

Cave –Newsletter 2. January 2008

Yesterday we had a great meeting. The host family Dr. Schwarz and their 2 daughters, together with Hannah from Australia, me (Katrin), my husband Heinz, 2 friends from Berlin and Kellie from Canada West and Lian Jie from China went to the “KoppenBrüller Cave” to the glazier for a guided tour with torches in the evening...ohhh this was nice. This old cave is really interesting and we all enjoyed a 1,5 hour tour there.



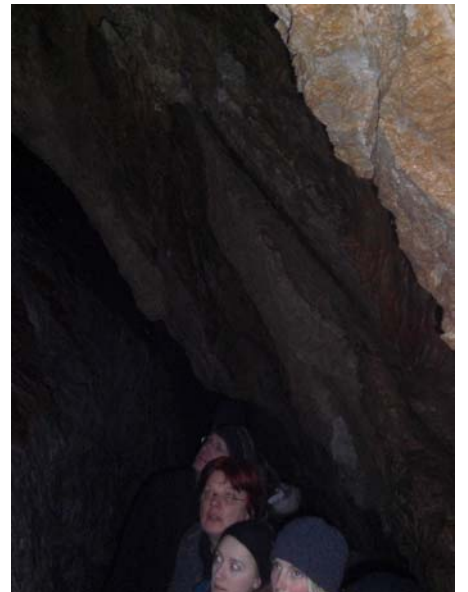
Poor Kellie had only cotton shoes on...





What a romantic evening.....

They even had a Didgeridoo player, so Hannah from Australia was very happy to meet this Austrian musician.





What a nice group of young people.



Katrin and Heinz

Host dad Wolfgang made pictures too



After we went to a wonderful Pizza at a Pizzeria from a former host family in Bad Ischl to warm up again



History

- 1776 the deserter FRANZ ENGL used this cave as hideout.
1820 mentioned in an early tourist guidebook about the Salzkammergut as "*berühmte Schauhöhle*" (famous show cave).
19th century FRIEDRICH SIMONY did some geological research in this cave.
1910 development of the cave, paths and begin of regular guided tours.
2007 start of renovation of all three caves by the Kunstuniversität Linz, Institut für Raum- und Designstrategie.
MAY-2008 renovation completed.

Description

The **Koppenbrüllerhöhle** lies between **Sarstein** and **Koppengebirge**, the northern foothills of the **Dachsteinplateau**. The cave entrance opens in the gorge of the **Traun** river. Depending on the weather a large karst source arises either from the cave portal or in the bed of the brook below. The cave river turns into a roaring stream when the snow melts, in spring or after heavy rains have fallen.

In the times of the Austro Hungarian Empire, during the reign of Empress MARIA THERESIA, a deserter from the Austrian army named FRANZ ENGL used this cave as hideout. He could see people entering the cave without being seen himself by simply looking at the reflection of the entrance in the water. Of course, this phenomenon can still be observed today! His dear wife JOSEFA, called HOFER SEF, brought him food, until eventually got very sick. He cared for her, but finally she died. So he asked the priest to come to the cave and give her the sacrament. The priest was so moved by this tragedy, he asked for amnesty for FRANZ ENGL which was given.

This is how the cave got its name: **Brüller** comes from the German word brüllen (shout, roar), and the spring is roaring at high water. The other part, **Koppen** is derived from the mountain chain it is located at, the **Koppengebirge** (Koppen mountains). So you could translate the name as the *roaring cave at the Koppen mountains*. However, the name is rather old and even a local would need some time to take it apart this way.

A small artificial tunnel allows the visit independent of water level. The visitor sees a number of huge halls and tunnels. The **Hannakluft**, the last hall of the tour, has a different character. At this location the subterranean brook makes a dull roar.

The cave was explored rather early, during the 19th century. The famous naturalist Dr. FRIEDRICH SIMONY, who explored primarily the Dachstein area, made scientific studies in the cave. He wrote letters to famous In the cave the blind cave beetle *Arctaphaenops angulipennis Meixner* was found for the first time, so it became type locale for this troglobiont.

Here are some nice pictures...amazing:

Have a look as well to our home page: www.sts-highschool.at