



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

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

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

VENUE: W.A. Secondary Teachers' College,
Corner Hampden Road and Stirling Highway,
NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

DATES: 1-5 January 1979.

- COSTS:
- a. Accommodation is at Currie Hall (a university residential college) at \$15 per day. This covers a bed and three meals a day (except for the Conference Dinner). Currie Hall will be available for accommodation from Sunday 31 December 1978. Charges are calculated for each night in residence. All caravan parks, etc. around Perth (which will be heavily booked anyway) are located some distance from Currie Hall (average - 20 km).
 - b. The Conference Dinner is \$12 per head excluding drinks. A bar will be on site. The Conference Dinner is on Thursday night, 4 January 1979.
 - c. Proceedings: pre-publication - \$10.
 - d. Conference registration fee - \$12 if paid before 17 November.
- \$14 if paid after 17 November.

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. Please make all cheques payable to WACCON and NOT NEGOTIABLE. On arrival, participants must check in at the registration desk which will be open from Sunday afternoon until Monday noon.

SESSIONS

New Year's Eve: There is to be a New Year's Eve barbecue for Currie Hall residents on Sunday night. Casual tickets will be available for non-residents. The bar will be open.

A.S.F. Committee: The first session of the A.S.F. Committee meeting is on Monday morning, 1 January 1979. The second session of the A.S.F. Committee meeting is on Friday morning, 5 January 1979. Field Trip Organisation will also occur on Friday morning, so the Conference does not end until Friday lunchtime.

Conference 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.

Projection facilities will be available for 16 mm movies, 35 mm 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.

"What we have now is all there will ever be"

— CONSERVE AUSTRALIA'S CAVES

Speleosports: Speleosports are scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday.

WACCON Workshops: As part of the general WACCON festivities, there will be several informal "workshop sessions" covering various practical aspects of speleology. The tentative schedule is shown on the draft timetable.

The workshops are intended to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas, as well as a means of getting to know people before the field trips start (not to mention a break from the heavier stuff of the formal sessions). Their format will to some extent depend on the interest shown (as may their timing): generally they will be as informal as possible, with the emphasis on doing things/talking to people rather than sitting back and being lectured at. MOST OF THE CONTENT WILL COME FROM THOSE ATTENDING, i.e. from you! (Be warned!)

Subject areas, format, and a few ideas of what you might like to bring along are as follows:

GENERAL HARDWARE: A "general rave" session—we would like to see individual gadgeteers as well as the more "commercial" operators. Tables and/or areas of floor will be provided for exhibitors to sit/stand/lie on/in/under with their gear/ideas/gadgets If you can't find room in your car for the gadget itself, bring a couple of piccies, or a diagram, or write its name on a piece of paper and post it What sort of things? Anything! Battery-chargers; Ni-Fe/Ni-Cd/Zn-air/Na-S(?) cells; solar-powered bootlaces; helium-filled helmets for unclimbable avens; RDF gear; light-weight field-telephones; track markers; Cylumes that don't go off when you sit on them; comfortable knee-pads (for the older generation). Whether you're the sole Australian distributor for Blue Water, or a part-time manufacturer of indestructible matchboxes, whether you sell 000's of dollars of gear a year, or whether you just had an idea the other day for a headlight powered by body heat, . . . WE WANT TO SEE YOU.

S & R: Slightly more organised than the latter, but still highly informal - more like a discussion group. Starting with a brief summary of the state of the art from a representative of each State/Territory (S & R Safety Officers be prepared . . . but we'd rather you came unprepared than not at all!), then general discussion on points of common interest, e.g. problems in setting up an S & R organisation, liaising with other emergency services, keeping leaders and members safety-conscious, the growing problem of "unattached cavers", the currently-under-revision A.S.F. Safety Standards, recent "near misses", stretcher modifications, etc.

SRT: An outdoor session (if it isn't too hot). Ropes will be set up on the shadiest tree available for the faithful to demonstrate various prussik styles, show off some wierd and wonderful descender, or just keep in practice meanwhile, back on the ground, results of recent rope and gear testing; general safety considerations; "self-rescue" rigs. BRING SOMETHING ALONG. Personal patent rope-protectors; rope-packs; novel descending/ascending devices; failed gear; abraded/melted/retired-at-65 rope

MAPPING/DOCUMENTATION: Format will probably be a compromise between "discussion group" and "poster session". Again, brief reviews of the state of the art in individual areas would be a good start: from there we could move on to general discussion on such things as special techniques, e.g. RDF and levelling, the use of geophysical methods, common interest topics like the (also-under-revision) A.S.F. Nomenclature Standards, and the Australian Cave/Karst Index. You might care to display a recent map, or some unusual piece of equipment . . . perhaps a calculator programme for reducing and adjusting survey figures - in action if possible (let us know beforehand and we might be able to borrow a TI or HP for the occasion).

Reports on the sessions will be published in the proceedings - including any original material presented. (Detailed arrangements will be made with the authors at the Conference.)

Right-now that you're all enthused, go away and think about bringing something over. Better still, draw it/write it down/roll it up/wrap it up in tissue paper and put it in your luggage for WACCON. I would appreciate it if you could write to me now, c/- WACCON, P.O. Box 151, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009 and indicate your support or whatever. Otherwise, I will be around Currie Hall on the Sunday and Monday, so hunt me down personally, or put your name on the notice next to the Registration desk and I will hunt you down.

