

ACKMA 2013

Waitomo Caves, New Zealand

The next ACKMA Conference will be hosted at Australasia's leading cave destination - Waitomo Caves, New Zealand.

The 2013 conference will kick off on the evening of Sunday 12 May, running through to the following Friday 18 May. The general format will be papers in the mornings and local activity options in the afternoons and evenings.

The last ACKMA visit to Waitomo was in 1997. A lot has changed since then, with major new cave developments for the Spellbound, Ruakuri and Caveworld products, and a 'wow' new entrance complex at the Waitomo Glowworm Cave.

Waitomo has some unique features as a cave tourism destination. There's a large mature adventure caving sector primarily based on 'black water rafting' in river caves. And of course there is the beautiful rolling green scenery. There's also a very high level of private sector investment in cave products compared to many cave destinations. Reflecting this, the Conference theme is the Triple Bottom Line. How can caves deliver economically while maintaining environmental and social outcomes?

The Conference organising committee invite you to join us in 2013.

Waitomo – two landscapes, twice the fun!



Waitomo Glowworm Cave new entry complex



Spellbound Glowworm Cave

Waitomo Conference Facts

Start	Late afternoon Sunday 12 May 2013
Finish	Late evening, Friday 18 May 2013
Transport:	At least one transport run from and to Auckland and Hamilton International Airports will be provided at each end of the Conference
Accommodation:	Waitomo has a wide range of accommodation within walking distance of the conference venue. Backpackers, campground, bed and breakfast, caving club and a hotel are all there.
Amenities:	Waitomo village has a general store, tavern, cafe and information centre. Regular rides will be available into the nearby towns (15 mins away) for supermarkets, banks, pharmacies, and hairdressers.
Pre-conference	Wild caving based in Waitomo on 11 & 12 May
Post-conference	Back to Auckland via the karst of the western Waikato. Kawhia and Raglan Harbours, Bridal Veil Falls, Lake Disappear polje, Nikau Cave, Port Waikato. End with some lava caves in Auckland including beautiful Rangitoto Island. Likely to be 2-3 days with limited places.
And ...	Hosting a geologically interested mob in a geologically interesting country, we will organise a pre- or post- trip to the Rotorua geothermal areas and/or the Taupo volcanoes. Details to follow.