

---

## Wet Wellington wanderings

---

June 9-11 2018

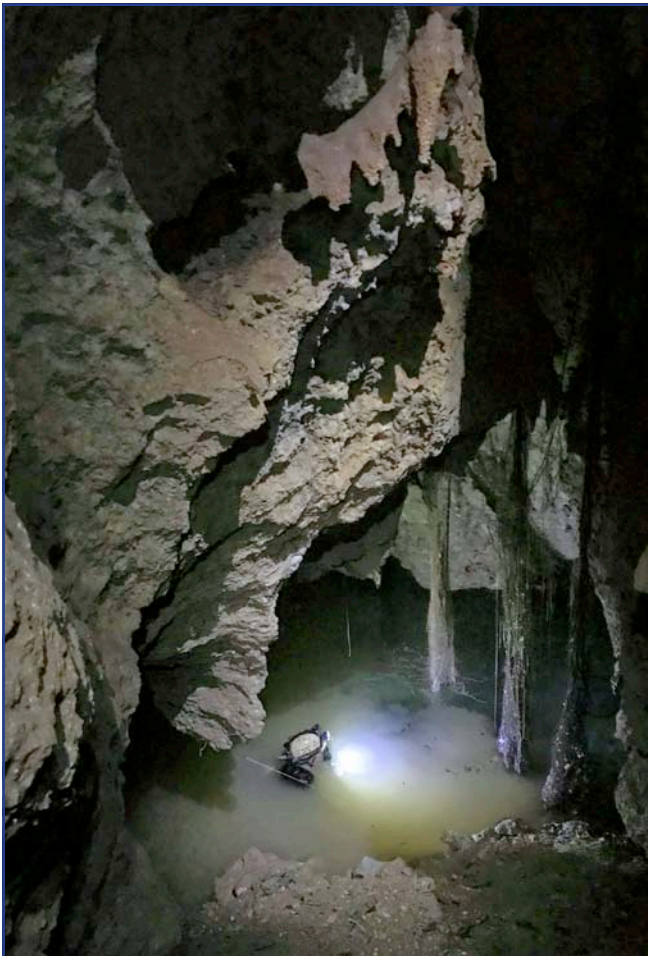
Charmaine Pang

Attendees: Ian Cooper, Phil Maynard, Rod O'Brien, Rowena Larkins, Charmaine Pang, Dylan

The day before, everyone except Rod drove up to Ian's house in Orange for a cozy sleepover by the fireplace.

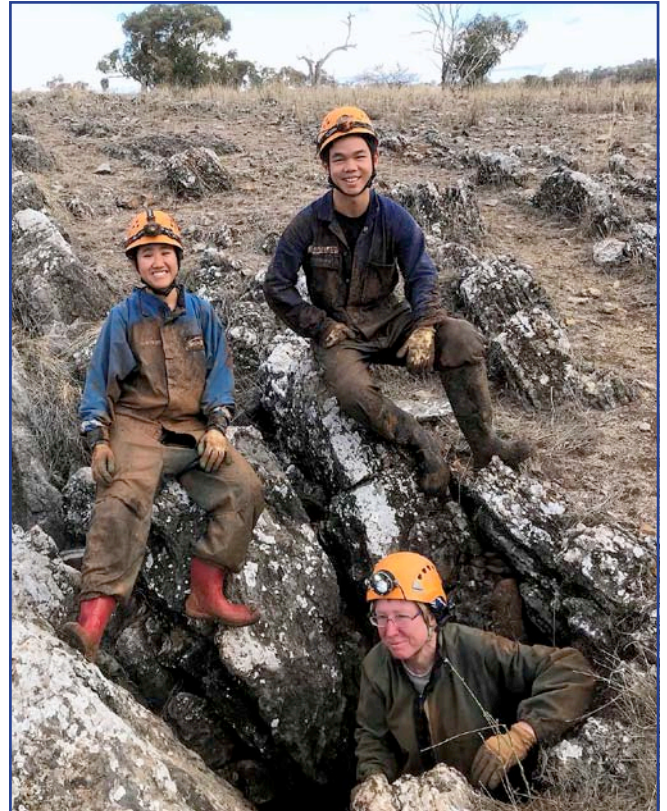
On the first day, the sky was crying all day. We dropped by farmer's market for some fresh bread, yummy wine and bacon & egg rolls for breakfast. Happy and satisfied, we made our way to Wellington campsite, where we found a Rod and checked into room 6. Hurray for hot showers and electricity!

First on the order of caves were those nearest to the campsite. We climbed down Anticline cave to find water levels lower than normal. We skipped over to Gaden and inspected the CO<sub>2</sub> pit. Charmaine and Dylan had their first whiff of 8000 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> levels and developed a new sense of awareness to toxicity.



*Rod diving in BS40*

*Photo Charmaine Pang*



*Dylan, Charmaine and Rowena, entrance to Columbine cave*

*Photo Rod Obrien*

Next, on the way to visit Triplett cave, we made friends with the resident goat who was cold, wet and bleating for attention. There was some exploration at Triplett cave, but no progress was made. Just before lunch, the group dropped by Gas Pipe cave.

The second half of the day was time for Phosphate Mine and Cathedral. In Phosphate, we had a brief walk through history (and chemistry). 30 minutes of digging was attempted in Cathedral, but the floor was still too tight at the end. We emerged at 6pm and it was time for Rugby Internationals on TV (and some studying).

Exploration day at Baker's Swamp! Driving out onto farmer Alan's land, we rigged up and got ready to descend BS40. Rowena decided to avoid the darkness because of her knee and elbow injuries, so she took a walk in the sun. A survey was made from the entrance to the lake. Rod, Ian and Phil helped to get the diving gear down, while Charmaine and Dylan

