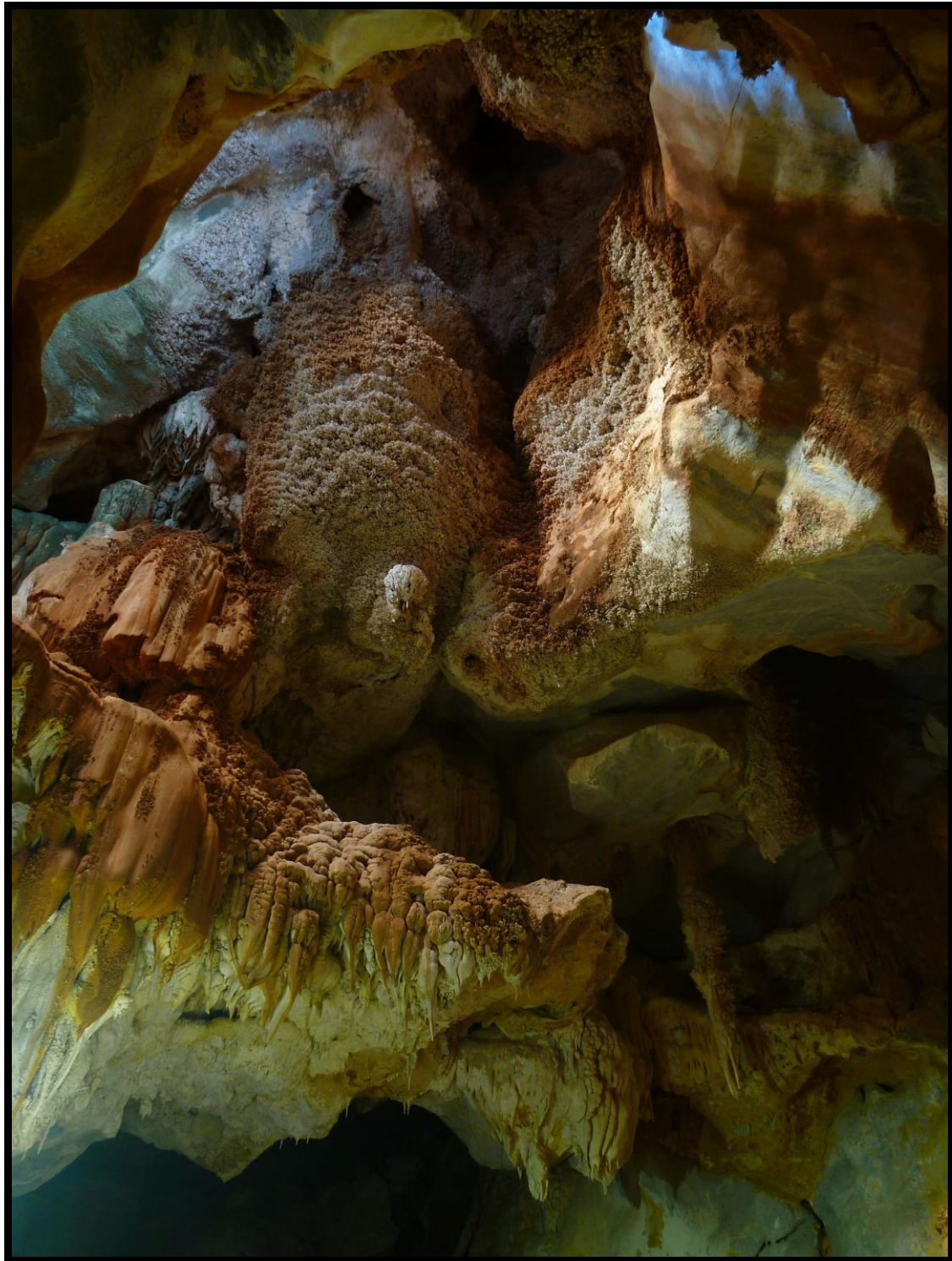


Chillagoe Caving Club

Annual Report

2015



DRAFT

ISSN 07291184



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 63 with an additional 47 Novice 'Introductory' Members as at the end of April, 2015. 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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	Editor: P.Bannink	

MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4th October 2014.

1. OPENING

The meeting was opened at 19:30hrs. by the president, Paul Osborne

2. PRESENT

Ray Deasy, Paul Osborne, Peter Bannink, Phil Harrison, Steven & Kerry Morgan, Coral Morgan, Alan & Chrissie Cummins, Peter Cummins, Peter English, Van Christensen, Robert Zmeskal, Vayurat Watson (Goy), and Bruce Hewett, with introductory members, Tim Pelech, Jamie Ellacott and visiting ICC member Bryan Evans. (14 voting members present).

The President announced that a Quorum was present at the meeting. Fourteen financial members and life members were required to make the meeting duly constitutional.

3. APOLOGIES

Mark & Catherine Beattie, Max and Sue Jenkins, Rob Ham, Daniel & Elwing Mitchell, Judy Nickles, Winfried Weiss, Paco Murray, Tom Gilmore, Les and Beth Pearson, Grant Polomka and Dianne Vale.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting held on the 27th of April 2013 were read. Alan Cummins moved that the minutes be accepted (seconded by Steven Morgan) and accepted by all but one present. This was due to that member not receiving a copy of the annual report. The motion was thereafter carried by the meeting.

5. Business arising from the MINUTES

- Ray Deasy raised the issue of not receiving the annual report. Peter explained that the report was sent out as a pdf attachment to all members with an e-mail address, and that the document (attachment) might not have been opened by Ray.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Due to the irregular AGM this year only addendums to reports were given at the meeting. Original descriptions are available from the General Meeting held on the 3rd of May 2014.

Additions to the President's Report

- Paul has resurrected the clubs Facebook page with apparent success; The page has 32 members from around the country and New Zealand.
- Paul has also drafted a 5 year plan and he is still requesting input from members.
- Graham is concerned that there was a lack of local members from Chillagoe
- Bruce mentioned advertising in the local sports shops.
- Paul mentioned the need to revise the office bearers and positions be allocated to active members who will actually get the job done.
- There is a need to train new trip leaders to facilitate the guidance of new members.
- There is a need to develop a training structure in the club from an Introductory Level status to Trip Leader status resulting in final certification.

Additions to the Treasurer's Report:

- Peter mentioned the club has more cash assets available than last year with \$6000 in the account, some of which is allocated the building improvements.
- Peter discussed the clubs financial position, including our ability to maintain our insurance level, and was happy to report that the club's cash flow after a couple of borderline years was stable and improving in part due to the increased use of the club's facilities.

Additions to the Building and Maintenance Officer's Report

- Alan informed the meeting that Casey had finished the work on the clubhouse grey water trench and that a new evaporation trench had been laid alongside the old school for the washing up sinks. Some tidying up (unable to be done by the machines) has to be done by a number of volunteers. Casey also finished the plumbing work required at the amenities block in the disabled cubicle and installed a hand wash basin on the men's side. All that remains is the final council inspection. Alan also mentioned to keep in top of minor maintenance required for the old school.

Additions to the Environmental Report:

- A new trip report on the Wallace Creek Karst area is available for club members to read. The report has been submitted to EHP and the future of the proposed mine development will be determined over the next year.

Tackle Keeper's Report:

- Van mentioned that a missing helmet has been returned.
- Ray asked about access to the tackle room, the ability to record access to the equipment and its use. The responsibilities of the tackle keeper.
- Paul raised the issue of the need for specialised rope for the Rescue Kit
- There is a need for the tackle keeper to keep a list of installed handlines and bolts and the caves they are located in.
- A list of cave rigging needs to be established which reflects the placement of bolts and handlines in caves.
- Paul is doing all bolting at his own expense, the club should reimburse Paul as it benefits all CCC cavers using the caves safely.

Publicity Officer's Report

- No report was issued, the publicity officer was not present. Paul mentioned face book a doing well at promoting and sharing ideas of activities on offer between the membership.

ASF Report

- No report was issued, the ASF Liaison Officer was not present.

Librarian's Report

- No report was issued, the club librarian was not present.

Photo Librarian

- No report was issued. Paco has resigned (as he has moved to Perth). Paco has scanned several of the old photo's. Paul mentioned putting them into the cloud. Paul has brought the photo's to Chillagoe, to be handed over to the next photo archivist.

6. MOTION

A motion was moved by Alan Cummins that the club ratify the management executive's actions for the year. Steven Morgan seconded this motion and the meeting carried the motion unanimously.

7. EINSTEIN AWARD

Philip Morgan was nominated by Steven Morgan for locking himself and a group of caver out of his car while it was still running! Those present unanimously voted in favour.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Paul Osborne declared all positions vacant at 7:56 pm and asked Alan Cummins to chair the meeting.

President: Paul Osborne was nominated by Ray Deasy, seconded by Steven Morgan. Paul accepted the nomination and was re-elected unopposed.

Secretary: Van Christensen was nominated by Paul Osborne, seconded by Ray Deasy. Van accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Peter Bannink was nominated by Van Christensen, seconded by Robert Zmeskal. Peter accepted the nomination and was re-elected unopposed.

Paul Osborne resumed the chair of the meeting for election of other office bearers and the meeting discussed the need to update the positions as suggested in the Draft 5-Year Plan. As a result some of the positions were either not elected or absorbed by others, pending the outcome of future discussions and additions by the club. The meeting called for further comments and input into the Draft 5-Year Plan.

Other Office Bearers: Nominee who accepted the position (Nominated, Seconded)

Survey & Records Keeper - Peter Bannink (Paul Osborne, Alan Cummins)

Tagging Officer - Van Christensen (Paul Osborne, Bruce Hewitt)

Tackle Keeper - Van Christensen (Paul Osborne, Peter Bannink)

Safety Co-ordinator - Steven Morgan (Bruce Hewitt, Ray Deasy)

Training Co-ordinator - Paul Osborne (Van Christensen, Alan Cummins)

Building & Maintenance Co-ordinator - Alan Cummins (Steven, Phil Harrison)

Membership Co-ordinator (encompassing ASF/ACKMA co-ordinator) - Peter Bannink
(volunteered, carried by meeting)

Webmaster - Winfried Weiss (Paul Osborne, Bruce Hewitt)

Publicity Officer – Position absorbed by the executive

Photo Librarian - Peter Bannink (volunteered, carried by meeting)

Librarian - Bruce Hewitt (volunteered, carried by meeting)

Environmental Conservation Officer - Peter Bannink (volunteered, carried by meeting).

9. RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service)

Paul and Ray proposed stopping the RFDS donation due to the changed operating circumstances of the organisation. All present were in favour, and the motion carried. It was suggested that perhaps club members who wish to continue to support the RFDS, do so on their own.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS (3 May 2014)

10.1 Photo Library

- Peter has agreed to take control of the photo library to ensure its safety and to provide a backup copy and to store hard copy photos in a pest free environment.
- The hard copy photographs have been damaged by termites, after spending a wet season at the clubhouse. Peter will try to restore the albums as best he can but the written archive of the database has been destroyed and quite a few photographs physically damaged.

10.2 Sister Club Program

- Paul has begun the process of creating ‘Sister Clubs’ which has come about through the general relationship CCC members have established with the Mole Creek Caving Club and the New Zealand Nelson Speleo’s. Paul has sent an inter-presidency memo regarding the sister club program for media sharing and trip organisation for national and international clubs.
- Ray suggested we extend similar invitations to some of the European clubs
- The prevalence of e-media allows the sharing of resources, increasing communications and removing CCC’s isolation.
- Paco is exploring links with the Western Australian Clubs

10.3 Camping by non members

- It is proposed that any non-members camping must notify the executive.

10.4 Clubhouse Cleaning and mowing

- For groups and bookings, cleaning and mowing can be outsourced and the costs passed on, otherwise must be included in the budget.

10.5 Group Fees and Costs

- All group bookings must be made directly to management executive in writing or formal arrangement. This is so the executive can coordinate with Carol and area's to be used and any cleaning involved.

10.6 Map use and mapping protocol

- Paul suggested there should be a protocol for publishing maps. Access to maps is generally through Peter, but map access should be restricted to club members. Perhaps a list of maps available can be provided to members to encourage more surveys to be attempted. The Protocol is to not electronically publish maps in the Newsletters or Annual reports
- It was suggested that an official management policy regarding mapping and publications would be formulated especially considering renewed surveying interest within the Club. Hopefully further details of this may be discussed by club members and submitted to the management for consideration by the Club.

10.7 Modifications to the constitution

- It has been noted that the constitution is not as applicable to modern times and needs to be updated and the new amendments votes on.
- Steve asked for a quorum of voters to authorise executive to establish a committee to develop plans for the changes. There was no quorum present at this meeting.
- Ray made the point that a street address must be added to the constitution for club correspondence.
- The present group asked about accepting Steve's proposal for developing a Constitutional Amendment Committee, and that the present executive develop the proposal, present it to the membership and get membership to vote on it to get the process rolling! The management will accept proxies to make an informed vote

10.8 Commitments of Office Bearers

- Ray raised a discussion about the commitments of office bearers. Members holding executive positions need to have complete presence for a full 12 months otherwise provide a notice for resignation.

10.9 RFDS

- Ray raised the point that the RFDS is well funded and our donation to this organisations needs is miniscule. Could the donation be best applied to a more needy, local charity. Management had agreed to discuss this further with members and make a decision regarding this years donation.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS (3 October 2014)

11.1 Draft 5-Year Plan

- Paul has produced a draft 5-year Plan from many submissions received from members this year, and discussed the use of a "living document" to assist the Club's continued progress and structure. The "living document" (currently in draft stage) is to be circulated to all members to respond to and comment upon before publishing. The intention is that the document then continue to be updated and re-published as is necessary.
- Ray raised issues with the current drafting and structure of the plan. That some ideas he put forward were currently not in the draft. Paul mentioned it is an evolving document and that additional ideas can be added to the current structure which is different to his last draft (sent for comment).
- Ray was still unhappy with issues in the modified 5 year plan.
- All members are invited to respond in writing to help develop this document further.

11.2 Constitutional Changes

Three Special Resolutions were proposed by the Constitution Review Committee, and circulated to club members one month before the meeting. Eleven proxy votes were sent in, and the meeting (14 voting members present) put the resolutions to a vote. The resolutions each required a total of 25 votes in favour to be carried.

11.2.1 Auditing Financial Reports

Alan moved that the resolution be accepted, Ray seconded.

11 proxies in favour

14 present in favour

25 total in favour.

The motion was carried.

11.2.2 The 2nd and 3rd resolutions failed to generate sufficient votes in the proxies to be carried and the motions were not put forward by the meeting. The reasons given included unclear wording in the new resolutions. The resolutions shall now return to committee to be re-evaluated.

