

11TH AUSTRALIAN CAVE AND KARST PRESENTERS CONFERENCE

This biennial conference was held at Jenolan Caves from 10-15 February, and from all reports it was a great success with a large number of guides attending from across Australia and New Zealand, and even a representative from Congo Caves in South Africa. Wonderful stuff!

The Conference was officially opened by Alan Griffin, Administrator, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust. During the week all the show caves at Jenolan were visited by those attending and guides enjoyed a substantial number of presentations, some of which were:

- Jenolan Caves, Guides, Guests and Grottoes (Peter Austen)
- Guides or Hosts? (Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith)
- Hosting Tantanoola Cave (Fiona Bastian and Decima McTernan)
- Cave Surveying and interactions with tour groups (Dr. Julia James)
- The Oldest Dated Caves in the World (Dr. Armstrong Osborne)
- Cave Sediments Old and New (Ted Matthews)
- Competency Based Training and Employment in Caves (Grant Commins)
- Brochures and Posters, Time Capsules of Cave Tours (Scott Melton)
- Interpretation and voice training (Cathie Plowman)
- Self Guided Tours (Andy Spate)
- Self Guiding in Mammoth Cave, WA (John Price and Deborah Lynch)
- Sustaining the Karst environment at Jenolan Caves (Peter Walsh, and Ian Eddison)
- Diprotodons at Jenolan Caves (Jeff Keith)
- Interpreting Mega Fauna (Frank Bromley, Amy Cheminant, and Decima McTernan)
- Cave Lighting (Dave Rowling, and David Head)

A great educational program indeed, and reportedly thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The next Cave Guides Conference/Workshop will be held at Wellington Caves, New South Wales, in early 2010. A snapshot of photos from the Guides Conference (courtesy of Ian Eddison) follows....



Anita and Ian Eddison with Phumelele TyaTya from Congo Caves South Africa.



The obligatory group photo...



A presentation in session



The group at Kangaroo Walls