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INTRODUCTION

The Australian Speleological Federation 22nd Biennial Conference was held 4 - 8 January 1999 at the Yeppoon Recreation Centre in Yeppoon, Queensland and hosted by Central Queensland Speleological Society.

The main goal of the 4-day Caving Conference, being the last of the 20TH Century, was to promote fun, fellowship and unity for those with an interest in preserving the unique natural beauty and scientific values of this fascinating geological feature for future generations. It featured oral presentations, slides, videos, workshops, caving activities, pre and post Conference caving trips and displays.

The Conference presented an outstanding schedule of sessions and presenters for both the education and research of caves and its environs. It also provided an excellent networking opportunity, including exhibitors, resource providers and activities.

A major topic for discussion was the Rehabilitation of Mt Etna presented by Kim Henley of Orica Explosives and Chris White, Manager of Pacific Lime. Another highlight was the Speleo-Art Display by artists from all over the world. See this in the section of Work & Play in the Conference Photos provided by Jeanette Sands.

Numerous individuals have contributed to these proceedings and without their efforts, the Conference would not have been a success. Thank you. On a final note, a special thank you goes to the Conference Convenor, Peter Berrill, for his continued support, guidance and leadership.

Debbie Roberts
Secretary CQSS