



MEDIA RELEASE

By Peter Berrill

Cave Queensland Conference

Cave Queensland is the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation and is being hosted by the Central Queensland Speleological Society, which is based in Rockhampton.

The venue is the Yeppoon Recreation Camp, 170 Matthew Flinders Drive Yeppoon and the Conference runs from 4th - 8th January.

The Conference is held every two years to bring together cavers from all over Australia to discuss matters relevant to caves and karst. Papers are presented on items such as sport caving, conservation and management issues, safety and all aspects of caves and caving in general.

A major topic for discussion will be the rehabilitation of Mt Etna, which recently was the centre of a rehabilitation blast. Rehabilitation blasting has been somewhat of a contentious issue throughout the caving community because it has never been tried previous to the Mt Etna blast.

A paper will be presented by Orica, the company carrying out the blasting and afterwards there will be an on-site inspection of the blast site. There have been thousands of trees planted as the next stage of the rehabilitation program.

There is also a Speleo-Art comprising some 41 pieces. These artists have sent their work from all over the world, 4 countries in fact, to be displayed at this conference. The artists are in fact, all cavers who have the desire to express their feelings of the world caves in art. It is believed to be the largest assemblage of speleo-art ever put on display.

After the conference there will be a week of post conference caving in the local area.

For more details or comment on the Conference you can contact the President, Peter Berrill of the Central Queensland Speleological Society. Peter is also the National President.

Phone 49 342870 or the Conference Mobile 014938187

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Livingstone Shire Council
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Keppel Coast Photographics

Jodi's Catering provided appetizing and nutritious meals throughout the Conference and especially the Cave Man's Dinner, which was a sensational seafood buffet - of which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.