



Caves, Graters

& Critters

26th Biennial ASF Conference, Celebrating 50 years of the
Australian Speleological Federation
January 6th – 12th 2007. Mt Gambier, South Australia

“PRELIMINARY” CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 1 January 6th 2007

- Registrations begin from 9am on
- Snorkelling at Ewens Ponds (available all day)
- Snorkelling Piccaninnie ponds (permits are required max 4 in group for 1hr you must contact us to let us know times and cost \$15 per group)
- Self Guided wild caving to various local caves (all maps and locations available)
- Self Guide tour of the sink holes (Hells Hole, Circuit Sinkhole, Caroline Sink Hole)
- **Limestone Sculpting Workshops 12 – 5pm (you must Book and Pay In advance)**
- ASF Council Meeting 3 – 5pm
- Welcome BBQ starts at 6.30

Day 2 January 7th 2007

- Official Opening 9.30-11am
- **Presentations begin:** Karst Geology of Naracoorte, Forestry SA WYNNIAT. Cave Biology
- Naracoorte
- **Mt Etna and ASF Conservation SIG**
- OZ Cave art talk Bednariik 4.30- 5pm
- **Art Show Opening 6pm**
- **ANDY EAVIS 3D Slideshow 8.30pm**

Day 3; January 8th 2007

- **Presentations 9am- 5pm** World cave art Bednariik, Karst of SW Nullarbor, History of CDAA/Cave
- Diving, Google Earth PILKINGTON, Cave Diving on Roe Plain, George Yarra, Kimberly Cave Diving
- Self guided wild caves available all day
- Helictite SIG Meeting 11.30-1pm
- **Limestone Sculpting Workshops 12 – 5pm (you must Book and Pay In advance and the first session must be full first minimum of 6 required)**
- Cave Rescue SIG 2pm-3pm
- CAVE DIVING CDG 4.30-5.30
- ASF Publication Workshop 4.30pm-6pm
- Rebreather workshop 5.30-7pm

- Speleo Quiz Night 8.30pm-10pm



Government of South Australia



Scout
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South Australia



Day 4: January 9^h 2007

- **Presentations begin 9am – 3pm** : King Solomon's Cave, Buteng Caves Indonesia, Flank Margin Caves, World Scene in cave conservation, Pungalina Caves, Speleo Volunteers and the Kast Environment Naracoorte
- Self guided wild caves available all day
- **ASF Executive Meeting 3pm-6.30pm**
- Reflections tour 8pm -9.30

Day 5: January 10th 2007

- **Naracoorte Field trip All Day: tours of Various Show caves, Wonambi Centre, Bat Viewing. Assorted Presentations Cavers and Communities involvement with caves.**
- **Limited number of Park Wild cave trips available and some off park more details latter**
- **BBQ Dinner at Wirreanda 6pm return to Function Centre approx 10pm**

Day 6: January 11^h 2007

- **Presentations begin 9am – 1pm** : Christmas Island Caves and Biology, KID under Bonnet Lake, Glenelg River Karst, Cave Biology Northern Territory, More King Solomon Cave, Nullarbor Lake,
- Self guided wild caves available all day
- **ASF AGM 2.30 – 4pm**
- **ASF Conservation Forum 430pm – 6pm**
- **Reflections Tour 8 pm – 9.30pm**

Day 7: January 12th 2007

- **Presentations begin 9am – 3pm** : Presentations to be announced
- Self guided wild caves available all day
- **ASF Executive Meeting 9am – 1pm**
- **Speleo Sports and SRT events 2pm-6pm**
- **Cavers Dinner at Function Centre 7pm on**

Day 8: January 13th 2007

Pack up begins 9am – 3pm

- Self guided wild caves available all day
- Snorkelling at Ewens Ponds (available all day)
- Snorkelling Piccaninnie ponds (permits are required max 4 in group for 1hr you must contact us to let us now times and cost \$15 per group)
- **Post Conference trips begin**

