



Spinifex Cave

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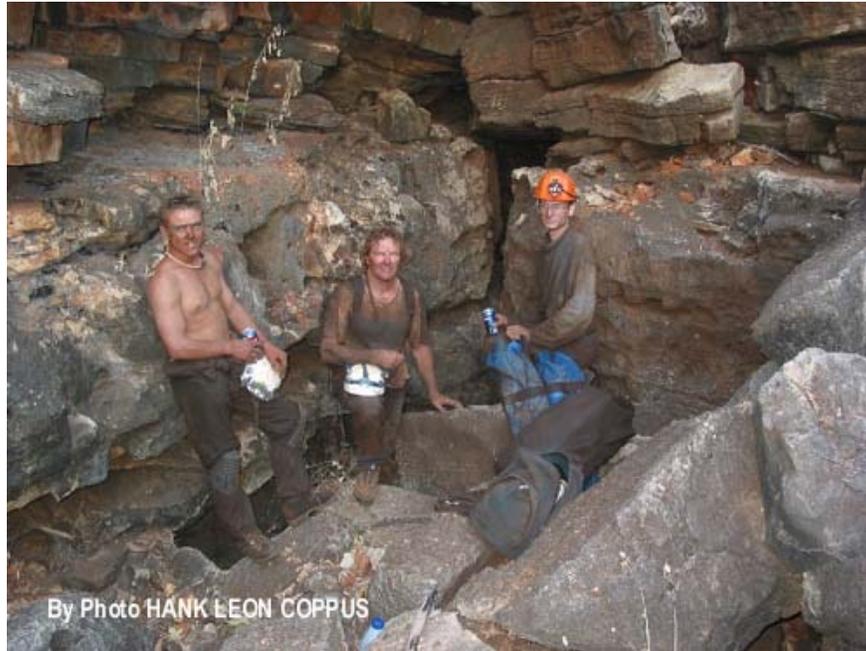
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By Photo HANK LEON COPPUS



Photo by HANK LEON COPPUS

(Description based on 2002 visit by Hank Coppus, Paul Boler & Paul Hosie)

From a wide but shallow doline entrance in the Camooweal Caves National Park it is a long way down to the water ! After a narrow squeeze and climb down several fissure shaped pitches, a rope or wire ladder is rigged to get down the last short pitch. The total is about 47m. The water is about 80m below the surface so it's still a fair way down with dive gear. At the bottom of the entrance fissure, the cave opens into a long, wide chamber with tree roots hanging from the roof.

After a crawl through 100m or so

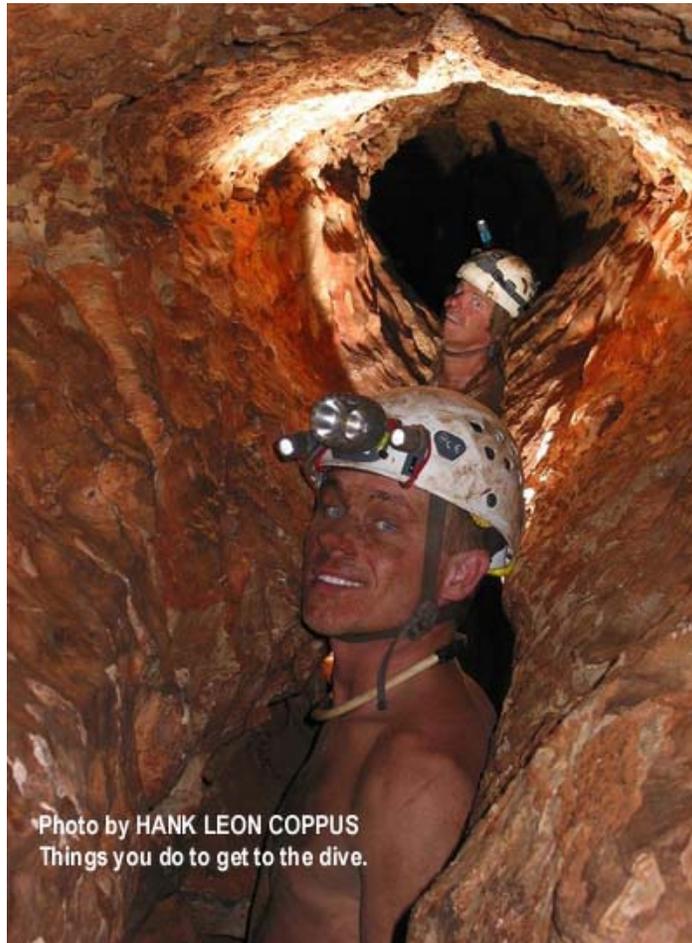


Photo by HANK LEON COPPUS
Things you do to get to the dive.



Hank Coppus

of rock tunnels we emerge into the massive trunk passage (15m²) which leads off into the distance to the NE and terminates in an undived sump, but that is several hundred metres away. We know that the CO₂ down this passage, combined with a 12m vertical pitch just above the water put it out of reach for this trip. Instead, we head across the chamber and crawl through a low wide tunnel to emerge into another massive trunk passage which heads to the NW. It is very hot and humid in here and we notice a gradual increase in the effects of CO₂. The passage remains large but narrows and becomes a massive fissure, the floor falling steeply towards the terminal pool of deep, clear water.

Gearing up is stressful, the heart is racing and sweat simply pours out. We have been drinking heaps of water and we continue to do so. The water in the pool is beautiful to drink, but feels only marginally cooler than the air above. Breathing on scuba clears the CO₂ effects. The water is clear and the ledges of the fissure below are perfectly visible until silt falling from above avalanches down and everything becomes a brown haze. It is 30m deep in the middle of the lake and the fissure widens into the shape of a large bell room below 15m. Continuing to the NW in the continuing direction of the main passage, the fissure become narrower and the bottom drops down and pinches out at 40m. There are no underwater

tunnels
leading from
the terminal
pool and no
line was left
there.

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Spinifex Cave

Additional Information:

Please review the information for this cave here at www.trimixdivers.com when you return from your trip and help improve the quality of the data by sending in your corrections.

For any additional help or advice on this cave diving site or any other, please email trimixdivers and we will put you in contact with someone who has dived the site recently.

If you have any corrections or would like to suggest alterations to the information given here, please email trimixdivers and you will be credited with any additions made.

Disclaimer

The information presented here has been provided by a range of people 'In Best Faith'. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, no guarantee is given nor responsibility taken for any error or omission by Trimix Divers. Cavers and divers using this information do so at their OWN RISK.

Site Access:	Permission to camp on-site and permits to enter the cave are required from the landowner. The Camooweal Police and local caver Hank Coppus hlcopp@bigpond.com should be contacted prior to and after your visit as a matter of safety and courtesy. They can also be of invaluable local area assistance.
Cave Maps:	Underwater map not available. This cave has yet to be dived. Dry cave map available on request from www.trimixdivers.com Paul Boler will be happy to help with up to date site information for this cave.
Time to Visit:	Around August (dry season) to avoid heat and tropical rain
Suggested Rigging:	Suggested Rigging 1x50m,3x20m,3x10m ropes plus tapes Full abseiling and ascending gear Associated rigging for gear hauling
Cave Conservation:	Cave Conservation Please adhere to the ASF Minimal Impact Caving Code (1995) to protect this cave and it's inhabitants
Foul Air:	Yes Very high
Turn Around Time:	Unknown
Water Temperature:	22c
Fixed Line:	None
Gear Configuration:	Unknown

Dive Profile:	unknown
Other Comments:	