11.3 Up Coming Club Trips

- Winfried Weiss is co-ordinator of the 2015 trip to Vietnam. There is a maximum of 8 slots available on the trip, of which 3 have been filled. The cut-off for booking is by the end of October, so if there is interest please contact Winfried ASAP. If the slots are not filled by CCC members, the positions will be offered to our sister clubs around the country and overseas.
- Steven Morgan is organising a NZ trip for Easter 2015. The trip may require some extensive cave rigging, and caves such as Legless, Harwoods Hole, Stormy Pot and Nettlebed are possibly offered to attendees. Please contact Steve ASAP to get on board and be sure your caving skills are up to the task.
- June/July 2015: A number of trips are likely at this time of year including:
 - Broken River
 - Exmouth, W.A. ASF conference
 - A possible Mitchell Palmer Expedition

11.4 Caving Area Access

- Paul discussed pursuing formal club access to caving areas not currently accessible to CCC and suggested the example of the success of arrangements made with Dozey Station for access could be made with other property owners.

11.5 A Future Newsletter

- A future newsletter will aim to canvas the membership about the unpassed Special Resolutions, the AGM location, caving dates and other constitutional issues.

No further business was raised. Paul and Peter gave thanks to all members who attended the AGM and submitted proxy votes for Special Resolutions, for ensuring a valid AGM to take place.

Paul Osborne declared the meeting closed at 22:20hrs

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

2014 was a productive year for us with a lot of caving. We saw much visitation, good use of the facilities and moved the finances further into the black. There was a bit of a setback with the need to replace the septic tank under the main clubhouse but I'm hoping there's enough left to be able to move forward on some of the wish list projects.

We also had a very successful Broken River Expedition attended by 23 participants from all over Australia further enhancing our standing in the caving community as a club receptive to visitation by cavers worldwide. Members participated in several NZ expeditions and one to Tasmania. Two members and a past member joined with a Sydney club member and previous expedition partner to visit Son Doong Cave and many other caves in Vietnam. We upgraded our self-rescue capabilities and had two rescue exercises and two of our members participated in a cave rescue course run by Al Warild.

If I had to comment on the most successful activity to the benefit of CCC during 2014 then it would have to be the networking. The interaction between our members and cavers worldwide has far surpassed any recent years since Chillicon. Our international standing and recognition is set to gain quite a bit with the 17th International Congress of Speleology to be held in Sydney from the 23rd to 30th July 2017. Being the middle of winter making most caving destinations less attractive than Chillagoe, we feature favourably in the pre-and post-congress trips. To that end we have started working on a selection of caves to pre-rig and design tour routes of various grades to cater for both visitors and new members to provide the most interesting experience.

There is an amount of effort required to get all this together and make it happen and I am calling for volunteers to form an interest group to discuss and action permanent rigging and cave routing, allocation and training of trip leaders, costs and other planning.

Paul Osborne (President) (April 2015)

TREASURERS REPORT 2015

I am happy to report the clubs finances are stable. Many thanks to a number of visiting cavers making generous cash donations to the club, and also to the visiting southern clubs, who boosted our camping revenue.

We had the added expense of (~ \$6000), for fixing the drainage problems and finalising the completion of the amenities block. I hope this year we can look forward to spending some revenue on caving and kitchen equipment to improve facilities at the clubhouse for members. Some descent pots, frypans and additional storage containers, would be a vast improvement.

P. Bannink (Treasurer) (April 2015)

CAMPING FEES 2014/2015

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 2014/2015

4th May 2014 - 2nd May 2015

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 (membership - including full year ASF Fee of \$49)	\$75.00*
• Novice Members (club membership – excluding ASF Fees)	\$35.00^
• Student Novice (club membership – excluding ASF Fees)	\$30.00 ^^
• Inactive Life Members (ASF Fees only)	\$19.00
• Active Life Members (ASF Fees only)	\$68.00
• Single Members (without ASF Fees)	\$30.00#
• Introductory Weekend Caver (novice membership - including 3 month ASF Fee)	\$55.00

- Introductory Weekend Caver (student novice membership - including three months of ASF Fees) \$50.00
- * - Students including those attending Primary or Secondary Schools who cannot be included in a family membership.
- ^ - **to visit caves on a National Park** an additional ASF fee of \$20 is required (for 3 months only), beyond this time an additional fee of \$43 has to be paid continue ASF insurance for the rest of the year, a total of \$98.00.
- ^^ - **to visit caves on a National Park** an additional ASF fee of \$20 is required (for 3 months only), beyond this time an additional fee of \$25 has to be paid continue ASF insurance for the rest of the year , a total of \$75.00.
- # - 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. If paying by Internet Banking or by direct deposit please email the details to the Treasurer, Peter Bannink, preferably by *e-mail*: Peter.Bannink@dnrm.qld.gov.au or by phone (4092 6036) You must advise the Treasurer, the date of the deposit, the amount deposited, and it's purpose. It is possible for this information to be made available by your bank, please request that the detail of payee and purpose of payment be included for listing on the Club's account statement .For direct banking please deposit funds into the Club's Commonwealth Bank account at any local branch.

Commonwealth Bank - Account number : BSB 064804 A/C 00912281.

SURVEY & RECORD KEEPER'S REPORT

The last year has been very productive in terms of the amount of surveying being undertaken by club members. The cave maps are still only partially completed but account for 12 new surveys. Very limited new tagging was undertaken but there is a small backlog of new entrances to tag from the years exploration in Chillagoe, Broken River and Wallace Creek.

Small changes to the clubs mapping policy means no cave maps are to be distributed amongst non-members. Trip Leaders can request cave maps for navigation (if it is available), and it is their responsibility not to distribute the map. The club has a policy of not publishing cave maps.

P. Bannink

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

At last the new toilet block is finished!!! Awaiting final inspection by the council. Very little else has happened, just minor maintenance. This coming year I would like to see the shade cloth finished, end wall repaired, a large sink under school installed, 2 tables (2400x1200) under the old school building and a tidying up building materials. Future jobs may include a new roof on clubhouse and tiling in the corner under the old school building. Looking forward to another busy year.

A. Cummins

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION REPORT

Work continued in documenting the Wallace Creek Caves with a second report being sent to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Exploration and mapping of four new caves and a small extension to Ripple Cave were the highlights. The mine development proposal has still not been finalised so there is still no clear indication which area's of the Wallace Creek Karst may be excluded from the proposal.

There was a nomination put forward to make the Chillagoe and Mitchell Palmer Karst a National Heritage area. This would include all the karst in Chillagoe and Mitchell Palmer an area of karst towers about 100km in length. National Heritage does not necessarily protect the karst or caves from mining, it just provides another federal government administrative level a proposed project application has to pass, in order to proceed.

The Commonwealth Government have purchased Fanning River Station for military training. There is a directive to place fences 1km around the caves to protect them from any damage during training exercises. I hope this will work. The club should endeavour to run an expedition to the area at some time in the future to explore the area for more caves entrances.

P. Bannink

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY, 2015

2014		2015	2015	2015
		Membership	Buildings	Sales
	<u>Receipts</u>			
5,609.50	Membership Fees	6,699.50		
0.00	Tackle Hire	00.00		
	<u>Bank Interest</u>			
0.71	Commonwealth	1.65		
0.33	Bendigo Bank	0.33		
	<u>Chillagoe Property</u>			
2,880.00	Rent Received		2900.00	
4,548.00	All Camping Fees		5469.50	
750.00	Donations Building Fund		0.00	
1129.00	Donations - Other		278.00	
0.00	Building Refund (Alan)		150.00	
293.20	Solar Power Credit		37.21	
0.00	TV Repayment (Carol)		40.00	
	<u>Fund Raising</u>			
0.00	AGM Auctions		0.00	
0.00	Club BBQ		0.00	
	<u>Trading</u>			
0.00	Publications		80.00	
0.00				0.00
664.00	Conference Sales			0.00
-----		-----	-----	-----
15,874.74		6,701.48	9,0943.91	80.00
		-----	-----	-----
15,874.74	<u>Total Receipts</u>			15,825.39

2014		2015	2015	2015
		Membership	Buildings	Sales
	<u>Less Expenses</u>			
2,719.00	ASF Fees	3,053.00		
0.00	Incorporation Fees	63.60		
0.00	Stationery & Postages	31.70		
99.00	PO Box Rental	107.00		
350.00	Website Expenses	370.00		

0.00	Audit Fees	0.00	
0.00	RFDS Donation	150.00	
0.00	Overpayment	169.20	
	<u>Subscription</u>		
0.00	ACKMA& Helictite	0.00	
	<u>Chillagoe Property</u>		
	Council Rates		
489.15	& Water Charges	515.40	
5,589.25	Property & Liability Insurance	3,668.57	
0.00	Electricity	0.00	
290.00	Workcover	290.00	
0.00	Old School Building Refit	0.00	
0.00	Gas Cooker Upgrade Supply	190.99	
0.00	Amenities Block	4,775.47	
1,920.00	Caretaker's Costs	1,920.00	
744.00	Maintenance	1,723.59	
0.00	New Fire Equipment	310.00	
0.00	Solar power	0.00	
1906.48	Grant Expenditure	0.00	
	<u>Trading</u>		
0.00	Purchase Book Resale	0.00	
185.00	Annual Report Printing	0.00	
-----		-----	-----
	<u>Sub Totals</u>	3,794.50	13,394.02
		-----	-----
	<u>Receipts less Expenses</u>	2,756.98	(4,497.61)
		-----	-----
\$14,441.88	<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$17,188.52
-----			-----
\$1,432.86	<u>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>(\$1,363.13)</u>
	<u>CASH BOOK BALANCE</u>		
4,667.91	Opening Balance as at 1 st March 2014	6,100.77	
1,432.86	Less: Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	(1,363.13)	
-----		-----	
\$ 6,100.77	<u>TOTAL FUNDS – 28TH FEBRUARY, 2015</u>	<u>\$4,737.64</u>	
	<u>BANK RECONCILIATION</u>		
5,702.27	28 th February, 2015 Commonwealth Bank Balance	4,547.38	
2.50	Add: Outstanding Deposits	82.00	
-----		-----	
5,702.77		4,629.38	
150.00	Less: Outstanding Cheques	443.07	
-----		-----	
5,554.77		4,186.31	
546.00	Add: Bendigo Bank Account	551.33	
-----		-----	
\$ 6,100.77	<u>TOTAL FUNDS AS ABOVE</u>	<u>\$ 4,737.64</u>	

TRIP REPORTS

Wallace Creek Karst Expedition (P. Bannink)

In early January, Peter and Winfried were fortunate to get permission to travel to Kings Plains Station in early January to examine the Wallace Creek caves documented by CCC back in 1983. The aim was to confirm the location of the existing tags and to venture further a-field and explore the smaller karst towers to the north.

The caves previously documented are all located in a massive limestone tower (T5006) known as Melody Rocks. From the aerial photo, the area looked relatively easy to navigate, but conditions were very different on the ground.



© W. Weiss

The 'slot' entrance to (WC2) Ripple Cave

On the first day we ventured into thick rainforest scrub down the western side of Melody Rocks. It would have been fine but stinging plants were scattered everywhere, and just about every shrub had to be examined carefully, so as not to touch it.

The first cave entrance encountered was recognised from a 1983 photo as an entrance to cave WC3 (though no tag was found). The stinging trees became so numerous we had to venture onto the karst itself, slowly climbing down the eastern side to the base of the outcrop.

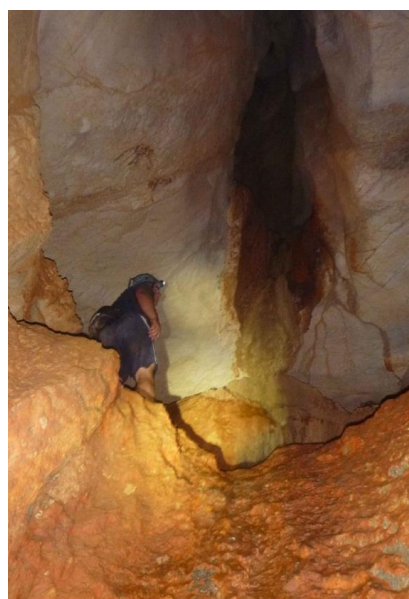
A small doline was soon encountered near the base and we ventured further down and around to look for an efflux. We did not go far before a slot revealed passage beyond. While Peter took GPS readings Winfried went in for a good look around. Once inside the slot opened up between large boulders to a wide chamber, lit up by a larger entrance on the right hand side.



© W. Weiss

Ripple Cave showing phreatic roof pendants

The sculptured roof was stunning and passage extended deeper into the outcrop. Further in, a large sloping chamber was revealed with a small dry stream way meandering between 2m high mud banks. After about 60m the chamber terminated at a 5m slippery cascade with passage extending on above. With a little assistance, Winfried carefully climbed up and set up a tape.



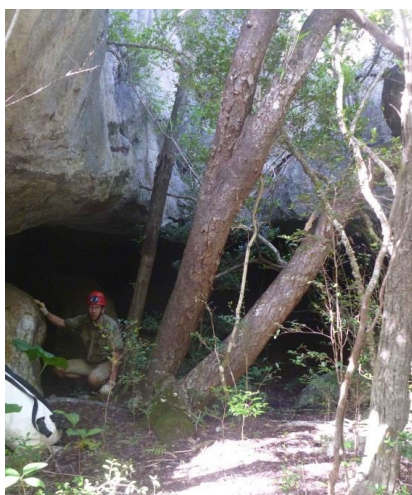
© W. Weiss

Winfried above the slippery 'Cascade'

Above the climb, phreatic passages extended off in different directions, with an 8m aven intersecting from above. Winfried explored further along the largest phreatic tunnel, which continued on for about 100m before opening out to a small doline collapse. The cave proved to be the base chamber of Ripple cave, though we did not find a tag on the entrance. Exiting just before dusk, we walk back up to the top on the eastern side. Comparing the GPS readings, the tower appeared to be about 80 - 100m high.

The next day was set aside to explore smaller towers to the north. A team of biologists had

explored the area few weeks earlier, and recorded four new cave entrances. Our aim was to add to the list as best we could. A 6.00am start got us down to the new caving area in about 20 min. We first encountered a tiny doline, and thinking it to be Keyhole Cave, started to document the tiny feature. Crawling through the low undercut passages (60cm high), Winfried spotted some stunning ancient Quinkin art figures painted on the roof.



© W. Weiss

Echidna Cave entrance

We then moved further down to a small creek crossing the exposed limestone. Back against the outcrops we found 'Echidna Cave' and pushed a few leads, but none seemed to go. Echidna cave is another traditional art site and the cave was obviously used for habitation with a domed roof and a wide side passage you could just throw your swag onto.