Please note that there are other activities being offered throughout the conference

- Wooden bat decorating
- For those with a 4 wheel drive one of our members is offering to lead a trip through Canunda National Park Tuesday January 9th Great for those with family members who aren't attending the conference

Assorted local caving trips and survey trips (Details at the conference)

PRE & POST CONFERENCE CAVING TRIPS

Corra Lynn Cave York Peninsula Pre and Post Conference

Trip Leader : Paul Harper CEGSA
Contact Details: Home (08) 8270 2359
Maximum Number:
Equipment Required: Light cotton Overalls, Helmet, Light "Knee Pads" Gloves,
Skill / Fitness Level: Average to fit
Dates: Pre and Post conference contact Paul to organise dates

Y1 Corra Lyn Cave

One of CEGSA's Favourite cave, this cave has approximately 14 kilometres of passages on seven levels, but for simplicity the map is drawn on the. The cave ranges from tight crawling passages, to high narrow passages to large chambers. It can range from easy to very difficult caving. Formed in a dolomite limestone the cave is not very forgiving, but sure teaches novice cavers very quickly how to move through a cave without destroying their body. You could spend anywhere up from a couple of hours to days exploring every nook and cranny

Fleurieu Peninsula Sellicks Hills Area Pre and Post Conference

Trip Leader : Dr Grant Gartrell CEGSA
Contact Details: **Home:** (08) 8556 9100 **Email:** blueberrypatch@bigpond.com
Equipment Required: Light cotton Overalls, Helmet, Light "Knee Pads"
Skill / Fitness Level: Average to Fit
Dates: Arrange with Grant

Grant is happy to run the odd day / evening trip to this interesting area of South Australia, which is south of Adelaide. However due to it being his busy period with his Blueberry farm, times are restricted. Contact Grant direct to organise a suitable trip

Avenue Range and Surrounds Touring, Surveying and Exploration Post Conference

Trip Leader: Kevin Mott CEGSA
Contact Details: **Home:** (08) 87231461 **Mobile:** 0427 010 326 **Email:** Mott.Kevin@saugov.sa.gov.au
Maximum Number:
Equipment Required: Light cotton Overalls, Helmet, Light Knee Pads, Gloves
Skill / Fitness Level:
Dates: 13th January – 17th January
Accommodation: camping possible caravan park more details at conference

Avenue Range Caves

This is not a well explored area and new caves are being discovered all the time ranging from very small to Monbulla size; however most of the caves are quite low so crawling is the main mode of movement. Some of the caves are well decorated whilst otherwise are quite bare. Still an interesting area with a lot of potential and a number of caves although located yet to be explored, so why not be the first.

Western Victoria Area Post Conference

Trip Leader: Ken Grimes CEGSA/VSA

Contact Details: **Email:** regmap1@ozemail.com.au

Maximum Number: Varies

Equipment Required: Light Weight Overalls, Knee Pads, (Gloves a good Idea) Bright Lights as the lava caves are very Black

Skill / Fitness Level: Caves are mostly Horizontal, Lava Caves are sharp, there is at least one vertical for those wishing to do it

Dates: 15th January –19th January

Meeting Place: Mt Eccles Campsite, Follow the Road Signs to Mt Eccles National Park, The road ends at camp Ground

Accommodation: Mt Eccles National Park Camp Ground, BYO Tent there are Toilets Showers No Power

Food: BYO there is a pub 10 Minutes from the camp ground

Western Victoria Caves

We will be making base camp at Mt Eccles and caving there and at Byaduk which is around half an hour away. MT Eccles camp site is a pretty little camp ground with an abundance of wildlife including Koalas. Most of the caves in both regions will only take up to a couple of hours to do, but keep in mind lava caves in this area tend to have a lot of sharp surfaces, For the best view of the caves you want a really bright light as the rock just absorbs all light. We will also be only 1 hour away from the limestone caves of Portland which we may also visit. For more information on the caves in the area check out past and present field guides i.e. ACKMA1999

