



# CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

P O BOX 92, CAIRNS QLD 4870

ABN 52 614 187 726

President: **Paul Osborne** Phone: 4068 5259 Email: [p1953@bigpond.com](mailto:p1953@bigpond.com)  
Secretary: **Winfried Weiss** Phone: 40966 028 Email: [wmweiss@westnet.com.au](mailto:wmweiss@westnet.com.au)  
Treasurer: **Peter Bannink** Phone: 4092 6036 Email: [Peter.Bannink@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Bannink@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au)  
Caretaker: **Carol Davis** Phone: 4094 7036 Clubhouse, Cathedral St, Chillagoe 4871

## APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

[WWW.CHILLAGOECAVINGCLUB.ORG.AU](http://WWW.CHILLAGOECAVINGCLUB.ORG.AU)

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The AGM is just about up, I hope most of you are able to come out to the meeting!

### CCC Caving in Northern Tasmania

#### Devil's Pot/Anastomosis through trip 2.March 2013

Cath Stark and I rigged the Devil's Pot side while Deb Hunter, Paco Murray and Jess Bertels rigged the Anastomosis side. Rigging notes we consulted showed we needed 2 X 40m ropes plus a lead-in tape for the first pitch.

We rigged a lead-in safety down to the special rigging trees near the edge of the pot and rigged the 40m rope from there. Over the edge I went and first thoughts were "surely that's not the bottom just there". About that time I looked up and saw the crack Deb had told me about to rig a tape and re-belay. It was a lot smaller than I imagined seeing I had a 6m tape for it but an excellent rigging aid. The drop from there seemed to be only about 15m with plenty of the 40m rope on the bottom.

We climbed down past the most excellent waterfall dropping away into the Misty Void with awesome visuals created by the mist and sunlight.



Looking down the entrance influx © D.Hunter

Go left into the dark was the instruction and we soon found the next pitch which was said to be 24m. I was probably too liberal in rigging the rope this time as I had so much left over on pitch 1. Over the edge I went again and rigged a lovely re-belay from a little slot a metre or two below the lip. Looking down and applying full light

there was no rope touching the ground this time. The only way to tell how far off it was, was to descend and have a look. It was probably just far enough off the ground that the stretch would prevent the other party from reaching it. Conscious of my uncanny ability to earn awards for this kind of error, I re-climbed the rope and took out the re-belay. The edge wasn't that hard anyway and Cath made some adjustments and put some protection in place before descending. NB. The second pitch requires more rope than the first. I suspect our rope was a little less than 40m but we could've made it fit with the re-belay if we were more economical in the top rigging.

I was surprised at how close the descending parties were to each other at the bottom. We all had lunch together and split up again for the ascent. Before ascending Cath and I had a brief look at a large free-climbable hole at the end of the rift with a stream way at the bottom. We didn't explore it but it looked inviting and from what I gather has only shown since the "Great Flood of 2011".

We ascended the 54m pitch without any drama except a bit of indecision as to how to ascend through the squeeze bit, de-rigged and moved on collecting more and more gear as we went. I had it in my mind that this was going to be a fairly obvious route to the top. It was far from that with lots of well trogged diversions. With my memory of instructions being akin to that of a goldfish it wasn't long before we were exploring lots more of the cave than we were meant to. I wish I had've asked for a tape marker to be left to indicate direction at all the intersections and hidden pathways.

I'd thoughtfully pushed all the steel krabs into the other groups pile in the car park but now realised that all that stuff including the steel krabs that 3 people carried in had to be got out by just two of us.



Paul, Paco, Jess, Deb and Cath

© P. Murray

At the top of the last pitch I thought salvation might be at hand by the way of our concerned and caring mates as

we could hear them through the exit crawl. As it turned out they weren't as concerned and caring as we thought and we eventually were able to pack pass all the gear up the entrance, up the steep muddy slope out of the doline and over to our not so concerned and caring mates who were very comfortably chatting away oblivious to our hardship.

So what did we learn?

1. Make sure the rope for the second Devil's pitch is a full 40m and be economical with it at the top.
2. Have three cavers in the Anastomosis de-rig party or have another group member come a certain way in to assist with the haul out.
3. Leave route markers (to be picked up) for the ascending party to minimise unnecessary trogging.

All in all a very good trip and a nice question mark over that streamway at the bottom.

Paul Osborne

## **New Cave Located by SUSS**

8.April 2013

Peter took the opportunity last weekend to catch up with the SUSS team who have been caving at Chillagoe over the last week. Alan Pryke, Thomas Cunningham and Michael Casteleyn have been doing an enormous amount of surveying, which will lead to some welcome additions to the club's mapping archive.

