

SUBMISSIONS to host the 2012 ACKMA Annual General Meeting Weekend – May 2012

Members are advised that, thus far, we are in possession of two submissions to host the 2012 ACKMA Annual General Meeting Weekend in May 2012 (this will be ACKMA's 25th Birthday!) These are set out below, in order of receipt. Both proposals undoubtedly need more 'flesh' in due course, but they probably include enough 'meat', and costings, as they stand, to enable members to make an informed decision.

These proposals, and any others received (if any), will be printed in the 19th Conference Handbook. They will be put to the Annual General Meeting at Ulverstone, Tasmania, on Wednesday 11th May 2011, and members will thereupon vote as to which submission they wish to accept.

As to the protagonists of the two Submissions – Tracey Robins and her partner Neil Taylor both work and live in Kununurra. They were both members of the 18th ACKMA Conference (Margaret River) Organising Committee. Neil is a long-term ACKMA member, and one of Western Australia's foremost karst experts. He is currently Ranger-in-Charge of the Bungle-Bungle (Purnululu) National Park – World Heritage Area, and Tracey likewise is a local ranger with the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation.

Andy Spate, of course, is a Past President of ACKMA and an ACKMA Life Member, and is well known to us all. His association with Wee Jasper goes back many decades. Geoff Kell is the manager of Carey's Cave, Wee Jasper.

In short, both sets of protagonists are very experienced people, and we could be supremely confident either would run a great event.



The karst walls of Geike Gorge NP, near Fitzroy Crossing. Photo: Kent Henderson.

SUBMISSION to hold the 2012 ACKMA Annual General Meeting 'Weekend', at Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia



A tour group (with torches) in Tunnel Creek.
Photo: Kent Henderson.

We warmly invite ACKMA to hold its Annual General Meeting 'Weekend' in the Kimberleys in northern Western Australia, based at Fitzroy Crossing in late May 2012 (last weekend suggested, climate-wise).

Except for those who may wish to drive to the Kimberley from other parts of Australia by car, suggested access to the region is largely by flying to Broome. There are now daily (or more) flights from most Australian state capital cities to Broome, which of latter years has become a popular tourist resort. Indeed, members may well wish to *lay on the beach* at Broome either before or after the AGM 'Weekend'!

Travel from Broome to Fitzroy Crossing will be by hired four-wheel drive bus (about a 3+ hour drive). While an excellent sealed highway links the two locations, we will need the four-wheel drive facility for our field trips. There are two motels in Fitzroy Crossing, which between them will form our accommodation.

The suggested Draft Program would be as follows:

Friday	Arrive in Broome. Travel by four-wheeled driver bus to Fitzroy Crossing. Welcoming BBQ.
Saturday	<u>Bus One</u> : Visit Tunnel Creek NP and Windjana Gorge NP. <u>Bus Two</u> : Visit Mimbi Caves and Geike Gorge NP. Saturday evening – ACKMA Committee meets.
Sunday	<u>Bus One</u> : Visit Mimbi Caves and Geike Gorge NP. <u>Bus Two</u> : Visit Tunnel Creek National Park and Windjana Gorge National Park. Sunday evening – ACKMA Annual General Meeting.

Monday

Depart for Broome, or travel onto the Bungle-Bungle/Purnululu National Park – World Heritage Area. Camping tour option for several days in the Bungle Bungles. Transport would continue on to Kununurra (connecting flights to either Darwin or Perth)

Tunnel Creek, Windjana, Geike and Mimbi are all absolutely fabulous cave/karst sites – which Kent Henderson wrote about at length in a recent edition of the ACKMA Journal. Rather than expound their considerable virtues at length here, members can readily consult the web sites listed below.

Another good possibility, indeed probably the best option, for extending the program past the AGM Weekend, would be some sort of 4WD tag-a-long type tour.

Where a number of people have the vehicles with room for others to accompany them – heading to the Bungles for a few days (options there are to camp – need own equipment; or to book into one of the three wilderness lodges) and then continue on to Kununurra for visit to the Ningbing Ranges (karst!), as well as perhaps also El Questro and/or the Gregory National Park caves/karst in the Northern Territory.

As to costs, we suspect they will compare with the Mulu excursion of last year – by the time members add their air fares and the on-ground costs. For the AGM 'Weekend', we have costed the

weekend at approx. \$750 per person – which includes the bus to and from Broome, mid-range accommodation (twin share) and all meals, and all tours and fees. Clearly, this may vary a little between now and then. We will do our very best to keep costs as skinny as possible. Obviously, there will be additional costs for those choosing the extended option to the Bungle Bungles and through to Kununurra – though if it turns out as just suggested, these costs will be comparably smaller.

In summary, we suspect that most ACKMA members will have never been to The Kimberley, and this will be a fabulous opportunity for them to do so. We concede visiting The Kimberley is not particularly cheap (it is fairly remote...) compared to many other areas, but we also suggest it will cost members much more to 'do it themselves'.

