

At the 17th ACKMA Conference Organizing Committee meeting at The Buchan Caves Guides Office, held on Thursday 20 July – L to R: Miles Pierce, Kent Henderson, Dale Calnin (Conference Convenor), Allison Marion (Committee secretary, Parks Victoria), and Elery Hamilton-Smith. (Absent, with apologies, were Glenn Baddeley, Susan White, Nicholas White, Andy Spate, & Steve Bourne)



BUCHAN COMETH!!

– Kent Henderson

The 17th Australasian Conference on Cave and Karst Management at Buchan Caves (29 April to 5 May 2007) is organized!! It's all happening (as they say)!!

The Organizing Committee has been meeting frequently over the past twelve months, and it has all come together very nicely. The Registration Form, containing full details, is inserted in this Journal.

The three themes of the Conference are:

- Indigenous and European cultural landscapes
- The Evolution of Presenting Caves – Where to Next?
- Karst Tourism – The Past to the Future

The Conference is part of the centenary celebrations of the discovery of Fairy Cave, and several papers will be presented surrounding cultural heritage. Space has been allocated in the program for twenty-eight papers. Posters are also most welcome. **Abstracts are required by 1st February 2007.**

The morning sessions for the week will feature papers, and the afternoons various cave inspections, field trips, and wild caving. Several afternoon workshops will also be held during the Conference.

The Committee is expecting over one hundred attendees, including a significant number from overseas. There is already considerable interest from Europe, Asia and the U. S. A.

Needless to say we have booked out all accommodation in Buchan, but the township can easily bed down considerably more than the expected numbers. There are good range of accommodation options too, including camping – which may well suit those on a budget.

Papers sessions will be held in the Buchan Hall (slated for renovations prior to the Conference – one of the happy local effects of ACKMA imminent!). We are also hoping for a good deal of sponsorship for the Conference, and this process is well in hand.

After the Conference, ACKMA member Dave Chitty is leading a three day Post Conference Study Tour to the Limestone Creek Karst in Northern Victoria and onto Mt. Buffalo with its wonderful granite caves – finishing up in Albury. Not to be missed!

Additionally, Andy Spate is facilitating Post Conference trips for our overseas visitors to the major New South Wales show caves sites, and also to Naracoorte Caves.

The bottom line is – DO NOT miss this Conference, it will be stunning!!