On the Monday morning we all headed out to Ryan Imperial Tower to explore a doline Peter had spotted last year. With a bit of careful ladder rigging (beside some massive dodgy looking boulders), Peter and Alan descended and pushed every considerable lead.



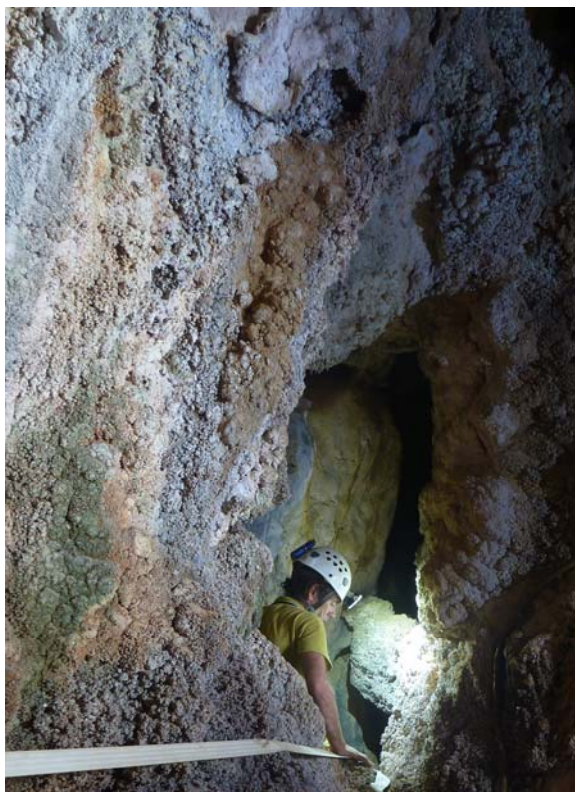
Thomas and Peter in the Doline

© P. Bannink



The sun filled oval arching passage was about 10 x 8m and turned out to go nowhere. Alan pushed a drafting lower lead to reveal an impassable squeeze, though it was heading in the wrong direction, towards the edge of the tower.

While rigging the doline Thomas walked over to a nearby side rift and reported three vertical holes drafting air. After exiting the doline we headed over and began rigging the most accessible hole, a good 40cm rift that descended 8m to a larger section below. Thomas descended first and reported that the cave continued on and was worth more exploration.



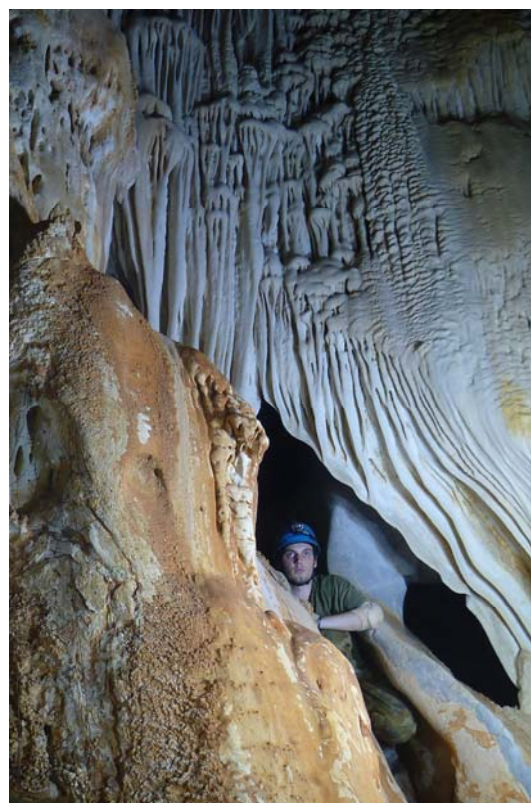
Michael above the 8m rift climb © P. Bannink

The lower section doubled back into the tower and opened onto a small chamber 5 x 6 m. The area contained a side rift, a few upper phreatic leads and two deep pits, one containing water. One side wall contained an amazing flowstone curtain. Thomas volunteered to go back to the car for another ladder to descend the pits, while Peter and Alan pushed a few of the phreatic leads.

With Alan quoting veteran caver Lloyd Robinson "Get in there man, what are you waiting for", Peter pushed himself into an upper slot that lead to a narrow phreatic rift above the water filled pit (8 m deep). This lead on to a 30cm hole, which opened up beyond the constriction, a small amount of air could be detected. The hole was a bit too small to get through.

