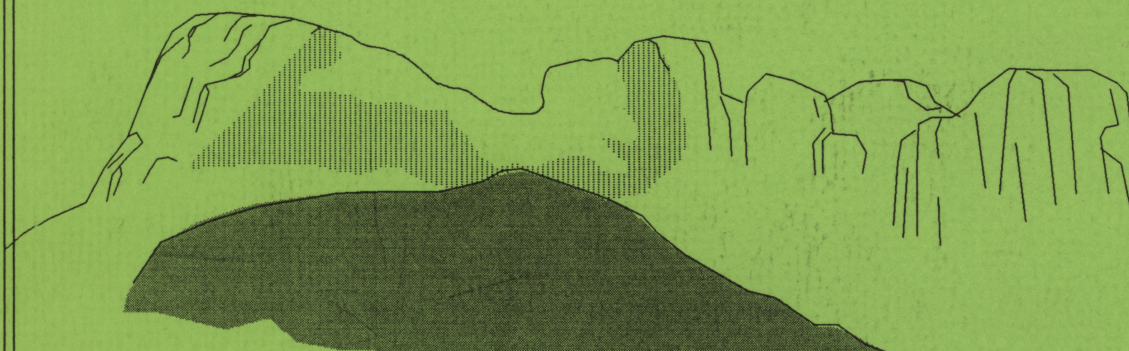
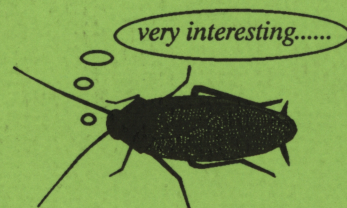


17TH BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION.

TROPICON HANDBOOK.



or
**How To Go Troppo
in
Tropical North Queensland!**



Tropicon '88 Organising Committee.



TROPICON

HANDBOOK

27th to 31st December, 1988.

Published by the Tropicon '88 Organising Committee.

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PROGRAMME

Tuesday 27/12/88

9-00am Registration
1-30pm to ASF Committee Meeting
5-00pm
6-30pm Welcome BBQ - until late

Wednesday 28/12/88

9-00am Opening - General Session
to Official Opening - Paul Wilson
12-30pm Continuing CCC Story - Tom Robinson
Keynote Speaker - John Dunkley

2-00pm to Sessions - Caves and lava tubes(I)
5-00pm

7-30pm Workshops (Computers)
- Computers - Modelling - Paul Wilson
- Mapping - Ken Grimes
- Desktop Publishing - Gordon Greaves
- Other workshops to be advised.

Thursday 29/12/88

9-00pm to Sessions - Cave management and miscellaneous papers
12-30pm

2-00pm Speleo Sports
7-30pm Photo and Video Competition

Friday 30/12/88

9-00am to Sessions - Caves and lava tubes (II)
12-30pm

2-00pm to Sessions - Biology papers
5-00pm
6-30pm Pre-dinner drinks
7-00pm Caver's Dinner. After dinner speaker - Br. Nicholas Sullivan.

Saturday 31/12/88

9-00am ASF Committee Meeting
6-30pm New Year BBQ Chillagoe and Official opening of CCC Club House

Sunday 01/01/89

Tour of Elders Resources Red Dome gold mine at Mungana.

Commence Post-Conference Field Trips at Chillagoe
and in early January to Undara.

*Session content will be determined when all papers are known, and may differ from above.
Other items subject to change at any time. Changes will be displayed on the Notice Board.*

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

House Rules

Meal times are as follows:-

	Start	Finish serving
Breakfast	8-00am	8-30am
Morning tea		Mid session
Lunch	12-30pm	1-00pm
Afternoon Tea		Mid session
Evening meal	6-30pm	7-00pm

Dormitory lights should be used sparingly, as this minimises the insect problem and lights out is at 10-00pm.

Toilet lights are to be turned out at midnight.

Noise is to be avoided in dormitories after 10-00pm.

Boating and Fishing

Canadian canoes, kayaks, catamaran and sailboards are available for use at site. Contact Chris Parr or Douglas Irvin for bookings and further instructions. Life jackets must be worn.

Watch out for submerged trees and stumps in the dam.

Fishing for Barra in the dam is out of season.

