



CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

P O BOX 92, CAIRNS QLD 4870

ABN 52 614 187 726

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MAY 2013

NEWSLETTER

WWW.CHILLAGOECAVINGCLUB.ORG.AU

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SUSS Trip Summary

A.Pryke

SUSS members Alan Pryke, Michael Casteleyn and Thomas Cunningham were caving in Chillagoe for two weeks in early April.

We were able to spend four days surveying a large area of the Disney/High/ Cavern/ Kirkies/ Richards system (not complete) including additions to Tall Tree Cave, Blindside (complete), Wallaroo (complete) and Rescue Cave (not complete).

On the Easter Weekend Paul Osborne located 2 caves to the west of Wallaroo, and Thomas discovered a deep rift further west, Alan found a small hole to the north. A cave found in 2006, named Seesaw was relocated, SW of Cauldron Pot.

Caves visited on trip:

Kirkies Cavern, Critic Tower, The Real Eclipse, Blindside, Wallaroo, Queenslander/ Cathedral Cave, Giants Causeway, Castle Cave, Royal Archways, Carpentaria, Rescue Cave, Second Choice, Tall Tree

Cave/ and a new cave Thomas located with 'Ball Pit', in addition to Rescue Cave.



Thomas in High cavern © A.Pryke

We ended up surveying for more days than expected, but are happy to have mapped the extensive Disney/High Cavern/Kirkies/Richards system. There is still more work to do here.

One of the surprises of the trip was the extensive cave system on Critic Tower, with good decoration. Two days at Wallaroo Tower helped us sort of finish the Wallaroo Cave CH300 survey, finding an upper level

entrance previously missed, as well as several other new smaller caves on the tower.

Paul Osborne was keen to get survey work done on Currajong Tower. A good go at Rescue cave was made surveying through to one of the new entrances, then leaving via a prussik up to the 'Second Chance' entrance.

The upper entrance to Blindside was located and the survey completed through to the lower entrance. Water levels were not suspected low enough to access the possible conduit at the base of the system.



Thomas in High Cavern © A. Pryke

Thanks to all those who helped us along, from Paul to Winfried (taxi service!), Alan Cummins for showing us Disney and giving us a lift. Carol for her great dinners, fritters, etc, and the use of her fabulous car on one occasion.

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.

Peter and Paul put up their hands to run the club for another year due to a lack of nominations. Winfried continues as secretary. Kimberlee Bernays will continue to assist in promoting the club and applying for grants.

Members took on some caving on the Sunday. Alan and Greg continued to explore the region around the Chamber of 1000 faces for a connection into Markham cave. This area has lots of rock piles with lots of squeeze sections to look at. Peter and Axel drew some passage in the area (surveyed by Greg in previous years) and happened to come across some interesting fungi which were fruiting.



Fungi growing on mass © P. Bannink

New Rescue Stretcher

Last year the club were fortunate to gain a grant from Brothers Leagues Club in Cairns for \$1000 - to go towards buying new rescue equipment. The executive decided a priority would be to get a stretcher designed like the one Ross Anderson brought up in the exercise in 2011. The in question stretcher is designed by Ian Collette and is not commercially available. Paul has been slaving away building this stretcher from scratch over the last four months. Members had the chance at the AGM to test the stretcher on a mock rescue in Carpentaria Cave.

Recently a new 'Enthusiastic Donor' made a \$1000 contribution towards a kit of vertical gear which will go with the stretcher. The club can now safely practice and perform vertical rescue with this new equipment. This is vital equipment and members can only be very appreciative of this generous gift.

Broken River Caving Restrictions

Cavers please note that any caving trips to Broken River need to be coordinated through the executive. The owners of Dosey Station are getting fed up with unauthorised visitors to the area and have closed it to the public.

Fortunately the club has been allowed to continue exploring the area provided coordination of trips is lead through the executive and prior notice is given to the station owners. The conditions are;

- One point of contact for club trips.
- All participants to be CCC club members with ASF membership or membership through an ASF affiliated club.
- CCC Approved Trip Leader.
- A report to be submitted following the trip.
- Provide car registration numbers.
- No Shooting.

This means the provision of vehicle registration numbers and confirmation of the number of people expected to visit the area and the trip dates. The executive coordinator is Paul Osborne or Peter Bannink (if Paul is away). Paperwork is on Page 4 of the newsletter.

This area is a very important recreational caving area for the club as exploration of the caves continues. It is a privilege to be allowed to investigate this region.

Membership Fee's

This is your second last reminder that fees are due by the end of June. Current members please pay soon, before the Treasurer starts to hassle you. Conversely please let Peter know if you are not continuing your membership. Fees are the same as last year. Thanks to those members who have already paid, approximately a 1/4 of the membership.

Conference Items on Sale

The executive have decided to discount the extra conference stock. If you want any mugs, caps, USB sticks or shirts then please contact the Treasurer Peter Bannink. It would be best to pickup any items you purchase as postage is too expensive these days. Just let Peter know and make arrangements to pick it up from Mareeba or at the clubhouse in Chillagoe.

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|---------------------------------|----------------|
| USB (8Gb) | \$10.00 |
| Mugs | \$5.00 |
| Shirts (XL and XXL only) | \$10.00 |
| Caps | \$5.00 |

Carol to move into the 'Cool Room'

The executive have given Carol the 'Go Ahead' to move into the '**Cool Room**' on the top floor. She has been requesting this for years and after seeing how infrequently this room is now used by members the area has now been made available to her. This will make living in the clubhouse much more pleasant for her as the western rooms are insufferable over summer.

Members please note these changes if you plan to stay in the rooms above clubhouse. Four beds are still available in addition to bunks/floor space in the old school.

Up and Coming Events

May

- TAS camping! - 30th April to 2nd May
- NZ cavers at the Clubhouse 24 – 26 May
- 30th – 2nd June BR trip (P. Osborne)

June

- Winfried Caving 1st -2nd June
- 7th-10th June Long Weekend
 - SRT training day 9th June (Chillagoe)
 - BR expedition (contact Paul Osborne)
- 24th - 30^h UQMCC (Uni Qld Mountain Climbing Club) may visit.

July

- 1st – 8th UQMCC at Clubhouse?
- CCC NT Bullita Trip (positions filled)



Axel checking out the fungi © P. Bannink

Go Caving!

Peter Bannink & Winfried Weiss (Secretary)



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Clubhouse, Cathedral St, Chillagoe 4871

www.chillagoecavingclub.org.au

Broken River/ Jacks Gorge Trip Detail Form

Dates of trip

| | |
|--------|--|
| Arrive | |
| Depart | |

Trip Leader

| | |
|--|----|
| | PH |
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| Names of Participants | Club Affiliation and ASF Membership Verified |
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Vehicle registrations

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Note: This form must be e-mailed to Paul Osborne or Peter Bannink, for co-ordinantion with the Station owners.