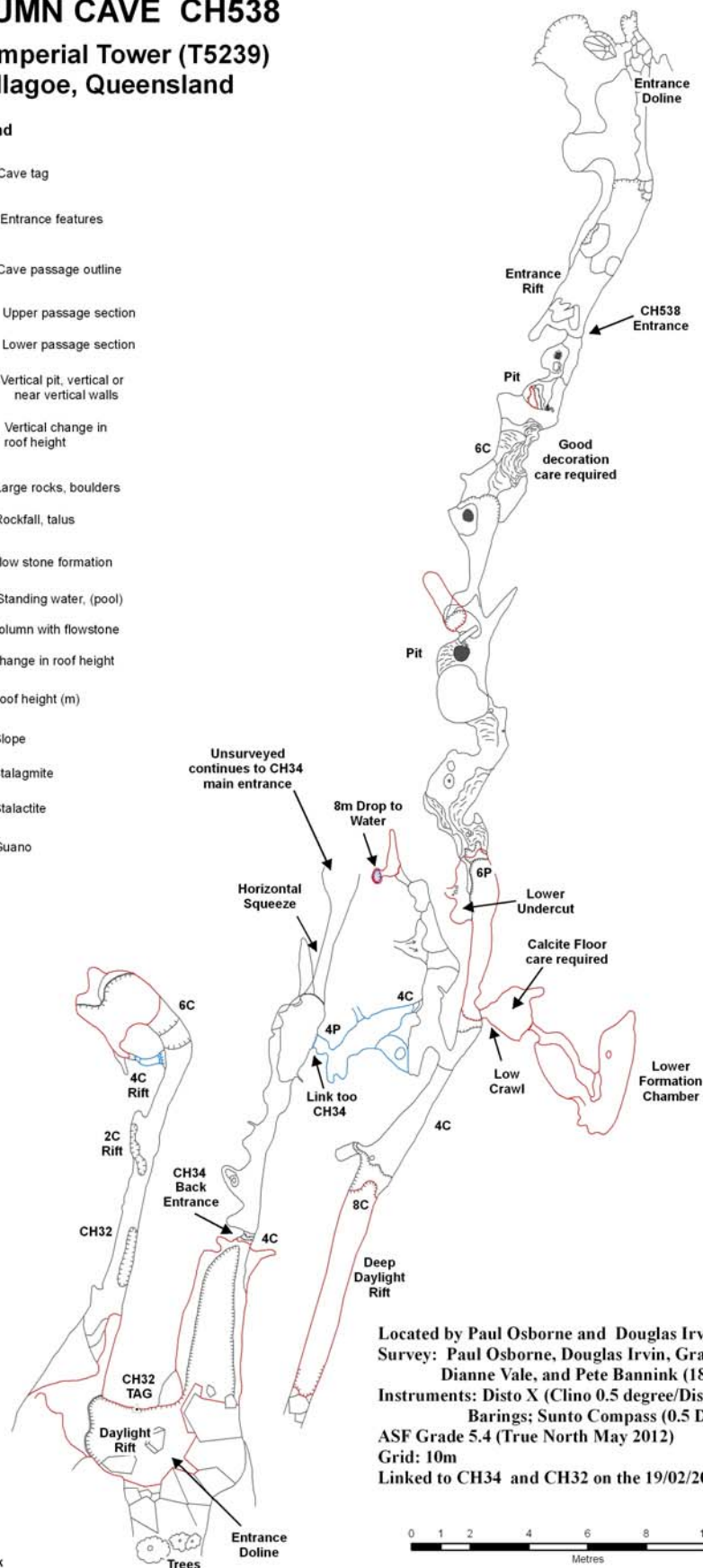
The team after 8 hours in Drum Cave. © W. Wiess

COLUMN CAVE CH538

Ryan Imperial Tower (T5239)
Chillagoe, Queensland

Map Legend

-  CH243 Cave tag
-  Entrance features
-  Cave passage outline
-  Upper passage section
-  Lower passage section
-  Vertical pit, vertical or near vertical walls
-  Vertical change in roof height
-  Large rocks, boulders
-  Rockfall, talus
-  Flow stone formation
-  Standing water, (pool)
-  Column with flowstone
-  Change in roof height
-  Roof height (m)
-  Slope
-  Stalagmite
-  Stalactite
-  Guano



Located by Paul Osborne and Douglas Irvin.
Survey: Paul Osborne, Douglas Irvin, Grant Polomka,
Dianne Vale, and Pete Bannink (18/02/2012)
Instruments: Disto X (Clino 0.5 degree/Distance < 1cm)
Barings; Sunto Compass (0.5 Degree)
ASF Grade 5.4 (True North May 2012)
Grid: 10m
Linked to CH34 and CH32 on the 19/02/2012.

