

TE ANAU - FIORDLAND 2017 ACKMA AGM

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This is a completely new location for an ACKMA event – Fiordland - Te Wahi Pounamu World Heritage Area.

Combine the AGM weekend with a visit to an iconic region of New Zealand. Te Anau is gateway to Fiordland the starting point for day tours to Milford or Doubtful Sound. The AGM will be based in the township of Te Anau and a number of field trips will be scheduled to occur over an extended weekend programme, providing a range of caving options. These will include Te Anau Glowworm Caves, Aurora Caves, Luxmore alpine caves area, St Peters Cave and Clifden Caves. The Glowworm Caves is the only developed show cave experience. Access to other caves can be challenging due to the terrain and weather and as such some of the caving options will become day trip expeditions requiring a good level of physical fitness and ability to tramp a few kilometres in bush, uphill on unformed routes. The caves routes will not be technical but will be colder than Australia. A real highlight in most caves will be water, with underground rivers and streams active in the larger cave systems. To maximise participation, access to caves will include boat, jet boat and helicopter options and this will also allow for various combinations of budget and fitness levels. A nature guide workshop will also be scheduled, and will provide a unique networking opportunity in Fiordland.

This workshop will be of shorter duration than previous guide schools and will be integrated as part of the extended AGM program rather than standalone event. There will also be alternative options to caving for those that want to experience Milford or Doubtful Sound, however these are also easily bolted onto a visit to Te Anau pre or post ACKMA activity, and accommodation (full range of options) will also be available at a single site. There are multiple easy transport options to Te Anau from Queenstown International Airport (2 hours' drive from Te Anau).

Full details for this meeting will be in the next issue



Left. Luxmore alpine area

Above. Light streaming through a cave entrance at Te Anau

Below. Aurora Cave

