

Area: The caving area is situated some 500km north of Perth. It is easily reached by leaving Perth via Midland and travelling north on the Brand Hwy. The main camping area will be on Lake Arramall. This dry salt lake is approximately 45km north of Eneabba on the Brand Hwy. After passing a sign on the right hand side of the road (travelling north) which reads "Emergency Radio", continue to the next farm on the right which has a sign (just off the road) reading "Arramall". Turn left through the gate (please leave all gates as you find them) and then follow the yellow flagging tape to the campsite, which will be on the opposite side of the salt lake.

Facilities: The campsite has only one facility, and that is shade trees. Tents are unlikely to be needed as it will be hot. Please bring your own water.

N.B. There is a total fire ban - choofas and gas stoves may be used. This has been emphasised by the land owner, Mr Bastian. The nearest shopping areas are at Dongara - 40km north, or Eneabba 45km south. The back beach at Dongara is good value.

The Caves: The main caving will be concentrated at Lake Arramall; mapping in River Cave. However, other caves will be visited. A string of caves behind River Cave is to be explored. The potential for new caves here is enormous. Other areas to be visited are the Stockyard Gully area (may require 4WD) and also the Weelawadji area (must have 4WD). Both of these areas have the potential for finding new caves.

Main Project: The major project on this trip will be the mapping of River Cave, where a new extension is still going and will hopefully take the length of the cave to 2 km or greater. Mapping will begin on Saturday, 6th January, to ASF grade 5-5. All surveyors and helpers welcome.

Rauleigh Webb

Access: The area we will be visiting is largely in the Nambung National Park, which is just south of Cervantes about 250 km north of Perth. To get there head north up Great Northern Hwy but turn left at Muchea, and then follow the road until you see the signs. This road is bitumen all the way. The alternate road is directly up the coast through Lancelin. This is a very interesting trip but is rocky and can be a bit rough on low clearance vehicles. The roads to the caves and the Pinnacles are now 2WD but be careful of the rocks.

Facilities: Absolutely none at the campsite. Shopping at Cervantes is pretty limited so bring food if you can. Petrol and water are available. Jurien Bay (30km north) has much better shopping. The campsite will be on the beach just about.

Restrictions: Absolutely completely utterly NO fires away from the campsite (and none there if there is a total fire ban). No camping except at the campsite.

The vegetation and soils in this area are very fragile and driving off existing roads is absolutely prohibited.

Remember that you are in a National Park and behave accordingly.

The Caves: For many years Nambung was thought to be a small but interesting area largely caved out. However, two recent trips found more new caves than the known area total. Many of these caves are rugged enough to be good sport.

In general the Nambung caves are small and horizontal but often with highly unusual and colourful decoration. Some have been mined for guano, but the bats have mostly been wiped out as a result.

The surface karst of the area is famous, largely because of the Pinnacles. The hydrology and surface are probably the most complex in W.A. The hydrology is poorly understood but recent finds have produced some answers (and they also made the system even more complicated). Studies of the hydrology are severely limited by the large but transient water flows, and the complex relationship of the surface and underground.

Other Trips: Trips will be run to Jurien Bay and Jingemba from Nambung.

WACCON field trips

Jurien Bay

Jurien Bay is about 350km north of Perth. The caves are in a national park controlled by the Nambung Rangers.

The track to the caves is very sandy and may degenerate to a 4WD very quickly after a few 2WD vehicles use it. Vehicles must keep strictly to the existing track at all times.

There is no campsite at Jurien and all trips will be run from the Nambung camp.

Note that the coast road marked on maps from Cervantes to Jurien may be 4WD but is well worth the trip.

The fire hazard in this area is likely to be extreme so don't light a fire under any circumstances. Be kind to the national park.

The Caves: There are about 8 known caves at Jurien, including one of the few breeding bat colonies, a cave reputed to be 300' deep (reliable source) and some other very nice caves. Guano mining has taken place in one.

Various activities are planned and will be organised from Nambung some time in the first week after WACCON. The bat colony is not open to inspection.

In particular two rarely visited caves are going to be found (including the 300' one) and there is a very interesting cave that needs surveying and looking at by someone interested in geomorph. (How come it is a stream passage on a hill with what looks like massive phreatically dissolved rocks near the roof?)

Ray Hart

The "South Coast" is a large area of coastal limestone extending from Augusta, east to an indefinite point. There are relatively few caves but some of these are extremely unusual. In addition the area presents some very unusual and interesting karst scenery. Much of the area is scenically interesting quite apart from the limestone. It also includes the massive granite outcrops around Albany. Along the sea edge small caves may be formed by spaces between the granite segments. The most spectacular granite cave is on Mt Chudalup (may or may not be a sea cave - expert opinions required).

