

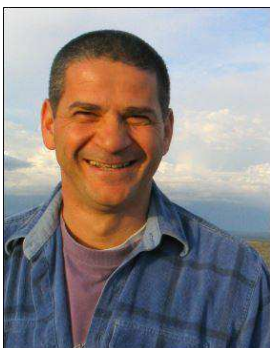
WELCOME TO CAPRICORN CAVES

We extend an invitation to everyone to join us for an exciting guide school focussing on the role of the cave guide delivering a memorable interpretive experience. This will be followed by the ACKMA annual general meeting. Located north of Rockhampton, just off Highway One, these caves are the only privately owned show caves on freehold land in Australia. They have been open to the public since their discovery by the Olsen family in 1881. Today they offer a variety of experiences from wheelchair accessible tours to wild caving, Geo discovery tours, renamed Bats and Bones for families, rope courses and abseiling. A strong educational program is complimented with accommodation facilities. In 2014 they were awarded gold in the Queensland tourism awards and the Australian bronze award for tourist attraction. The whole cave system has recently been relit with solar powered Weidmuller LED lights operated through a Cbus™ computerised system.

Of Devonian origin, the caves are different to underground highly decorated wet systems. The limestone has been uplifted over millions of years to form a ridge with an interesting surface karst. Scientific debate continues on the formation of the caves, but much knowledge has been added through the work of Dr Scott Hocknull and his team. A Queensland Museum palaeontology dig site is revealing exciting information about climate change and past flora and fauna. The most recent discovery by [Dr Gilbert Price](#) and an Australian research team has found a one-centimetre bone from under the lizard's skin and is the youngest record of a giant lizard on the entire continent. This bone found in Capricorn Caves is the first evidence that the time frames of Australia's first human inhabitants and giant apex predator lizards had overlapped.

Highlights of the Guide School will be the keynote speakers:

John Pastorelli



Winner of Australia's highest honour for practicing interpreters, the Georgie Waterman award, John went on to start his own company Ochre learning. He is a well-known trainer, coach and author who designs rich interpretive experiences and customer engagement. He has worked on training programs ranging from Chinese speaking persons to aboriginal

communities in NSW. He was involved in Sydney Bridge Climb, Nature Connections New Zealand, Zoos Victoria and presented at Tasmania's Tourism Industry Council Conference in 2015.

David Morgans



Director Destination and Market design at Tourism Events Queensland. David joined Tourism Events Queensland in 1997 with a range of positions including product development, sustainable and environment tourism. Recently he has worked with Duane Knapp an expert in brand strategy in presenting experience development to tourism

forums. David graduated from Griffith University with a degree in environmental science.

Scott Hocknull Keynote speaker at ACKMA Annual General Meeting



Scott is a vertebrate palaeoecologist, passionate science communicator and 3-D digitisation and virtual technology advocate and practitioner in the museum community.

Among other honours, Scott was awarded the

Young Australian of the Year in 2002, which provided him a unique platform to develop and promote Australian vertebrate palaeontology research and community engagement, whilst leading a wide range of new areas of exploration, discovery and research. Realising that most of museum collections are hidden from public view, Scott has become a strong advocate for bringing the behind-the-scenes museum collections and science to the public. He is currently working on new 3-D digital and virtual ways to better capture our fossil heritage in digital perpetuity. He heads the team currently researching the palaeontology dig site at Capricorn Caves.