

Calcite

Journal of the Highland Caving Group



Issue 43-January 2011

Big Caves in Laos

Timor caves-NSW, Dunny dig

**Rocky Creek Canyon and
Glow Worm tunnel**

BRAG report 2010

Sanctum, new caving movie

National Geographic-cave discoveries

Chilicon

A Corporate Member of the Australian Speleological Federation



Highland Caving Group

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P.O. Box 54, Georges Hall, NSW, 2198



HCG meets every second Tuesday at
NSW Cave Rescue HQ, Klemm St, Bankstown Airport, NSW-7:30pm.

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HCG1 eGroup for member <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCG1/>

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Club fees for 2010/2011

- Member: \$83.00
- 3 month 'trial' membership: \$30 *
- Life Member: \$68.00
- Family Membership: \$136.50

* Trial membership does not include Caves Australia magazine.

What you get:

- HCG and ASF membership
- Caves Australia magazine
- Calcite journal
- Public liability insurance
- Skills training
- Caving information

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Issue 43 - January 2011



Calcite

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Feature articles



Timor Caves-NSW
Dunny Dig



Rocky Creek Canyon and
Glow Worm tunnel



Sanctum, caving movie



Big caves in Laos

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Cover photo

Pinnacle karst en route to Hin Boun-Laos.

Photo by: John Dunkley/HCG

ASF, HCG Projects and News

Bungonia B4-5 Cave Paleo Sediment Preservation Project

Project co-ordinator: Joe Sydney
Update January 2010

The construction of the bridge across the Kings Cross section in B4-5 cave to preserve paleo sediments is progressing well. Dirk has purchased the steel and will commence welding one side of the bridge frame in early January. This single side section should be ready in a few weeks. When it is, we'll need cavers to drag this section into B4-5 to see how it fits and where to place anchor bolts.

HCG's Graeme Smith beats the bugs on A Current Affair.

Nestled in between TV's top 10 major stuff ups and Best Xmas toys on the ACA website is our own HCG's Graham Smith, the silverfish man! Graeme is a retired entomologist who also specialises in insect repellents. See him on A Current Affair describing how today's repellents mask us rather than repel biting insects.



Go get'em Graeme!
Source:

<http://aca.ninemsn.com.au/Video.aspx?videoid=95d89a88-ea4b-4fd6-8ccf-7989a15551ac>

Dog Leg Cave-Wee Jasper ...a year on!

No, Dirk is not up to his knees in water but it does show the change that has occurred since the installation of the gate in Dog Leg cave, Wee Jasper in mid 2009, the drought is over! Dog Leg Cave is once more tinkering on the border of being full of water in September 2010 as shown in these photos from Dirk.



Dog Leg Cave full of water.



Dirk in streamway.

Capertee National Park NSW



Pantoney's Crown, Capertee Valley.

In June 2010, DECCW/Parks declared their 800th National Park, the Capertee National park.

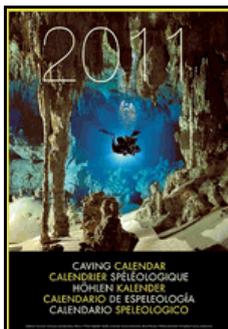
Nestled in the Capertee vally are hidden gems of our long gone shale mining past. Towns like Glen Davis, Glen Alice and Newnes are now protected, but, the real gems for cavers are areas like Coco Creek, Blue Rocks and the old Port Macquarie property which is now protected within the new 2839 hectare Park. Cavers were invited by Parks on December 18 to help clear farm debris from the many small dolines on the Port Macquarie property. The property was settled in the mid 1800s by George Innes, brother of Major Archibald Innes who helped establish Port Macquarie on the mid north coast. The \$4 million property was purchased by the NSW Government with almost \$2.7 million of assistance from the Australian Government through its Caring for our Country initiative. Aboriginal sites such as hand stencils are also found on the property.

Speleo Projects 2011 Calendars

Available from NSW Cave Rescue Squad Inc

www.caverescue.org.au

A selection of wild and tourist caves from around the world. The monthly pages provide a glimpse into the caves of France, Germany, Laos, Mexico, Spain, and the United States. Included bonus postcards feature showcaves of the Bermuda Islands, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the United States.

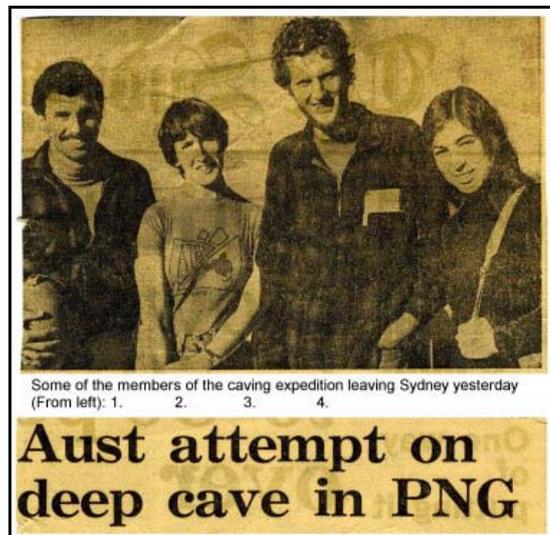


NEW Tulloch Ard Gorge Walk Buchan-Vic



Parks Victoria has officially opened the new Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout Walk near Gelantipy (Buchan-Vic) in the Snowy River National Park. The new Tulloch Ard Gorge walk is one of five iconic new short walks planned as part of the Great Short Walks of East Gippsland initiative. The others include the Snowy River Estuary Walk at Marlo, Mallacoota Scenic Coastal Walk, the Lochend -Wat Wat Rainforest Walk and an Old Growth Forest Walk north of Goongerah. *Happy walking!*

Guess the two HCG members in the photo?



Can you guess who the two HCG members are?

Floyd Collins Musical Recital

By Joe Sydney-HCG

Ten covers and Jenolan Caves guides attended Australia's first performance of the tragic US cavers tale of Floyd Collins at City Recital Hall, Sydney on Monday 3 May 2010. Floyd died in winter (Feb) 1925 as a result of being pinned by a small 8kg 'leg of lamb' shaped rock in a small passage whilst exploring in Sand Cave, Kentucky USA .

It was a dream of Floyd's to find that alluring 'big cave' that would create instant wealth through a recent surge in cave tourism. The farcical rescue attempt failed to rescue Floyd but not before thousands of on lookers descended on the area with many hawking their Floyd Collins souvenirs.

The concert was more a recital of music performed by a cast of actors singers with an interesting improvised performance portraying the entrapment of Floyd. The 10 covers enjoyed the performance overall considering the unusual topic of a trapped caver. Only the Americans can turn such a tragedy into a ...musical.



Scott Melton/JC Guide

From left: Scott Melton Jenolan Guide -Rod Smith-Cathy Brown-Michael Collins-Ted Mathews-Joe Sydney-Scott Melton-Phil Niciak-Cindy Mann-David Rothery-Jennifer McCandliss.

Is that John Dunkley?

John Dunkley recently returned from another of his trips to an exotic world location, this time a visit to Vanuatu in the south Pacific. On his return, two photos were sourced one of which shows John toasting marshmallows on the Yasur volcano. Is that really John Dunkley?

In John's words, he describes briefly the tales of terror but not just from a simmering volcano....."I was very keen to get to this amazing place before the risk management & OH & S bureaucrats get to hear about the laid-back arrangements & make visitors stay a kilometer away! Yasur was operating at Level 2, apparently they do dissuade (but not stop!) people when it notches up to level 3, while at level 4 you'd better not be within a kilometer or so (this happened in 1999 & a few times since). As it is, you get to the very rim of the crater (from where, despite the remoteness, I got through on a mobile to Jeanette who hadn't felt well enough to go on the trip). The nearest lava bombs fell about 20m from where I was standing at one stage. The following night a few were thrown over the top & a visitor showed me some on the path I'd used the previous night. Apparently nobody's ever fallen into the crater but 3 have been killed in the last 20 years by falling hot things."

Yes, he did manage to visit a few caves and snap a few photos, for the next issue maybe.



Is that John toasting marshmallows at Yasur volcano?

ASF Council meeting-Chillagoe-Qld

17-22 April 2011-01-15

HCG will have representatives and members attending the conference and post-expeditions.

See back pages for conference forms.

Visit the Chillagoe Caving Club website for details:

<http://www.chillagoecavingclub.org.au>

ASF Safety Code

Draft version 7 has been circulated to clubs. This should be the version submitted to the April ASF Council meeting for final approval. For further information, contact Joe or the ASF Secretary.

ASF Minimum Impact Code of Ethics for Scientific Investigation in Caves and Karst

The latest version of the code has been circulated to clubs. It will be ratified at the April ASF Council meeting.

Call for ASF Award Nominations

Know a caver who is contributing above and aboard to your club, ASF or speleology? ASF is calling for nominations from ASF clubs to recognise such cavers. Talk to our President Ian Lutherborrow if you wish to nominate any such member.

Call for project grants

The ASF thru its Karst Conservation Fund, was instituted to support worthwhile speleological projects in providing grants for projects. Caves Australia issue 182 June-September 2010 provides an in depth explanation of the guidelines and process. HCG has a number of small projects that are to commence in 2011 and will consider applying for a number of grants.

ASF library..urgent help needed!

