



# CHILLAGOE CAVING CLUB

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## MARCH 2012

## NEWSLETTER

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

Welcome to the new year for what we hope will be an action packed year of cave exploration mapping and all round caving adventure!

### In This Issue....

- Trip Reports
- Help for Alan
- Public Liability Insurance
- Up and Coming Events

Working Bee's ----- March

SSS ----- April

TAS ----- May

AGM ----- 5<sup>th</sup> May

Mike will be back in June/July to continue this work. Anyone interested in linking up with him can keep an eye out for his trip schedule. Mike will not mind if a fit young caver joins him on his surveys.

Paul and I will get his trip details up on the website calendar when they have been confirmed.



Entrance to CH535

### Trip Reports

#### **Bird Survey - Prof Mike Tarburton**

Mike spent most of December at Chillagoe continuing his study of White-rumped Swiftlets, being assisted by members of the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service. In the process he has identified and tagged six new cave entrances (CH532-CH537) at the top of Spring, Ryan Imperial and Royal Arch Towers. Many of these new entrances are very small vertical slots and will require experienced vertical cavers to explore and map. Some may drop into existing caves but until they have been explored and linked - one cannot say.



The vertical entrance to CH532

## Exploration and Mapping of CH538

Paul, Douglas, Grant and Dianne have explored and mapped a new cave located in Ryan Imperial Tower. Two days were spent slowly surveying the small system (Column Cave), which everyone concluded no one had visited before. Great care was taken to prevent damage to some fragile wall formation and the floor of the cave which contained some unique cave animals.

It was a great opportunity to test out the new disto which Paul had just purchased. Surprisingly an excellent lead dropped into CH34 (Naradahn Cave). On the second day the survey team mapped CH32 Warrambucca Cave, first discovered in 1967. This cave links to the same doline, which also leads into the back entrance of CH34. CH32 was very interesting in that the side walls were covered in horizontal calcite stripes (approx. 5cm apart). It looked like they were generated by last years receding floodwaters.

If the deposits were generated by floodwaters it would indicate that the whole doline (from which these caves lead), was completely under water last year. It would be worthwhile surveying the highest stripe to see if it is level with the surrounding plain, the maximum level reached by last years water level.

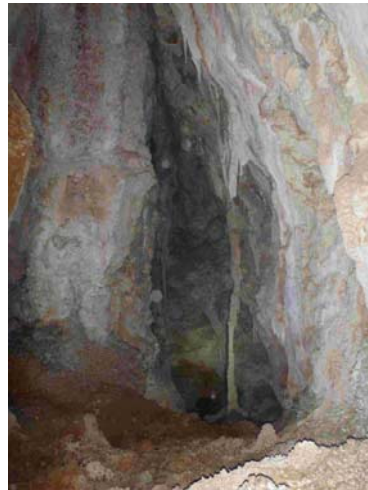
Peter (between cave sketching) tested out a new snappy camera. The cave insects taken below (on macro) are between 10- 5mm in size and are still a bit fuzzy (not a crisp image). It is good to capture some of these creatures so people can become more aware of them when they go caving. Another day is still required to survey a daylight rift which will complete a map of three caves.



Grant above a small pitch



Grant ascending.



Typical passage shape

Some cave life.....



Cave Spider



Cave Plant Hopper

### **Support for Alan and Margaret**

During 2011 Alan and Margaret spent a lot of time (~ three months) at the club grounds building the new amenities block and doing other work that was needed. During this time their property maintenance fell by the wayside.

It has been decided by the executive to organise two working weekends at 'Kings Range' Gordonvale, during March to assist Alan and Margaret to get some of this work done.

Worrying news was received by the executive late January. Margaret is currently not well and is undergoing treatment for a serious illness. This has turned Alan and Margaret's worlds upside down and they both need to catch up on some basic work done to their property.

This includes weeding, tidying vegetable gardens, mowing, clearing and digging holes. Wendy or Peter will be there to coordinate the work. Tablelands caves can coordinate transport through Peter Bannink.

Please show your thoughts and well wishes by attending a working bee, phone calls would not be appreciated.

If you can make it please register with Wendy by calling 4095 2175

### **Public Liability Insurance**

The club executive were able to secure Public Liability Insurance in November, covering the club property. In addition all the infrastructure at the club is now insured for loss in fire. The insurance premium which has to be



Cave Terrestrial Isopod

paid is in excess of \$4500+. The club now has to promote the facility to gain the required income to sustain this cost.