© W. Weiss

Creek flowing over karst pediment

We then decided to walk to the most northern part of the limestone outcrops and work out way

back. It took half an hour to pick out way north along the creek line in mostly flat open country with limestone pediment. The northern outcrops where low scattered ruiniform karst blocks (4-6m), with little cave development.

We did encounter small phreatic tunnels in the limestone blocks and a few overhangs showed further evidence of human habitation, with scattered art, grinding rocks and limestone tools. Nothing was disturbed.

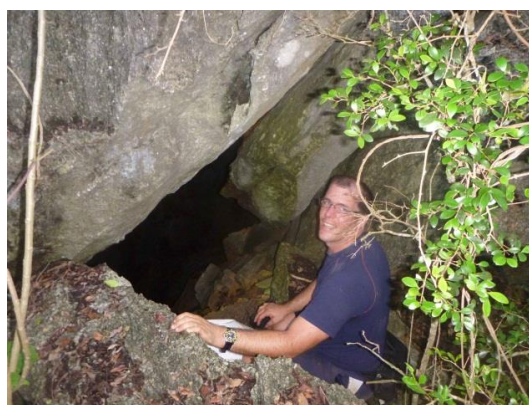


© W. Weiss

Rock shelter with tool grinding rock

The first large outcrop we encountered (~ 16m high) still had limited cave development. We found three 8m deep narrow grikes (indicating there is passage below), but we could not find a negotiable entrance. The area looked to have little promise for caves of any real size. After lunch we had travelled back to the gorge and walked to Tower T5005.

Although smaller than Melody Rocks, the biologists had found two deep vertical entrances at the top of tower just alongside a ridgeline. We climbed down northern end, over massive blocks, shrouded in thick vines. Nothing was encountered in this area and we became quite frustrated picking out way over the boulder piles.



© W. Weiss

Winfried at Rubble Pit entrance

Climbing back up towards the tower through thicker rainforest, we came upon a steep doline descending 12m into passage below, a promising find. We called this Rubble Pit, due to all the loose material at the entrance. We were very tired when we finally made it to the top for a rest and to enjoy the view. The vast expanse of Cape York faded into the distance and Australian Swiftlets zipped around us in the late afternoon.



© W. Weiss

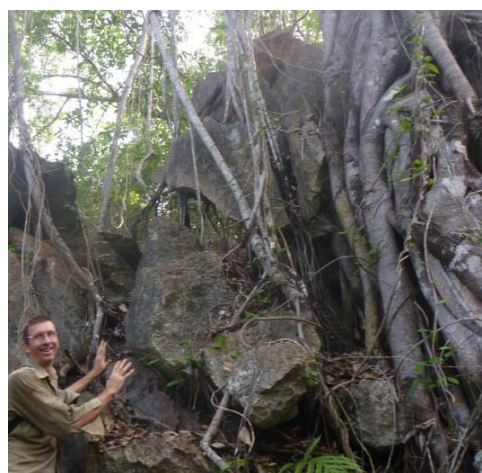
Winfried on top of tower T5005

On the way back we thought we might tackle more karst around the base of Melody Rocks and do a drawing of the cave we had found the day before.

After a steep descent, we again entered thick rainforest scrub, large blocks of limestone occurring on the right hand side of the valley. We picked our way over the karst looking for entrances, zigzagging up and down the karst as we moved up towards the main tower. The scrub and vines were formidable, 3m deep gullies were encountered in more intact sections but none of these karst features lead to any real caves. By the time we reached the main tower we were pretty much exhausted, happy to finally arrive back at a cave. Peter spent an hour sketching the main chamber while Winfried found a small phreatic tunnel leading to two 8m deep pits. With fading daylight, we headed out and walked back to camp, after nearly 10 hours on the go.

We only had a few hours on the last day to continue exploration. We decided to tackle a new tower seen nestled in a deep rainforest valley to the west of Melody Rocks and only 500 metres to the south of T5005. It was a bad choice, as the scrub was the thickest seen on the trip. So thick, we had to crawl along pig trails for the first hour before the vegetation opened up little, under thicker rainforest.

The first karst blocks encountered were just rubble and that was all we found. We had walked off the ridgeline too far along and had missed the most intact section of karst. We found a large fig tree holding up some monster boulders of limestone, masses of tangled vines, stinging tree's and endless scrub. Once we had ventured into the vegetation, we could not see very far ahead and Winfried's GPS kept us going in the right direction.



© W. Weiss

Floating boulders held up by a very large fig tree

By the time we got back up to the ridgeline, we were hot, soaked in sweat, with numerous cuts and abrasions. The obvious choice was to head back up to Melody Rocks for a look at the view, and the welcome breeze. The top of the tower has an impressive karst landscape with deeply incised solution flutes (rillenkarren), pinnacles (spitzkarren) and flat floored runnels. We found it very difficult to climb about, encountering the occasional deep grike. By 10.00 am we headed back to camp to pack up for our return journey.



© W. Weiss

An 8m deep vertical shaft in Ripple Cave (WC7)

What a totally amazing remote place, different from any of the other caving regions in North Queensland. I am sure the area still has many caving surprises and if all the caves on Melody Rocks are joined, the possibility of mapping the deepest cave in Queensland. We hope to return.

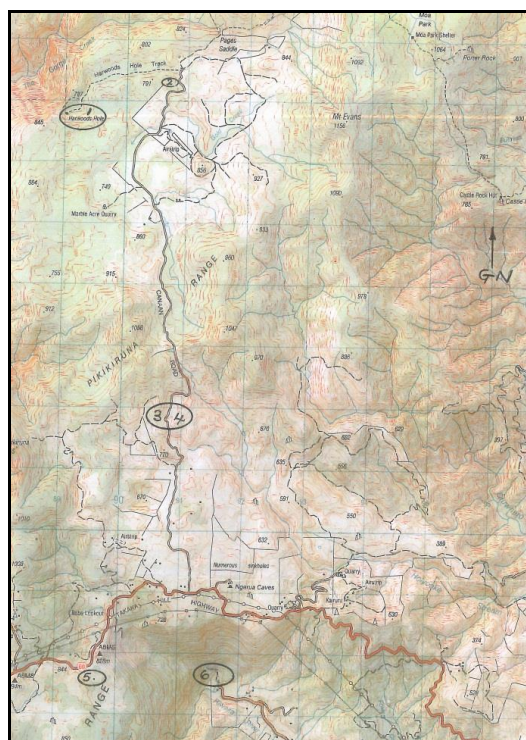
New Zealand - 2014

(Ray Deasy)

We were two cavers from Australia using the Nelson Speleo HQ at Takaka Hill near Motueka, South Island New Zealand. The map shows the locations of the places we visited from the 7th to 11th January 2014. We met a number of speleo's who were working on other projects. We caved separately except for the visit to Pease Resurgence and the lower exit to Nettlebed Cave.

Location 1 Harwoods Hole

A well visited tourist place. A two km track from the car park leads to the side of the doline crater, at this point 150m deep. Below but out of direct view is the 176m pitch into the cave. Descend 30m to a hanging rebelay then abseil 146m to the bottom. This is a through trip, (but not a pull through) to the Starlight Exit in Gorge Creek. The big pitch can be ascended (expect 2-3 hours), otherwise an overland climb from Gorge Creek is required to recover the rope and return to base camp.



Topographic map showing locations

Location 2 Legless (Pot)

A wild cave 360m deep with 16 pitches of which only the first four were descended, this was an extreme trip. There is enough moisture down

below without the need for an entrance stream. A squeeze in the entrance rift is a feet first horizontal slot and portends the serious nature of the pot.

Location 3 Greenlink (part exploration)

A long stream system with several short pitches and lots of water. This would be character building stuff if the creek floods. This entrance provides a link into the Middle Earth System. How did the huge tree trunk get hammered into the stream passage? The connection to Middle Earth is through a series of sumps.

Location 4 Hobbit Hole

This cave is a recent discovery and links into the Middle earth System. We explored it for about 500m but could not find the 'Environ Pitch' into Middle Earth. The Greenlink, Middle Earth and Hobbit Hole circuits are now 30km long and growing. The surface entrance to Middle Earth was descended to gain a view down a 40m pitch to a beautiful river.

Location 5 Nelson Speleo Hut

A well constructed hut with a gas cooking stove heating and 12v lighting. Sleeps 6 comfortably extra's sleep on the floor or veranda. It can get crowded but there are six level spots for tents. The site is located in a karst valley with a very stony access track 500 to a locked gate. A great opportunity to meet NZ cavers, read Tomo Times and cave atlas.

Location 6 Riwaka Resurgence (surface visit)

Outflow from the Takaka Hill caved known and unknown magnificent river. The cave entrance sump is shallow but long. A dry entrance enters the system upstream. It is strenuous work to get upstream against the current to the upper reaches of the sump. A fluorescein dye trace established the link to Hill Cave long ago.

Location 7 The Pearse Resurgence

This is not on the map but it is about 25km south of Takaka Hill. An isolated car park next to the Pearse River gives access to an upstream track which crosses the river eleven times. After about 2.5 – 3 hours you get to the resurgence. A further 20min gets you to the Nettlebed exit. This exit, after many (km), now links to Stormy and Blizzard Pot 1197m higher.

Prior to the January break-through into Stormy Pot, the team of Australian caver divers (called the Wet Mules) descended 220m into the Pearse Resurgence. It's a long way down and a very long time to ascend. Decompression habitats were tethered at -40m, -18m and -6m,. One wonders what happens of the passage ever ascends to open cave in the other side.

We caved in Nettlebed a short distance to the Honking Holes. Two divers were prospecting the sump beyond. New Zealand is a great place to be, especially in their caves and during the summer. There was relief to find an absence of stupid health and safety rules and the nanny state.

Tardis Cave – Mt Etna

(Steven Morgan)

Team Mackay (Damien Tapp, Kris Lambert, Philip Morgan and Steven Morgan) together with support crew of Kerry Morgan and Joanna Morgan headed down to Rockhampton for a week end of caving on 15 & 16 March. On Saturday we revisited Tardis.

Tardis is a cave on the north west of Mt Etna which was discovered by Team Mackay some six or seven years ago, and which has been revisited about four times since then. The nature of the cave (bigger on the inside) and the interest of some of Team Mackay in Dr Who lead to the name.

The cave begins with a confined small chamber with a hole in the floor descending vertically. The squeeze through this hole has to be done “on rope” making it all the harder. This is Metrix, the measure of the man. Below Metrix, the cave opens into a good sized chamber with the floor some 20m vertically below Metrix.



© D. Tapp

Damien squeezing through – Middle Tardis

A downward heading rift from this chamber leads to another really nasty vertical squeeze. We haven’t yet come up with an appropriate name for this torturous hole. Once through, the cave again opens into another good sized chamber and once again, about 20m to the floor.



© D. Tapp

At the bottom of Tardis

(Steven, Damien, Philip and Kris)

The “going lead” at this point is a small tube at floor level. We could feel a draft though this and a bat flew out of it. But alas, too small. Not much bigger than a dinner plate. We managed to wrestle a GoPro on the end of a length of conduit about three or four metres into this tube and there was no conclusive end, but rather a fleeting glance of further continuation. The size of this tube, and the possibility of what might lay beyond and the impossibility of ever discovering it explain the name, “Pipe Dreams”.

We have enough survey data now to draw Tardis, which has a depth of 53m. It is certainly a buzz for Team Mackay to add a cave of this nature to the Mt Etna catalogue given that the mountain has been so well worked over in the past.



© D. Tapp

Formation inside the Straw Palace

On Sunday we headed to Straw Palace on Limestone Ridge. Finding the cave took an hour or so, but not worthy of the Einstein award (watch this space). This is one of a handful of caves on Limestone Ridge that have gated entrances with access restrictions. Two gates guard this cave. We budged the padlocks on both, but the bolt mechanism on one gate was rusted solid, and the mechanism on the other gate only just moved.

The cave descends through some narrow passage to the top of a pitch of about 20m in total. This leads to a terminal chamber, which has a low muddy section off to one side, and a small higher chamber off to another side which has a good display of fine stalactites and short straws. We played around with photography in here a bit before exiting the cave.

The catalogue of caves in the Mt Etna and Limestone Ridge areas is nowhere near that of the Chillagoe area, but for Team Mackay it is the closest caving area and has enough on offer to justify regular visits.



© D. Tapp

Steven checking out the formations

Now about the Einstein award. The Ford BA Falcon has to be a contender for a fault with its door locking mechanism. This fault manifests itself in the car automatically locking it-self. This behaviour is not fussy, and can occur when the keys are in the ignition and the engine is running and a bunch of cavers are standing around outside. Thankfully, RACQ only took an hour to arrive and on the upside the air con had well and truly cooled down the cabin by this stage.

March Caving 2014

(P Bannink)

Quite a few introductory members attended the first planned caving trip for 2014. A through trip from Blue Sky to Macropodidae, saw about eight caves taking up the challenge.

Winfried has traversed this cave enough times to know exactly where to take new members for an adventurous introduction to caving. Progress was slow but steady, starting with a steep climb into the main rift passage leading towards the Bat Chamber.

With no bats present, the group undertook several challenging climbs and loops through some of the phreatic branches. One major challenge requires climbing a smooth 4m wall up to an upper branch.



© P. Bannink

The first major challenge near the Bat Chamber

The youngest members of the group were the most challenged, as they did not have the height to grip and reach the few handholds available. They were however small enough to fit in a side slot and slowly inch their way up. Calls for assistance were frequent, and the promise of a jelly-snake got everyone up on the end.



© P. Bannink

Winfried applies first aid

The squeezes were not small enough but just as much fun for the introductory cavers. Despite the challenges, one member managed to twisted an ankle (walking over flat ground!) giving Winfried the chance to use his First Aid Kit for the first time ever. After patching up the slightly injured caver and resting his foot, we decided to cut the trip short and exit the cave through CH523.

The route out is still not easy and everyone tried a different path to get around the rock pile near the Key Hole' with crawls, climbs and squeezes. It did not take much time to reach the Chamber of 1000 Faces, where everyone had a good rest before heading out to the surface.



© P. Bannink

Resting in the Chamber of 1000 Faces

That evening Winfried planned another adventure and by 7.00pm (after an early feed) it was time to get underway again. This time about eight cavers attended a night trip into Crocodile Pot. By 7:30 Winfried had guided us to the entrance under a perfectly still clear star filled sky. It had been about 10 years since I was last in this cave so I was keen to see if I remembered much. A small climb leads down to a large chamber with a small daylight hole (the original entrance pitch) which was now dark on this occasion. The cave soon branched into a narrow a rift with a small squeeze to a difficult 12 metre climb up, to connect to the rest of the cave.



© P. Bannink

Thumbs up! Greg enjoying the climb down

Swiftlets were clicking about as they settled in for the night (flying into an inner chamber). Another hand line descent gets you into the deeper chambers and passage beyond.