CHOICE Magazine is downsizing its paper library and is to dispose of its library shelving and storage system. ASF has been fortunate in procuring the storage system and calls on cavers to help in dismantling the shelves at CHOICE Marrickville, taking the dismantled shelving system to Canberra, re-assembling the system and organising the ASF library onto the shelves. January 26 (Australia Day) has been put aside by some HCG club members to help ASF re-organise its library. If you can help with dismantling and/or coming to Canberra, contact Joe Sydney: 0405 039 398.

ASF standardises its (GIS)

Geographic Information System!

Background

For many years, ASF has been the keeper of all cave/features data as compiled by clubs thru their many projects. The problem ASF had was that many clubs were using various methods of cave data software and storage. With this in mind, ASF consulted its clubs with a view of identifying how clubs gather and manipulate their cave and surveying data and what software they used. HCG was part of this consultative process.

What was identified by ASF is that clubs were using various differing methods which conflicted with each other. Knowing this, ASF sought to find a a single suitable platform that all clubs could use.

The good news is that ASF has finalised its choice is now able to offer to ASF clubs a single platform, ESRI Arcview. ASF has been able to procure thru an agreement with ESRI a platform that most clubs agree on, a very sophisticated Geographical Information System (GIS) program that allows all clubs/cavers to standardise their club cave/data from cave surveying projects and submit to one storage location, all in the same format. If you are not aware, many ASF clubs in most states have a number of projects that require data manipulation and storage about many cave systems across states, including HCG.

How does this affect HCG?

This will affect HCG as it has various cave and related surveying projects eg: Nullabor, Depression village-Bungonia, Janunta, Moparrabah etc. HCG is in a position to request for multiple copies of the ESRI Arcview software for project co-ordinators.

This is a great achievement for ASF in that it standardises all data from clubs and stored in one platform and location.

For more information about the ASF process contact Joe Sydney.

For more information about ESRI Arcview product, visit:

<http://www.esriaustralia.com.au/esri/default.html>

(GIS con't)

What does HCG do now?

HCG needs to decide on how many copies it requires for its project officers. There is a limit to how many we can have which includes conditions, usage, agreement etc and final cost to clubs. How many copies HCG needs will be determined at the February meeting unless we chat about this on HCG!

Training

ASF will provide training to all clubs/members who hold/use ESRI Arcview.

Tuglow & Colong permits now at Wombeyan!

DECCW/Parks have moved the Tuglow and Colong Caves permit process from Oberon office to Wombeyan Caves Reserve office.

Hot news!

Gunns Plains Caves flooded!

Let alone Queensland being flooded, it appears that north Tasmania has also been hit by flooding rains. Geoff, Trish and Benjamin of Gunns



Plains Caves report that their caves are awash and have reached the top of the steps (5m). They too are waiting for the water to recede before the clean up commences.

Hot news! World's Smallest 406 MHz PLB, The ResQLink™

Release date Feb 2011

At just 130 g and 10.0 cm tall, the waterproof ResQLink™ GPS is the smallest GPS on the market and is powerful enough to send your co-ordinates to guide



rescuers to within 100m or less to you position. The onboard 66 channel GPS can quickly fix the sender's position to within 100 meters and then utilizes a powerful 406 MHz signal to relay the distress call to orbiting satellites. It has a 5 year battery and will be available from end February and priced under \$500.

For more information on Next Destination visit:

<http://www.nextdestination.com.au>

LED Lenser H14 3w Cree LED light



Visting caver Mick Finger brought to the meeting two versions of the Led Lenser branded lights, a Model H14 headlamp with 3w Cree LED and P6 handheld torch. Led Lenser lights are designed by Germans and manufactured in China. Looking at the quality and output of these lights its appears that they are robust enough and produce a generous amount of light for caving. They come in various power and charging options. For further details, visit the Zen Imports Australian importer website for product information and look at their online catalogue: <http://www.zenimports.com.au/>

Miner/caver cap lamp!

For more details contact Prestige Lighting-Vic
<http://www.prestigelighting.com.au/>

For sale! Old carbide lamps!



Make a reasonable offer!

Contact Joe Sydney
jsydney@choice.com.au
0405 039 398

Sanctum

Australian movie **NEW** release date: 3 February 2010

By movie buff, Joe Sydney-HCG

Back in 2008 Keir Vaughn-Taylor (SUSS) took a group of cavers and film writers on a field trip to Barralong cave, Jenolan. Their aim was to gather ideas for a potential caving movie. Well, it has now been announced that Australia's own Andrew Wight has put pen to digital celluloid and produced a 3D action thriller, 'Sanctum', with James Cameron of Titanic movie fame.

In the words of Aceshowbiz, "The film will focus on underwater cave divers' efforts to survive after their expedition to the cave is ruined by a tropical storm. Forced to go deep into the caverns, they must fight raging water, deadly terrain and creeping panic as they search for an unknown escape route to the sea. Alister Grierson serves as a director for "Sanctum" with a script provided by Andrew Wight and John Garvin. Richard Roxburgh, Alice Parkinson, Ioan Gruffudd and Rhys Wakefield (Home & Away) are among the cast ensemble of the adventure thriller, which is due February 4, 2011 in the U.S. "

Some of the international cave footage is spectacular including digital footage taken in an artificial tank on Australia's own Gold Coast and dropped into a digital setting to make it look more realistic! Film critics even go as far as saying, "nothing good ever happened in a cave", writes one claustrophobic writer! Yeah, but what do film critics know eh!

Well, I am hanging onto my seat edge for this one, as the trailer looks great! Well done Andrew Wight and James Cameron and I hope you guys make a prequel.



Media released photo

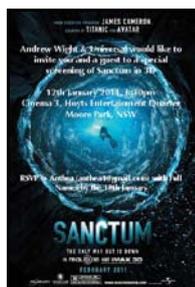


Media released photo

Movie trailer and media release photos:
<http://trailers.apple.com/trailers/universal/sanctum/>

Stop press!

HCG member Joe Sydney along with a few other lucky cavers have received an invitation from Andrew Wight and Universal Studio to attend the Sydney premiere of the new caving movie: Sanctum on 10 January. I guess we'll hear all about it at the February meeting.



Hot news!

127 hours! The movie!
Release 10 Feb 2011!

Remember the canyoner that was trapped under a boulder alone near Moab, Utah and resorted to cutting this arm off to free himself. They've made the movie about it and it's called '127 hours'. See the trailer here!
www.foxsearchlight.com/127hours/



Pearse Resurgence

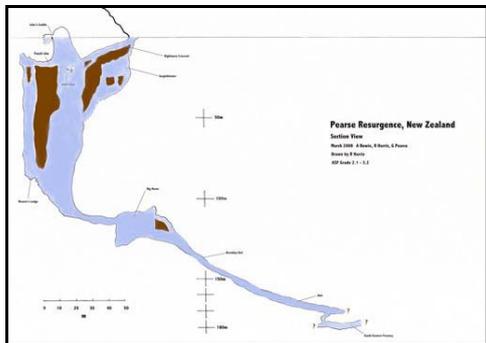
New Zealand

Excerpt from January 2010 report by Richard Harris/CEGSA

“Following the exploration of the Pearse Resurgence to a depth of 182m in 2008, Richard “Harry” Harris returned in 2010 with 5 other Australian cave divers to continue pushing this stunning resurgence cave. The group had several objectives on the 2010 expedition:

1. “To test and utilise a “mobile” habitat system to allow decompression out of the water from a depth of approximately 40mfw up to 12mfw if possible.
2. To then continue exploration at the lower level of the cave and safely perform prolonged decompressions in the 6-7 degree water.
3. To continue a video and photo survey of the cave and the techniques utilized.
4. To inspect the cave for invertebrate life forms, and to establish a relationship with the relevant scientific community in NZ.” – Richard Harris.

So, what did HCG have to do with the Pearse Resurgence cave dive. In support of the expedition, Joe Sydney re-designed and built a Michie phone to suit a cave diver wearing gloves, and, making it a bit more water resistant, see photo below. Sadly, the phone could not be tested on this trip as too much time was spent on re-installing the habitat. The phones will be tested on the next trip in January 2011 – Joe Sydney.



Section view of the Pearse Resurgence cave at the end of the 2008 expedition.



The re-designed 'cave diver' Michie phone.



A cave diver with bolted down habitat on the 2008 expedition. The habitat required re mounting on the 2010 trip.

A long day trip to Timor!

By Joe Sydney of HCG

Attendance

HCG

Joe Sydney

David Rothery

And various members of
NHVSS.

17 April 2010



Dunny dig Joe Sydney/HCG

A long day trip to Timor!

Leading from the previous January trip to Timor caves, Joe managed to source some much needed items for Glen Dhu shearers quarters now being used by NHVSS as their Timor Caves base camp.

Jodie Rutledge of NHVSS contacted Joe advising that NHVSS are returning to Timor Caves and have a proposed trip date of 17-18 April. This was a suitable date to deliver the following: bunk bed, vacuum cleaner and BBQ with bottle and cover, and five bottles of Joe's left over wine for NHVSS to consume, or, maybe for the hut's wine cellar!

An invite saying that two car seats were available was circulated to HCG members and Rick Webber of BMSC but sadly, at the last moment both Lyndon (HCG) and Rick pulled out. David Rothery however was now available for this trip.

Talking to Jodie, I was informed that NHVSS had three excavation sites on private property with two good leads. We were soon to find out whether the sites had future prospects.

I loaded the car whilst David loaded the mattresses and timber frames onto the car's roof. Once packed it was time to kiss the dog and

wave farewell to wife, or is it the other way around? When we got back to the garage David & I looked at each other and laughed, are the mattresses too high to exit the garage? On reversing, I think that we had about 1.5mm spare which is HEAPS of room! So, we were off!



