

CAVE GUIDES GATHERING AT NARACOORTE

- Steve Bourne

The next gathering of cave guides is to take place next year at Naracoorte Caves from 3 – 8 February, 2002. This was previously called the *Gabfest*, but the name was changed last year at the Wombeyan Caves Gabfest. I can't recall the name that was decided on – must have been something in the gorge water that caused amnesia! The title "Cave and Karst Presenters Workshop" has been used for this gathering as it covers exactly what the theme of the week will be, looking at how we present caves, fossils and bats to visitors.

The staff of Naracoorte Caves are pleased to be hosting this event, and promise a week of most worthwhile activities for those who are involved in cave presentation, or the training of staff for this purpose. The final costs are yet to be calculated, but will be very reasonable. Expressions of interest are welcome at this early stage with the size of the workshop to be limited to fifty participants due to accommodation restrictions. For further information, or to register an interest, please contact Steve Bourne at Naracoorte Caves – either by email: naracoortecaves@saugov.sa.gov.au or by telephone: (08) 8762 2340, or Fax. (08) 8762 1231. It is estimated the cost will be around \$140 per participant.

Cave and Karst Presenters Workshop (Draft) Sunday 3 February to Friday 8 February, 2002.

- SUNDAY** Arrive at Wirreanda Bunkhouse.
Welcome BBQ with welcoming address by Regional Manager.
- MONDAY** *Morning*
Introduction to the Caves and Karst of the South East of South Australia.
Fossils – Talks by two fossil researchers on the current research projects and history of fossil research at Naracoorte.
To Victoria Fossil Cave to look at how the research findings are presented to visitors and school groups.
The visual presentation / interpretation of the fossil history in the Wonambi Fossil Centre.
Mid afternoon - Adventure caving –objectives of the Naracoorte caves adventure program.
Novice tours for those who wish to participate.
Evening – slides of other cave systems.
- TUESDAY** *Morning*
Bats – Talks by two bat researchers including bat ecology, taxonomy, bat habitat protection, Bat Cave ecosystem.
Bat presentation in Bat Cave Teleview Centre – regular visitors and school groups.
Adventure caving program.
Evening- to Bat Cave to witness bats exiting cave.
- WEDNESDAY** Day trip to Tantanoola Cave, Piccannie Ponds, limestone quarries, Princess Margaret Rose Cave, looking at cave systems, karst use and misuse, different karst features that don't occur elsewhere in Australia.
Evening- Naracoorte attractions
- THURSDAY** Cave presentation- Alexandra Cave.
Comparison in the presentation of Alexandra, Princess Margaret Rose and Tantanoola Caves- difference and similarities in the caves.
Cathedral Cave- the most recently opened cave at Naracoorte. In groups to workshop and plan a tour / presentation on this cave.

Final dinner in Naracoorte.
- FRIDAY** Adventure caving for those who have some time.
Departure.
- Note:** Some caving gear is available, harnesses and ropes not required. (no vertical caving).
Options to look at other attractions in the area will be available for those who do not wish to participate in adventure caving.