The group moved carefully on, to minimise any major disturbance to the birds. Beyond the bird chamber, the group walked and climbed through

a series of large passages. Peter spotted some adult plant hoppers, a specialised cave fauna unique to the area.

The next morning two trips were offered. Peter took a small group to Piano Tower to complete exploration of the cave located by Ray & Peter in September last year.



© P. Bannink

Chillagoe plant hopper

Exploration began with finding a navigable route up the southern face. Our group only just reached the base of the cliff line when Peter spotted a lower entrance only partially explored in September. This was thought to be the lower entrance to the new cave, but brief exploration revealed it did not connect. Evan explored further along the base of the outcrop and soon discovered another small entrance. This lead into a small rock pile with some well decorated spaces. Half an hour of exploration revealed the cave only contained about 50m of rock pile passage.



© P. Bannink

Evan's new entrance

Climbing further up the southern face, Winfried spotted another entrance. This was more promising with the boulders leading into a sizable rock pile. A lower section fell away into a 6m rift with some great decoration. Careful exploration revealed another route down. Peter

was able to climb down to this area, removing his boots to carefully climb over some delicate floor decoration. The lower section did not go far and a deeper crawl into more rock pile did not seem appealing. No air movement indicated it may not go far. Having exhausted all the major leads we left to continue to Pete & Ray's cave. After climbing up the southern face the group ran into major difficulties trying to negotiate the thick scrub. Peter could not locate the entrance despite being only 50m from the area.



Winfried and Evan at the second entrance

The top of the outcrop is not very big so it was a bit bewildering not to find it. As midday approached, the heat and green ants sapped every ones enthusiasm, so we headed back down leaving the last cave for another day. The amount of breakdown may be an indication that this eastern section of the Piano tower complex does not have any substantial caves to offer. All the caves found so far have been less than 200m, however they contain interesting features and some fantastic decoration.

Extensions to Rescue Cave

(P Bannink)

Two trips were organised for Saturday, Paul took a quick trip to Carpentaria for a few introductory cavers in attendance. Max Sue and Steven on the other hand had decided to explore a deep shaft located by Keith Offer on Currajong Tower near Rescue Cave (CH69). Having never been there, Ray and Peter also decided to take a look, and arrived just when the rigging was complete.

The free hanging abseil rope required a safety line alongside to traverse the doline, before you could clip on. Steve and then Ray descended to report the cave was quite extensive below. The good reports got Max and Sue gearing up and by the time I got down only Sue was at the bottom with requests to get more gear.



Steven starting the 20m entrance pitch

The base of the doline is quite a large chamber 14x10m with three main leads in different directions. A sloping rock pile fracture lead back under the abseil to another daylight doline with a large fig tree. Max and Ray climbed back out at this location to get the extra gear. Peter started a sketch of the cave while Steven continued to explore.

Rigging a small ladder, Steve and Max then explored a small upper fissure, (the first major lead), by crawling through a tiny tunnel into a lower rift. A ladder was required as the rift descended 6m into a large junction passage with humid air. I explored this later with Max and found quite a bit of cave, with one branch ascending into a large daylight chamber with shear 15m sides. This was coined Broken Boulder Chamber due to a massive boulder being wedged in the roof, waiting to collapse in one day.



Max climbing out the first lead

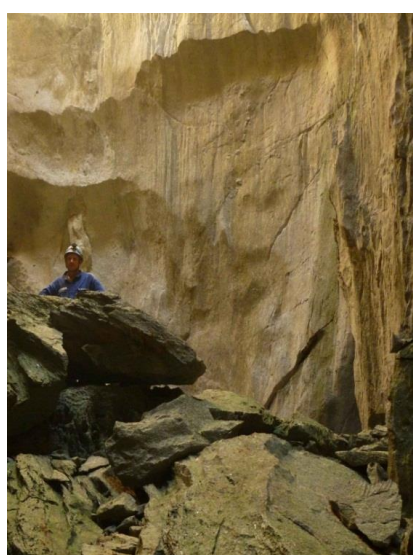
The second major lead continued on the LHS of an old formation wall in the entrance doline. Cave passage again opened up, descending steeply to another big chamber. Large boulders filled most of the space but the walls were well decorated with pristine formation. A narrow phreatic fissure intersected at the lowest point. The fissure quickly closed down to a crawl but then popped out into another large doline, 6m above the floor.



© P. Bannink

Unusual formations

By this time Paul had arrived, and the keen explorers descended the small pitch to continue on. I descended later with Sue to find a small maze of intersecting rifts. Most of the branches did not go far. One branch lead down into a deeper rift which stopped at a junction, sheer 8m high sides prevented further exploration. Another branch lead up into a boulder pile, here Max, Steve and Paul got through into another upper rift.



© P. Bannink

Max in Broken Boulder Chamber

After sketching most of the passages, I decided to return to the entrance chamber to start de-rigging

and prussic out. Steve, Paul and Max had climbed into Rescue Cave CH69, connecting the new cave into that system. What a fantastic extension to Rescue Cave and a great day of caving for those who participated.

Rescue Rigging Exercise

(P. Bannink)

Sunday was assigned to set up the clubs current full complement of rescue equipment. Paul set up some additional bolts at the top of the 'Big Hole' leading into the large chamber of Blue Sky (CH416).

Paul debriefed the team and sorted out the required equipment early in the morning, we all got to the location by 10.00am.



© P. Bannink

Ray (above) with Paul and Max setting up

Having never set this type of rigging up before (and missed the briefing), it took me a while to work out how it was going to work. Paul, Max and Steven were instrumental in working it all out, additional pieces of equipment were borrowed from everyone's kit. With a bit of adjustment of the pulley's over the doline, it was ready to go in about 45 minutes.

The safety of so many cavers working on one rig was paramount and a safety spotter was important in making sure anyone working near the edge and hauling on the karst were always connected to a safety line. This was particularly important on steeply inclined rillenkarren where

the cavers hauling and resetting the pulley were working with their backs to the pitch. The depth of the doline is about 25m, an ideal location to set up the rigging and the most likely location to extract anyone out of this extensive cave system.



© S. Jenkins

Max ready to descend, Paul as controller

A bag of about 15kg rocks (the test dummy) took about 10 min to pull up. Next Max clipped on and everyone swapped positions to lower and then ascend the new load. The hauling team has to work in sequence to 'set' (lock off the line), 'haul' (pull in the 6-1 pulley) and 'reset' the pulley till Max got to the top (15 min).



© P. Bannink

Max and Sue – resetting the (6-1) pulley

Lastly Paul clipped on to enjoy the ride. Paul's ascent was a little slower (about 20 min), by this time the hauling team were tired and Paul did weight a little more than Max. It got very hot on the karst and the (6-1) pulley rope had to be handled very carefully as it snagged on the sharp karst often. Rubber lined gloves would also help as leather gloves slipped on the hauling rope.

What members took away from the exercise was familiarity with the equipment, working as a

team and experience in the operational process. What is clear is the large number of cavers required to get the system operational. Not only in setting up the rigging but also in guiding the process and physically managing it. The club must do this again, hopefully at Broken River in June.

Chillagoe SUSS/CCC 2014

(Report: Felix Ossig-Bonanno; Trip organised by Alan Pryke)

Alan and I flew out from Sydney domestic airport taking advantage of Alan's access to the lavish Gold lounge. We arrived in Cairns that afternoon where we were lucky enough to have a lift, a place to spend the night and a car, all complementary of Nikola. We went out to buy some supplies, joining the frantic people, scurrying around in the pending doom of the category 5 cyclone Ita, (which the BOM had predicted would pass right over Chillagoe!).

To prevent getting stuck in the city, we left early. On the way I was lucky enough to pick up a \$4 pair of overalls from the Vinnies, in Mareeba. As we drove across the Atherton Tablelands I was impressed by the numerous anthills that rose everywhere like small castles. We soon arrived at the Chillagoe Cave House, and after settling in and meeting Carol, we decided to fill in the remainder of the day with some afternoon caving at Hippy Tower.

Having never done any tropical caving (nothing outside NSW actually!), the karst tower was an impressive playground.

After a short climb down through a rift decorated with cave-coral, we emerged into a green oasis in the middle of the bluff. I wasn't used to seeing so much greenery whilst caving! We climbed down passing through a curved courtyard with beautiful straight walls encircling a fig tree with many bracing legs and fruit strangely sprouting from the trunk itself.

We passed through a low passage with impressive formations (including a large column with sizable rim-pools on one of its sides) and emerged into another daylight hole. Thoroughly impressed, we headed back to the Club House to enjoy the first of Carol's famous dinners.

Geck and West Geck (Spring Tower)

The light drizzle made the walk to Geck a cool undertaking. We entered via the old tourist ladders and after negotiating a boulder pile, emerged into a massive chamber with the grey sky visible through a couple of large daylight holes.



Shiny Oolites in Geck Cave.

© F. Ossig-Bonanno

The weather changed the atmosphere of the cave; drips of water could be heard echoing around us, sometimes sounding like the not so distant voices of people murmuring to one another.

We passed around a large pool of water fed by a number of small streams and traversed across the room trying to find the least destructive path through the minefield of oolites. We dumped our stuff pausing for a moment to look at the stalactites silhouetted against the sky.

We then started surveying the Eastern side of the chamber making an attempt to have some overlap with the partial SSS survey we had. We didn't make much progress in that direction, but did get to see a Children's python opposite the Chocolate Fountain flowstone.



Alan Pryke doing some sketching in Geck Cave.

© A. Pryke

Next we went through a passage to the South which opened up into a huge chamber with two gaping holes to the outside world. Continuing south we discovered a cool exit via a small hole which allowed you to walk out onto a panoramic rock platform which would have been an ideal lunch spot if not for the rain.

We returned to the large chamber with the two daylight holes (one to the north and south) and climbed down some deep holes on the southern side of the chamber. They had drops of some

20m, but after some searching we found a safe way down through the rock-pile.

There was some nice formation in here including a fabulous botryoidal floor. One of the leads in the lower section of this chamber had a rift continued on and soon became phreatic. A low hole led to a similar parallel passage (another connection also possible). From here there were a further 3 connections to yet another parallel passage. This one had a large rift in the floor that dropped 2 - 3m to a dirt base with no further leads.



Looking down from Hornet Highway to Van in the chamber below.

© F. Ossig-Bonanno

Exiting these we found another phreatic lead that went only a short way before ending in a small hemispherical amphitheatre.

Whilst Alan continued adding some final artistic sketching to the survey, I climbed out the eastern daylight-hole where I found a narrow rift populated by numerous wasp/hornet nests (named Hornet Highway). To my surprise this continued for some way and came to a large hole in the floor which amazingly looked down into the area Alan was sketching.

Two weeks later we returned with Van and Paul. By this time the effects of the cyclone had pretty much passed. The upside of the heat was a fantastic display of sunbeams!

We then made our way over to West Geck which had a huge entrance that looked like it might what was left of a once giant chamber. After exploring and surveying the area we soon realised that West Geck got really close to Geck and that with some more time a connection might

be possible!



Van illuminated in Geck Cave

© A. Pryke

Nettle Pot, Reunion (Spring Tower)

On the third day we startled some Bustards on the way over to Nettle Pot. We climbed through the (not so) secret hole on the right-hand side. On the climb down I passed a small circular hole which seemed to drop and flange out only a short way in...

We negotiated the Stinging Trees before dumping our stuff and selecting a suitable survey station. Whilst back-surveying to the tag we found an opening to the north. We went in and it opened into several chambers covering an area much larger than expected. Off this were several more chambers, as well as a connection to the porthole we passed at the bottom of the climb-in. There was some nice formation, the highlights being some delicate rim pools as well as some pompous cave coral near the entrance; we named these The Faceless Aliens.

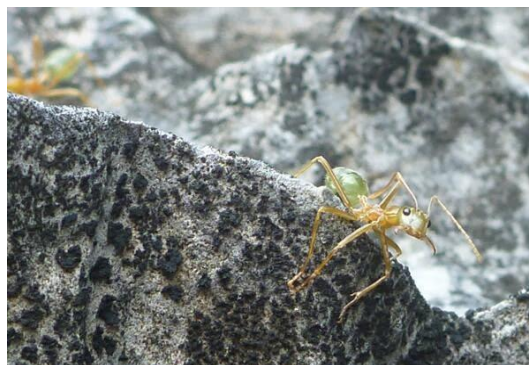
After surveying The Faceless Aliens, we watched a lizard catch a fly and then joined him/her for some lunch. Whilst eating we watched other flies darting in and out of small holes constructed in the dirt floor.

We then returned to surveying, heading down the left hand side, past a small lead to the right (which we looked at later in the trip) and into a large room full of decoration surrounding a large hole in the floor. We skirted around to the right and then went up through a hole. A passage to the left brought us up onto a balcony overlooking the room we had just left.

We climbed to a higher level home to a small pool and continued through a sharp crawl to some fabulous large pendants at the top of a sloping chamber. The room at the bottom was massive, and after passing through a convenient doorway it led to yet another room with a large false floor continuing further around a corner.

Not much further on, we reached a large 'mite at the centre of a natural crossroads. Instead of

passing through a portal to a large daylight chamber we took a passage to the left which led to a large aven with a muddy floor. A specially placed spiral staircase allowed us to climb up. Whilst Alan finished sketching, I climbed up to the left and located the tag for Reunion Cave. I spent some time exploring the rock-pile finding a large chasm with an unclimbable drop of roughly 15m. Before returning to help survey I studied some Green Ants making the way across the surface of the rock.



A Green Ant at the entrance of Reunion Cave.

© F. Ossig-Bonanno

We returned to the crossroads and went up a fun climb along a small sloping ledge. At the top was a long, very narrow stal' some 6m long. It looked extremely fragile. We then went through another connection to Nettle Pot, coming out at the pretty room with the hole in the middle.

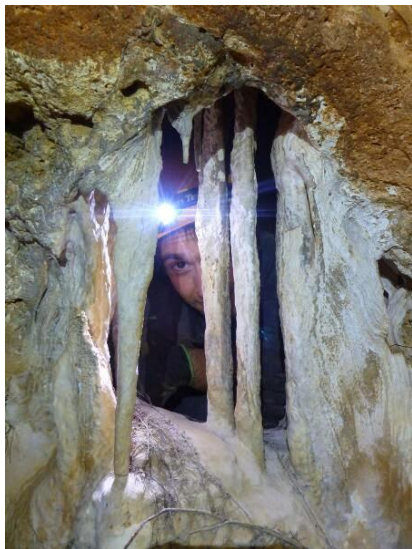
We returned later in the trip with Paul and Van, this time going through the small hole near the Nettle Pot entrance. There proved to be a lot of cave on this side. After a climb-down we emerged into some large passage. I chimneyed up a slot on the right which dropped down into a giant funnel-like room (at a guess 20m across). We didn't survey up this way but instead continued to a large room with some fantastic cuboid oolite pools protected by a deep rim.

