



12th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL  
FEDERATION - 1978/79

VENUE: W.A. Secondary Teachers' College,  
Corner Hampden Road and Stirling Hwy,  
NEDLANDS.

P.O. BOX 151,  
NEDLANDS,  
W.A., 6009.

DATES: 1-4 January 1979

SESSIONS: Six Conference sessions are programmed between lunchtime on Monday 1 January and the afternoon of Thursday 4 January. They are to take place in the main lecture theatre of the W.A.S.T.C. Speleosports are scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday 3 Jan.

Projection facilities will be available for 16mm movies, 35mm slides and overhead projection transparencies. If other equipment is required, please contact Ken Lance as soon as possible.

Topics include conservation, management, biology, geology, geomorphology, hydrology, anthropology, archaeology, palaeontology, photography, mapping, expedition reports, techniques, or any other cave-related subject.

PAPERS: Twenty minutes will be allowed for presentation followed by a discussion time of ten minutes. Abstracts will be printed before the Conference and handed to participants upon registration. If you wish to deliver a paper, please:

- submit the title and your name to the WACCON Organising Committee now. This will enable session timetables to be finalised;
- submit an abstract of no more than 200 words as soon as possible before 31 October 1978;
- bring the completed paper to the Proceedings Organising Committee at the Conference (contact Jim Campbell).

COSTS:

- Accommodation at Currie Hall (a university residential college) - \$15 per day.
- This covers a bed and three meals a day, except for the Conference Dinner which is \$12 per head excluding drinks. A bar will be on site.
- Proceedings: pre-publication - \$10.
- Conference registration fee - \$12 if paid before 17 Nov.  
- \$14 if paid after 17 Nov.

REGISTRATION: If you wish to attend WACCON and/or present a paper, please complete the form below and return it to the Organising Committee, WACCON, P.O. Box 151, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

REGISTRATION FORM: Please make all cheques payable to WACCON and NOT NEGOTIABLE.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$12 if paid before 17 November 1978  
\$14 if paid after 17 November 1978

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration @ \$12/\$14 \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ College @ \$15/day/head \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Proceedings @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dinner @ \$12 per head \_\_\_\_\_

*What we have now is all there will ever be* — CONSERVE AUSTRALIA'S CAVES

WACCON Information, continued.

CROSSING THE NULLARBOR

Information from Jim Cundy.

The name Nullarbor strictly refers to the treeless plain. However for the purpose of cavers (and many others) this term has loosely spread to cover the area south of the treeless plain from Ceduna to Norseman. It is in this context that I shall use it here.

FACILITIES: For those of you who have never seen the Nullarbor, you will be surprised to see on a map that there are a lot of place names between Ceduna and Norseman. However, these are NOT towns. They are just "service stops". Each is an elaborate service station-shop-motel-hotel complex. These service stops offer food (take-aways and eat there but no supermarket), petrol (expensive), drinks (no water) and a pleasant rest stop. There are also fruit fly checkpoints at Norseman for west-bound traffic and at Ceduna for east-bound traffic.

VEHICLES: In previous years a large section of the Nullarbor has been unsealed and this commanded a great deal of preparation, as car after car was left out there, defeated by the harsh conditions. Now it's all sealed, but don't be complacent. It's still 1100 km of road with no water, spare parts or mechanics. Even if the brochures and authorities say they exist, just try to find them!

WATER AND FOOD: THERE IS NO WATER AVAILABLE, despite the "reliable" information you have. It is possible that some of the tanks may have water but even then it may be risky to drink. The last post for water is Ceduna. It's not the best, but at least it's available, while the people on the Nullarbor have very little sympathy for people who venture out there without water. If you work on two litres per person per day you should be able to get by, but take extra to be sure.

The same applies for food, although you won't starve. You can only buy cooked meals or snacks. It's not possible to buy supplies, i.e. no meat, no bread, no fruit or vegetables, not even a can of spaghetti!

