



CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

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JUNE/JULY 2012

NEWSLETTER

WWW.CHILLAGOECAVINGCLUB.ORG.AU

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Show Holiday ----- July

The secretary has been away overseas for six weeks so the July Newsletter covers both the June and July period.

AGM

There was a very low turnout for the AGM this year. So low that there were just enough members to make up a quorum. The meeting got up and running on time and there was a lot to get through.

The New Executive

Peter and Paul put up their hands to run the club for another year due to a lack of nominations. Winfried is our new secretary and was well into doing his job (recording the

minutes) before he was even voted in. A welcome addition to the executive group is Kimberlee Bernase who volunteered to take a new position to promote the club

June Caving - CH351

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

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



Kimberlee examining roof formation P.Bannink

Great care was taken moving through the cave as the dusty muddy floor has become hard and calcite covered. Large oolights were scattered over the floor.



CH351 Main Chamber P.Bannink

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



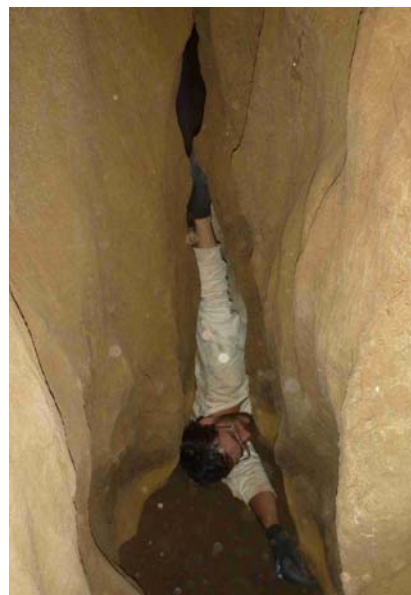
CH351 Giants Oolights P.Bannink

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

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

Broken River

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



BR191 Van trying another squeeze D.Irvin

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



BR191 Grant & Dianne at entrance P.Osborne

July Caving - Swiftlet Study

Prof. Mike Tarburton and his wife Shirley have been in Chillagoe for the last three weeks studying the roosting sites of the White-rumped Swiftlet. Peter joined him last week to explore some of the new caves he discovered in December, containing nesting Swiftlets.



Mick climbing out the entrance

P.Bannink

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

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

Mike is happy for any vertical cavers to help map the new cave and explore the other entrances. He will be in Chillagoe until late July.

Membership Renewal

Chillagoe Cavers are reminded to renew their membership for the 2012/2013 year ASAP.

The fee structure for membership remains unchanged for the 2012/2013 year.

- Single Members \$ 98.00

- Family \$182.50
- Student \$ 78.50
- Novice Members \$ 35.00
- Introductory Student \$ 30.00
- Inactive Life Members \$ 23.00
- Active Life Members \$ 68.00
- Club Members (non caving) \$ 30.00

The executive is considering including another category to the fee structure which will cater for introductory cavers trying caving for the weekend only. This may gather more revenue for the club on the long term.

Solar Power Installation

The installation of the Solar Power unit has been completed and the clubhouse now has solar power feeding into the Grid. Thanks to Mary Ann, Douglas and Paul for putting in for the Solar Grant. The Club may be largely free of power bills and actually make a little money as we will have gained the 44c feed in tariff which new state government has now cut to 8c.

New Camping Fees

The executive have increased all camping fee's by a few dollars to help cover some of the clubs increased costs. The list below represents the cost per person per night.

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

While there has been a transitory period, members are expected to pay the new fees.

Up and Coming Events:

- August.** - Paul's off sailing from the Galapagos to Tahiti.
- Caving on 1st and 2nd of August with some visiting W.A cavers. Contact Winfried for details.
- Caving Club weekend 11th & 12th August

September. - Caving Club weekend 8th & 9th

Go Caving!

Winfried Weiss (Secretary)