On the right side of this room was a 5m climb, a challenge I happily accepted. Once up I walked up a rising slope which turned out to be a large false floor. At the back of the slope was a small histoplasmosis room with a window blocked with columns resembling prison bars.

I went back out and dropped into another lead on the left (south) of the slope, this proved to go quite a way into a number of crossing passages. Through one, I managed to get a voice connection with Alan to a rift just behind the oolite pool. Some further exploring brought me to a daylight hole which was quite easy to exit to the surface. I went back to let the others know and we decided to come in from this untagged entrance. As soon as we got in Alan recognised the large chamber as the spot we had finished our survey in Re-Union. Sure enough I found the

hidden climb down and located our last station complete with the yellow ribbon we had left.

We continued the survey completing the loop and discovering several more side passages, including one that led to the other side of the Prison Bars.



© F. Ossig-Bonanno

Felix behind the Prison Bars

Next we explored the southern section of Reunion. We were in a large open rift when it started raining quite heavily. We retreated into some passages and after mapping them crossed the rift to the opposite side, emerging into a large daylight chamber. Up to the right revealed yet another room with a loose climb down through a hole onto a balcony overlooking a rift... the bottom some 6m down an impossible climb.

We returned to the previous chamber and found a pleasant way out, which spiralled gradually up. All was going smoothly until Paul climbed up a rock to get a GPS reading popping out his shoulder in the process. We laid him down on the comfortable sharp rillenkarren and tried, without luck, to push it back in. We turned to plan B which was getting to the car. We decided to go down via the southern side and follow the old railway line back. I scouted a path for Paul whilst Alan went back to grab our gear.

I went as far as the railway before returning to help an emerging Alan. I grabbed a pack and we headed back to the car.

At the hospital we tried getting the shoulder back in with the nurse, but after many attempts it was 8pm (about 3hrs since the dislocation) and we were out of options. The nurse rang Cairns, somehow securing a plane to fly in. Alan and I left to have some dinner as the plane's ETA was over an hour away.

I drove down at 10 and was told that I couldn't

come in. I climbed up onto an air-conditioner and saw Paul on the bed with four people around him. He looked pretty drugged up, presumably unconscious. An hour or so later we got the call that Paul was fixed and ready for pickup.

The Disney System (Royal Arch Tower)

The original plan was to locate High Cavern and survey it to Disney but we ended up locating Richard's Cave, which needed surveying too. It wasn't an overly pretty cave but I really enjoyed it due to its sporty nature. It started with a small climb-down followed by a standing squeeze to the top of a large pit. A squeeze to the left brought us to the top of another short climb down where I swung around some flowstone above a hole whilst Alan went some alternate. I climbed back out to get the tape and survey gear (good exercise I guess). Once we were both safely down we soon located the last survey cairn of the Disney survey. I back tracked and climbed up onto a false floor which allowed me to enter an adjacent chamber which involved another tricky climb-down. This chamber also had a pit though much deeper (~10) which could be climbed.

As I was climbing out, Alan's light revealed an alternate way out which wasn't quite as tricky as the way I had come in. Surveying proved quite tricky due to the multi-level nature of the cave and the numerous deep pits.

Beyond this chamber was yet another pit, and a slippery death slope dropping down to Central Station (the difference in height from the floor of Central to the top would have to be around 30m!). Through a small hole above the slope was another high ceiling chamber and connection to Central Station.



© F. Ossig-Bonanno

A green praying mantis between Richard's and High Cavern.

Once this area was surveyed we headed back, surveying our way out of the cave. We then headed around the cliff to locate the entrance to High Cavern. On the way a green praying mantis grabbed a ride on Alan and once we got it off I

grabbed a few photos of it.

We retreated into the entrance of High Cavern, effectively escaping an approaching storm. We passed through some easy walking passage, dropped down a step and at a pit climbed down through a hole that was 'blowing a gale'.

In the next room a ramp to the right led us to a familiar muddy phreatic section. We wandered around here for some time trying to find the fabled connection to Disney Cave. During our search we came across another Children's Python clinging to the roof using a very impressive climbing technique!



© F. Ossig-Bonanno

A snail shell in High Cavern.

After searching all the leads we could find we went back for a closer inspection of a taped off section near an alternate exit. We didn't cross this pristine section so maybe the connection is there but it seemed unlikely and we probably just missed the lead....

A week or so later we returned to Disney Cave with Van and Paul. We headed to the chamber near the Evil Hand to explore a section that hadn't yet been surveyed. We got to the drop that had previously proved troublesome, and managed to find a climb-down that came out underneath a second ~10m pitch. There was a sizable chamber but we couldn't find any further leads.

Van and I laddered down into Central Station and headed to some passages that cave very close to High Cavern. In one of these passages we saw four scutigeromorphs - Van named this passage Scutigeromorph's Ski-slope).

We then headed to another lead where we did a full de-trog to climb over some flow stone, this continued to a fabulous Disneyland of micro oolites. I carefully edged forward until I spotted the red and white tape which was all I needed to know that we had found the connection!

With Richards and High Cavern surveyed I think

most of the Disney System has been completed.



© F. Ossig-Bonanno

A speedy scutigeromorph near Central Station.

Tall Tree (Tall Tree Tower)

It was quite a walk out to Tall Tree Tower from the Royal Arch car park, but the going was easy and we soon arrived at CH139. The first thing we did was inspect a window about 1.5m up the wall that went into a phreatic hole with a mud floor. With some help I managed to get in and after a 5m crawl was surprised (along with a bat) to find myself in a small room with an aven about 10m in height. Unfortunately there wasn't much more cave than that, so I wormed myself out.



© A. Pryke

Felix coming out of Tall Tree.

Further on we entered a large chamber with a collapsed side letting the sunlight filter downwards. We pushed several leads to the right with the aim of finding some new cave that might link to some pitches that had been found on the surface on trips in past years. Most of the leads chocked, but one had a small hole with lots of airflow. I couldn't fit in but could glimpse a circular aven-like chamber (couldn't see the bottom or top).

A short crawl brought us into a large impressive chamber with light bouncing around the walls. We surveyed what we could, finishing in a large section with fabulous flowstone and rim pools. Apparently there is another exit above this room, but it was getting late, so we returned to our packs and soon picked up a convenient cattle track which guided us most of the way back to the road.

After convincing Van that the walk wasn't that bad we again headed out to Tall Tree, this time with the plan to explore the northern end of the bluff. We soon located a large hole in the centre of the tower, but there didn't seem to be any easy way down and we didn't have enough gear. In the next section of limestone (past a large bush turkey mound) we found a large opening which led to a pitch zigzagging downwards. Once the ladder was rigged I climbed down the first step (about 4m down) - the ladder was just touching the ground. The next climb was about 3m onto a shelf which was sloping back under the others suggesting there might be a hidden chamber.

The climb was too dicey so Van used a tape on the anchor so the ladder could be lowered. Once I was down I saw a large chamber beneath where the others were sitting. I resisted the temptation to have a look in there and continued down the steps, chimneying down a drop of 3m and then a second, to a constricted muddy floor. I wriggled through a narrow opening before emerging into a large day-lit chamber where I could climb-out amongst the shaded lilies and walk around to the others.

We decided to leave the muddy squeeze to later and keep clean whilst exploring further. Of course we forgot to go back, so never found out what was in that large chamber... In the next room I had a strange Déjà vu inkling and suddenly realised that this was the lunch spot from the day before... we had come much further south than we had realised... We spent some time admiring fiery light and then went for a look at The Ugly Mite – probably the ugliest 'might you'll ever see!

We finished some more survey finding the other exit Alan remembered from previous trips.

Uncle Harry's Cavern (or Uncle Harry's Retreat) – Pinnacle Ridge

The book accurately describes the entrance as a "crawl over rubbly floor which turns into a flattener with a left-hand turn down hill. This led us into a "substantial chamber" with a little daylight peeking in. It wasn't a very flat cave offering lots of fun climbing opportunities. We thought we had exhausted most of the cave so

headed towards the exit. Instead of exiting we took the 'Barbed Wire Passage' under the entrance which opened up into a small room. A squeeze led us to a smaller chamber and a second (even smaller) squeeze, into an even smaller room with a climbable pit.

It was about 6m to the bottom and once down I got pretty excited; from the way the floor crackled beneath me, I was almost certain that we were in virgin cave. We were in a large chamber with columns to the left as well as some sparkly formations. To our right was large false floor with flowstone on top. As we approached the bottom of the room we encountered our third Children's Python for the trip.

We took a para-phreatic rift that went a significant distance before releasing us (past a precariously balancing rock) into another large chamber which we named Coexistence Chamber due to the fact we observed first guano and feathers; then bats and swiftlets.



© A. Pryke

Felix in an untagged entrance to Patzanne Cave.

One of the leads we followed became quite narrow before opening up into yet another huge chamber with fabulous fossils visible almost everywhere you looked. We climbed down but encountered a 4m wall, which prevented us from entering a room above it. I discovered a small hole which emerged into a climbable rift that gave me access to the top. It was a high chamber and had a large number of roots reaching down some 10m from the ceiling. Walking through the roots revealed another hole, with another lead to the right and one to the left.

We definitely didn't explore this cave in its entirety, but were happy to extend the known size of the cave by about threefold!



© F. Ossig-Bonanno

Felix and Alan returning from Spring Tower.

After lunch we dropped down the southern side of the ridge exploring a collapsed area in which two entrances were found. The one to the right (east) went a short way down and could be entered from two places. There were some nice formations at the bottom.

The other was on the left and started with a pitch. We rigged a ladder, but about half way down I confirmed that our 10m ladder was about 3m off the floor. I climbed back up and we left it for another day. Some signatures were found at the entrance to the pitch and Alan read one that said 'New York' so we nicknamed the cave 'Old York' since we initially thought it was a new find.

We headed down the end of the ridge, where a startled rock wallaby unintentionally led us to yet another cave. It consisted of a number of narrow muddy rifts which seemed to cross over each other. We didn't fully explore this area as it was after 6 and we needed to get back. We named this section of cave 'Afternoon Maze' after 'Morning Maze' further west on the ridge.

Volcanic Echidna (Tower No 5214 – Volcanic Tower)

After the surprising sight of seeing a small child emerge from the bush with a small pick axe in hand (past of a fossicking trip) we made our way past some mullock piles and continued to our target karst tower - Alan had identified it as a potential spot for new cave. After looking at the existing walk-in cave we headed in an anti-clockwise direction around the tower. We continued around past a possible lead (which we revisited later the next day) and soon split up; Allan looking around the base whilst I slowly spiralled up the tower. There were some interesting kamenitza pools amongst the rillenkarren and I was amazed to see a rock wallaby fleeing across the top of the tower.

I continued looking down a few holes, but most choked about 10m down. Further exploration located a volcano-like hole in the centre of the tower. Despite my efforts I couldn't find a way

down so rendezvoused with Alan on the southern side of the tower beside a deep rift. With some difficulty we climbed down a parallel *rift* which linked into the larger rift, but there weren't any extensive leads.

Further around I located an interesting lead and had soon dropped in with great excitement. We emerged into a large chamber and began making our way down through the rock pile; strangely glimpsing light occasionally below us. After some effort we made our way down to the volcano chamber I was trying to access from the top of the tower!



© A. Pryke

Felix in Pharaohs Tomb.

Off this room was a crawl that led into some muddy passages heading generally north. We emerged into a small chamber followed by another crawl where we saw around three Scutigermorphs (a type of centipede). Some roots were reaching down from the ceiling in the next chamber and the water ran from here through some deep trenches to a final chamber where our progress was impeded.

We headed back out without looking at further leads. As we were exiting the cave I heard a noise. I climbed up we saw an Echidna at the entrance! and so the name Volcanic Echidna was born.

When Alan returned from collecting some water and the survey gear he wasn't alone: he had found Van. We surveyed the entrance chamber discovering a second chamber to the right of the rock-pile (along with a couple more Scutigermorphs).

Once we reached the volcano chamber we went to a couple of small chambers on the left. I pushed a lead at the end of the room through a rock-pile. Three squeezes later, I was at the bottom of CH209. We didn't know if we should be pleased or not as it seemed to detract from the discovery.

We returned to the cave the next day joined by

Paul. We spent some time photo faffing in the Volcano chamber, watching the sun creep down the side wall; and then continued surveying through 'Scutigeromorph Raceway'. In the end chamber we spent some time taking photos and found some fossilised bones.



© A. Pryke

Felix engrossed in the immensity of Spring Cave.

On the way back I climbed up an aven where thick tree roots were reaching down. It was about a 10 meter climb up the first bit which brought me across to a small area lit by the sun peeking through a small hole above me. I went left into a chamber (approximately 13m long). A small hole was breathing on the left but it didn't think anyone human could fit through.

We finished linking the survey to the CH209 tag and went to look at the holes Alan and I had passed the day before. The first was quite deep and whilst I watched Van rig the ladder, I was attacked by some green ants (I did have my shoulder on their nest).

Whilst Van was still exploring, I went to look at the other hole I had passed yesterday. After a 2m climb-down and a slide down an 8m slope, I was surprised to find myself in a large chamber littered with snail shells, boasting multiple leads into the tower. Excited, I rushed out to let the others know. Alan was pretty quick to jump in but unfortunately we were soon out of obvious leads. One lead that we couldn't push was a climb up an aven. I got up several meters but couldn't find a way to traverse to the other side where there might be a way on.

Once I climbed back down I spotted Alan's legs sticking out of a hole in the rock-pile we had passed. I followed him through the somewhat

dodgy pile. It was pretty horrible, but on the way back out I found some really nice formation in a small room on the right. It's a nice feeling being pretty confident that you have been somewhere that no-one has been before.



© A. Pryke

Felix in Pharaohs Tomb.

It was getting latish so we went to look at a nearby outcrop of limestone. It didn't look like much but I amazingly found a sprawling cave on the far side with several chambers (named Echidna Outpost). Once Alan and I had been through most of the cave we rendezvoused with Van and Bruce on the grass in front of the entrance and returned to the cars.

I really enjoyed these two days, finding one rather extensive cave and two smaller ones.

Sack Cave (new) near the Archways

After a somewhat restless night, I awoke to a cool morning and actually got a jumper on. The four of us headed out to Castle Cave for some SRT practice. We then decided to walk anticlockwise around The Archways seeing if any more 'Blind Sides' existed. I back tracked a little thinking we wouldn't cover that area once we walked around the tower. I discovered a small horizontal hole, it didn't seem to go in very far, but I yelled out that I had found something and preceded to explore. It was quite flat and went in some 10m. At the back was a section you could stand up in and see a small daylight hole. There was a little more cave including a connection to another entrance Alan found, but nothing that went.