### **End of Year Report**

Can elected office Bearers please get their annual reports to Peter by the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2012. The annual report needs to be completed and printed prior to the AMG.

Safety and Training - Douglas Irvin

Property Maintenance - Alan Cummins

Environmental Officer - Douglas Irvin

### **Annual General Meeting**

This has been set for Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May starting at 7.00pm. The club executive is recommending all full members attend the meeting so minor changes to the constitution can be made.

### **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 of their intention to stay. The warden will then advise the webmaster to put some details on our website for the convenience of both the visitors and club members. The club now has liability insurance to cover people staying on club property. We can now promote the use of our facilities (camping) at Chillagoe to school groups or the like.

The legality of using the Old school as formal accommodation is still unknown and the executive currently recommend families with children do not use the bunks in the old school. The fire alarms are currently working and were set off by the old ride-on mower. Any children staying in the bunkhouse without the



recommendation of the executive must sleep on the lower bunks.

### **Clubhouse information folder**

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

### **Donations**

Paul has placed a donations box on the door to the tackle room. Visitors to the club over the past four months have donated over three hundred dollars. We are very thankful for these donations, as the club has quite a few items that need to be purchased this year.

### **Digital Photo's**

Despite a record year of caving activity we have not received any digital photo's for the club photo archive. Please bring you caving photo CD to the AMG and Peter will archive them for the club. If anyone would like to add photo's to the current web page please contact Paul or Peter.

### **Tackle**

In addition to the new helmets that were bought last year the club has now a new Disto, this was partly funded by as \$250 grant from the ASF to support cave research in Chillagoe.

### **Club Web Page**

If you are planning a trip anywhere this year, please contact Paul about adding it to the web calendar.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

Peter will be tidying up the clubhouse grounds in mid March to prepare for visitors. SUSS are the first group staying in early April and it would be good to get the Old School cleaned and all the lawns cut by then. Peter Bannink will be going out at that time to get started.

### **Club Membership Drive**

The club is currently running out of active members and greater encouragement is required. There is currently a shortage of Trip Leaders so some long standing members who

are currently unqualified are being asked to upgrade their skills and gain a trip leader qualification - Peter, Grant and Dianne are currently filling out the paperwork. Paul and mentioned he is willing to assess anyone (at no cost), so we have enough Trip Leaders to take introductory caves at caving events.

### **Up and Coming Events:**

**March.** 10<sup>th</sup> Working Bee at Alan's house  
18<sup>th</sup> Cleaning at Chillagoe  
24/25<sup>th</sup> Working Bee at Alan's house  
31<sup>st</sup> SUSS Arrive at Chillagoe

**April.** - 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> SUSS Caving at Chillagoe

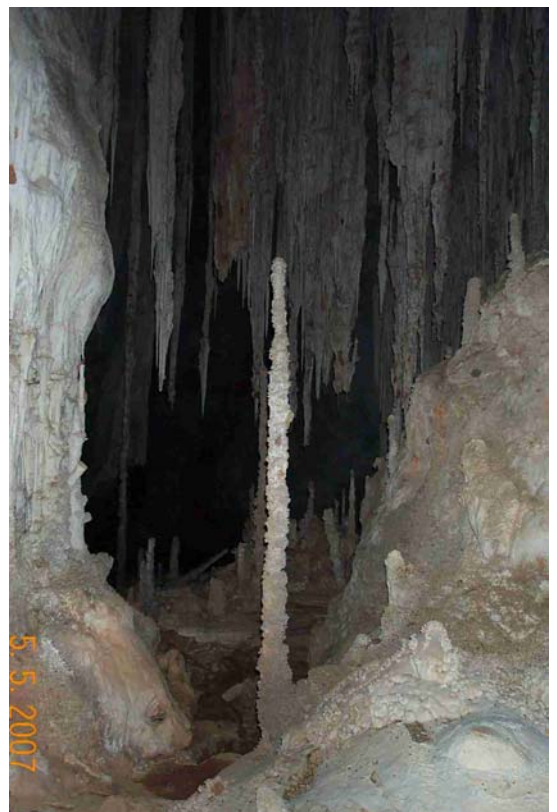
**May.** - 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> TAS Group Caving  
5<sup>th</sup> AGM  
8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> TAS Group Caving

**June.** - Trip to Broken River for Expedition Cavers.

**Dec.** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Breakup Party

Now get out there and go caving!

Peter Bannink (Acting Secretary)



Formation in Cathedral Cave CH15