

### ***Post Conference Caving***

There were a number of caving options available to conference participants, and partners. The first caving trips were to start on Boxing Day (26th December 2002). Some very keen cavers had driven over the Nullarbor early and just wanted to get underground ASAP!! Several WA members met the first “crew” up at Yanchep. There were 6 people and we stayed two nights at the cottage (an old staff accommodation house in the National Park). A number of caves were visited over the two days, and the trips went well.

On the 28th of December, 4 of us drove further north to another karst area - booking into some excellent (but well priced) group accommodation at Jurien and heading into the bush again. We visited several caves in this area - notably the Stockyard Gully Caves. On the 29th December two more cavers joined us.....we visited more caves....and later two more cavers joined us (however they were doing more social/touristy events during the days....). On the 30th December the group visited caves in the Drover's Cave National Park and the Nambung National Park - returning to Perth the 31 December. This 5 day period was a success and the small group of cavers were looking forward to the conference.....

### **POST CONFERENCE TRIPS**

It was a challenge arranging trips for a potential 30-40 cavers over a 5 day period. It was planned that there would be 5 days of trips in the south-west. The cavers were based at the two huts in the Boranup Forrest (WASG and SRGWA club huts). A number of trips occurred on a daily basis. Many of these trips were to restricted access and locked caves. It was great to see trips running smoothly, cavers in awe and the cave photographers in “their element”. Keep an eye out for the next ASF photo competition - there's bound to be a good number of entry's involving trips to caves at this time. Aside from the main caving in the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge area (Margaret River region) a small number of cavers visited areas north of Perth. A few trips occurred in the Yanchep National Park and further north to the area visited by the pre-conference trips.

All of these trips are documented in more detail in publications by the WASG and SRGWA. For more information or a copy of particular trip reports please contact these speleological groups.

Interesting comment (from ISS 03/03 vol9, No. 1) “After caving at the Margaret River/Augusta area, I now appreciate the trouble that clubs in the west go to, to protect the caves and formation that exist in the caving regions of WA. It would be wonderful to go back 150 years in the east and start over, but unfortunately we cannot do this, so the caves in the east will in most cases continue to be abused by the uninformed”. Something to think about.....

Special thanks to the trip leaders who volunteered their time to take visiting cavers.... caving..... underWAY.....



Golgotha Cave

## Events

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Clockwise from top left: WASG hut; Bob Kershaw; XXX; Nicholas White & Rob Foulds; SRGWA hut; Michael Rutledge.