Joe Sydney/HCG

Glen Dhu hut

It took five hrs to drive to Glen Dhu hut with a short dinner break at the Caltex just north of Singleton. Next stop was a NEW BP 2 minutes north of Scone, which is now an ideal location to fill up before the Hayden Rd, turn off to Timor. This now saves an extra 30-minute drive into Murrurundi and then back to the Blandford turn off to Timor Caves. David & I arrived just after 11pm after missing two rabbits, a fox and three kangaroos. One roo sat in the road and we had to stop and beep the horn until it decided to hop away! Definitely a Darwinian roo.

In the morning, David & I woke early and commenced assembling the bunk and BBQ with directions from Jodie. Other cavers started to stir and came to help and soon after, we were onto assembling the BBQ. That did not take long and we fired it up for a full fat breakfast, which was great!

After a late breakfast and lazy 'real' coffee at around 10:30am, we all drove a very short distance to the hut in the adjoining paddock. There were three digs in progress behind the hut: 1. Dunny dig (which is self explanatory-yuk!), dig No 2-requiring widening, and, 3. Ev's Treasure dig site.

NHVSS have been digging here since 2008 and have made some good progress in Dunny dig. Dunny dig has a good prospect with a main chamber with flowstone and two side passages. Whilst NHVSS got stuck into Dunny dig, Jodie and I inspected dig 2 and 3. Dig 2 looks more promising so I got stuck into it and removed some rock from around the entrance! It only needed a slight width adjustment to allow a caver into the cave.



Joe widening Dig.2.

Jodie managed to squeeze into the cave and photograph the very tight lower section and found that it choked off with no lead, very disappointing.



Dig site 2, Jodie exiting hole that doesn't go.

We did nothing about Dig 3 as David & I felt that it had little prospect. There were some interesting finds coming from the early days of Dunny dig. Lots of old bottles, junk, 35mm film of a semi naked woman and a rusty pistol! These were given to the landowner. As there were a few small boulders in the main chamber after clearing lots of mud, well, what we perceived as mud, I smashed a few boulders with effort in the hot and stuffy environ. These rock pieces made their way out using a bucket and rope.



Bucket & haul in Dunny dig main chamber.

Looking at the larger boulders, I commented to Jodie that they might need a jib over the entrance, something for next time maybe.

We noted some wildlife inside Dunny dig, one slug and three common frogs.



Small frog in Dunny dig main chamber.

Whilst on the surface David commenced sieving the different layers of soil with interesting results, a few bat teeth and bones. Abbey Coan of NHVSS also started to sieve the solids and found what could be a bat claw but we are unsure.



Abbey Coan of NHVSS sifting soil for bones at Dunny dig.



Jodie Rutledge of NHVSS showing original solid soil height in Dunny dig main chamber.

Because I carried all our gear including lunch in the car, we stayed on the site whilst the others went back to the shearer's quarters for lunch. This meant that David and I had time to wander up the valley creek and search for caves and features. He took the south side of the hill with magnificent grass trees and I took the right, which was grassed, and just above the Dunny dig. The bedding plane of the limestone looked horizontal so little was found. David only found one slot high up the hill, which looked promising. No leads were found on the opposite grassy hill.



Limestone & creek near Dunny dig with David Rothery in photo center.

When the others returned after lunch, David had a nap and I got stuck into Dunny dig with NHVSS members. We managed to dig another cubic metre of clay from the cave before it was time to pack up at 5:30pm. Soon after, at around 6pm we headed for home.

We had to make a quick stop off at Toronto to pick up some used cave packs I bought from a NHVSS member, arriving home at 11:15pm.

A long day but a worthwhile trip!

All photos by Joe Sydney.

Confirmed fuel and food:

- Caltex on F3: fuel and food.
- Fuel: 400m north of Golden Highway (no food but has pies etc)
- NEW Caltex 5 min past Singleton. Fuel & food.
- BP (new) 2 min north of Scone.

BRAG Report 2010

Bungonia Recreation Activity Group

BRAG is an informal group of interested parties that assist DECCW/Bungonia offering advice when and where needed. ASF is represented along with Police (for safety), Army and other groups. HCG is represented by Joe Sydney.

BRAG June 2010

BRAG advised that on 21 May 2010, 77 Hectares of the northern section of Bungonia Recreation area was gazetted as Bungonia National Park.

The area includes the Ranger station/office, cave area, camping ground and Slot Canyon. The rest remains State Conservation Area (SCA).

National Parks are managed in the same way as SCAs. The only difference is that National Parks do not provide opportunities to permit mining as SCAs currently allow offering greater protection, in this case for the majority of the karst (caves) areas. The long term intention is to continue to add to the National Park sections as the mining lease areas become available with the natural features of the parks.



Joe Sydney/HCG

From left to right: Mark Walton (Army), Mike Lake, Phil Downes (Police), Joe Sydney (HCG), Jill Rowling (ASF), Adurey Kutz (Parks), Julie Bauer and Ron Poulton at 25 June 2010 BRAG meeting celebrating Bungonia National Park.

BRAG meeting July 2010

Why did the echidna cross the road? In fact, was he really street racing an eastern snake neck turtle! Driving home along the Lookdown Road and Mountain Ash Road from a Bungonia BRAG committee meeting after a BRAG meeting, I came across an echidna and long neck turtle crossing the

road. It was an excellent opportunity to photograph these two timid creatures.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Joe Sydney/HCG

Eastern snake neck turtle and echidna.

BRAG meeting October 2010

New BRAG members

Joe Sydney has been attending the Bungonia BRAG meetings representing HCG for some years. Even though he has no vote, Joe provide valuable insight to the caving community. From a club perspective, Joe updates HCG regularly with interesting snippets about what is happening in Bungonia National Park. In October, BRAG have accepted his nomination to sit officially on the committee.

DECCW Karst information kit



The DECCW Karst Unit has produced a new information kit and poster (above). All NSW clubs will receive a copy for their libraries.

Rocky creek canyon and Glow worm tunnel

By Ian Binnie and Joe Sydney of HCG

Attendance

HCG

Ian and Anna Binnie
Ray family-Greg, Fiona,
Jeremy and Tahlia.
Joe Sydney
Lyndon Ray

Kevin Dawson
Tracy Gibson

Deborah Johnson – SUSS
Tom Short
Samuel Morin

26-27 February 2010



Rocky Creek canyon-Joe Sydney/HCG

Rocky Creek Canyon and Glow Worm tunnel

Let's go canyoning!, or for some, let's go tunnelling! It was time that HCG organised an en easy weekend suited for fun and family, so, with a few friends from SUSS, it was time to go to have some fun.

Rocky Creek/Twister Canyons trip & day walk.

26 and 27 February 2010.

By Joe Sydney

Canyon participants
Joe Sydney – HCG
Lyndon Ray – HCG
Kevin Dawson
Deborah Johnson – SUSS
Samuel Morin
Tom Short

We're off to Newnes

Fri 26 Feb 2010

This trip started with Fiona and family dropping Lyndon off at CHOICE Magazine Marrickville as Lyndon was getting a lift from me to Newnes. After a quick tour of CHOICE and packing Lyndon's gear into the Subi, we were off. Along the way Lyndon played some of his favourite classical music which was a pleasant change to what I usually play.

It's just not Goulash!

On the way up, we had to make a quick stop at Hazelbrook to drop off a lawnmower and we were soon back on the road. At Mt Victoria Caltex, we filled up the car, and our bellies with a 6/10 rating for their Hungarian 'ghoulash'! Although tasty. it's not as good as my mother's!

At Zig Zag railway we set the odometer to zero and headed off along Old Bells Line of Road (OBLORd). Twenty minutes later we were at the Glow Worm Tunnel Rd (GWTRd) junction and turned right. The instructions taken off the web were interesting and inaccurate so I had to pull out the GPS and laptop with Ozexplorer..

Where's the party?

It wasn't long before I got a fix in the pine forest, found our location and destination, and we were off! There seemed to be lots of cars on the road and at one stage, a young driver asked for directions to Red Hill Rd, which I gave. It seemed that there must be a rave party somewhere in the pine forest which interested Lyndon, but I sadly disappointed him by driving on.

We arrived at Barcoo Swamp around 10pm to find Ian and Anna Binnie enjoying a cuppa with cheese and crackers so I pulled out the Caltex jam donut...to share! As there were no takers, I ate it! Lyndon started to pitch his tent so I got the hint and started to set up the Subi for a comfy nights sleep. We chatted for a while longer about the inaccurate directions and my concern that others may not find our location. Luckily, others were arriving in the morning so we slept on it.

Canyon day

Sat 27 Feb

Lyndon was first to rise and soon after so did I, then Ian and then Anna. Breakfast was great, muesli, café raison toast and coffee! Lyndon however was more adventurous consuming something called Stag Chilli something that proved propulsive in the water sections.

We waited until 08:15 for Kevin Dawson so I decided to drive back along GWT Rd. Along the way I took 'accurate' road details and now have a detailed map and reference for future use. Kevin and Tracy arrived at the GWT and OBLORd spot on 0900 to find me having a shave by the side of the road, quite embarrassing

After a quick 15km+ drive back to Barcoo Swamp, we found that Deb had arrived and camped further along the camp ground track. Tom and Sam wandered over with a couple of jaffles to say hello and found Lyndon envious, so they shared to Lyndon's delight!

It's Graeme!

By now other campers were stirring and we saw Graeme Smith camped not far away so I went over for a quick chat and say hello.