Tour of Tinaroo Dam Wall and Tunnels

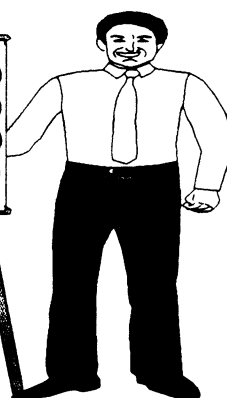
A tour will be arranged if sufficient people are interested. Contact Chris Parr or Douglas Irvin.

Drinks

To comply with our licence alcoholic drinks must be consumed at the bar which will be opened from 6-00pm to 10-00pm.

Prices will be as follows:-

Cans of beer	\$1-50
Spirit nips	\$1-00
Glass of wine	\$0-50
Soft drinks	\$1-00



Parr Barr

Acknowledgements

Mick Godwin
Doug Irvin (Chairman)
Mary Ann Irvin
Chris Parr (Secretary)
Jan Parr
Les Pearson

Kevin Ridgway (Treasurer)
Tom Robinson
Miriam Robinson
Barry Wright
Kathie Wright

U.Q.S.S. and C.Q.S.S. for their assistance in planning and organising of the conference.

FIELD TRIP AREAS

Chillagoe

The Chillagoe area is a two to three hour drive from Lake Tinaroo over roads which are now mainly bitumen. Care should be exercised on gravel roads particularly at creek crossings which could well be rough at this time of year although still trafficable in conventional vehicles, except for brief periods in heavy rain.

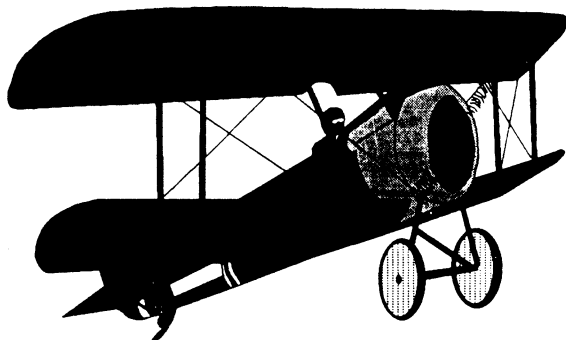
Accommodation at Chillagoe is available as follows:-

Camping

Chillagoe Caving Club club house area
BP Chillagoe Caravan Park

Motels

Chillagoe Caves Lodge
Byrnes Motel/Hotel



Banking

There are no banking facilities at Chillagoe so plan banking for cash at Atherton or Mareeba prior to going to Chillagoe. Limited credit card facilities are available for purchases or accommodation.

General

For tourist information regarding Chillagoe there is a publication Chillagoe Souvenir Guide by Les Pearson which gives good coverage. Since the publication was printed some commercial tours have started with bookings at BP Chillagoe Caravan Park.

Train buffs may consider a return to Cairns by train - leaves early Thursday, and only takes thirteen exciting(?) hours to reach Cairns.

Depending on the weather, availability of suitable planes and pilots, flights may be able to be arranged to view the limestone karst in the vicinity should there be some interest. Contact Douglas Irvin for details.

For caving information the Chillagoe Caving Club publications Chillagoe Karst and its Supplement are the "last word and gospel".

Anyone planning trips in Rookwood area must obtain approval from the property owners prior to going onto that property. For other parts of the Chillagoe-Mungana area the land owner accepts caving trips without notice. However it is vital that stock be not disturbed in any way and that gates be left as found.

Sporting Caves.

For those interested in the sportier caves these are some of the more challenging ones:-

St. Bernards Extension. This is part of the Royal Arch cave that the tourists don't go to. It is traditionally done at night as we are not allowed in the afternoon when the tours are running. A key has to be obtained from National Parks. This is only given to approved caving personnel known to the QNPWS staff.

Queenslander. The big system of Chillagoe. Get a map and get lost in the 10 000 m of criss-crossing passage in this tower. It would take at least 24 hours to look it all.

Christmas-Squeeze Pot. Christmas Pot has the longest drop in Chillagoe at about 35 m. The trip out through Squeeze Pot is a challenge for slim cavers. Check that access is OK.

Keefs Cavern. This one always gets everyone talking when they return.

September-Fireman's Pole-Uncle Ron's Cavern. Not as difficult as some of the others but a fairly extensive Chillagoe system.

Other sporty caves are **Horseshoe, Technicolour and Crack Pot.**

Ti-Tree Cave is a very hot and humid cave with extensive fossil deposits. A rare crocodile fossil jaw was found here a few years ago. Also has the contact zone visible at one place.