STOP:PRESS: A prize will be awarded for the most Heath Robinson-ish item of gadgetry on show (including ideas not yet past the drawing-board stage) at the General Hardware session. Put your thinking-helmets on! . . .

SEE YOU AT WACCON.

Jim Campbell

PAPERS

Twenty minutes will be allowed for presentation followed by a discussion time of ten minutes. Abstracts will be printed before Conference and handed to participants upon registration. If you wish to deliver a paper, please: (a) submit the title and your name to the WACCON Organising Committee now. This will enable session timetables to be finalised;

(b) submit an abstract of no more than 200 words as soon as possible before 30 November 1978;

(c) bring the completed paper to the Proceedings Organising Committee at the Conference (contact Jim Campbell).

Don't get bogged down in thinking that your ideas may be too minor for an A.S.F. Conference. Don't underestimate the importance, interest and significance of your local area knowledge to people from other states. WACCON wants and needs your participation.

Note that there is only a maximum time limit for papers. A well-presented ten minute talk would be appreciated more than an ill-prepared long paper.

If you've never spoken in front of a large group of people before, don't worry! They're all cavers anyway.

So if you've been working in some caves for the last year, or have been looking into the history of your local caving area, or have a new device for falling slowly down a rope, or new ideas on how caving should be organised-don't keep them to yourself. Let everybody know all about them at WACCON.

WACCON FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will run immediately after WACCON for several weeks or until you all go home. This sheet contains various information or 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 information about Nullarbor field trips below.

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.

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 coordinator 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

SPELEOTOURS

As a special feature, the Field Trip Organiser has arranged for guided mini field trips to run during WACCON itself. These will be to the suburban caves and karst of Perth, catering for practical geomorph freaks, aberrant nocturnal speleos and those people who get bored.

The trips will be devised and run by a company formed especially for WACCON, the Violet Grove Speleo Trivia Tours Inc. (Principals: Ray Hart, Ros Hart and Jim Campbell, all of 18 Violet Grove, SHENTON PARK, W.A. 6008; Technical Consultant: Kerry Williamson.)

Some of the tours are listed here.

1. Mt Eliza Karst. Walking distance from the conference venue. Features some very nice exposures of Coastal Limestone (including sections), a cave, a spring, magnificent views and some quite clever artificial karst.
2. Reabold Hill. Five kilometres. Features contemporary sanddunes which may become limestone, a very funny doline (which looks like a quarry), a cave and some good scenery. Close to the beach.
3. Blackwall Reach. 15 km. Real caving, good sport, several hundred metres, very interesting, next to the river, Suitable for night trips.
4. Peppermint Grove. 5 km. Perth's most exclusive suburb, cave, fossils, next to the river.
5. Rocky Bay. 15 km. Lots of limestone, overhang cave plus very strange tube cave, suit sporting types and geomorph freaks.

More tours coming!

Special note: The Mt Eliza Karst trip is tentatively planned as a conducted trip at 10 a.m. on Monday 1 January 1979. This will be a two hour walk starting from the residential college at 10 a.m. sharp. If you arrive Monday morning, please make sure you register first. This trip will run at other times as well.

Ray Hart, F.T.O.

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. Humourous (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.
3. You must label entries with the category and your name.
4. You will be responsible for the collection of your entries on Friday, 5 January 1979 at a time and place to be announced during the Conference.
5. Slides must be spotted in 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 form below (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: Ros Hart, Organiser, WACCON Photographic Competition, P.O. Box 151, NEDLANDS, W.A. 6009

POSTERS

Posters are available now from Rauleigh Webb, c/- WACCON. Full A1 sized posters of Norm Poulter's triple-prize-winning shot of pretties in Labyrinth. May be ordered at \$1 each poster in batches of 8 plus \$1.20 postage per batch: total - \$9.20.

STICKERS

Stickers are available now from Mike Newton, c/- WACCON. May be ordered at \$1 each in batches of 10 plus \$1.20 postage per batch: total - \$11.20.

T-SHIRTS

T-shirts will be available at the Conference. Attractive design front and back in a big range of sizes.

BOOKS AND GEAR

If you want to sell any at WACCON, please contact the Organising Committee as soon as possible.

CROSSING THE NULLARBOR

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.

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 Cocklebidy 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 unwarly.

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

	0900	1200	1300	1600	1800	1900	2100	?
SUNDAY 31/12/78			REGISTRATION DESK OPEN			NEW YEAR'S EVE BBQ		
MONDAY 1/1/79	REGISTRATION ASF CTTEE #1		OPENING SESSION #1			WORKSHOP 1 (GEN. HARD.)	WORKSHOP 2 (S & R)	
TUESDAY 2/1/79	SESSION #2		SESSION #3	WORKSHOP 3 (SRT)			WORKSHOP 4 (MAP./DOC.)	
WEDNESDAY 3/1/79	SESSION #4		S P E L E O S P O R T S		BBQ	SLIDE COMPETITION RESULTS		
THURSDAY 4/1/79	SESSION #5		SESSION #6			CONFERENCE DINNER		
FRIDAY 5/1/79	ASF CTTEE #2 DEPARTURE ON	FIELD TRIPS						

WACCON - DRAFT TIMETABLE

WACCON 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/head/day _____

_____ Proceedings @ \$10 _____

_____ Dinner @ \$12/head _____

Total: _____

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 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION - ANTICIPATED ENTRIES

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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