Our team had a chat about Twister and Rocky canyon as Tom had done this before and I was surprised to find that the location was not where I thought it to be, it's the next gully over (south). Deb soon wandered over for a chat and we sorted out what gear was needed along with emergency back up gear.

Ok, let's go canyoning!

It was 11am when we got our bums into gear so we all headed down the track to the barrier start. The drive was short with the track in good condition. At the barrier car park, we were all quite surprised to see so many cars especially the large wild tour group. I think that they were surprised to see two kids on our team and probably more so that fact that they were paying big bucks for a wild tour when kids are doing it as a fun day!

It wasn't long before we all started to head off past the barrier and down the track. At about 100m down the track we turned south and followed the well defined short and steep foot track to the creek and Twister canyon. The walk along the creek was easy going passing impressive sandstone cliffs with a few pagodas.



Start of the high cliffs in Twister Canyon.

It wasn't long until Deb said it was time to put our wetsuits on but not the thermals. We all started to trog up when two canyoners passed us, then the tour group arrived. After a quick photo we farewelled our support crew and headed into the canyon whilst the others returned to undertake their day's activity.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Trog up point, start of Twister Canyon.

The upper reaches of the creek was easy going with ankle deep water and we soon came to our 1st water slide which was very enjoyable.

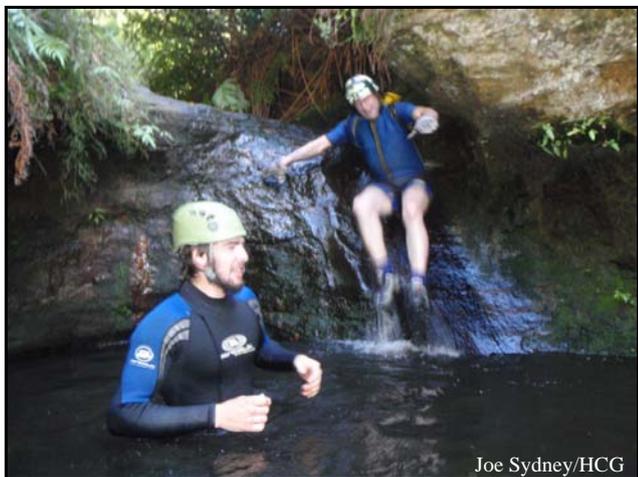


Joe Sydney/HCG

A short climb in Twister Canyon.

Exit track found

At this point the tour caught up with us so we pushed on. From here the canyon opened up for a 20 minute walk through open dry open forest. We soon came upon a rock cairn which indicated the exit back to the cars so we moved on and now into Rocky Creek.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Tom and Kev at 1st water slide in Twister Canyon.

After a short walk we came to another slide and then our first short jump which could also be bypassed for those that wished! The canyon walls now started to get narrower with the water level rising filling many pools making the water more enjoyable.

The next water hole was a short slide into a large pool with swim which soon followed with a big jump, or handline climb to the right.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Exit cairn and way back to cars.

Following Rocky Creek we soon came to 'the lunch spot' and start of the narrower Rocky creek canyon. By the time we arrived all the good seating spots were taken by other canyoners so we just sat in the creek and had lunch, to their surprise. After lunch Deb suggested that we also put on our thermals as this is where the canyon starts to get really cold.



Joe Sydney/HCG

The lunch spot and start to Rocky Creek canyon.

Our first big jump

As this was the start of the canyon proper, it was also our 1st big jump. Jumping into the canyon we swam a short distance and started to walk through the canyon. The canyon opened again a little to expose a beautiful short broad waterfall with a great slide into a huge pool, and swim. This was one of the highlights of the trip. From here on the walls closed to define a typical high walled sandstone canyon.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Tom gears up for the jump into Rocky.

We walked, swam, climbed for about another kilometre when we came to a major creek junction. There was another group here so I pulled out my Schmako bag and started eating its contents to their surprise. I offered them some beef jerky to their horror which they respectively declined. The others were in on the joke and took the lollies from within the bag and they soon realised that the Schmako bag was a good carry bag with zip seal!



Joe Sydney/HCG

Main junction and turn around point of Rocky Creek.

This is where we met Graeme Smith with his team and as they were cold, they immediately turned around and started their return trip. We also did the same but we were a bit slower. Half way through this section Tom and Lyndon started to feel the cold as we were slower with Sam so they pushed on ahead to meet us at the at the first location with warm sunlight. We soon caught up and then proceeded thru the canyon.

Whoops, that was a bad throw!

We soon came to the big jump and climbed up through the keyhole on the left. Moving on we swam the big pool and climbed the broad waterfall. At this point we met two Western Australians who had heard about the easy Rocky Creek canyon. One of them took a photo of the other jumping into the pool and then threw the camera to his mate. A big mistake! It was a short throw and sunk to the pool bottom! After a few minutes we walked on wishing them good luck. We soon reached the exit point so we got changed and had a snack to eat to replenish our fuel reserves. At this point the two Western Australians caught up with us and said they couldn't find the camera so they had to come back tomorrow with goggles. we wished them luck again and headed up the exit gully.

Is this the right way on?

At one point Deb wasn't 100% sure if his was the right track but we were soon able to work out that it was. The walk was easy and gradual crossing the gully the north. I questioned this and Deb with Tom said that this was the way they knew, so we followed. Before I knew it, I realised that this is close to the location of the cave but as time was short, we

pushed on. We came to the top of the north side of the canyon and started to make our way around the head of the creek and to the car park. It didn't take long and now that I know the way down into the creek/gully, it will be easier on our return trip in search for the cave.

Safe back at the cars!

Back at the car park, we were surprised to find the Ray family along with several cars and tourists. We all fuelled up with coke, chips and anything else we could find in the car before Kevin and I headed back to the campsite whilst the Rays and Deb drove home.

Back at the camp, Tracey was napping when we arrived. We transferred Kev's gear into his car and soon after I bid them farewell as I still had to contact Katoomba Police and report that our trip was successful with no mishaps.

The lost Dutchman.

Driving along the GWT Rd I noticed a small white car with its hazard lights on. I pulled up and asked

the driver if all was ok. With his Dutch accent he said that he couldn't get the wheel off the rental car so I had a go, and couldn't too. Kev soon arrived and pulled up but I said that there wasn't anything he could do unless he had a BFH, which he didn't. I then offered to drive the Dutchman to a location where I had mobile phone reception so we could ring Hertz car rentals. We only drove a couple of kilometres to a highpoint just past Northern Boundary Rd when I had reception. A call to Hertz relayed another call to the NRMA and I gave a specific location of the car. I then offered to stay in this location with mobile reception just in case. Two hours later the NRMA arrived so I handed the grateful Dutchman to the mechanic. Whilst waiting, we noticed a number of cars driving up and down the GWT Rd. Two cars pulled up asking for directions to Red Hill Rd which I gave. I also asked what was of interest as I noted many cars driving up and down. The young driver replied that there was a 'rave' party somewhere in the pine forest along Red Hill Rd.

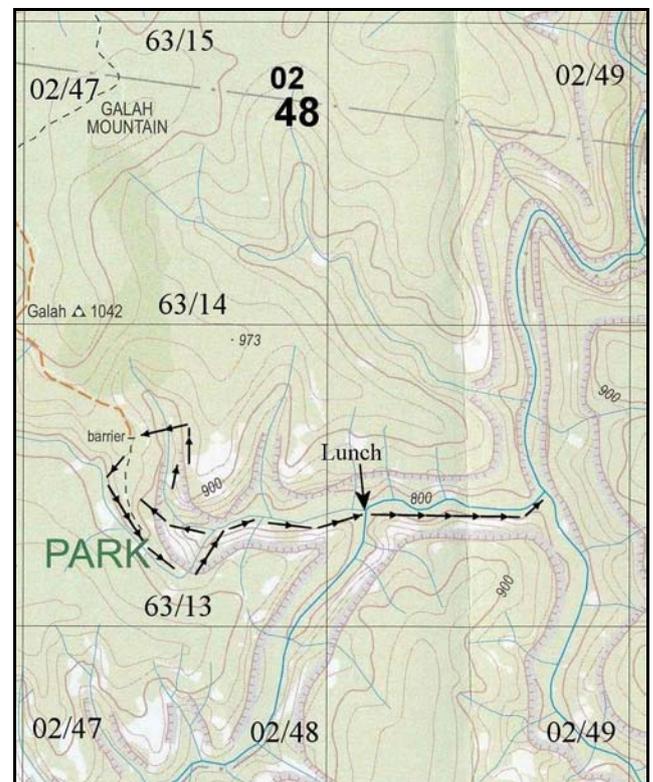
It was just after 21:30 when I left the area and depart for home feeling quite, stuffed!



Rocky Creek canyoning team back at the cars!



Section of Rocky Creek Canyon.



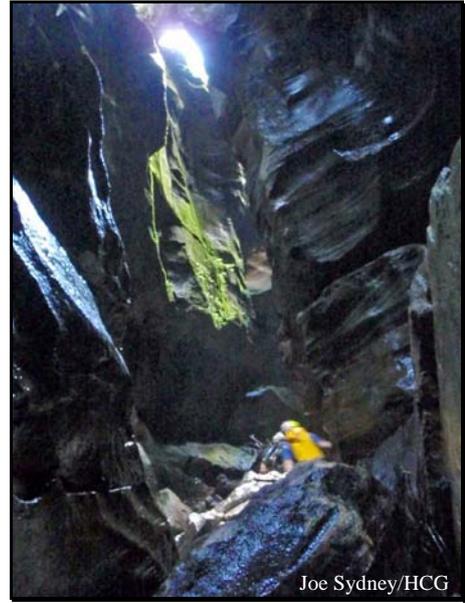
Map of Rocky Creek canyon.

