



CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

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APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

WWW.CHILLAGOECAVINGCLUB.ORG.AU

Caving activities have got off to a good start with Winfried and Alan holding cave camp in the region in the first week of March. Paul and Peter met the visiting SUSS members at the clubhouse on the weekend. Alan Pryke (designated trip leader) has a punishing schedule of cave exploration and mapping.

They would be happy to meet any other CCC cavers who can join them on trips and to show them many of the caves in the area. A chance to mix with our southern caving clubs.

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- Farwell to Mary Ann and Douglas Irvin
- Successful working bee at Alan's house
- Solar installation
- AGM news
- Mt Hypipamee Crater Study

- Up and Coming Events

SUSS, Cave Camp -- April

TAS ----- May

AGM ----- 5th May

Mary Ann & Douglas Irvin

Members might not know that two of the clubs greatest cavers have left the tropics for life in the cooler climate of NSW. Douglas

and Mary Ann (our secretary) have bought a place just north of the Sydney CBD.

Douglas and Mary Ann have been members of the club since 1979 when they first joined the club. They have both explored and mapped caves in the Chillagoe, Undara, Mitchell-Palmer caving regions for over 30 years. Douglas has always been passionate about cave exploration with a keen interest in cave biology. They have both supported and assisted the exploration of caves by eminent cave biologists and karst researches.



Douglas Irvin caving

Photo: P.Bannink

More recently Douglas is assisting Jonathon Cramb (a palaeontologist) explore a new cave

in the Broken River region, which contains a large deposit of fossilized bones.

Even though I have been caving for the past 20 years I feel humbled by their efforts and it will take me years to gain the breadth of experience these club members hold.

Though they have left the region, they will be back in May for the AGM where you can wish them well. Douglas will also be on the Broken River Exploration trip in June this year.

Alan's Working Bee

On Saturday the 10th March quite a few members gathered at Alan's place to help chop out rainforest encroaching on Alan's house. It was hot wet work but after mountains of vegetation were cut and moved (more than 12 truck loads) the group succeeded on clearing a 20 metres boundary at the back. The slope was so steep most workers were clinging onto severed tree trunks to avoid sliding (falling) 6m down the cutting.



Clearing vegetation at Alan's house Photo: P.Bannink

The second working bee (on the 24th) was less well attended but the few members who turned up (the Gurniers), were able to repair flood damage to the roadside fence line. Alan has designed it to break away as the force of the water is too great. Much to my surprise it was ripped away in another flood the next week, but repairs this time were minor. Alan and Margaret were very thankful in having this much needed work done. Many thanks to members who attended and we wish Margaret a speedy recovery.



Flood damage to fence line Photo: P.Bannink

Solar Installation

Peter travelled out to Chillagoe to inspect the work required for the solar hot water system to be installed. It was found that the new solar system and solar hot water are going on a section of roof that has already been repaired.

There is no immediate need to replace any sections of the roof iron. The condition of the roof is acceptable but it will need ongoing maintenance to make sure the old sheets are made secure.

The solar hot water system has now been installed but the Solar panels are likely to be put in place later in the month.

Property Insurance

Insurance of the Clubs Building has been paid at a cost of \$3500. This has drained the last of the clubs finances and we now need to work hard to earn enough revenue to sustain the extra cost. Liability and Property insurance now cost us \$4600 per annum. More of the clubs financial status will be discussed at the AGM.

End of Year Report

The 2012 Annual Report is nearing completion and will go to the printers soon. If any members have a trip report or two to add please e-mail it to Peter Bannink in the next week. The final version will be posted to members via e-mail and be placed on the web-page prior to the AGM. All other reports have now been received, many thanks to members for providing these.

Annual General Meeting

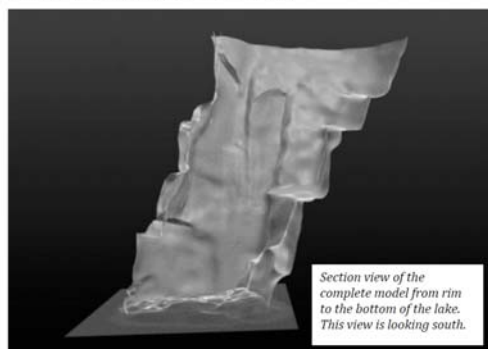
The annual general meeting is on Saturday the 5th of May. The BBQ facilities are working and members can bring their own food and drinks. The executive will be starting the meeting between 7:00/7:30 pm. Some post conference items (USB (8GB), mugs, hats and shirts) will be for sale if you would like to buy anything.

Mt Hypipamee Crater Study

I was surprised to find out from Paul Osborne that the Mt Hypipamee crater (between Malanda and Ravenshoe) had recently undergone an intensive study by a group of expert cave divers. Last explored in 1959, the original map showed a deep passage drifting off into the depths, 25m beneath the surface waters. The effort and technical logistics in carrying out this study looks exhausting. The mystery passage was conclusively shown not to exist at all.

What is really amazing is the technical expertise used to map the crater in great detail producing a 3D computer model of the whole feature.

Various views of the completed Model (W. Johnson)



Mt Hypipamee Crater (p17) Harris et al. (2011)

Anyone wanting to read the report can visit the link.

<http://www.wetmules.com/projects/hypipamee-2011-expedition>

Club Web Page Update

Winfried has been in contact with the website developer and there have been some minor

changes. There is a new 'What's New' menu but it needs information added. The club needs to get some interesting trip reports added for members and prospective members to read.

Grounds Maintenance

Carol was able to get the grass mowed in March. Some minor cleaning was done by Peter in the old school building to make the place vaguely habitable.

Any members who are staying at the clubhouse are requested to do any cleaning around the place where possible. This is to maintain clean and tidy facilities for visiting groups who may be staying.

New Stove

Paul has been able to purchase another second hand stove for the costly sum of \$25.00. Such saving has prompted the purchase of a new gas burner to cater for larger numbers of cooking cavers. Club finances are very low are the moment so any new purchases will have to be delayed until we earn some much needed income from camping.



Up and Coming Events:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| April. - | 1 st – 15 th | SSS Caving at Chillagoe |
| | 2 nd - 6 th | Cave Camp |
| May. - | 1 st - 4 th | TAS |
| | 5 th | AGM (7.00pm) |
| | 5-6 th | Introduction to SRT (Paul) |
| | 8 th – 11 th | TAS |
| June. - | Trip to Broken River for Expedition Cavers. | |

Peter Bannink (Acting Secretary)