CAMPING: The usual rules of camping apply, especially with regard to campfires and rubbish. Watch your campfires carefully as you will be in an extremely large area of bush in summer. Don't dump or bury your rubbish. Take it out! There are rubbish dumps at each of the service stops.

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REGISTRATION FORM, continued.

PAPERS: I am interested in presenting a paper. Yes/No.

(If yes, please attach details.)

FIELD TRIPS: I am interested in participating in field trips for more than two days. Yes/No

## WACCON Information, continued.

THE CAVES: The caves themselves are not terribly dangerous. However, the number of deep, large caves is small and each of these is quite delicate. This will be only too obvious when you see the more popular Weebubbie and Cocklebiddy Caves.

DOLINE EDGES: A word of warning about the dolines. They are unmarked, sharp and deep. In many cases the track leads straight to, or alongside the edge. Driving in is a very real danger. Many of these doline edges are also showing signs of wear due to close parking of cars, so please **keep your cars** at a respectable distance.

OWNERS: For the purpose of the pre- and post-Conference co-ordination, I will be keeping in close contact with the landowners. Consequently, it will only be necessary for you to write to me before December and I should be able to arrange all of the details for you.

POLICE: During December and January there will also be a supply of cave rescue equipment at the Eucla Police Station. You should notify the Eucla Police Station of your arrival and departure from the Nullarbor.

Cavers generally have a good reputation with the "locals" so please don't spoil it for others.

Above all, treat the country and the caves with some respect. As beautiful and passive as they seem, they pose a real threat to the unwary.

Jim Cundy (C.E.G.S.A.)

## WACCON FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will run immediately after WACCON for several weeks or until you all go home. This sheet contains various information and advice, and is meant to help you to plan for the field trips. Please read it carefully and bring it with you to WACCON. Note Nullarbor field trips above.

WEATHER: Western Australia is extremely hot and dry in January. It was 45°C on one day in January last year in Perth and it gets worse north and east. Water must be carried at all times and in all areas. Small towns or remote areas depending on tank water will not supply you with water. However, rain may occur, particularly in the south, and nights can be bitterly cold, particularly inland.

WALKING IN THE BUSH: Wear a hat and take some water! The sun is very hot and the air is very dry.

CAMPING: At present, all field trips will be run from camp sites. This means no buildings, so you must come self-contained, including water.

DISTANCES: All caving distances are less than 400 km from Perth except the Nullarbor. Almost all caves are easily accessible from vehicle tracks close by.

WACCON Information, continued.

FACILITIES: All camp sites will be within one hour of the nearest town with full shopping facilities and water (except the Nullarbor). Caravan parks etc., are numerous but are likely to be booked out except for casual use of showers.

VEHICLES: All camps will be readily accessible by 2WD. 4WD may be necessary or useful in parts of Eneabba, Jurien, Nambung and the south coast.

ACCESS TO CAVING AREAS: Most areas are on National Parks or State Forest and you enter with permission, so behave yourself and don't blow it.

- \* Never drive off existing tracks
- \* No fires
- \* Think
- \* Don't make yourself conspicuous

FIRES: The fire hazard in W.A. in January is extreme. Total fire bans may well be operative and in general assume there is a total fire ban unless the radio tells you otherwise. "Total" means absolutely no fires. If you cause a fire by accident, jump in and burn yourself to death (this is less painful than being caught by the local fire brigade).

CLOTHING: See weather above. Standard caving clothes are simply shorts and shirt under overalls. This is worn everywhere except in the wet. Even the overalls may be too warm in the hotter areas.

WET SUITS: There are two or three wet suit caves. Two are currently dry due to a drought but will probably be wet again by January. Wet suits are not essential unless you want to sit around. The water is a nippy 15°C.

THE CAVES: The caves of the south-west are typically dry, horizontal, easy and well decorated.