Rocky Creek Canyon

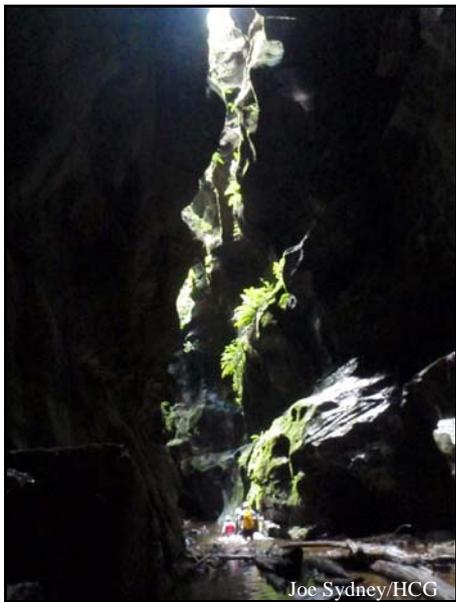


Joe Sydney/HCG

High walls of Rocky Creek Canyon.



Joe Sydney/HCG



Joe Sydney/HCG



Joe Sydney/HCG

Negotiating Rocky Creek Canyon.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Debbie makes a splash jump!



Joe Sydney/HCG

Kevin taking the plunge at start of Rocky Creek Canyon.

Glow Worm tunnel walk

By Ian Binnie

27 February 2010

Participants

Ian and Anna Binnie

Tracy Gibson

Ray family-Greg, Fiona, Jeremy and Tahlia.

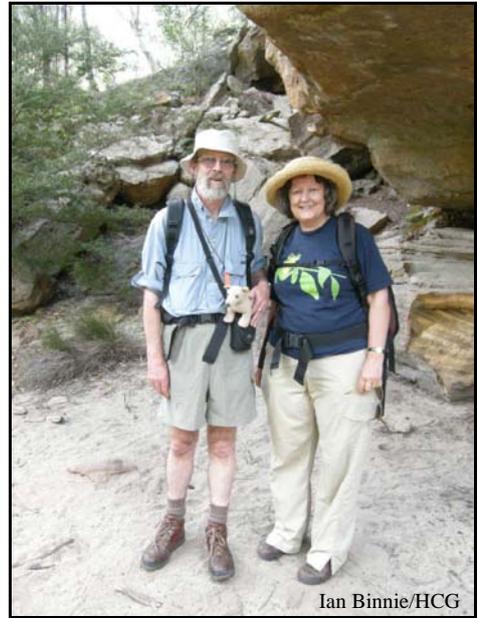
After walking down to the start of the canyon, Tracy, Anna and I returned to the car park, and shortly after the Ray family arrived. We decided to go to the Glow worm Tunnel for lunch.

The drive through the first tunnel and cuttings on the old railway alignment is quite spectacular, but the volume of traffic was a bit of putting.

We had finished lunch, and there being no sign of the Ray family set off on the 1km walk to the tunnel. Even though neither Tracy nor Anna had lights, we walked through the 400m tunnel stopping several times to look at the glow worms. Continuing to the rainforested clearing on the other side, we met a large party coming from Newnes.

On our return trip we met Greg, Jeremy and Tahlia and at the other end encountered Fiona inside the entrance with Willow (and an umbrella - but no torch).

We dropped Tracy off at the camp, and left about 4:30.



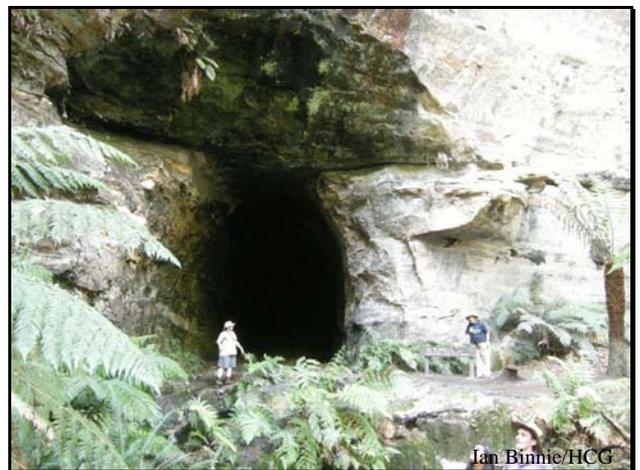
Ian and Anna Binnie.



Anna Binnie finds a Tas tiger.



Glow Worm tunnel, Constance gorge side.



Glow Worm tunnel, Constance gorge side.

National Geographic

December 2010 issue

Bat genocide!

By David Quammen
Photograph by Stephen Alvarez

"Bats are crucial to ecosystems devouring insects, dispersing seeds, and pollinating flowers. But in the U.S. an insidious new enemy is causing massive die-offs." Read about the devastation that the White Nose Syndrome is causing in the December issue of National Geographic magazine (p126).

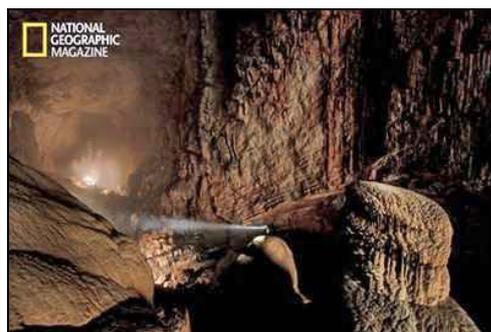
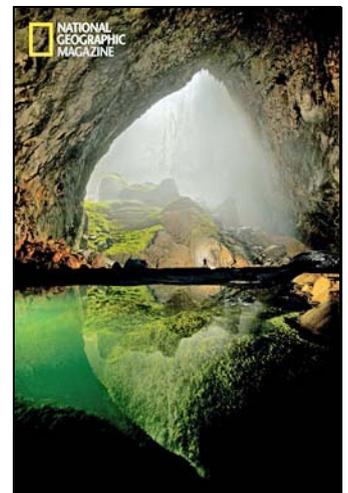
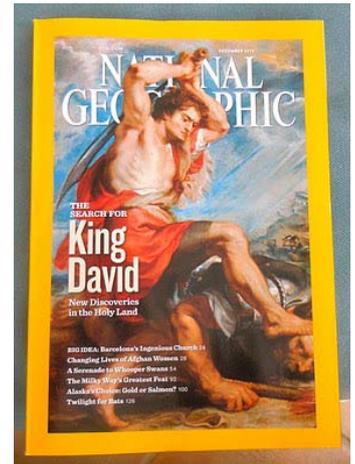
Source: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/12/bat-crash/quammen-text>

January 2011 issue
Explorers discover
spectacular caves in Vietnam

By [Brett Michael Dykes](#)

For decades, geologists have known that Vietnam is home to some of the world's most spectacular caves, many of them largely unexplored. Now husband-and-wife cavers have documented perhaps the world's largest: Hang Son Doong, big enough in places to accommodate a New York City block of skyscrapers.

The cave in the Annamite Mountains contains a river and jungle (its name translates to "mountain river cave") and even its own thin clouds, and its end remains out of sight. It's part of a network of about 150 caves in central Vietnam near the Laotian border.



Source: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/01/largest-cave/jenkins-text>

(Psst! Check out CA 182-as ASF next Nat Geo in publishing an article on this! –Joe)

Big caves in Laos.

By John Dunkley of HCG

Attendance

John Dunkley

2008



John Dunkley/HCG

Big Caves in Laos

In 2008 I received an e-mail from Terry Bolger, a veteran caver with experience in places like Lechuguilla Cave who lived in Canberra for many years before becoming an agricultural adviser based in the Laotian capital Vientiane. Terry proposed a short trip to two of the enormous caves in the vast Khammouane karst of central Laos, about 500km from the capital, followed by a stay at Cave Lodge in Mae Hong Son, Thailand, owned by John Spies, who has received a Certificate of Merit from ASF for his work in documenting and conserving caves in Thailand.

A visit to the Lao Embassy in Canberra soon produced a visa and, astonishingly, a brochure on the caves, and rather than travel all the way to Vientiane I arranged to meet Terry in an obscure village at the junction of Highways 8 and 13, about 250km east of the capital.

Part One – Caves near Takhek

Stayed overnight in Sydney with Mike Lake to talk about an article on cave science history for the Royal Society. Had lunch in Thornleigh with Ian Wood, caught a train to the Airport & left at 2045, arriving Bangkok at 0200. Dozed for a couple of hours before connecting at 0600 with PB Air on a little Embraer jet to Nakhon Phanom. Stayed overnight at Riverview Hotel overlooking the Mekhong River and Laos, and the remains of a recent riverbank festival. Next day I revisited the 1950s by walking through Thai customs and down the old-fashioned cement steps to the river and catching a long-tailed ferry across to Takhek in Laos. Entry was a brief formality in a 1960s era



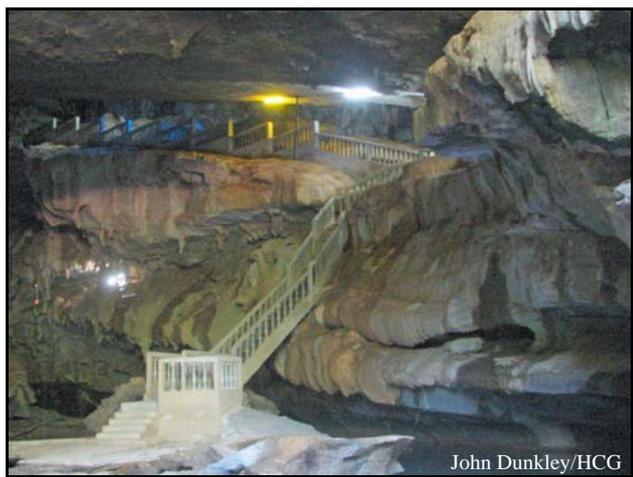
John Dunkley/HCG

Ferry, cross the Mekong!

cement hut, the money changer produced a large stack of Lao Kip at about 7,000 to the dollar, and a walk across the road brought me to the rather plush Riveria Hotel where a well-equipped Executive Suite with flat-screen TV and separate bed and lounge

rooms was offered for only \$45 a day (buffet breakfast thrown in). And surprisingly everything worked. One of the staff turned out to be the author of the caves brochure that I had obtained in Canberra, so we were off to a good start.