We exited and found Van looking down a hole some 10m in depth. Seeing no safe way down,

we rigged a ladder and I climbed part way down and found a potato bag before confirming that the bottom of the ladder was at least 2m off the ground forcing us to add an additional length of ladder.

The room was so large and strewn with boulders that there were far too many leads to cover. We spent some time exploring but couldn't find any connections.

The Throne Room (Spring Tower)

On the way to a fun photo trip in Spring Cave, we stopped by the Throne Room to survey it. This took longer than one might expect. During the mapping I found a really cool transparent isopod.



Transparent isopod in the Throne Room.

Bottleneck Cave (Wallaroo Tower)

After de-burring my socks (I forgot my gaiters) we began exploration on the eastern side of the tower. It wasn't long before Alan had located a potential hole. We left our packs, and dropped down through a series of short climbs into a daylight collapse to what looked like quite a large entrance. However, as we explored further, the majority of the leads only went a short way before terminating. Just before giving up, we located a hole which looked like it dropped into some room.



Alan admiring some rim pools in The Throne Room.

We spent some time lifting rocks out before I

managed to squeeze in. Sure enough there was a 5m long room with a couple of leads. I worked on the entrance from the inside and we were soon both in and searching. I headed down a rift behind a boulder but had no luck. Alan went up to through a tight section to the left and I was soon following him a series of squeezes including one that resembled a 'toilet bowl'. Eventually we found ourselves in a significant chamber, some 12m long.



© F. Ossig-Bonanno

Time to retire my trusty Volleys.

We explored this room and then eventually pushed through a triangular passage. A long grovel brought us into a large flattener chamber. The way on brought us to yet another chamber. This one had quite a large pile of guano on the left. Further inspection revealed half a dozen swiftlet nests on the wall. The guano pile looked fresh, but the nests looked like they had been abandoned. However when we exited the cave, we came across two swiftlets. One was resting in a nest (quite likely a smaller baby/chic) whilst the other was flying about echo locating. We used our lights to toggle the audible clicking and then left the birds in peace.

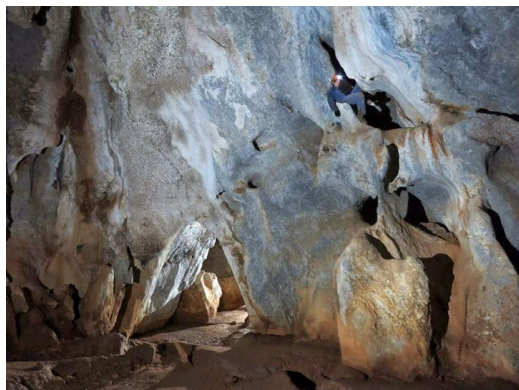
After lunch we continued over the top of the tower, popping up to the top for some fabulous panoramic views with heaps of dragonfly whizzing around for company. On the way back down, a magpie lark starred at us perhaps wandering what on earth we were doing at the top of a karst tower. Further down was a locust hiding behind a branch; as Alan moved around, the locust would mirror his movements, comically keeping the branch between them.

Next we headed to Wallaroo Cave to inspect some of the question marks on Alan's survey. The first ones were dead ends, but in the process we located an unmarked way around a large boulder which had some horrible squeezes that I could barely fit through.

We then went for a gander of the 'Dress Circle' and then went to look at the easterly lead that had good potential to join up to the cave we had just discovered. I climbed down through a large rock pile and located the rift Alan described. It veered

© F. Ossig-Bonanno

off to the left through a narrow slot. I reversed a little and climbed over the top and looked down into a sizable chamber, the floor of which was covered in oolites. You could probably squeeze through the prickly cave corral but there was a 2m drop so there would be no way to get back up without an aid.



© A. Pryke

Felix taking a nap in Spring Cave.

Epilogue

And so ends the tales of the work and discovery of this year's Chillagoe trip. Many thanks to Alan for making the trip possible, Nichol and his fiancé for their hospitality, Carol for making our expedition a pleasant one (any chance of moving to Jenolan?), and to Van and Paul for company.

With so much left unfinished on our 20 day trip, I would really like to visit again.

Wallace Creek Revisited

(P Bannink)

In late June I joined another expedition to the Wallace Creek Karst region. This time to support an investigation into the bat species present in the known (and easily accessible) caves in the Eastern Karst Block. While not an official CCC caving trip, it was an opportunity to investigate fully a few new cave entrances located in December last year and to hopefully find some new caves.

On the first day the team went to Tower T5005 to look at Semoni and Swiftlet caves. Tim had also spotted a large overhang, just off the top of the main ridgeline. Within 15 min, one new entrance was discovered in the vicinity of the existing caves, a small doline with a small fig tree growing out of the entrance.

Further along the ridge line, Chris and I looked at the large overhang which Tim had spotted. This initially revealed little in the way of passage, the floor was a jumble of large boulders and intersecting phreatic passage at the back of the overhang terminated after only half a meter. At the far end a slot between two boulders lead into a small entrance chamber which intersected a

classic 2m phreatic rift. The sight of bats further indicated there was more passage beyond. We halted exploration until the right equipment could be prepared to detect and record the bats calls. The rest of the team were assembled and we all slowly entered to what seems a small phreatic network. It was not long before Olivia, descending small side passage to revealed even larger passages beyond.



© P. Bannink

The upper phreatic passage with roosting bats.

Back under a false floor, a side branch gave way to a sizable chamber (40m x 20m and 10m high) with a flat floor. A steep boulder pile dropped in from the other side and the faint glow of another entrance could be seen high above. The whole area was very easily navigable so Olivia and I briefly explored the chamber to find some more upper phreatics and a squeeze down to a deeper rift below.

A small bat roosting area was found with bat skeletons on the floor and some lovely formation. We all sat in silence for a while taking in the amazing discovery. Back at the entrance, exploration of the upper phreatic passages led to a side passage which ended up at the other side of the large chamber, explored just before.

Another lead continued down into a very narrow 4m deep rift, bridging this, the passage continued on. To the LHS a small phreatic zone was encountered, which descended into a 8m deep narrow rift (rigging required), to the RHS another large deep chamber, descending about 10m to the bottom. A careful climb gets one halfway down, but a hand line would be needed for the last 5m. Bats were seen continuing the descent into further passage below and under our vantage point.



© P. Bannink

Olivia looking down the next 6m pitch

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There are still more passages to explore in this cave and the upper phreatics may reveal more surprises and squeezes, the narrow descending rifts for now remain unexplored.



© P. Bannink

The entrance to Swiftlet Cave

Our next challenge was to explore Swiftlet Cave, which had in the meantime been relocated by Chris. The entrance is a lovely smooth phreatic

rift (~8m deep) just under a large block of limestone. The rift was just too narrow (25cm) for me to feel comfortable descending. I was also not sure if one could prussic out of it, maybe a very thin caver!

The Fig Tree Doline located a few hours before was only 15m away so it was suggested to try to enter the cave from this entrance (the caves might join).

Semoni cave entrance (only 30m further down) is also a squeeze between large boulders. A short hand line helped us descend a short 4m rift into a small cave. A main passage continued on for a few metres between the boulders and narrow rifts, to a flood zone. A small bat colony resided in the lowest level, a lead between rocks at the base continued to another small chamber, with daylight from another entrance. Any leads were very small and seemed not worth the effort.



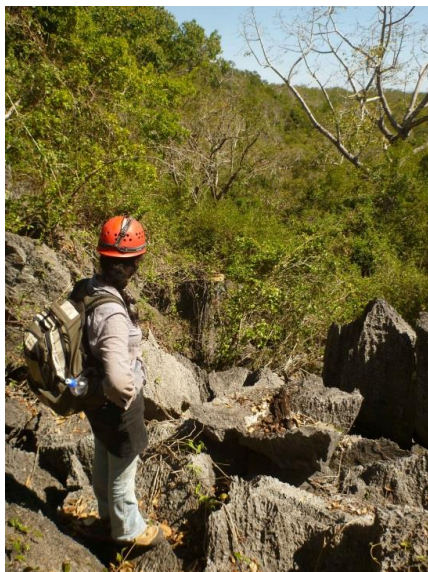
© P. Bannink

Looking up Fig Tree Doline

Our last challenge for the day was to descend Rubble Pit, an entrance about 100m further down the tower. Four of us trudged over the lower karst area for a whole hour (with all the vertical gear) before finally giving up. It's a tiny entrance dropping into a 4m wide x 8m deep rift, but you could not spot the entrance from 10m away. My trusty old GPS (due to poor reception) kept on saying it was another 100m away, which confused the issue. It was very frustrating to not find it.

Day 2 and we decided to descend Fig Tree Doline to see if it connected to Swiftlet Cave. A five metre pitch between fig tree roots ended on a pile of boulders, however another parallel shaft could be accessed too one side. Though quite narrow, the next shaft was very smooth and required more rigging. Dropping another 6m, the

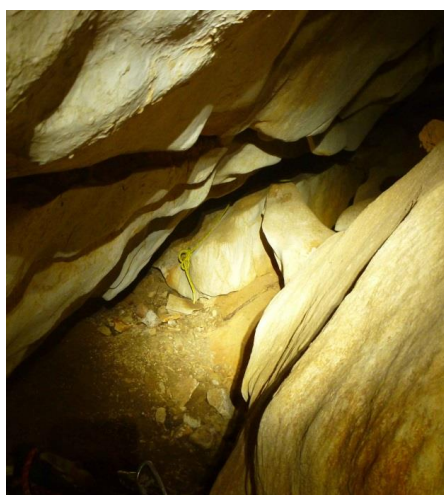
shaft now only (1.2m x 0.8m) wide ended on a solid gently sloping floor, intersecting a horizontal flattener, only about 30cm high.



© P.Bannink

Olivia examining the potential (rubble & rainforest)

Sliding through, we found a small area of tiny phreatic rifts, one can could only crouch in. What a disappointment after getting down such a great doline. The swiftlets could be heard flying around in a larger chamber, less than 2m away. The link is the horizontal flattener at the base of the pitch, but only 20cm high. There is only one squeezable section, and I was not happy even thinking about getting in. Another tiny squeeze runs parallel to the flattener, but I could not hear the birds down this passage and it is unlikely to connect.



© P.Bannink

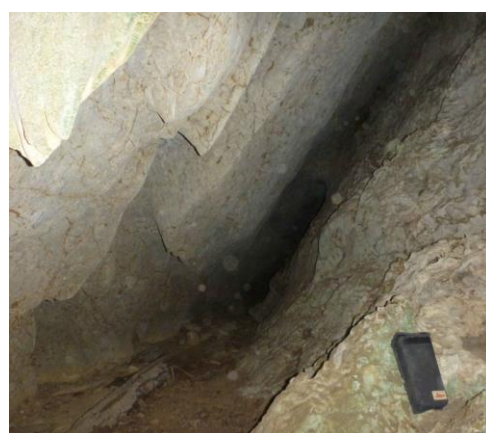
The phreatic rifts at the bottom of Fig Tree Doline

I spent the next half an hour surveying the small phreatic section and then another 20min looking for my blasted gloves. A slow ascent (surveying out) took another half an hour, finally getting to

the top to de-rig, I found my gloves sitting on a rock at the top. In all the excitement, I forgot I did not have them down there after all!!!!

The afternoon was spent identifying the calls of bats inhabiting Ripple Cave (WC7). We managed to get up the smooth “cascade” and explore the upper section again. All the leads seemed to be going up into avens above. Failing battery lights halted further exploration, so we called it a day.

The third day was spent at the Western Karst Area. The karst landform consists of low rounded karst hills rather than razor sharp towers. Four small caves had previously been documented in the main block in the early 1990’s.



© P.Bannink

Passage in Yam Cave (WC11) - Western Karst Block

A small cave was located by Tim & Sally on the northern side, this consisted of two 10m long intersecting rifts. A perfectly round impassable link (10cm wide) at the end of the main rift leads on into a small hot humid bat chamber. The cave has been called Yam Cave after a distinctive feature at the entrance and assigned the number WC11. We surveyed the cave and then explored further around the outcrop, to relocate WC8 and WC9.

Another phreatic cave located by Olivia had evidence of Ghost Bats feeding at the entrance and is currently thought to be part of WC10. A brief trip report and maps of the new caves are being prepared for the club.

CH69 Survey Continues

(P Bannink)

Last week a few members joined SSS on the last days of their Chillagoe expedition. A small team assembled late in the morning with the aim of surveying the new extension to Rescue Cave explored in May. The cave has more vertical rather than horizontal passage, so you are endlessly climbing and descending rifts. It took

about half an hour to find the area of the new link and start the survey.

Paul had his trusty and modified Disto X, making recording all the reading for a single shot, compacted into a one second bleep. Paul also used a cave survey [App] on his mobile phone to put the data straight in and draw up the cave on route.



© P. Bannink

Paul drawing up the survey – on route

The start of the survey was in a large chamber, with the 'link' high up on the opposite side. To the left, there is a connection with a large aven and a 12m deep pit, which was currently unexplored. After some careful rigging, we surveyed our way down to find we were in the new section explored in May.

We pushed the lower level to another daylight aven, where a 5m pitch links to the rest of the new section. This can only be accessed from the 20m abseil explored in May. Thanks to Paul for a great trip and successfully adding more cave survey to Rescue Cave.

Broken River Expedition 2014

(P Osborne)



Expedition members

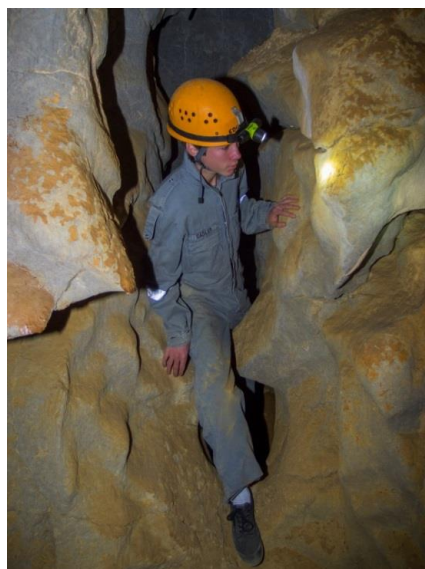
Twenty three cavers from a diverse range of expertise and experience made for what I think

was our best ever Broken River Mid-Year Expedition.

It was quite cold at night with ice forming on the tents early mornings but the campfire was kept blazing for all the time we were there. There was the occasional misty morning which soon burnt off to brilliant sunshine days with no humidity.

Lots of dingoes around this year although we heard them and saw where they'd been rather than saw them. Wild cats were also in evidence in the caves as well. Swiftlets seemed to be a favourite menu item.