Naracoorte & Penola Post Conference

Trip Leader: Graham Pilkington CEGSA

Contact Details: **Home:** 83956713 **Email:** p-c-h@bigpond.net.au

Maximum Number: Varies

Equipment Required: Light Weight Overalls, Knee Pads, harness, Lights and Helmets

Skill / Fitness Level: A mixture of Horizontal and Ladder pitch entrances

Dates: 14th January –18th January

Accommodation: Will be based at Naracoorte Camping and bunk house accommodation available

Food: BYO there is a pub and shops in Naracoorte

Penola & Naracoorte Caves

On the way to Naracoorte we will be visiting Monbulla cave, this is quite an extensive cave and will take most of the day horizontal access and has a mixture of crawling and walking passages, biggest hazards in summer are snakes due to the number of entrances.

S102

This cave is on private property and has a 15mtr (approx) ladder pitch, the pitch starts off wide but narrows to a body size solution tube then a couple of metres of free hanging ladder climb, again snakes can be a hazard in the entrance so first one in needs to do a thorough snake check, done a sandy slope to a

ASF visit to Naracoorte Caves 10 January 2007.

Brown Snake

The pine forest above this cave was cleared in 2004 and native vegetation is being re-established. The block is part of a well publicised landswap with Forestry SA. It is anticipated extra water will now reach the cave and rejuvenate speleothems. Some fossil material was retrieved from the cave in the 1960's but provenance was not recorded.

Objectives/Notes:

- Photograph/document sediment floors north of entrance – do not walk on sediment.
- Photograph 'recent' animals.
- Photograph large decorated chamber – shot suitable for publication.
- Choose suitable speleothems/sites to establish photo monitoring to record any rejuvenation and mark on map. (6 points)
- Do not disturb or collect bones.

Starburst Chamber

One of the most heavily decorated sections of Naracoorte Caves, the floor is also one of the oldest known fossil deposits. Speleothems have been removed for dating and others cored. Unfortunately this was not done with the appropriate level of consideration of cave aesthetics at the time in the 1990's. It is however, an excellent example of Naracoorte Caves as a scientific "laboratory" and how other values still need to be considered. The cave has been heavily track-marked.

Objectives/Notes:

- Consider the values of the cave and how management is attempting to balance their protection and use.
- Note water level in sample bottles of A.N.U. researcher Dr. Pauline Treble.
- Discuss public adventure caving tours with DEH trip leader.

Blackberry Cave

One of the longest caves on the park and probably the toughest caving – especially in the gated section. This has not been entered since 1996. The section between the two entrances and the gate is used for 'novice' adventure tours. The Butterfly Extension beyond the second entrance is tight but worth the effort.

Objectives/Notes:

- Collect caps placed on stalagmites in Butterfly Extension in plastic bags.

Fox Cave

One of the 'extended' adventure tours offered at Naracoorte Caves. Only used about 10 times a year. Huge range of values; excellent cave to look at cave development, fossils, bat wintering site, invertebrates, speleothem development. Some track marking with other areas restricted.

Objectives/Notes:

- Note presence/absence of bats.
- Photograph tree root chamber.
- Permission is granted to inspect tree roots for invertebrates – sweep sediment smooth to remove tracks – no collecting.
- Consider the values of the cave and how management is attempting to balance their protection and use.
- Discuss public adventure caving tours with DEH trip leader.

Stick Tomato Cave

Part of this cave is established as the Wet Cave self guided tour. Despite positive conservation messages from staff, issues still arise in this cave of people ignoring chains and proceeding through the adventure caving section. Light tampering is also a problem but fortunately vandalism remains low.

Objectives/Notes:

- Note presence/absence of bats. Do not disturb.
- Keep off ferns at second entrance.