The local Tourist Office offered very limited English but was able to rustle up a tuk-tuk driver and a guide to some caves in the Khammouane karst east of Takhek. First stop: the usual visit to a market for fresh lunch goodies, although I passed on the crickets, small deer on a big stick (dead), and frogs of various sizes (live) also on offer. We pressed on to Tham Nang Aen (Tham is the Thai and Lao word for cave). The cave receives large picnic groups at weekends, and a fleet of large 4WDs turned up while we were there. Overdeveloped concrete paths, fancy parapets and the ubiquitous fluorescent lights predominated, along with quite a lot of graffiti. Apparently it's possible to travel further into a wild section of the cave by boat, occasionally done as an adventure tour.



John Dunkley/HCG

Tham Nang Aen

From here we bounced through some rice paddies and over sizeable ruts to Tha Falang, a deep waterhole several hundred metres long between two karst towers. Mr En knocked up a very respectable lunch by catching a fish or two and wokking up the market veges. Then to Tham Pa Fa by a circuitous route through rice paddies and along the remains of an embankment built for an uncompleted railway from Takhek to Vietnam, dating from French colonial times.

Tham Pa Fa was known 600 years ago but its existence was forgotten until it was rediscovered by Bun Nong around 1994. Situated above a large resurgence, it is very clean, is becoming a shrine of sorts, attracts pilgrims from Thailand as well as Laos,



John Dunkley/HCG

Former bamboo ladder access to Tham Pa Fa.

and is renowned for its large number of Buddhas each sitting in a suite of rimstone pools with the occasional one beaming down from above. Indeed the local village is making something of a living from the cave, with many souvenir and noodle shops. The images were almost certainly placed in the cave during one of the many wars fought in the area around the 14th or 15th century. One remarkable shield decoration resembles a mosquito net.

Part 2: The Giant Caves of central Laos

Next day I tuk-tuked to the bus station a few kilometres out of Takhek, and in short time was on a Vientiane-bound express bus speeding northwards on Highway 8. As in Thailand, buses have only three cruise control modes: stopped, walking pace, or flat out. After 20 minutes of cruising around at 5km/hr with the conductor hanging out the door shouting and touting for customers (a standard procedure in Laos and Thailand where there are financial incentives on the staff to do so), and attending to staff calls of nature, this one didn't stop, and in little more than an hour for 110km we reached the



John Dunkley/HCG

500m high limestone cliffs bordering Hin Boun Valley.

junction with Highway 13, and I adjourned to a convenient noodle stand for a bowl of, well, noodles and a drink while finishing last Saturday's Australian. An hour or two later Terry, his girlfriend Noi, Frank & his girlfriend Son turned up from Vientiane in a large rented 4WD driven by a well-dressed Mr Poon. Turning east on Highway 13 and stopping only for photographs of some pinnacle karst beside the road, we lunched at a noodle shop in Na Hin and looked at the nearby dam that has brought some modest prosperity to the district.

Beyond Na Hin, only a year or two earlier Neil Anderson (on an earlier trip with Terry Bolger) related stories of several hours bouncing across rice paddies to reach the caves. A year earlier still, even that was not possible in the wet season, and Veronica Schumann and Ruth Vosseler from Canberra had reached the cave by ascending the Nam Hin Boun (Hin Boun River) for 40km in a long-tailed boat, vaguely reminiscent of the saga of how Kerry Hamilton (CQSS) took 3 days on increasingly smaller water-craft to reach Mulu Caves in 1985, found a guide for a long walk to Good Luck Cave and at last reached the end of the rainbow in Sarawak Chamber.

By 2008 some foreign aid produced a newly sealed road ascending the valley of the Hin Boun. Limestone cliffs soon appeared on both sides of the road, the valley gradually narrowed, the cliffs rose higher and in a few hours we arrived at the Sala Hin Boun Lodge for a 3-night stay. This is in a wonderful position with a balcony overlooking the river and

rain forest. Enticing copies of the cave map on the outdoor dining area wall raised expectations of a great day ahead.



John Dunkley/HCG

Approaching the entrance to Tham Bin Boun.



John Dunkley/HCG

Entrance chamber, Tham Hin Boun.

So, breakfast, and Mr Poon drove us a few kilometres to the very end of the road at Ban Kong Lor, where limestone cliffs completely enclose the valley. A short boat trip ferried us to the rockfall below an impressive cave entrance, followed by a walk over a rock face to different boats inside the cave. Scrambling into one of these, we were soon zooming up the cave river, once or twice leaping out to help drag the boat over travertine rapids. After a few-minutes we stopped 1km inside at Stalactite Gallery, a higher level passage (possibly an old meander niche) crammed with mostly white stalactites, stalagmites and columns. The view down to the boats was impressive but impossible to photograph. Continuing upstream the cave has a typical cross-sectional profile of 3,000m² i.e 50-70m high and wide (occasionally up to 100m!), with beaches and long straight stretches of deep water over which the driver gunned the long-tail to full speed. These are the same style boats used on Bangkok canals and along the Mekhong River, with a very loud V8 engine balanced at the end of a long steel bar. Anyone who has sampled one will recall the breakneck speed of travel and their ability to stop almost in their own length.

Outside the cave entrance again, we boarded another boat for a wonderfully scenic and more heavily vegetated trip downriver to Sala Hin Boun, passing closer to the limestone cliffs than the road.



Pulling boats over rapids.

The straight-line distance from sink to rising is 4.2km. Some sources give the underground river length as 7.5km, but 6km is a better estimate based on available maps. The cave river has a catchment area of 215km² of which about 38% is on non-carbonate rocks which feed run-off to the karst



Stalactite chamber.

25 October

After a fairly late start Mr Poon drove us a couple of kilometres to a new concrete bridge over the stream that emerges from Tham Nan Non (Non River Cave), another through cave with a catchment of 50sqkm. On a track behind the temple leading to the entrance, 4 young boys joined us as "guides" (one bare-footed but sure-footed). My camera fell in the water and seized up at one stage so I paid one of the boys to

guard it as it sat in the sun drying below the cave entrance until we returned (whereupon it started working again).

After a rock scramble at the entrance it was mostly a plod over cobble beds and sand, indeed in the dry season the entire cave is like this. About 200m into the cave we noted tree branches wedged in the arched walls about 25m overhead. Surely the cave doesn't flood to that height, we thought, but how else did they get there as there is 400m of solid limestone beyond that. Most of the first 550m is 70m high, and well lit from outside, with the stream meandering from to side requiring some wading. About 600m in the passage narrows to a high canyon which continues another 3km to a sump that dries only at the end of the dry season, and eventually to the other side of the mountain. Total length of the cave is over 9km.

After discussions over dinner most of the company along with two girls from the Lodge set off for the attractions of a festival and fleshpot 40km away in Na Hin, returning at 1am.



Lunch at Na Hin.

Again starting late we arrived in Na Hin for lunch to find a pleasant noodle shop that was not there at all only 3 days earlier, dining well for a couple of dollars. The girls decided they wanted to go the Vietnam border at Nam Phao about 50km to the east, and finding on arrival that as Lao passport holders they could continue across, they disappeared to do some shopping while Terry, Frank and I adjourned to a drinking hole. Stayed overnight in the surprisingly good Phouttarong Hotel in Lak Sao which had all the attractions of a frontier boom town. Street entertainment was on offer with some down-market gambling, a jumping castle, darts for bursting balloons and vast numbers of Chinese motor bike

shops. The local Vietnamese restaurant served some of the world's worst Vietnamese but took payment in US\$, Vietnamese dong, Lao kip or Thai baht.



The Cave Lodge verandah party gets under way!

Next day to Vientiane. For 15 years after the fall of Saigon Laos was closed to tourists. I first visited the capital in 1991 only a few months after the Soviet Union in turn collapsed and the wheel turned, leaving countries like Laos stranded. Visas were very hard to obtain (ask me some time!) and travel restricted. There was only one traffic light, almost no traffic, few signs, and I actually walked through the town and out the other side before finding out that I had passed through its "downtown" area. The only newish sign was for Pepsi, standing out among faded posters for Aeroflot.

Not in 2008. Traffic and the air was like parts of Bangkok before its expressways arrived. The place was firmly on the backpacker circuit and creature comforts abounded. Superb breakfasts of coffee and croissants were on offer at the foreigner-infested Swiss Bakery. We supped on the banks of the Mekhong and life felt good.