There were several projects being run parallel to each other. The Palaeontologists spent quite a bit of time in Robert Broom excavating more stuff to keep them busy for years while Deb completed the survey for it. Greg and his team were keen to tag and explore a cave they found a couple of years ago in the Gorge Creek region.



© P. Murray

Phreatic wonderland

My target was to survey the Trippers Delight system and con a team into rigging the "traverse from hell", a 15m high level traverse across to a hole we thought— lower chamber. That's probably a story that others will want to write about but suffice to say it was achieved and allowed us to see in the upper survey into the hole and down into a Beehive survey point and so the system has just gotten a whole lot bigger. Now that we are getting some quality surveying done, we can see the possibility of linking more of the caves to a point where they may rival Queenslander as QLDs longest cave.

There was only one incident on the trip that we can add to our catalogue of self-rescue options.

Coming off the top of the pitch in Trippers, I reached a little awkwardly forgetting about my weak shoulder and popped it out again. Grant and Deanne were on hand to assist me off the pitch (“dislocation slot”) and over to “relocation rock” where some gentle persuasion was applied to reduce the shoulder back into where it should be. Caving resumed as normal from then on with a little more thought into not using that shoulder too much.

I can’t not mention the night time meals. We could’ve run our own MKR out there with everybody trying to outdo each other. Some of the camp oven creations were fantastic. We ate very well and washed it all down with some great wine.



On top of the tower karst

© B. Wiltshire

23 chairs in a circle round the fire after dinner each night meant we had to have a pretty substantial campfire to reach everybody and there was no shortage of stories to tell. Not sure who won the bad taste joke award but it was either Brett or Van, fortunately late after more sensitive ears were in bed. I remember going to bed laughing and waking up in the morning still chuckling. Thanks Van.



Van pushing another crawl

© P. Murray

Shane, the property manager called in one night after Paco and Van had met him broken down in

his truck out on the road to Greenvale. Seems Murphy’s Law kicked in and his truck overheated at precisely the point where he had no radio coverage on a day he’d forgotten to bring the Sat Phone. Lucky it was the first day when cavers were arriving and carrying plenty of water.

All in all a very successful trip with three new caves tagged, two completed surveys and an A4 page of projects for next time.



Paco at the main gorge.

© P. Osborne

Three Moles to Outback Queensland(D. Hunter)

A trip to Broken River karst, hosted by the Chillagoe Caving Club (CCC) and organized by Paul Osborne (joint CCC president and MCCC member), was something exotic for Jess and me. Ken’s return to north Queensland as a caver rather than a skydiver was novel for him. The caving expedition was very different to the Bullita experience, although the karst had many similarities to other tropical karsts of Bullita and Chillagoe I’d seen.

Upper Silurian and Devonian limestone towers outcrop in the Broken River area on the western side of the Great Dividing Range, towards the Gulf Country west of Townsville (Webby, 2008). Karst extends discontinuously over at least three large cattle stations. CCC has negotiated continued access to explore several square kilometres of the karst on one of those cattle stations. Unfortunately, some people have given cavers a bad name out here.

Similar to other tropical karst, bedrock towers and ridges contain the caves, which are dry in the dry season. These outcrop across undulating country of savannah woodlands. In the tropics, the exposed limestone surfaces become etched with razor-sharp rillenkarren, so you cannot afford to slip while accessing entrances and climbing down to the cave below.

The towers are not as large or high as those at Chillagoe, but the style of cave development is similar: there are lots of ups and downs to negotiate the caves. There are also some vertical pitches, since the limestone is generally steeply dipping. The caves contain some great rift passages and plenty of ceiling pendants, remnant of the phreatic phase of the karst's development. Some extensive caves have frequent daylight holes like some of the caves at Bullita.



The paleontological team with breccia samples.

This large expedition (23 members) organized itself on a more or less *ad hoc* basis each day, around sightseeing, exploration for new caves and ongoing projects. Projects that I was involved in included helping the University of Queensland's paleontological researchers and in linking Trippers' Delight Cave with Beehive Cave. Sub-fossil discoveries of thylacine and Tasmanian devil bones from pitfall caves caused the group much excitement and jubilation, while the linking of Trippers' and Beehive via an exposed high traverse and pitches gave the many cavers involved a profound sense of satisfaction.

Paul Osborne was data keeping as we surveyed using a Galaxy device. We used a Disto X in the cave linking, whereas in the paleo cave I surveyed, data was recorded manually from a normal Disto and a Suunto compass. Paul is now left with the tasks of linking the new digital data to incomplete surveys from the previous (2011) trip for Trippers' and other caves plus mapping the previously unmapped booty cave for the palaeos.

Every cave I saw there had something special, and overall there was everything you'd want out of a tropical caving trip. The caves are sporty enough, some vertical work is required in pushing caves and there are frequently formations, even some heligmites. Of course the caves host bats and birds called swiftlets. While it is apparent that feral cats have devastated some cave swiftlet colonies, Paul and I saw one intact

breeding roost in the back of Trippers, complete with one late-nesting bird who was extremely put out by our presence.



© D. Hunter

Pitch into the vertical link between Beehive and Trippers Delight.

We had one "Death March" during the trip, a late-start 7 km each way trudge along the river sands in the sun, to visit Bushman's Cave and to rediscover Oddysey Cave. The latter had really nice gourds, pearls and sawtooth shawls. Bushman's had some history associated with it, someone hiding from the law and eeking out his survival.

Viruses and flu plagued this trip, with some expeditioners suffering during the stay at Broken River, and some coming down with an even worse bug afterwards. This is what laid Deb low after the trip and actually put Paul into hospital, where he was faced with the dreaded food porridge for breakfast. The thought of eating porridge cured him and he is now out and recuperating at home.

Broken River - The Bone Collectors (D. Irvin)

Part of this year's Broken River expedition was a small party of dedicated cavers (The Irvin family), committed to spending their time supporting paleontological research into the fossil fauna present in the caves. Dr Gilbert Price headed the team, exploring the caves and overseeing the collection of more material. The breccia collected will be treated and the embedded fossils extracted, at the Queensland Museum.

On the first day saw a return to Robert Broom Cave where a huge amount of interesting fossils have been previously extracted. The team we

were joined by Deb Hunter and Jess Burtels from Tasmania, to help survey the cave and collect material. A 30m rope was put down as a hand line and a ladder used for the last few metres of the descent. Deb and Jess started a survey of the cave while the rest of us started looking for interesting bones. A *Thylaco leo* incisor, a short faced kangaroo tooth, a *Megalanina* tooth and osteoderem (a bone associated with scales that grows underneath the skin), were found. The latter is a very exciting find. The *Megalanina* were the biggest-ever lizard growing to 6m and weighing up to 700kg. Luckily now extinct.



Jess Burtels surveying in Robert Broom Cave

The next day work continued in Robert Broom Cave with Deb and Allison completing the survey. A large huntsman spider was seen deep in the cave and a draft was felt nearby, possibly indicating the existence of another entrance. A lot of good material was collected and after lunch we used a harness and pulley to haul breccia out of the cave. There were many heavy bags to bring out and a good system of extraction was worked out. Allison was at the bottom attaching the bags and helping with hauling while I was at the top of the lower pitch, secured with a cow tail. The pulley made hauling very easy and as bags came up, I transferred them to a 12m tape and then Gilbert hauled them to the surface. Deb and Nick checked that the bags did not snag or get torn open in the process. The whole system worked quite well.

After a very frosty night, Gilbert, Nick, Mary Ann, Allison and I visited Tripot Cave, entering

via Dodgey's entrance BR69 (Tower 4BR211). In the daylight zone there were signs of a recent bat kill by a feral cat, with pieces of bat wing scattered around. This is the first such kill I have ever seen in a cave.



Fragments of bat wings from a cat killing and eating bats.

Gilbert stayed in the Left Wing area to collect, while the rest of us went on through the cave. At the end of the long entrance passage there is a duck under to the right. This opens up to a chamber with a lot of small bats flying around. The bats all clustered together on the walls for warmth and I can't recall seeing this species of bats in this cave before. We went on to the next chamber which has a high daylight that is the main Tripot Cave (BR38). There were a lot of millipedes and a very small juvenile spider among the pebbles on the floor. The terminal chamber was warm with a few damp patches on the floor. Only a few larger bats were observed here compared to the large numbers seen here last year. I heard one swiftlet.



Gilbert and Jess Burtels sampling breccia

On the way back to the campsite we stopped at Geologist's Find (BR28). Nick found a Tasmanian Devil jaw in two parts. This is a first for a cave in NQ. The jaw of a large species of *Macropus* was also located. The plan of Geologist's Find Cave, shows where the bones were located. Gilbert planned to get a breccia shelf out later.

The next day a party of 13 went to Beehive Cave (BR188) with Gilbert, Nick, Jess, Mary Ann and I stopping in the Rock-on-a-Rock Chamber to collect. The others left with Paco as trip leader to do the through trip to Beesting. Another Devil jaw, a possible brush tail possum jaw and three skulls were found. Jess found one on the cave floor and two were in soft breccia very close to the wall. Is there an explanation for this? These two skulls had to be dug out. Two white bags and more material in packs was taken out. This was a lot harder than coming in and it took 45 minutes to exit.

In the last few days Paul, Deanne, Deb, Mary Ann and myself went to Trippers Delight for some surveying. Paul did some tidying up of missing areas. Mary Ann and I took the Disto and compass and re-surveyed for practice an area already done. Paul entered our data into his smart phone app and it compared our results to the previous survey. The results were within a few percent. The smart phone app is quite amazing as survey results are entered straight into it and it produces an instant map. The data can be easily transferred to a drawing program. Deanne, Grant and I then went off to Swift Cave, this is actually Fig Fortress BR24.



Tasmanian Devil Jaw in situ.

We went in via the usual track which is a bit gnarly. No bone deposits seen. We went out via the way that Tim Moulds and I found in 2011 which is far easier. This most likely is Fig Fortress Extension BR25

On the last day Mary Ann, Allison and I went to the far end of Tower 272, to look at End Cave that Tim Moulds and I found in 2011. A rope was rigged at 9:20 and Allison went down. Then I

noticed a tag behind some leaves. BR171, 3-10-97 Yabba's Spiral QWAC. The entrance goes straight down about 22m and ends in a small chamber (5m X 2.5m).

A green frog was hiding in a slot a few metres from the bottom. After a look around we exited the area and then drove to the Robert Broom parking area and tried to find West 1. After some scrub bashing we went back across the Tower and Allison found a hole. As gear was needed it was only GPS'ed. Allison called it Gargarin Cave in honour of the first spaceman. Allison also got a glimpse of a feral cat.



Gilbert holding the Tasmanian Devil jaw that Nick Wiggins had just found.

© D. Irvin

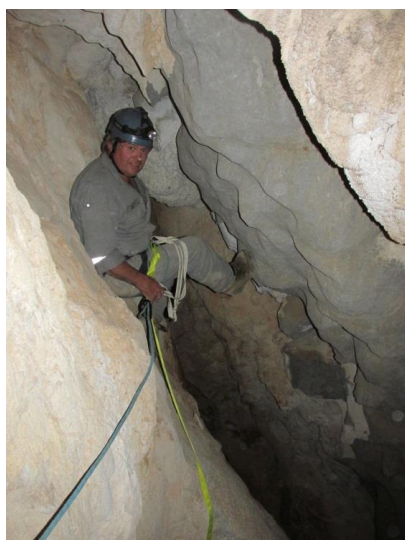
Allison and I went into Dry Cave. Photos were taken of many jaw bones observed in the cave, most are likely to be from kangaroos, none were collected. We then drove to Three Avenues and Allison and I went in. It is still as spectacular as ever. A few bats were seen with one on the floor. A parasite was plainly visible on it. The low passage that goes from Bum Hole to the Avenues has some small bones in the breccia. After a week of exploration and further paleontological discoveries we finally packed up and left for Cairns.

Traverse in Trippers Delight (Paco Murray)

On the first of July 2014 a group of three cavers including Jess Bertels, Ken Higgins and myself entered trippers delight with the intention of connecting to the Bee Hive system.

The day before Van Christensen, Ken Higgins and Greg Gurnier had partially rigged the traverse to a possible lead at a high level. I went first on the incomplete traverse and manages to do a free climb/chimney on decent to bridge the final section of the traverse.

© D. Irvin



© D. Hunter

Greg Gurnier on the traverse

Once the traverse was rigged Jess and Ken came across to the lead. Once we all entered the daylight chamber on the other side of the traverse. After a quick look around I recognized the area to be a section of the bee hive cave that we had had a close call with a boulder, after a little gardening and testing the boulder we went on to enter the system.

As Trippers Delight was the first cave discovered in the system, we have renamed the cave system to Trippers Delight System.

September Caving 2014

(P Bannink)

Four members turned up for the September club weekend. Paul suggested we continue the Rescue Cave survey, to tie in another entrance found a few years ago. We all got out there by 10:30 am, to find the place as dry as a chip. Seems the all the plants are struggling after the poor wet (400mm this year).



© P. Bannink

Van dangling off the pitch linking into the main cave

We climbed in on the northern side of Currajong Tower to find the entrance high on the tower. Van set up two ladders to get us into the main section of the cave. From there, another 12m abseil got us down to the Bat Chamber. Surveying all the way in, we finally joined into Alan Pryke and Paul's survey from 2012.

We had a brief lunch and then did another hour, surveying a loop off the main drag. This was quite complex and the climbs up, down and through rock piles, got me very confused. By now I was getting a little tired but Paul pressed us back to the base of the main entrance pitch we had entered.



© P. Bannink

Jamie Ellacott at the base of the entrance pitch.

From here Van and Peter climbed up a very loose rock pile to look for a lead Paul had been to before. For about 20min we climbed and squeezed between rocks, sometimes over deep drops to find ourselves always heading back to where we started. Paul had to come up and get the team on the right track. It took another 40min to eventually survey back out to the unsurveyed entrance, the survey showed the caving route to be an almost direct spiral upward, however the second upper entrance exits on the other side of the tower.

Pope John Paul I (CH227) was the challenge for Sunday. There is the possibility that CH227 links to Reunion Cave (CH230), only a few 100m away.



© P.Bannink

Paul starting the abseil into the entrance

The 2m entrance pitch described in the guide turned out to be about 12m, so there was some miss-calculation on what rigging was required. After some detailed planning, the team, finally abseiled into the entrance chamber. While Van and Jamie explored the system, Paul and Peter started the survey.



© P.Bannink

Jamie working on the re-belay (entrance pitch).

