



CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

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MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

WWW.CHILLAGOECAVINGCLUB.ORG.AU

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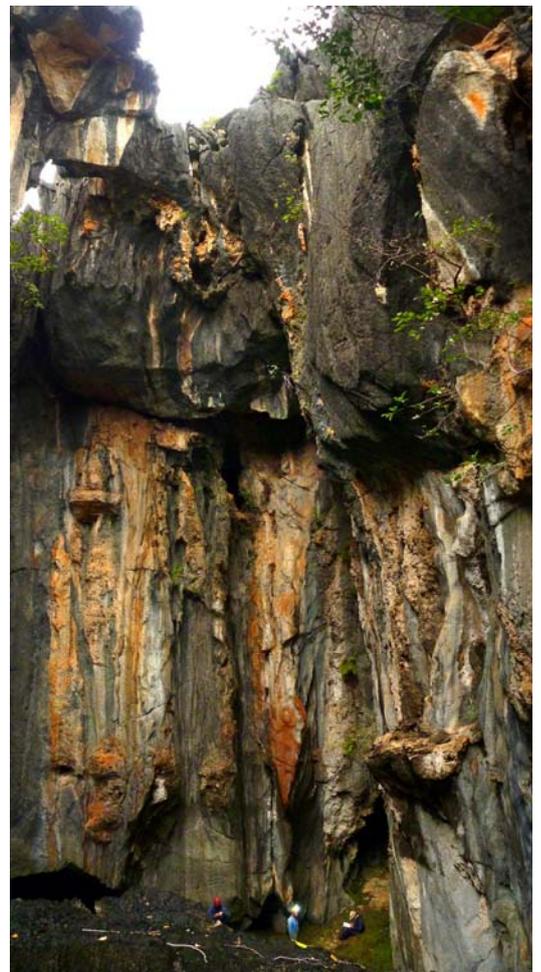
TAS ----- May
AGM ----- 5th May
Broken River ----- June

New cave discovered and mapped

Text: Alan Pryke, P.Bannink

Over the Easter members of SUSS were encouraged to explore and map as much karst in Chillagoe as they were able. Paul Osborne knew of a few holes in Ryan Imperial Tower he had been planning to explore in greater depth.

The short pitch at the entrance was descended, and a second pitch that had stopped previous exploration was rigged.



Survey team at the entrance to CH539

Photo: Tess Brunton

In the meantime, Megan Pryke explored another 3m pitch nearby, which descended into a pit. She then disappeared through a

squeeze, and after some time, returned reporting an entrance at the level of the surrounding plain.

We had all imagined that the previous pitch would drop in to Ryan Imperial Cave, but to our amazement, it entered an unknown system, which connected back to Megan's alternative entrance.

The cave was later surveyed to nearly 400m with more to go. It has two tagged entrances CH539 and CH540. The cave has been called Blindside, for the fact that a massive walk in entrance to such a large cave (400m) had not been discovered in 40 years of cavers caving in and around the Tower.



Another rift entrance to CH539 Photo: Alan Pryke

To complete the much needed survey work see Paul Osborne.

Easter caving

Easter proved to be a popular time to go caving at Chillagoe. In addition to the half a dozen SUSS members staying at the clubhouse, six members of the Cairns Adventure Group turned up to go caving and a group of eight rock climbing enthusiasts.

No trip leaders were present so there was a limit to what the visiting climbers could do. With the assistance of Ben McGregor, Paco Murray led enjoyable return trip through Magh Cave.



Paco Murray, Joy Burton and Suzanne in Magh Cave Photo: DT IMAGERY

The photographer Dimitrios Toumbos from DT IMAGERY went along on one of the trips and provided a few photo's



Joy Burton and Suzanne in Magh Cave Photo: DT IMAGERY

TroGalong 2013 ASF Conference



Last year our club hosted the 28th ASF Biennial Speleology Conference at Chillagoe (how could we forget), the next (in 9 months time) will be held at the inland town of Galong in NSW.

Galong (looks smaller than Chillagoe on the Google image) and lies 250km (350km by road) west of Sydney and 98km northwest of Canberra.

For a change (if you plan to attend), cavers can sit back and relax while the NSW Speleo Council do all the hard work. If any CCC members are planning to head down there, please let Peter Bannink know as our club might be able to sell some of our excess conference items (hats, USB sticks, mugs, shirts) to southern cavers (who did not make it to Chillicon).



Accommodation is at the historic St Clements Retreat, a few km out of town. I have never been caving in NSW but I am sure the pre and post conference caving schedule will get cavers fired up for the event.

To register visit the link on the ASF website <http://www.asfconference.org.au/2013/>, though some of the planned events and links have yet to appear.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting is on Saturday the 5th of May (this weekend). 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.

Membership Renewal

Chillagoe Cavers are reminded to renew their membership for the 2012/2013 year. Payment needs to be made before or at the AGM and Peter will chase up any late payments during May.

The fee structure is currently still at applicable rates for the 2011/2012 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

There will be an increase in the camping fees and a vote to assess the need to increase membership fee's for the 2012/2013 year.

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 delayed till after the AGM and will likely occur in mid May

Carol's Catering for members

Due to increased costs Carol will increase the prices on any meals she is requested to prepare for cavers. There is also a limit on the number of meals she can prepare at any one time.

Please contact her well in advance (1 week), to place your order and to obtain the new prices she will charge.

Up and Coming Events:

- May. - 1st - 4th TAS
 5th AGM (7.00pm)
 5-6th Introduction to SRT (Paul)
 8th - 11th TAS

June. - Trip to Broken River for Expedition Cavers.

Go Caving!

Peter Bannink (Acting Secretary)