Part 3 Cave Lodge

To Vientiane bus station for tickets to Udon Thani in Thailand. Border guard less interested in us than in the porn movie screening on the TV in his booth. Dinner at an Italian restaurant at the pretentiously named Charoensa Grand Royal Hotel, tuk-tuk to airport, fly to Bangkok, brief stop and same plane on to Chiang Mai, engage taxi driver for half-way decent hotel, bed at last at 12.45 am.

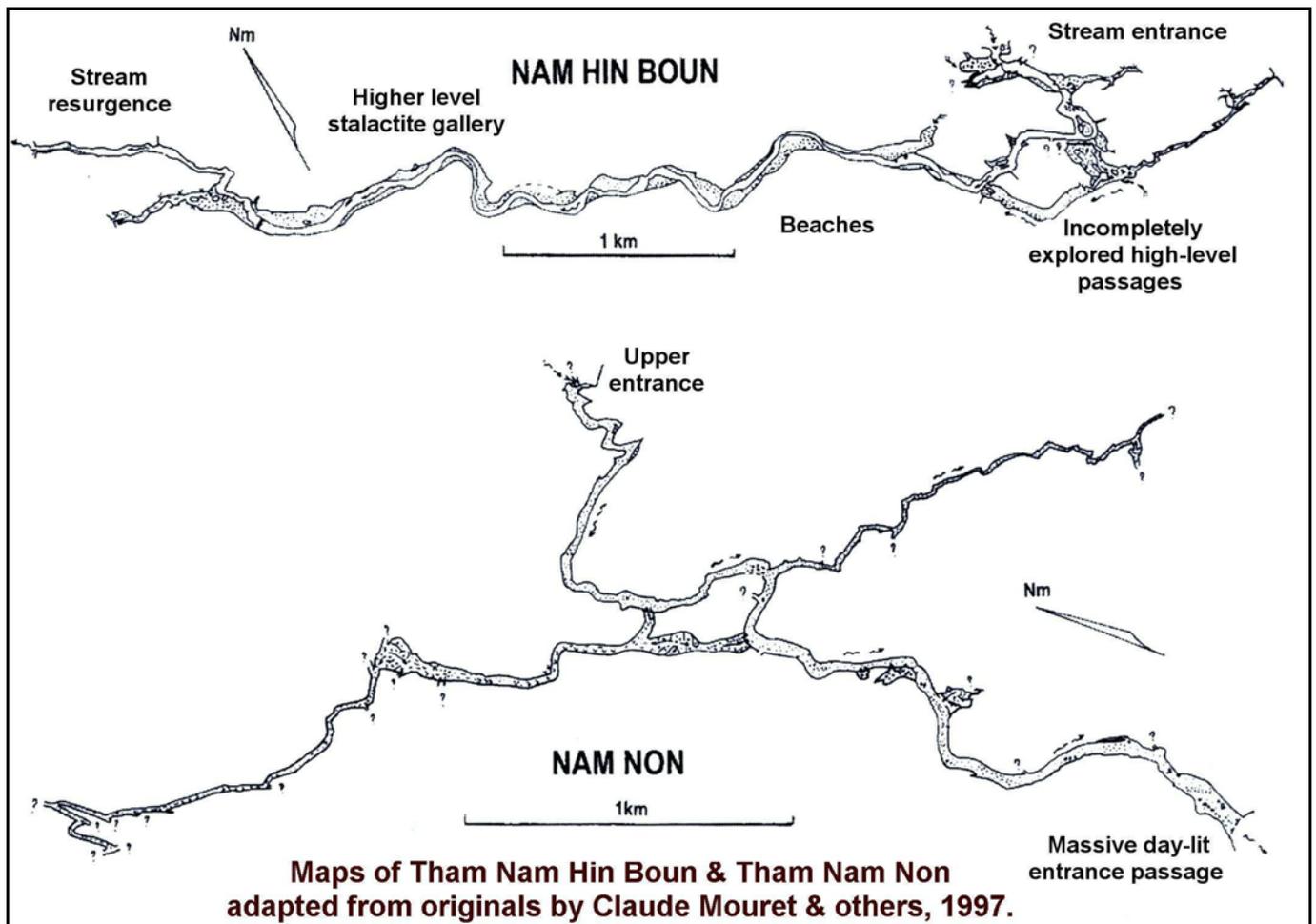
Leave again by 9, meet Martin Ellis with his 4WD and girlfriend Su Pin, pick up her mother, set off for the first of the 2,000 bends on the road across the mountains to Pai for petrol and on (with another 2,000 bnds) to Soppong and Cave Lodge. Following day we drove high up into the pines at 1,400m, down to Mae Lana Cave, on to Lukalam and Pang Kham Cave. Next day, rest day. The girls got very drunk

and noisy all afternoon and well into the night with vast amounts of Singha, Chivas Regal and Sang Som (for the uninitiated: beer, whisky and, well, rice whisky). And another day, kayaking with Khun Wa (Mr Wa, who remembered me and Kerry Hamilton from the SuSa expedition nearly 20 years ago). Down the Nam Lang, right through Tham Lot Cave, out the other side and downstream to a dam where a

truck returned us to the Lodge. And after all that? Well, we drove back the 2,000 bends to Chiang Mai, I took a first-class sleeper (a \$50 extravagance!) on the express to Bangkok and flew home.



How to address a letter to John Spies at Cave Lodge (and have it delivered promptly!)



Map of Nam Non

2002 Nav Shield Competition

By Joe Sydney of HCG



Start of NavShield. Credit: BWRS

The NSW Cave Rescue squad entered two teams of cavers in this years event.

The forecast for the Braidwood/Tallaganda Forest area for the weekend was for bleak weather - winds up to 40 knots, passing showers, occasional sleet and a chance of snow on the higher peaks! On the drive in, we weren't sure if the Oberon road was open so we took the risk. We found the road open with very slushy with snow from the freezing days before. The Subi handled this well.

On arrival and setting up camp, we duly planning our attack route/s and marked our maps. Soon after, we all set of to bed for an early start.

The event started at 0845 on Saturday, with our fast team zooming off followed by our slower team that decided to be the last out of camp!

The terrain was steep in areas, but was relatively easy to navigate through because there was little undergrowth. Some of the control points proved a little tricky to find, we found some, we missed some, but overall both teams were pleased with the outcome.

The slow team returned to camp early to find the campsite obliterated by the weekends extreme high winds! Most of the small dome tents were blown to the opposite end of the campsite.

Luckily, we packed up ours on the Saturday morning.

The fast team scored well with 870 coming third in the 1 day-Class 1 event! That's great! Our slow team scored 250 coming just behind two other VRA units but just ahead of a third.

It was a very well-organised event which proved to be an enjoyable challenge.

<http://www.bwrs.org.au/navshield/results.html>.

NSW Cavers Dinner 2002

This years diner was a low key event as no other club was willing to organize a dinner so HCG took this on at the last moment. The dinner was held at on Saturday 12 October 2002 at Grumpy's Pub at 590 Canterbury Road, Hurlstone Park. Grumpy's boast a fine Thai restaurant with the food reported to be quite good. Most clubs attended.

NSW Speleo Council 2002

Following on from the cavers dinner, there was a meeting of the Council on Sunday 13 October 2002 at 10am at the hall in Klemm Street at Bankstown Airport. Evalt and Joan are our club representatives attend as observers.

One Tel Vests 2002



Joe was at the markets last Sunday and guess who he saw? Yes, it was the mysterious supplier of the One Tel polar vests. So if anyone still wants any of these @ \$10 each please contact Joe. Big colour selection as long as you like black. And plenty of sizes as long as you take large cos that's all there is.

HCG celebrates 45 years of caving 2002



Saturday 31 August 2002 was chosen as the date to celebrate the HCG 45th anniversary event. Julie & Peter's offered their home at Oak Flats for this auspicious event. Invitations were sent to all clubs advising of the event and to bring your own chair, cutlery and drinks.

HCG managed to borrow a spit from members of Endeavour Caving Club and cooked a spit roast. Members each made a salad, which helped with the main course. Dinner was served around 6.30 - 7pm to celebrate the 45 years of caving. Joe arranged an audiovisual show which included slides and photos from the early days of HCG caving to the present. All members contributed to the audio visual and special thanks must go to Evalt who provided some great old photos. The slide show presentation went on for about 30 minutes.

After the fine feast, Peter lit the bonfire out back with cavers hanging around enjoying themselves by the fire. It was quite late when cavers started to head home after a great evening of socializing and entertainment. Some said, can't wait for the 50th

Cliefden 8-10 June 2002

By Phil Fleming. with memory jogged by Joe Sydney.

Phil, Marie, Rebecca, Sam, Chris Flemming, Paul Flemming, Christine, Thomas Flemming, Arcee Laluan, Keir Vaughn-Taylor, Sue Willis, Kelly and Lauchlan Vaughn-Taylor, Kate Johnston, David and Michael Rothery, John Eastwood, Kevin Coller, Peter and Julie Bauer, Joe Sydney, Bru Randall & Barb Schomer.

We had a great turn up for this trip with 23 attending!

Saturday, we all visited the Barites/lead/copper Mine, walked around Fossil Hill, looked at Island cave then popped down to the river

Sunday - 2 caves were visited:

Main Cave- John, David, Keir, Bru, Barb, Sue, Lauchlan, Kelly, Tom, and Arcee.

Malongulli Cave - Joe, Michael, Peter, Kevin, Christine, Phil.

At lunchtime it was back to the hut, then we swapped caves after lunch.