We will supply a much more detailed costing to the Ulverstone AGM in Tasmania in May.

Regards,

Tracey Robins and Neil Taylor.

Windjana

<<http://www.kimberleyaustralia.com/windjana-gorge-national-park.html>>

Tunnel Creek

<<http://www.kimberleyaustralia.com/tunnel-creek-national-park.html>>

Mimbi Caves

<<http://www.mimbicaves.com/>>

Geike Gorge

<<http://www.kimberleyaustralia.com/geikie-gorge-national-park.html>>

Bungle Bungles

<<http://www.kimberleyaustralia.com/bungle-bungles.html>>

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/component/option,com_hotproperty/task,view/id,39/Itemid,755/>

SUBMISSION to hold the 2012 ACKMA Annual General Meeting 'Weekend', at Wee Jasper Caves, New South Wales

Come to the place where Andy met Elery nearly five decades ago!



Careys Cave Manager, Geoff Kell.
Photo: Kent Henderson.

Careys Cave and the Wee Jasper Valley would like to invite ACKMA to hold its 2012 AGM in the beautiful Wee Jasper Valley. We cannot offer multiple caves, amazing adventures and the latest in cave lighting developments.

What we can offer: a no-frills and inexpensive AGM in Australia's loveliest valley, coupled with great hospitality; the home of Australia's first cave map – including a long-section!; the type locality of the Eastern Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus megaphyllus*; an internationally significant Devonian fish fossil site; scientifically important caves that set the scene in modern research into Australia's caves; and of course the beautiful colours and sculpturing in Careys Cave.

Geoff, Suzanne and Andy invite ACKMA to hold its 25th Birthday and the 2012 Annual General Meeting at Wee Jasper – about 1.5 hours drive from Canberra.

Activities available include Careys Cave, inspections of Punchbowl, Dip, Signature and

Dogleg Caves. Perhaps even the wonderful Nice Cave for a select (and thin) few. Caving will vary from easy strolls through pull-down abseil trips in Dip Cave – and for the more adventurous SRT visits to Punchbowl Cave. Andy will conduct his Punchbowl Hill karst walk on several occasions and if the level of Burrinjuck Dam is down Ian and Helen Cathles will show off their marvelous Devonian coral and fish fossils in the historic Cooradigbee Homestead and on the water-washed limestone itself. We intend inviting internationally-recognised palaeontologists to present information – and amazing 3D imagery of Devonian fishes' nervous systems.

Other activities available include: fishing, horse-riding, and potentially star-gazing with the Wagga Wagga Astronomical Society, bushwalking and possibly a concert in Careys Cave. We will also conduct a photo-competition – with the condition that they not be photo-shopped so everyone is on an even footing!

While we can organize and offer a range of such activities, the beauty of Wee Jasper is the low-stress natural environment and we hope above all to provide the opportunity for colleagues to relax and talk (round the campfire?) – something there is often not enough time for at ACKMA events.

There are more accommodation beds in the Wee Jasper valley than there are local inhabitants! They range from about four-star to bunkhouse – with plenty of camping locations including powered sites and showers. Unfortunately they are spread out over several kilometres. As we said it will be a no frills exercise with a central location for meals.

SOME DETAILS:

Transport	Rail	To Yass/Canberra
	Bus	Yass/Canberra
	Air	Canberra
	Road	Wee Jasper
Transport from	Yass/Canberra to Wee Jasper	

Accommodation

Cooradigbee Homestead	10 (5 rooms - king singles)
Cooradigbee shearers quarters	29
Cooradigbee shearing shed	10-20 in swags
Cooradigbee cottage	6
Wee Jasper station shearers quarters	24
Garden Cottage	6
Jackaroo Cottage	4
Barbara/Nevilles	5-6
Cooradigbee shearers quarters	– camping
Wee Jasper station	– camping

Note: Some of this accommodation has double beds. Camping: \$7.00. Accommodation would run at approx. \$20.00 per person per night (2010 prices), excluding the homestead.

Things to do in Wee Jasper:

ACKMA AGM, Careys cave tour(s), Concert(?), fossils plus 3D demo etc, stargazing – wagga astronomy guys, campfire, bushwalking – bushwalking (Hume & Hovell Track) – WJ Hall to Fitzpatrick Trackhead section, horse riding, karst walk, wild caves – punchbowl, signature, dip –



Careys Cave decoration. Photo: Kent Henderson.

This event at Wee Jasper is fairly central to many ACKMA members (most come from NSW) and there is easy train, bus and air access to Yass and Canberra. Transport to Wee Jasper will be arranged. We hope to see all the old hands – plus all who haven't yet attended an ACKMA function.

easy and SRT at two levels, swimming, fishing, social time, photo competition.

Food

Total food cost is estimated at \$95.00 per person. BYO booze – none available locally.

Regards,

Geoff and Suzanne Kell, and Andy Spate.

<<http://www.weejaspercaves.com/>>

<<http://www.visitweejasper.com.au/>>