There is another highly unusual cave at Cape Beaufort - ever seen a cave with basalt floor and walls and a limestone roof? What's more the basalt is in massive pentagonal/hexagonal crystals. The other area well worth a visit is Windy Harbour. There is one nice cave, some amazing limestone cliffs and a lot of very funny structures and rocks in amongst the standard coastal limestone. Some expert opinions could have a field day here.

Mt Chudalup is readily accessible because it is a tourist lookout and Windy Harbour itself is on a road but to see all the features would involve several hours interesting walking. Cape Beaufort is probably only accessible to 4WD due to sand but 2WD and a bit of pushing might do it. It is not too far to walk anyway. There are other unique areas on the south coast but many are accessible only by walking or possibly 4WD.

Trips: All trips to the South Coast will be organised from Boranup or at WACCON if they are to run directly after the conference. A two day trip to this area would be ideal and very interesting. Camping in this area is no problem except be very careful about fires and fire bans.

Access: This entire area will be served by one campsite, at Boranup in State Forest. This site is leased by WASG from the Forests Dept. The camp is 300km from Perth and readily accessible from a main road. The camp is off Caves Rd, 24km from Margaret River. The turn-off is signposted on Bussell Hwy at approximately the 190.5 mile peg (just past the water tower on the right just after a small bridge), approximately 12km south of Witchcliffe. Turn right into a gravel road, "Vlam Rd". At the first junction on Vlam Rd turn left into Caves Rd (a major gravel road). The hut is signposted, about 1 km south along Caves Rd.

Facilities: None at the campsite. This means no water, no toilets, no nothing. The nearest petrol and a small shop is at Karridale, 7 km away. There are two towns, Augusta and Margaret River, with all facilities about 24km south and north respectively. Water must come from these towns, not from Karridale. There are several caravan parks in the area but casual showers are not always available (ask). The Boranup campsite is 5 km from Boranup Beach which is an excellent swimming beach.

Restrictions: Absolutely no camping or fires in the State Forest or national parks except at the campsite. Vehicles must keep strictly to existing made roads and off tracks. The fire hazard is extreme and a total fire ban may be applicable at any time. These are announced on the radio and must be obeyed. A total fire ban means total.

Above All remember that you are in State Forest or national parks most of the time and behave accordingly.

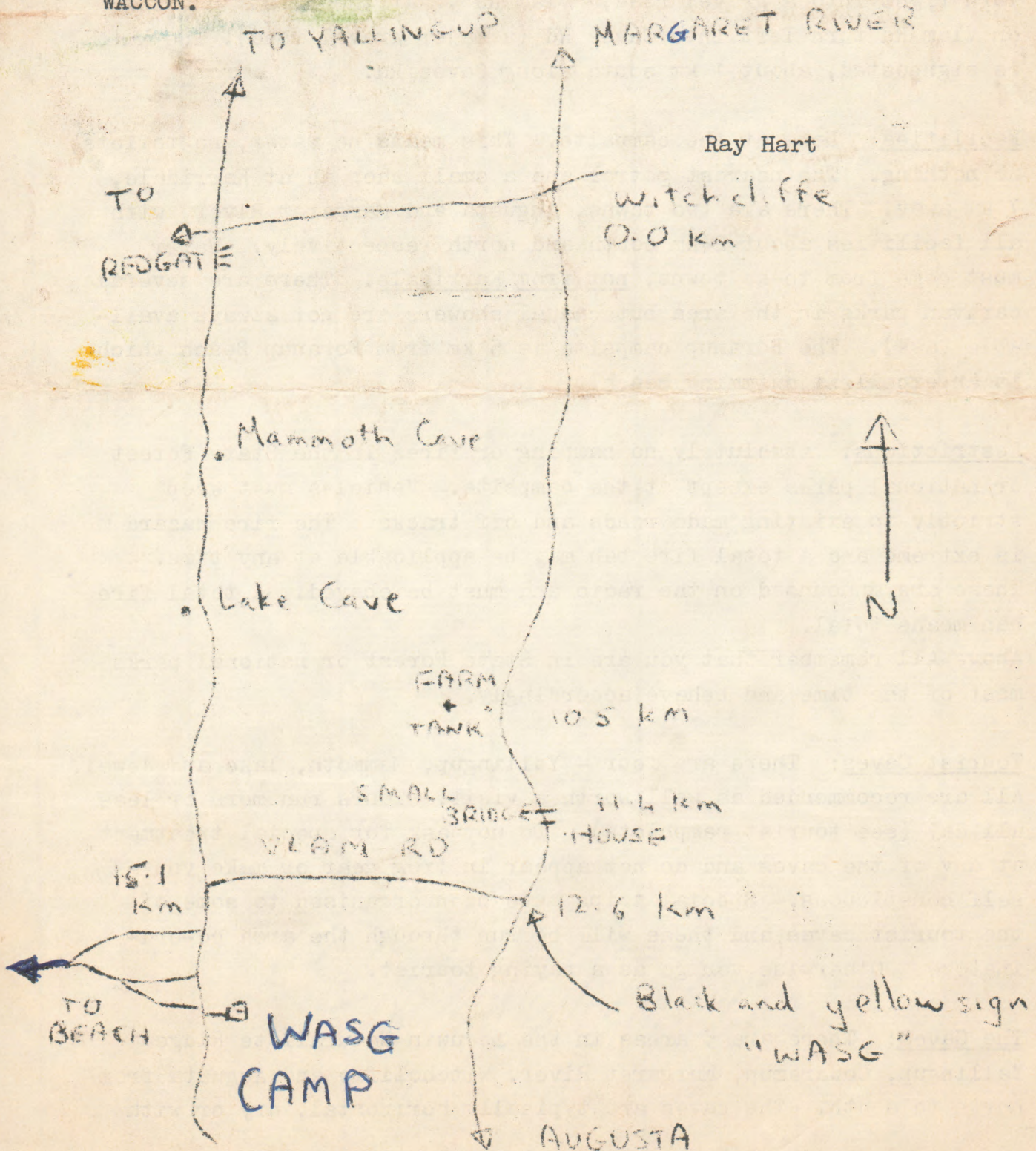
Tourist Caves: There are four - Yallingup, Mammoth, lake and Jewel. All are recommended as well worth a visit. Tours run more or less all day (see tourist pamphlets). Do not ask for special treatment at any of the caves and do not appear in trog gear or make yourself conspicuous. Special trips have been organised to some of the tourist caves and these will be run through the area co-ordinators. Otherwise you go as a paying tourist.

