



## B8.CC

### Cliefden Caves—a cave system threatened with flooding.

#### New South Wales



Photo: Gary Whitby

With over 60 recorded caves, all on private property, Cliefden Caves is one of the most cavernous limestone areas in New South Wales.

The caves are extremely well decorated and contain rare blue stalactites. Cliefden Caves have been ranked among the 70 most significant fossil sites in Australia.

A proposed dam on the Belubula River would flood most of the known caves, which currently have no statutory protection. This is a real threat and there is currently a prominent conservation campaign to Save Cliefden Caves.

#### Summary:

Starting place, date and time.	End place, date and approximate time.	Number of participants.	Sleeping bags required.	Camping gear (tents) required.	Included meals.	SRT required.	Cost A\$ (Incl. GST)
Central railway station, Sydney 14 July at 6.45 a.m. for 7.18 a.m. train to Bathurst.	Central railway station Sydney 17 July 8.44 p.m.	Min: 4 Max: 8	Yes	No	All meals included.	No	\$250



Photo: Garry K Smith

**Detail:**

Name of excursion.	B8.CC Cliefden Caves—a system under threat from flooding.
Contacts.	Denis Marsh <a href="mailto:denis.marsh@hotmail.com">denis.marsh@hotmail.com</a> Glen Griffith <a href="mailto:ggriffith2798@yahoo.co.uk">ggriffith2798@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Overview of excursion.	All horizontal caves with possible option for a vertical. Some squeezing and mud.
Starting place, date and time.	Meet Central Railway Station 6.45 a.m. Friday 14 July for 7.18 a.m. train to Bathurst. Change at Bathurst to coach and arrive Mandurama at 12.01 p.m. Private cars will transfer the group to Cliefden Caves. Arrive at accommodation hut 12.30 p.m.
Finishing place, date and time.	Depart Cliefden Caves Monday 17 July 3.20 p.m. Arrive Central Railway Station at 8.44 p.m. <b>Alternative option of travel to Canberra:</b> Depart Cliefden Caves 17 July 9.45 a.m. Arrive Canberra (West Row, Civic) 5.22 p.m. It may be possible to arrange transport to other pre-congress excursion venues by special request, but there may be an additional costs.
Min and max no of participants.	Minimum: 4 People Maximum: 8 People
Cost of excursion and what is included.	A\$250 per person. Includes all transport costs from Sydney (Central Station) to caves and return to either Sydney or Canberra. Includes all accommodation and meals.

Transport.	Train and bus services to and from Cliefden Caves. Transport in private vehicles during field excursion.								
Accommodation type.	Very basic hut accommodation used by cavers on private property with shared, dormitory-style rooms and shared bathroom and kitchen facilities.								
Bedding requirements.	Own sleeping bag, pillow and towel required. Hire of pillow/s optional extra.								
What meals are included?	Breakfast: cereals and toast. Lunch: sandwiches (bread and fillings supplied to make own preference). Dinner. Special dietary needs by prior arrangement. Alcoholic beverages can be arranged at participant's own expense.								
Arrangements for meals not covered and anticipated costs.	Please bring your own snack food requirements.								
Is SRT required?	No.								
Clothing requirements.	Basic caving gear: boots, helmet, light and cotton overalls. Otherwise clothes to suit winter temperatures.								
Average weather details for July (Orange)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Min temp</th> <th>Max temp</th> <th>Rainfall</th> <th>Daylight hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0.5° C</td> <td>9.7° C</td> <td>79 mm</td> <td>10.5 hrs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Min temp	Max temp	Rainfall	Daylight hours	0.5° C	9.7° C	79 mm	10.5 hrs
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Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.	Rural area with mobile phone reception available in most of area. Medical, personal supplies and money access 30 kilometres away. All caving equipment must be clean and disinfected.								



Photo: Andrew Baker