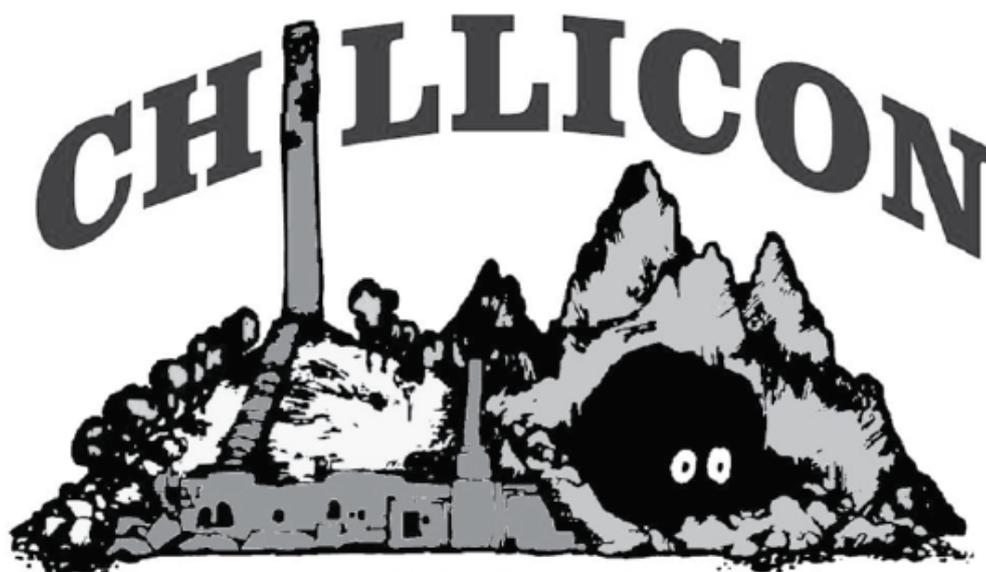
Malongulli Cave - Keir, Bru, Barb, didn't do phreatic tubes, went to the lake, took lots of photos. Verified that it isn't a dive and just a small pool. Found lots of calcite rafts on lake.



Barite Mine



Fossil Hill



2011 ASF Conference

17th to 22nd April – Tentative Programme

Every day at 6.30 am and 5.00 pm

Cost sharing scenic flights (by courtesy John, who owns a plane)

Saturday 16th

Caving, sightseeing.

Sunday 17th

Caving, sightseeing.

12 noon to 5.00 pm: Registrations in town hall.

6.00 pm: BBQ Social (Chillagoe SES)

Monday 18th

8.00 am: Registrations

8.45 am: Welcome & housekeeping (Alan Cummins)

Official opening by Tom Gilmore

9.30 am: Opening speaker

10.30 am: Morning tea (provided in hall)

11.00 am: Speakers

12.30 am: Lunch (provided in hall)

2.00 pm: Workshops, cave tours, historical or fossil tours

3.30 pm: Afternoon tea (provided in hall)

4.00 pm: Speaker

5.00 pm: Break for dinner

7.00 pm: DVD/Slide show in hall

Tuesday 19th

8.00 am: Registrations

9.00 am: Speaker

10.15 am: Morning tea (provided in hall)

10.45 am: Speakers

12.30 pm: Lunch (provided in hall)

2.00 pm: Workshops, cave tours, historical or fossil tours

3.30 pm: Afternoon tea in hall

4.00 pm: Speaker

5.00 pm: Break for dinner

7.00 pm: Evening event, walk, observatory

Wednesday 20th

8.00 am: Registrations

9.00 am: Speaker

10.15 am: Morning tea in hall

10.45 am: Speakers

12.30 pm: Lunch in hall

2.00 pm: Speleo sports at Clubhouse, Equipment demonstration, SRT challenges

3.30 pm: Afternoon tea at Clubhouse

7.30 pm: Caveman's Dinner at Royalarch carpark

Thursday 21st

9.00 am: Registrations

10.00 am: Morning tea in hall

10.30 am: Speaker

12.30 am: Lunch in hall

2.00 pm: Workshops, cave tours, historical or fossil tours

3.30 pm: Afternoon tea in hall

5.00pm: Dinner

7.00 pm: Photo judging, auction, trivia, social

Friday 22nd

9.00 am: Registrations

9.30 am: Speaker

10.30 am: Morning tea

10.45 am: Closing

11.30 am: ASF Council meetings / Caving

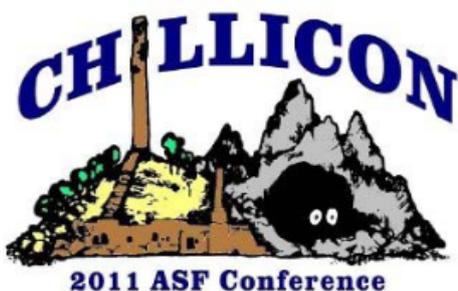
During the conference there will be shops/displays in the school.

Saturday 23rd

FREE!

For all conference updates, visit:

<http://www.chillagoecavingclub.org.au/>



2011 ASF CONFERENCE

17 – 22 April 2011

Registration Form

Please Use Block Letters when filling out this form

PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname:	Title:	
First name:		
Name to be placed on Tag:		
Postal Address: Street or PO Box No:		
Town/Suburb:	Postal Code:	
Country / State:		
Telephone No:	Mobile No:	Email:
I give/do not give permission for my above details to be printed in the program:		
Any special dietary requirements:		
Any health condition we should be aware of:		

TRANSPORT

Transport is available from Cairns to Chillagoe and return at \$40 each way.

I do require transport: Date:	PAYMENT DUE \$
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Transport will be available at Chillagoe for trips to caves in Chillagoe area \$5 – (*pay at bus*)

All venues for conference are within walking distance, or if transport is needed, it is free.

PAPERS

Are you presenting a paper/workshop at the Conference? Yes/No
If Yes, the Subject is:
How long do you require to present your paper? Mins:

There will be a question time after your presentation.

If you are presenting a paper, please send an abstract in digital form by 1st March, 2011 and the final paper in digital form by 17th April, 2011. The abstract will be printed in the programme which each delegate will receive at the beginning of the conference. Texts of all papers and a video of the Conference proceedings will be included in a DVD given to each delegate after the conference.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Photos can be brought to the conference for this competition, an entry fee of \$10 applies to each entry.

The competition is divided into 3 Categories, Postcard, A4 and Poster.

Prizes will be donated by Adventure Equipment Cairns

Do you wish to enter photo/s in the Photo Competition? If Yes, How many? PAYMENT DUE \$
Nominate how many in each Category: Postcard: A4: Poster:

REGISTRATION

Registration Cost: \$200 per person to be paid to *Chillagoe Caving Club Inc, 40 Vies Street, Brinsmead, Qld. 4870 with this form before 1st March 2011*. This includes, conference bag, all morning and afternoon teas, all lunches and Caveman's Dinner, Sunday BBQ, Conference Proceeding with DVD of Conference.

Registration Cost	PAYMENT DUE \$200
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ASF MEMBERSHIP

If you are not a member of ASF you must take out short term membership of Chillagoe Caving Club Inc. for the purposes of Cave Permits and Insurance. Cost \$32.

I have current ASF Membership Yes/No through my Club, Name:
I need to take out CCC Membership, Signature: PAYMENT DUE \$

SOUVENIR ITEMS FOR SALE AT CONFERENCE

We will have available Caps, Car Stickers and Polo Shirts all with the CHILLICON LOGO on them.

Please indicate if you would like to purchase any of these souvenirs and quantity required. Shirts have to be ordered immediately to ensure the correct size.

ITEM	PRICE	QTY REQ	TOTAL \$	
Caps with CHILLICON LOGO	\$9-00ea			
Car stickers with CHILLICON LOGO	\$4-00ea			
Polo shirts with CHILLICON LOGO	\$25-00ea			PAYMENT DUE \$

SIZES FOR POLO SHIRT ORDER		
	MENS/WOMENS	SIZE
SHIRT 1		
SHIRT 2		
SHIRT 3		
SHIRT 4		

SCENIC FLIGHTS

Scenic Flights in a small plane will be available on a cost share basis. The cost being approx \$30 per person for a half hour flight and can be paid to the operator.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping Facilities are available at the Club grounds, supply all your own camping gear the cost is \$10 per person per night, there is also a large building available to camp in, where mattresses will be provided, you provide anything else you may require, the cost for this is \$15 per person per night.

	No People	Nights	Cost	
I require to Camp at the Club Grounds				
I require to Camp in the Club Building				PAYMENT DUE \$

MEALS

If you are camping at the Club premises, meals are available at: Breakfast \$12, Lunch \$12, Dinner \$16.

I will require the following meals: (Please fill in which meals that you require)

MEALS	COST	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	S
BREAKFAST	\$12									
LUNCH	\$12			N/A (PROVIDED IN COST)						
DINNER	\$16		N/A			N/A				

Total Cost of Meals Required:	PAYMENT DUE \$
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TOTAL PAYMENT DUE (TOTAL OF ALL BOXES)	PAYMENT DUE \$
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Payments may be made by cheque, bank transfer or internet transfer to:

Chillagoe Caving Club Inc.

Account: BSB 064804 A/C No: 00912281

Where payment is made by transfer, to enable us to recognize your payment we require the date paid and Transfer Reference.

Please use your Surname as Reference.

Date Paid:

Reference:

OTHER ACCOMMODATION

Other accommodation is available at:

Chillagoe Cabins
 Chillagoe Tourist Village
 Chillagoe Guesthouse
 Chillagoe Eco Lodge
 Post Office Hotel
 Black Cockatoo Motel