Map Number: CCC607
Cartography: P.Bannink
Date: 12 March 2013
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Map Scale 1:300 @ A3

MEMBERSHIP LIST 2012/2013

Executive		Region	Year joined
Paul Osborne	(President)	El Arish	1996
Winfried Weiss	(Secretary)	Tolga	1993
Peter Bannink	(Treasurer)	Mareeba	2000

Club Members (non caving)

Cheryl Belbin	Flying Fish Point	2007
Cathy Draheim	Bankstown (NSW)	2011
Terry Matts	Bankstown (NSW)	2011
Les Pearson	Brinsmead	1973
Beth Pearson	Brinsmead	1991
Miriam Robertson	Cairns	1975
Shirley Tarburton	Blackburn South (Vic)	2012

Club Members (caving)

Berend Akkerman	Kuranda	2011
Belinda Bannink	Mareeba	2011
Kimberlee Bernays	Kairi	2011
Axel Buthmann	Kuranda	2004
Van Christensen	Tandara	2003
Alan Cummins	Gordonvale	1973
Margaret Cummins	Gordonvale	1973
Catherine Cummins	Gordonvale	1995
Peter Cummins	Atherton	1983
David Dall' Alba	Malanda	2012
Max Emney	Silkwood	2002
Horrie Garth	Cairns	1975
Greg Gurnier	Gordonvale	1997
Doris Gurnier	Gordonvale	2007
Joshua Gurnier	Gordonvale	2007
Lauren Gurnier	Gordonvale	2007
Tim Gurnier	Gordonvale	2007
Jonathon Ham	Bayview	2011
Robert Ham	Bayview	1988
Phil Harrison	Cairns	2007
Chris Head	Flying Fish Point	2007
Sue Jenkins	Silkwood	1992
Kris Lambert	Sarina	2011
Wendy Lander	Yungaburra	1983
Daniel Mitchell	Mareeba	2000
Elwing Mitchell	Mareeba	2005
Steven Morgan	Mackay	2007
Kerry Morgan	Mackay	2007
Philp Morgan	Mackay	2007
Joanna Morgan	Mackay	2007
Paco Murray	Townsville	2007
Graham Murray		2012
Judy Nickles	Edge Hill	1991
Grant Polomka	Tully	2001
Damien Tapp	Rural View	2011
Mike Tarburton	Blackburn South (Vic)	2011
Deanne Vale	Tully	2001
Michael Waldron	Australia Fair	2010
Barry Wright	Bayview Heights	1975

Introductory Members (caving)

Ellen Liddle	Woree	2012
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Clubhouse Protocol

1. Members have access to the Club area on the ground floor of Clubhouse building. The upstairs back residence, together with the garage and laundry area on the town side of the Club area and the adjacent yard area, are for the private use of the Caretaker.
2. The Caretaker has a lease on his part of the property and the Club has only the limited access allowed under the Residential Tenancies Act. Therefore, Members should contact the Caretaker upon arrival and before departure, but otherwise, enter the private area only on the invitation of the Caretaker.
3. Members, when intending to stay at the Clubhouse, should have the courtesy to telephone or e-mail the Caretaker to advise her in advance. If the Caretaker is absent, an email message can be sent to the current e-mail address [cavingclubcarol@gmail.com].
4. Members, when in Chillagoe, may use the Clubhouse facilities, even if not staying at the Clubhouse. However, it is courtesy to tell the Caretaker before using the facilities.

5. Mutual courtesy between Members (and their guests) and the Caretaker is to be expected at all times.

6. Responsibilities of Caretaker are to:

- (a) Maintain grounds in tidy and safe condition and do any minor maintenance to buildings etc.
- (b) Keep Clubhouse clean when not in use by Members
- (c) Maintain supply of toilet paper, cleaning supplies and cleaning equipment for use by Members
- (d) Keep refrigerator and freezer ready for use by Members
- (e) Ensure security is maintained for lights, tackle and other Club property
- (f) Ensure trip book is accessible and, as much as practical, monitor trip book, particularly for the safe return of caving parties.
- (g) Collect Camping and Tackle fees on behalf of Treasurer
- (h) Report to Club Executive any problems he encounters with Clubhouse, Members or guests

7. Responsibilities of Members are to:

- (a) Keep Clubhouse and the outdoor toilet and shower block clean and tidy, while in residence. Cleanliness should be checked to be satisfactory before leaving.
- (b) Avoid use of the toilet and shower inside the Clubhouse as we have soakage pit problems which show up after there is much use of these
- (c) Park cars in an orderly fashion at the allocated parking area and keep vehicle speed down to walking pace to minimize hazard and dust.
- (d) Report to Caretaker any deficiencies in cleaning supplies, equipment etc.
- (e) Use trip book if caving
- (f) Dispose of food scraps and rubbish at the Chillagoe tip on a regular basis and when leaving
- (g) Camping inside the Clubhouse should be avoided except in emergencies (i.e. if drenched in heavy storm)

(h) If using Clubhouse at night, keep noise down, particularly after 10pm.

- (i) Behave in the town and at the Clubhouse in such a way that the Club's reputation is enhanced and not diminished.
- (j) Report to Executive any problems encountered in using the Clubhouse and make suggestions where improvements are needed.

Authorized by Committee of Management 27th April 2013.



Sun Bean in Surprise Packet Caves No 1

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