VERTICAL: There are no pitches inside caves in W.A., but entrance pitches are fairly common. Ladders and SRT are widely used. The longest pitch is less than 30 m and almost all are less than 15 m (i.e. one 15 m ladder and one rope is ideal). Artificial anchors are never used. Climbing is rarely used because there is little need for it and it is silly to climb on Coastal Limestone anyway (too soft).

LIGHTS: Carbides and electrics are widely used and equally suitable as first light sources. Electrics would be preferred. Carbide will be for sale at WACCON.

PHOTOGRAPHY: The caves are generally highly photogenic and accessible.

ETHICS: A.S.F. ethics apply without question in W.A., e.g. smoking in caves is unheard of, no digging without permission, etc.

BREAKING THE PRETTIES: The biggest hazard in West Australian caving is breaking the pretties. Don't break the pretties!



Repeat, DO NOT BREAK THE PRETTIES! This means taking it easy and being careful.

TRIP ORGANISATION: Each caving area will have a co-ordinator who will be available at WACCON with detailed information sheets and will work out the trip dates at the end of WACCON. There will then be a resident co-ordinator at each camp for those dates, who will run the show. Each trip will be led by a designated Trip Leader. The co-ordinators and Trip Leaders will have the authority, so if you want something, ask them, and also do what they tell you.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact the Field Trip Organiser, Ray Hart, WACCON, P.O. Box 151, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

### WACCON PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The photographic competition has been changed considerably for this Conference, with lots of divisions and lots of prizes to be won. Start planning your entries now and don't forget to bring them.

Top nature photographer, Michael Morcombe, will be choosing the best slide for the big prize.

There are three sections: colour slides, black and white prints, and colour prints. You may enter two photographs per category per section.

Categories are: 1. Cave entrances  
2. Chambers  
3. Scientific  
4. Pretties  
5. Action  
6. Humorous (colour slides only)

Prints must be approximately 25 cm by 20 cm and mounted.

#### Conditions of entry.

1. Entries must have been taken since CAVCONACT by the person entering them.
  2. Any photograph may be entered in only one category.
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### WACCON PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION - ANTICIPATED ENTRIES

	SLIDES	B & W PRINTS	COLOUR PRINTS
ENTRANCES			
CHAMBERS			
SCIENTIFIC			
PRETTIES			
ACTION			
HUMOUROUS			

WACCON Information, continued.

3. You must label entries with the category and your name.
4. You will be responsible for collecting your entries on Friday, 5 January 1979 at a time and place to be announced during the Conference.
5. Slides must be spotted on the bottom left hand corner when viewed upright to indicate correct positioning.
6. Any entry not meeting these conditions may not be accepted.

If you intend to enter the photographic competition, please fill in the table at the foot of this sheet (to help our organising).

Most important: The deadline for entries is 12 noon on 1 January 1979 (to give the judges enough time). Entries may be posted to the Organiser or handed in at the registration desk on Monday morning.

Posted entries and any enquiries to: Organiser, WACCON Photographic Competition, P.O. Box 151, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT

Please circulate VERY widely. This information is not listed on the enclosed registration forms.

Currie Hall will be available for accommodation from Sunday, Dec. 31

On arrival, participants must check in at the registration desk which will be open from Sunday afternoon until Monday noon.

Charges are calculated for each night in residence.

(non-resident)  
There is to be a New Year's Eve Barbeque for residents on Sunday night - casual tickets will be available.  
The Bar will be open.

The ASF Committee Meeting (1st. session ) is on Monday morning, Jan. 1.

The DINNER is on Thursday night, Jan. 4.

The ASF Committee Meeting (2nd. session) and Field Trip Organisation is on Friday morning (Jan.5) so that the Conference does not end until Friday lunchtime.

All caravan parks, etc. around Perth (will be heavily booked anyway) are located some distance from Currie Hall, average 20 Kms.

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WACCON Photographic Competition - anticipated entries, continued.

NAME: -----

ADDRESS: -----  
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