The Caves: There are 5 areas in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge-Yallingup, Cowaramup, Margaret River, Witchcliffe and Augusta from north to south. The caves are typically horizontal, dry or with

Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge (cont'd)

simple stream passages, well decorated and are comparatively easy caving. Many are highly photogenic. There are no pitches inside caves but entrance pitches are quite common. The longest pitch is less than 30m but most are under 15m.

Trips: All trips will be organised by the area co-ordinator at the Boranup campsite. This area will be open for two weeks after WACCON.



Recommended and Suggested Things to do,
Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.

1. Boranup Drive Lookout. A good overall view of the ridge structure (note the caving pun), including Deepdene Gorge and the Blackwood Valley.
2. Boranup Drive. Scenic drive through the Boranup State Forest.
3. Cosy Corner. Walk along the beach south. Note the beach limestone with aeolian calcarenite on top, blow holes, sea caves and the underlying rock on the point.
4. Redgate Beach. Nice place, good swimming.
5. Boranup Beach. Good swimming. Walk along to the north and see the structure of the cliffs.
6. Cape Leeuwin. Well worth a visit. All that water comes out of the hill.
7. Ellenbrook (National Park). Have a look at Meekadorabee (but keep off the moss - it can't take being trampled). Drive/walk down to the beach. Very pleasant and interesting place.
8. Cape Freycinet. Nice place. Some interesting gours and things out in the open from resurgences facing the sea.
9. Moses Rocks. Quininup Lake Cave is nearby. Very nice place. Interesting lake perched in sand.
10. Canal Rocks. Very spectacular in rough weather (beware). Note the limestone behind, with various resurgences. The burnt out area on the hill is well worth a search for new caves.
11. Cape Naturaliste. Very spectacular.
12. Bunker Bay. Spectacular place. Big sea caves around the corner. Good swimming.
13. Yallingup Gorge. Well worth a visit.
14. Search for the lost Leeuwin Cave.
15. Follow the northern stream from Meekadorabee upstream.
16. Search the burnt out area south of Canal Rocks.
17. Search behind Quininup Lake Cave.
18. Explore the crack in Golgotha Cliffs, and survey.
19. Search for the inflows of Golgotha-Giants area.
20. Find all the inflows of Calgardup.
21. WI 102 dig.
22. Complete the downstream exploration of Connelly's.
23. Resurvey Mordang Dar.
24. Resurvey Golgotha.
25. Resurvey Kudjal Yolgah.
26. Theodolite survey of Mammoth Cave.