Another phreatic tunnel lead to another 5m deep pit, but this did not go on either. Thomas returned and he rigged the ladder for the water filled pit. Peter reluctantly descended to explore the lower section. The small pool was only 0.5 m deep but a side branch half filled with water went on 4m in the direction of the upper rift explored above. The branch ended in a small lower room (4m x 4m) with a few strange dark brown stalactites.

Returning to the small pool, a small side passage 40cm wide was detected leading off underwater. The water was too murky to examine the passage further and goggles would be needed to determine how deep and long it was. Stygobiont amphipods were common, which indicates that there is likely to be a subterranean link with water bodies in the other caves of Ryan Imperial Tower notably Keefs Cavern (CH24) and Marachoo Cave (CH33), which also contain amphipods.



Thomas below the formation wall © P. Bannink

Peter ascended and the team then rigged the second doline, which was not as deep. Thomas descended to reveal it did not continue but shouted to come on down and see some amazing 'testicle shaped' formations. The rest of the team descended to a small room 7m x 5m with some very strange stals hanging from the ceiling. There was consensus on naming the pit with the amazing formation "Ball Pit".



Alan examining formations in the 'Ball Pit' © P. Bannink

Alan spend about 40min photographing various features in the area while Peter spotted some stygobiont adult plant hoppers mating on the wall near a fig root cluster.

This might be a new species, or *Solonaima irvini* (Hoch & Howarth 1989) which is described from the Markham Tower complex. No specimens were collected, but the small population is interesting to note.



*Solonaima* sp. mating in 'Ball Pit' © P. Bannink

With time running out, Alan completed his photography and everyone began to exited the cave. Alan pushed a few more phreatic crawls highlighting that there may be more to find in this small cave. The name of the new cave is still to be decided.

Thanks to SUSS for a fantastic day of caving, one small cave just packed full of fun things to find and explore.

P.Bannink

## AGM Weekend

Cavers please note that the AGM is the weekend before the beginning of May and will be held on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April**. It has been brought forward as quite a few members had other plans for next weekend.

Would office bearers please get their reports to Peter Bannink next week! The reports have to go in the Annual Report which needs to be completed before the AGM. Please make them as brief as possible.

## Camping Fee reminder

Members please note that the clubhouse camping fees are shown below and were effective from July 2012.

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

## Membership Fee's

There is an increase in the fee's for short term members, outlined in the new 'Weekend Cavers' category. This increase was discussed at the last AGM meeting and is still a small 'Adventure Caving' fee considering a visitor can get a whole day (and often more) of caving for just \$30. Please note the new membership fee structure for 2013/14.

## Rescue Cave Notice

Any cavers visiting Rescue Cave CH69, please do not remove any survey markers. The cave is in the process of being extensively surveyed by members of SUSS.

## Up and Coming Events

### April

- Cave Camp 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>
- Savannah Guides – Thur. 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Caving Club AGM**  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm**

### May

- **TAS camping!** - 30<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Go Caving!

Peter Bannink & Winfried Weiss (Secretary)





# CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

P O BOX 92, CAIRNS QLD 4870

ABN 52 614 187 726

President:	<b>Paul Osborne</b>	Phone:		Email:	<a href="mailto:p1953@bigpond.com">p1953@bigpond.com</a>
Secretary:	<b>Winfried Weiss</b>	Phone:	4996 6028	Email:	<a href="mailto:wmweiss@westnet.com.au">wmweiss@westnet.com.au</a>
Treasurer:	<b>Peter Bannink</b>	Phone:	4092 6036	Email:	<a href="mailto:Peter.Bannink@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au">Peter.Bannink@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au</a>
Caretaker:	<b>Carol Davis</b>	Phone:	40947 036		Clubhouse, Cathedral St, Chillagoe 4871

1 April 2013

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ON FEES FOR 2013/2014

(1 April 2013 on....)

Our Constitution indicates that fees become due on 1<sup>st</sup> May each year and must be paid by June 30<sup>th</sup> of that year to ensure that insurance cover available through the ASF Insurance Policy continues after June 31<sup>st</sup> 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 \$61)	\$78.50 *
• Novice Members (club membership - excluding ASF Fees)	\$35.00 ^
• Student Novice (club membership - excluding of ASF Fees)	\$30.00 ^^
• Inactive Life Members (ASF Fees only)	\$33.00
• Active Life Members (ASF Fees only)	\$68.00
• Single Members (without ASF Fees)	\$30.00 #
• Introductory Weekend Caver (novice membership - including ASF Fees)	\$55.00
• Introductory Weekend Caver (student novice membership - including 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 \$28.50 has to be paid continue ASF insurance for the rest of the year, a total of \$78.50.
- # - 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 **email**: [Peter.Bannink@science.dsitia.qld.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Bannink@science.dsitia.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.

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