



# CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

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## AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

Hello Club members,

Apologies for taking so long to get this to you. We have been living away from home for a week or so.

Firstly a report on the major reason for the Club weekend in Chillagoe 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August:

### Trip Report by Paul Osborne

#### CROP Rescue Training Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

The course was attended by 13 club members and Ross Anderson from WA.

Chad, dropped in for a while representing the local police and the person most likely to take the "Incident Commander" position should any rescue escalate beyond self-rescue. We were able to establish with him an understanding of the roles we would most likely play in a rescue.



Saturday morning was taken up with a series of power point presentations that were presented by various club members get us used to presenting and provide some variation in style. The presentations provoked quite a bit of discussion and most of the members could relate many experiences to the situations discussed.

We then spent time reviewing equipment that could

be used in a rescue that was readily available to the group and followed up with Me getting trussed up in the stretcher and carried all over the clubhouse, under tables, up the stairs and narrowly escaped being dragged under the Landrover. This was very interesting, one to get the feel of what it's like to be in the stretcher and two, the many ways that a stretcher can be moved within a cave.



Saturday afternoon capped off with a simulated search and rescue in Carpentaria with a very productive debrief.

Quite a bit of time was spent on the orderly management of assets and resources, the tracking of all equipment and personnel and the structure of the rescue party. Once understood and put into practice I think we all agreed that following the suggested plan provided efficiency and method which is likely to produce faster, safer and more successful results.

Whilst our first practice on Saturday afternoon was a bit hit and miss and needed a reasonable debrief, I think we all took in the experience and were able to apply ourselves much more capably in the more complex simulation on Sunday morning.

Looking back on the weekend I rate it as an outstanding success that provides me with confidence that the club is far better prepared should we have the necessity to participate in any cave rescue. We should do more as it gives one a certain appreciation of how difficult a rescue can be and hopefully makes us safer cavers.

Thanks everybody for coming along and a huge thanks to Ross for providing such a valuable learning experience.

## **August General Meeting**

We didn't have a quorum, so the motions on notice will have to be held over to the AGM next year. Thank you to all those who couldn't attend but who sent in proxies.

There were a couple of important points for all members to note:

- The meeting was advised that the club does not hold public liability insurance at present. If members stay in the old school building, they do so at their own risk. Mary Ann will continue to pursue reasonable insurance. Winfried offered to check directly with Elders on the Tablelands.
- The Secretary, Mary Ann, outlined recent action regarding Fire Safety regulations. The motion was passed that 'the meeting supports the executive in pursuing club compliance with the fire safety regulations.' The meeting also endorsed the decision not to allow school groups to use the building until the fire regulations issue was sorted out. Winfried offered to check the regulations and the Building Code of Australia to determine what is required.
- The Treasurer, Peter, provided a short financial report. It was suggested that visitors who use the facilities be asked to make a donation.
- The president, Paul, made the observation that members are bringing groups up to Chillagoe that are not staying at the Alan Cummins Clubhouse. We need to be mindful that the club equipment is for the use of club members only.

It was later determined that if members are taking visitors caving, that they should be asked to become novice members first. There are several benefits here. 1. The \$35.00 provides the landholder with Public Liability insurance. 2. It allows them to cave on National Parks. 3. They will be added to the email list and receive information on future trips. 4. They have paid for 6 months' membership and may want to make full use of having spent the money and go caving several times, become hooked, and join as full members. 5. It provides the club with a couple of dollars for each novice.

## **To mark in your calendars:**

**September weekend.** 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> September. New cavers are welcome. It appears that there will be quite a few cavers and several 'Try Caving' candidates in Chillagoe this coming weekend.

**Try Caving weekends.** Winfried is to advise when these will be held. Watch this space...

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**Public Liability Insurance.** We have had further quotes for this insurance and I am confident that we will have public liability insurance before the end of September.

**Use of facilities by outside groups.** Members who are organising school group or any other group should advise the Clubhouse Warden, Paul Osborne, and the caretaker, Carol Davis. The warden will then advise the webmaster to put some details on our website for the convenience of both the visitors and club members.

**Clubhouse information folder**

Paul has provided a folder to keep at the clubhouse with membership and fee information and the clubhouse protocol.

**PHOTOS.** Reminder to please spend the time to go through your photos taken over the past 12 months and send the best to Paco at [the\\_letter\\_p@hotmail.com](mailto:the_letter_p@hotmail.com) . Please try to label the photos so that they identify the cave and members of the party.

**TACKLE.** The new helmets have arrived and have been in use.

**CLUB WEBPAGE.** If you are planning a trip anywhere this year, please ask Winfried to add it to the web calendar.

**MICHIE PHONE.**

Can anyone source about 250m of good quality wire, preferably in a bright color and a reel as used for a telephone extension cord? I didn't get any responses from last month's plea.

Happy and safe caving

Mary Ann