

# BUCHAN CAVES NEWS

- Stephanie Finn

Dale Calnin & Stephanie Finn overseeing  
a signage change outside the new  
Buchan Visitors Centre



It's a shame that it has taken a nasty accident for me to finally contribute an article for the ACKMA journal. As they say, out of something bad, comes something good!

I just wanted to pass on my thanks to everyone at ACKMA for their concern and get well wishes for my recovery. I was pleasantly surprised and grateful for receiving a get-well card from ACKMA members at the Queensland conference.

For those of you who may not know, I had a bad fall off a horse on Good Friday (of all days!). I luckily had a helmet on, but the impact of colliding with the horses neck and then the ground left me with face fractures and serious and life threatening brain trauma, which left me in a coma for eight days.

Luckily (there has been a lot of luck involved), I have suffered no major brain damage, and my strength is improving each day. I am happy to say that I recently passed my driving assessment, and am allowed back on the road again!



Illuminated display of the Buchan Caves  
System, with backlit images of various  
features cross referenced to the map  
- Buchan Caves Visitors Centre

My accident was certainly a narrow miss, and one that has reminded me of the importance of valuing life, family and friends. I feel very fortunate to have received great support from work colleagues, who have taken on more projects and responsibility due to my absence, and have been my transport to work with my loss of licence.

It has also made me realise how vital Australia's medical system is, and what good plastic surgeons can achieve (wish they had of shrunk the size of my nose though!). I returned to work late June and am currently working at our Regional office part time until I am strong and fit enough to return to Buchan (which I miss dearly).

One of the positives of the change in my role, is that it has provided the opportunity for me to work on other projects such as drafting a four year action plan, so that we host a fantastic conference at Buchan in 2007.

I have also commenced a Cave Access Policy for the State of Victoria, which will hopefully be released in twelve or so month's time. Although I have contacted a number of you already regarding obtaining information on cave access guidelines and policies, I would appreciate an email or phone call if anyone has any documentation that may be of assistance.



A geological schematic  
- Buchan Caves Visitors Centre



The recently-upgraded Bridge No.1  
- Buchan Caves Reserve