27. Resurvey Terry Cave.
28. Survey Conference Cave.
29. Survey Boya Bouka.
30. Survey Rain Cave/Porter Cave.
31. Survey cave (WI 129) just off Bob's Hollow track.
32. Position entrances upstream of Lake Cave.
33. Map Witchcliffe Cave.
34. Remap Blackboy Hollow.
35. Remap Benup Cave.
36. Find and explore Dallip Springs caves, especially Foxhole Cave.
37. Find caves on Terry's map around Milligans area.
38. Find and document Kilcarnup Cave.
39. Find and document Cowaramup Cave.
40. Map CO 2, CO 3 and CO 5.
41. Find and map YA 12, YA 29 and YA 28.
42. Find and document Karri Hill Cave.
43. Find and explore Wardenup Hill Cave.
44. Document Cape Naturaliste sea caves.

WACCON field trips

Coorow

The "Moora" caves are an unusual group in chert primarily. The main caves are Coorow Cave and Bishop's Hole in dolomitic limestone and Jingemia in chert.

These are all highly unusual caves.

A trip to Jingemia is planned to run from Nambung some time in the first week after WACCON. This will be a quick day trip as it is not far inland from Nambung. This trip is highly recommended for anyone interested in unusual caves. I am not even sure whether it is karst or pseudo-karst.

References on this area can be obtained from the WASG library. No special gear is required to visit Jingemia.

East Moore

A rarely visited area of old coastal limestone. Caves fairly numerous and generally small. Probably includes some interesting features but no-one goes there so we don't know. No trips planned.

Lower West Coast

A heterogeneous grouping of odd caves between Yanchep and Bunbury. This includes the caves in and around Perth which will be covered by the "Violet Grove Speleo Trivia Tours Inc." and Rottnest (see separate sheet). The other major features are Avalon Cave near Pinjarra (a single unusual and very nice cave in coastal limestone) and the Mandurah caves (south of Mandurah). The Mandurah caves are mostly small and scruffy but the area is worth a look. Trips indefinite. If you want it, ask for it.

Ray Hart

WACCON field trips

Yanchep

Yanchep is a caving area 51km north of Perth and largely included in the Yanchep National Park. It is a popular picnic spot. Drive north along Wanneroo Rd out of Perth (note that Wanneroo Rd starts as Charles St just north of the city centre). Continue past Wanneroo until you see the national park signs. There is an entry fee of \$1 per vehicle.

There is a kiosk, hotel, one or two small tourist caves and lots of picnic grounds. It will be packed out with people in January.

Restrictions: You must inform the Rangers Office that you are going caving and also check out afterwards. The trip leader should have an ASF card. You must not make yourself conspicuous in trog gear, and be particularly careful around the tourist caves. There is no camping in the national park.

The Caves: There are probably several hundred caves at Yanchep, most of them small and poorly known to speleors. They are typically shallow, occasionally wet and often interesting. Vertical gear is not required. This is a good area if you want to find a new cave - there are lots of them. Many caves are quite photogenic.

Other Attractions: A boat ride on the lake (hire the oars at the Rangers Office). This is highly recommended.

Trips: Day trips are planned for just after the conference and other times if you want it. Excellent area to fill the odd day.

Ray Hart

Rottnest is a holiday island 15km off shore. It is overcrowded, oversexed and in a permanent stupor of beer and blazing sunshine, which must be why everyone goes there. It is also thickly inhabited by quokkas (savage, pint-sized little wallabies which live on unwary tourists, pies, coke and potato chips).

The most important bit of Rottnest is the rock - it is all limestone. There was one cave but it got filled in. Not to worry, there are now some nice speleo features. The most interesting ones are the tunnels under the big guns. The island also provides some excellent examples of coastal limestone cut in sections.

Recommended procedure:

1. Progress down to the ferry terminal (south side of the river, between the two traffic bridges at Fremantle).
2. Buy a ticket and brutalise your way through the crowd onto the boat.
3. Get off the boat as soon as it lands and sprint over to the bicycle hire place (behind the hotel, the big yellow place on the left). You will still be 451st in the queue but it is better than being 3451st.
4. Ride out to the guns lookout (consult tourist map) and then consult the attached map of the tunnels. Carefully avoid the 8 bus loads of tourists wondering what your up to. Gear needed: 1 an 2, light only; 3, light and ladder.
5. Continue the big ride out to the West End. Don't ride off the end, next landfall is Madagascar. (By this stage you should be hot, exhausted and sun-burned.) Now turn around and have a good look at the limestone in Fish Hook Bay. That's the genuine stuff. Have a walk around Cape Vlaming to get a good idea.
6. Now try and ride back in time to catch the ferry. This time notice the nice wave cut notches around the salt-lakes. Stop somewhere to buy off the quokkas with cheezels and a Mars Bar.

If you haven't died from heatstroke, various excesses or exhaustion, or been eaten by a quokka, you will now have a pretty good idea of what Rottnest is all about.

Railway remains

Nº3
hole in top

in here
Nº1

Nº2
hole in
floor
inside

Guns Lookout

→ West End

← Settlement

Follow dotted line!