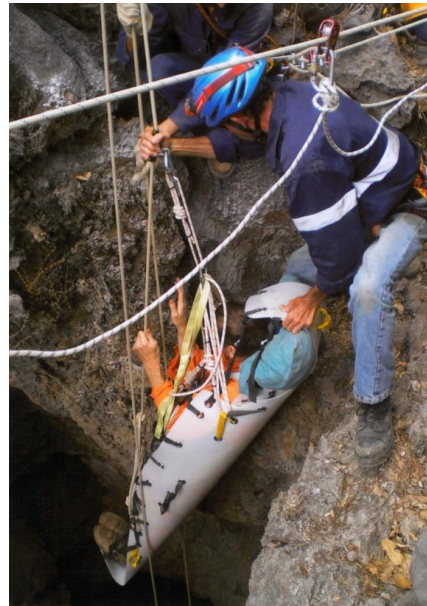
It was a couple of hours before we caught up with the explorers. The main entrance chamber leads to a small rift, where you climb 6m up into a small chamber. The back of this leads into rock piles and small remnant sections of passage. There is some good decoration and little evidence of anyone exploring this region. Despite the faint flow of air, the area needs to be explored some more to find the elusive link between the caves. Once Paul links the survey to the Reunion (via the surface entrances), explorers will have a

better idea where to push for a link between the two caves.

Rescue Practice

(P.Bannink)

On the AGM weekend a planned rescue practice (using the new stretcher) took place in Rescue Cave at the new 20m entrance pitch. This is quite a difficult cave to work in with lots of vertical, sections raising the level of difficulty. I cannot comment too much on plan, as I was the patient, trusting that everything would run smoothly.



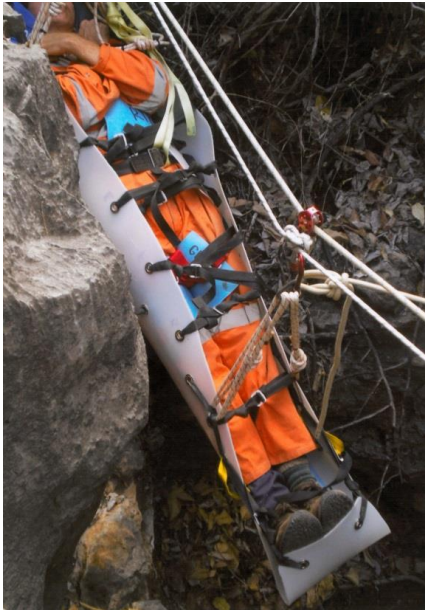
© R.Deasy

Jamie adjusting the stretcher at the top of the pitch ready for transfer onto the tyrolean traverse.

Steven counter-balanced the stretcher to hoist it up the pitch. This worked better than planned, although Steven required a few extra kg of weight. The transfer to the tyrolean traverse proved difficult and the pulleys became slightly twisted at 45° to the rope, so it became difficult to pull it over the doline to the landing spot.

Another minor issue was that with the extra weight the tyrolean traverse line dropped too low and the stretcher 'head' got snagged under a boulder at the edge of the doline. Brian sorted out this problem.

As the patient I cannot complain too much and it was quite comfortable for a while, but in being bound up for two hours, pressure points can get very painful. At a 45° angle, hoisting felt better as my weight was taken up by my feet and I could wriggle a bit to relieve any pressure points.



© R. Deasy

Landing the stretcher, with slightly twisted pully.

A very complex but successful training exercise. Thanks to Paul, Steven and Brian Evans (ISS) for organising the exercise.

Piano Tower Exploration

(Ray Deasy)

The last day of the club AGM Long Weekend (Monday Oct 6th 2014) saw Peter Bannink, Ray Deasy, Jamie Ellacott and Steven Morgan visit the Piano Tower adjacent to the Red Dome Pit. A cave found last year in the southeast end of Piano by Peter and Ray revealed a developed system. This time round the plan was to bottom two deep rifts and see what else was accessible inside

The entrance is 2/3 up the northwest side of the tower, flanked by two tall evergreen trees. Peter made a direct approach to the entrance and found it. The vegetation was minimal, what with the drought, this made the task easy.

The cave soon develops from karst boulders into phreatic chambers, descending steeply. About 30m inside an incline rift showed daylight and this was entered feet first. Another few metres at 90° proved an exit. Ray went outside and was certain this was the same side of the tower as the original entrance (this was not the case). Re-entering, Ray and Jamie caught up with Peter and Steve just laddering the first deep cross rift which stopped exploration last year.

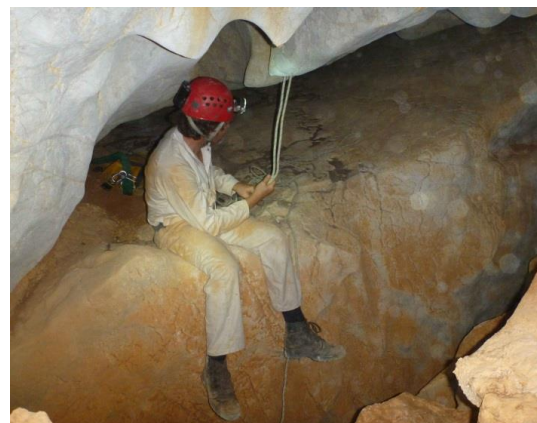
This part of the cave is unique, a wide thick sand floor bedding plane is intersected by two deep joints and in places remnants of breccia pipes filled with chert and some ironstone fragments.



© R. Deasy

A breccia pipe in eroded limestone at 1st crossing

The cave was already being developed before the breccia was deposited. It was not the result of igneous flow, more like the close packing of floor debris. The limestone cavities now vacant of breccia are slightly larger, being subject to corrosion during the time of losing the breccia debris. The breccia is mainly insoluble silica chert. It will be interesting to study the relationship between the breccia lost in the cavities, to the large pile of dust and fines in the second rift.



© P. Bannink

Steven setting up a safety line to cross the 1st rift

The 1st cross rift was descended to 12m, with a floor of solid mud cake. There were no ways on. The rift was a metre wide and provided a sporty chimney climb. Next the 2nd cross rift was approached, Steve chimneyed down into one end and onto a steep floor of dust. There was the sound of a mini-avalanche, as dust cascaded downslope due to Steve's progress. The dust was

ankle deep and later resulted in a respiratory issue for Steve.



© P. Bannink

Steven at the bottom of the second rift

We all went down the rift and explored a lower series of chambers with interestingly well-developed anastomoses (or early sponge corrosion) in the limestone. Again there was a faint daylight reflection in the roof of the lowest chamber. Steve and Ray pushed upward, then Steve climbed through a slot and was soon at another 3rd exit.



© P. Bannink

The lower entrance

So we have a cave so-far unnamed in the small to medium size and length category for Chillagoe. Three entrances or exits with unusual features: Breccia pipes, the fine dust of considerable volume in the second rift. The dust may contain organics but nominally it is likely to be calcite or chert. How it got there needs inquiry. A fine slender stalagmite on its own before the entrance to the bedding plane is an additional curiosity. If one is able to judge a caves' aura, I would put it in the category of a friendly cavern.



© P. Bannink

Jamie climbing up the 12m cross rift

Leaving Steve, the three of us tracked out of the cave. Jamie and Peter went out the second entrance, while Ray continued out the original entrance. It was a surprise to see both new exits were on the Red Dome side of the tower, much at the same level and separated by some distance horizontally. The original entrance is on the other side of the tower as mentioned.

MEMBERSHIP LIST 2014/2015

Executive		Region	Year joined
Paul Osborne	(President)	El Arish	1996
Van Christensen	(Secretary)	Dimbulah	2003
Peter Bannink	(Treasurer)	Mareeba	2000

Club Members (non caving)

Les Pearson	Brinsmead	1973
Beth Pearson	Brinsmead	1991

Club Members (caving)

Belinda Bannink & family	Mareeba	2011
Kimberlee Bernays	Kairi	2011
Mark Beattie		2014
Catherine Beattie	Gordonvale	1995
Alan & Chrissie Cummins	Gordonvale	1973
Peter Cummins	Atherton	1983
David Cummins	Doomadgee (NT)	1983
Ray Deasey	Bundaberg	2013
Peter English	Redlynch	2014
Max Emney	Silkwood	2002
Greg Gurnier & family	Gordonvale	1997
Jonathon Ham	Bayview	2011
Robert Ham	Bayview	1988
Phil Harrison	Cairns	2007
Chris Head	Flying Fish Point	2007
Bruce Hewett	Mt Sheridan	2013
Alison Irvin		2014
Sue Jenkins	Silkwood	1992
Kris Lambert	Sarina	2011
Wendy Lander	Yungaburra	1983
Daniel Mitchell & family	Mareeba	2000
Steven Morgan & family	Mackay	2007
Paco Murray	Townsville	2007
Graham Murray	Herberton	2008
Ebony Murray	Herberton	2008
Barry Neale	Herberton	1994
Judy Nickles	Edge Hill	1991
Keith Offer	Mutchilba	1975
Felix Ossig-Bonanno	SUSS (NSW)	2014
Grant Polomka	Tully	2001
Alan Pryke	Miranda (NSW)	2013
Damian Tapp	Rural View	2012
Mike & Shirley Tarburton	Blackburn South (Vic)	2011
Deanne Vale	Tully	2001
Winfried Weiss	Tolga	1993
Barry Wright	Bayview Heights	1975
Robert Zmeskal & Watson family	Manunda	2013

Introductory Members (caving)

Kerry Barry	Ingham	2014
Trent Barry	Townsville	2014
Anna Braun	Fremantle (WA)	2014
Taryn Carne	Cairns	2014
Rafael Cooper		2014
Jeff Cotter	Kawarra Beach	2014
Chris Cox		2014
Kirsten Cox	Mount Sheridan	2014
Jeannie Dilsaver	El Arish	2013
Greg Elsley	Cairns	2014
Jamie Ellacott	Yabulu	2014
Ryan Mc Paul		
Jessica English	Redlynch	2014
David & Lewis French	Rockhampton	2014

Sonney Fobister		2014
Jamie Gardner		2014
Sabine Hamilton		2014
Alison Kempe	Kuranda	2014
Ellene Liddle		2013
Jefferson Lin		2014
Julian Louys	St Lucia (Brisbane)	2013
Jasper Preece	Fremantle (WA)	2014
Kieren Pearson	Kamerunga	2014
Timothy Pelech	Cairns	2014
Gilbert Price	Moorooka	2009
Adian Prouse	Innot Hot Springs	2014
Mick Robertson		2014
Evan Rohde & family	Atherton	2014
Natasha Sljivic		2014
Keith Smith (+1)		2014
Karl Stokes		2014
Nicholas Wiggins		2014
Catherine Wong		2014
Coral Morgan	Mackay	2014

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 her 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:

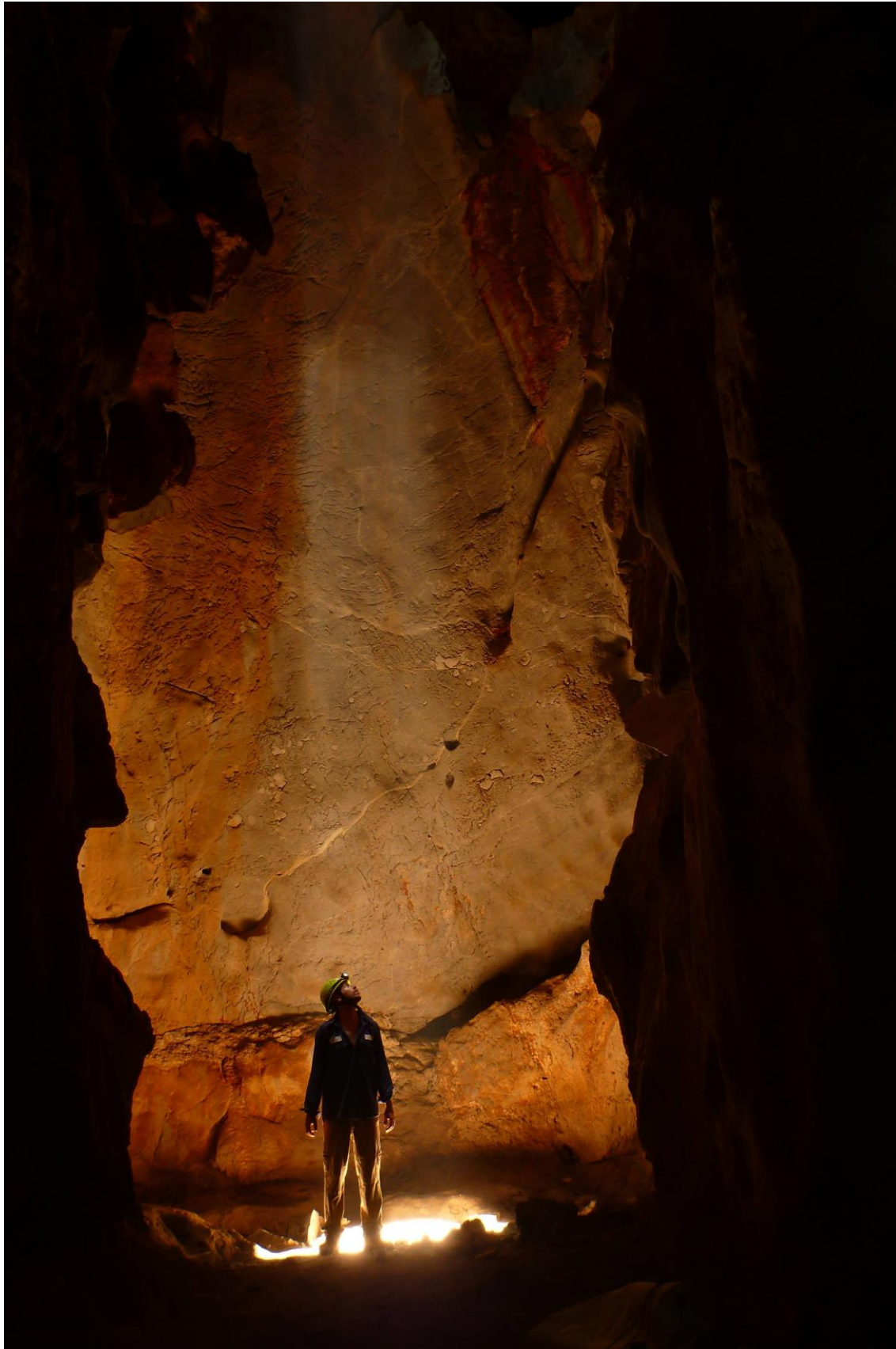
- (a) Keep Clubhouse and the outdoor toilet and shower block clean and tidy, while in residence. Cleanliness should be checked to be satisfactory before leaving.
- (b) Avoid use of the toilet and shower inside the Clubhouse as we have soakage pit problems which show up after there is much use of these
- (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.



**Tim Pelech in a daylight shaft
Markham Karst Tower
Chillagoe**

© P. Bannink