While the weather may not favour trips to **Mitchell Palmer** main areas, the adventurous may wish to sample the southern end on Bellevue Station south of the Mitchell River. The Chillagoe publication Mitchell Palmer Karst should be available and is a must for anyone venturing in this area.

Undara

This area is south of Mt Garnet on the Kennedy Highway on Rosella Plains Station and on the Gulf Development road on Yarramulla and Whitewater Stations near Mt Surprise.

The **Undara** lava tunnels are about 3.5 hours drive south of Chillagoe via Lappa and Nymbool. This road may not be suitable for conventional vehicles particularly if it has rained. The sealed route via Mareeba and Atherton would take about 4.5 hours. It takes about the same time to drive from Cairns.

Mt. Garnet is the last place that provisions and fuel can be bought. A conventional vehicle can drive to Yarramulla Station where there is a camp site near a windmill. Access to the camp site (1 km from the homestead) may need a high clearance vehicle. Access to the lava tunnels needs a high clearance vehicle and ride sharing will be organised if necessary.

Frank Howarth and Fred Stone may be collecting in the area so please do not disturb them unless asked to assist. Some of the tunnels are major bat maternity sites so move quietly please. The disease histoplasmosis is probably everywhere so try not to disturb dry guano. Take care if moving out of sight of the vehicles. It is very easy to get lost especially in overcast conditions. There are a thousand square kilometres of country with no surface water. At the time of writing (8-12-88) the country was very dry so no bush fires!

We will be on three private properties so every care must be taken of fauna and flora, gates must be left as found and all rubbish removed.

Persons planning to visit this area would be wise to go with the party planning to leave Chillagoe with Douglas Irvin who is now familiar with most of that area.

No public accommodation exists other than at Mt Surprise (which is not precisely five-star anyway.....) and camping is the most practical arrangement.

Greenvale



In the Greenvale area there are a number of outcrops of the **Broken River** limestones which are now described in a joint National Parks and Wildlife Service / Chillagoe Caving Club publication.

This area could prove inaccessible in the event of rain prior to the conference. It is quite isolated and there is no accommodation so camping must be planned.

Permission should be sought from property owners prior to visits.

North West Queensland

Limestone outcrops in the vicinity of **Camooweal**, **Lawn Hill** and **Riversleigh** in the Mt Isa vicinity could be of interest on return trips provided weather permits. Visitors considering trips to those areas should seek advice from Ken Grimes, Tom Porritt or Mick Godwin who are familiar with the area.

Central Queensland

If planning to visit **Mt Etna** or **Lightning Ridge** on your return trip please contact any of the following regarding trips and accommodation:-

Noel Sands	(079) 34 2460
Joe Vavryn	(079) 32 4788
Mark Godson	(079) 34 2891
Edna Allison	(079) 34 2891
Peter Berril	(079) 27 1068



Barrier Reef

Visitors to the area should take the opportunity to visit the **Great Barrier Reef**.

Cape Tribulation

This can be visited by car provided the weather is reasonable. Rain on the **Cape Tribulation** road can make it very slippery and delay your return somewhat. If weather is doubtful 4WD is recommended.

There are daily commercial tours by bus companies.

Rafting on Tully River

Rafting trips are available through several booking offices in Cairns

CAVE LIGHTS

Carbide - available from Northern Disposals, 51 Sheridan St., Cairns.

Oldham lamps - charging facilities are available at Chillagoe Club House for up to about 50 lamps (4 volt only).

CAVE TAGGING

Should you find a new cave, correct tagging is vital. Tags will be issued only to persons who will responsibly comply with the procedure as set out in **Appendix 4 of Chillagoe Karst**.

Basically caves are not worth tagging unless it is done correctly and it creates future problems trying to find them for proper recording.

We already have lost caves in Chillagoe and the CCC will suitably reward anyone finding caves CH075, CH080, CH091, CH092, CH093, CH094, CH098, CH099, CH116, CH118, CH384.

Histoplasmosis Testing.

Eileen Carol is currently doing some research on histo in north Queensland caves. All attendees are asked to take a skin test as part of this project. The skin test will be given on Wednesday the 28th. and the results "read" on Friday the 30th. This will give basic data on histo exposure among those tested.

CONFERENCE NOTES

