

## William Goes

William Goes was an enthusiastic member of the Chillagoe Caving Club from 1979 to 1986 when his interest in caving was displaced by his greater enthusiasm for bush walking. Despite leaving the Club he maintained contact with many of Club members up till shortly before his death.

When William joined the Caving Club he lacked confidence in his ability to do many things. With his enthusiasm for caving he soon overcame this lack of confidence and then began to test himself in bush walking and exploring in his off road vehicle. His trip reports on some of these activities amazed some of us who knew him from when he first joined the Club.

While a Club member William located caves at both Chillagoe and Mitchell Palmer. He was a frequent participant on early trips to Mitchell Palmer, including some exploration trips. William also went on a round Australia caving trip with a group of CCC members and others for at least three months that visited most states and caved on the Nullarbor, Victoria and Western Australia etc. He was an enthusiast in abseiling and other single rope techniques, purchasing all the necessary gear that he only sold off in 2001.

As his bush walking interest took over he went on major walks including Mossman to the Palmer River Roadhouse, ridge-lining on rugged parts of Hinchinbrook Island and a three-month walking tour in South America that included some rough terrain.

William maintained a creditable record in keeping himself employed, even during hard economic times when many others could not get work. While at NQEA he was employed mostly on grinding off welds and, with his belief that he owed his boss a good day's work, he regularly wore out heavy-duty angle grinders in less than three days. He was careful with his money and during his short life purchased and paid off a rental property in Whitfield as well as maintaining a vehicle. In this use of his financial resources William sought expert help, but made all decisions himself, using the advice he obtained.

William had serious and progressive health problems, which we believe were hereditary. These included deafness and muscle wastage. Nevertheless, William was undaunted, living life to the fullest extent possible. Whatever he involved himself in he gave it his best efforts.

Those of us who knew William will fondly remember him.

Les Pearson.