



CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

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NEWSLETTER

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Mt Etna Caving

The Mt Etna caving region is about 22 km north of Rockhampton. Most of the karst in the area is now protected within the Mount Etna Caves National Park. The area contains about 150 cave entrances at Limestone Ridge and Mt Etna, which comprise the largest karst blocks in the region.

The most notorious area is Mt Etna itself, which saw a 37 year environmental battle to save the caves from limestone mining. For more reading on the Mt Etna environmental campaign refer to Australian Caver No 151. The destruction (blasting) of Speaking Tube Cave (E7) is one of the most notable events in the long saga.

Some of the caves also provide breeding sites for the endangered Ghost bat and several other smaller species of bats (Little bent wing, Eastern horseshoe bats).

Steven Morgan (from Mackey) has been caving in the region for a while and has planned two caving activity weekends.

On the 5th - 7th October some of the Mackay members are heading down to 'The Caves' for the long week end. Plans are to visit Jolly Roger, and survey Tardis Cave (a recent discovery) and also

visit a few other favourites and possibly one or two of the gated caves. Caving on Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning.

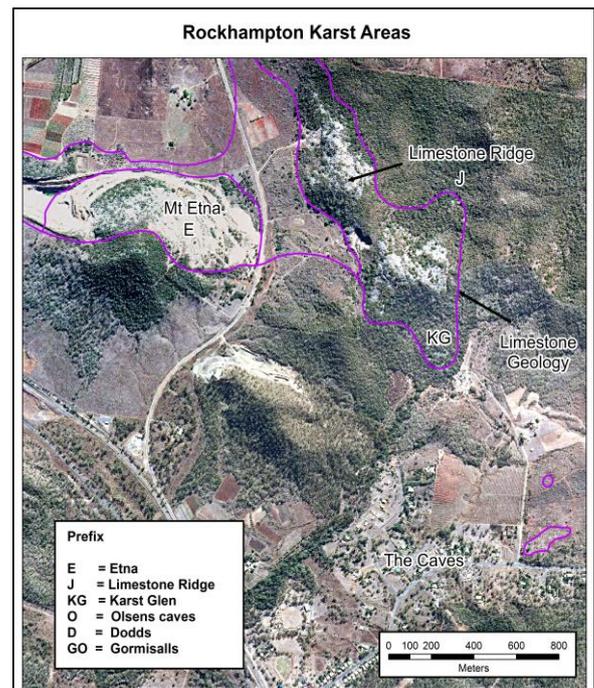


Image of the Mt Etna Karst Area

Accommodation is at the Capricorn Caves Resort. There are camping facilities, but the Mackay guys usually book a cabin which can sleep up to 11 and share costs. At least some of us will be there on Friday night.

Contact Steven Morgan 0418 882 817 or steven.morgan61@gmail.com.

Rockhampton Rescue Exercise

On the 19th - 20th October the Mackay members are again heading down to The Caves, this time for a rescue exercise. We have invited members of the Mackay SES for a week end of caving.

Saturday we will do a number of caves with vertical pitches, and Sunday morning we will do a stretcher hauling exercise.

Contact Steven Morgan 0418 882 817 or steven.morgan61@gmail.com.

The Queensland Globe

A new Google globe is available for Queensland. If you have a fast internet connection with a large monthly download limit (10Gb or greater), then you might want to check out the new Queensland Globe.

One advantage of the Queensland globe is that it contains the highest resolution imagery available to Government Departments. There is some very high resolutions imagery covering the Tablelands Region and along the coast from Cairns down to Townsville. Some karst area's now have much more detailed imagery than Google Earth.

An example is everything east of Chillagoe township, from Royal Arch Tower down to the Walkunder Towers and beyond. You can also view other spatial information maintained by the Department such as property boundaries, roads and the locality of other individual features.



Queensland Globe over the clubhouse

To run the new Queensland Globe you must have Google Earth version 7.0.2 or newer. Installation instructions and access to the Queensland Globe can be found at the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website:

<http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/mapping/queensland-globe.html>.

SRT Techniques & Practice

Ray Deasy is coming up to Chillagoe from Bundaberg and plans to show a video on 'Cavesafe Training' from the UK. There will also be discussion on the basics of SRT rescue and an afternoon of SRT practice and knot tying for all who attend.

So bring your SRT gear and turn up for some fun dangling off a rope. We might also go caving as well. It is hot out there so bring a hat.

Up and Coming Events

October

- 5th - 7th October - **Rockhampton Caving**. Interested cavers contact Steven Morgan for updates on the event. Steven's e-mail address is steven.morgan61@gmail.com.
- 5th - 7th October - **Chillagoe Caving**. Interested cavers contact Paul Osborne via Paul's e-mail address p1953@bigpond.com
- 12th - 13th October - Club Caving Trip. (Contact Peter Bannink) – SRT video, rope practice and caving!
- 14th - 18th October – Jubilee Christian College will be camping at the clubhouse.
- 19th - 20th October - **Rockhampton Caving** involving a Rescue Exercise. Interested cavers contact Steven Morgan (see above).

November

- 9th - 10th November - Possible Club Caving Trip. (Contact Peter Bannink) - Karst exploration and more mapping.

December

- 7th - 8th December - End of year gathering, last club caving activity till March 2014.

Go Caving!

Peter Bannink & Winfried Weiss (Secretary)