

Welcome to Waitomo

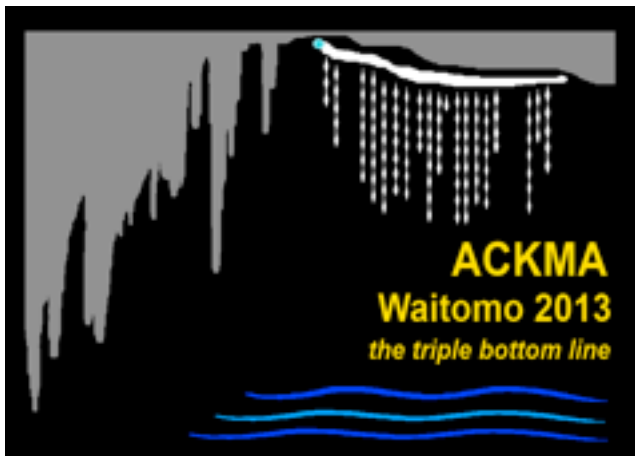
Come to Waitomo's 2013 Conference!

The village of Waitomo Caves is set amongst rolling green hills of farmland and forest, at the edge of one of New Zealand's largest karst areas. Cave tourism has been a part of Waitomo life since the 1880s.

Since the last ACKMA Conference in Waitomo – way back in 1997 – a lot has changed. The Ruakuri Cave has been re-opened, and the Spellbound Caves have been developed. A new, architecturally iconic, visitor building has been developed at the Waitomo Glowworm Cave and new accommodation food and retail outlets have developed. But some things haven't changed – there is still a pub in the centre of the village and the local karst scenery remains spectacular.

Conference theme

The Conference Theme is 'the triple bottom line'. Also known as 'people, planet, profit', triple bottom line is a framework for looking at social and environmental outcomes, as well as financial outcomes. More broadly for us, what does cave tourism really deliver for its stakeholders – financially, environmentally and socially? Guest speakers, and we hope, conference delegates will explore this theme in key conference sessions.



Getting to Waitomo

Waitomo is three hours south of Auckland, the usual air gateway into New Zealand. We will have airport transfers for late Thursday to support the pre-conference activities, and Sunday for the Conference itself. The Sunday bus will depart the city first and then pass the airport around 2pm, so flights need to arrive 1:30pm latest. There is some public transport south by bus or train. For those taking public transport, if you can get to the nearby towns of Te Kuiti or Otorohanga we will bring you to Waitomo. An Auckland airport transfer will leave Waitomo around 9am on Saturday morning after the conference, suitable for flights departing 3pm or later (including 2hr check-in).

Accommodation

Accommodation will range from \$10 a night BYO sleeping bag at the local caving club hut, to over \$150 a night at the other end of the market. In between, Waitomo has a range of motel units, backpackers, bed & breakfast, cabins – and even boats and planes. Most are only a short walk from the village centre and the Conference venue.



Waitomo services

Waitomo is a small village with plenty of accommodation options. A general store, 3G phone and wireless/wired broadband, cash machine and food and beverage are all available. Larger towns are about 20 minutes away and have banks, supermarkets, pharmacies and petrol stations.

More information

For more information about the Conference contact Libby Chandler: conference.convenor@ackma.org

Pre-conference #1**Wild caving**

Saturday and Sunday will have wild caving options for those arriving early. Short dry trips will be available for all levels of ability (a dry trip in Waitomo means no more than knee deep). Cave tours are likely to include Hollow Hill, Zweihohlen, Waipuna and Flood Caverns. If enough experienced cavers are in town either Rangitaawa Shaft or Mangawhitikau will be available. Both are multi-pitch SRT and involve swimming (at less than Mulu temperatures). Local transport and some equipment will be available.

Pre-conference #2**Rotorua and Taupo geothermal**

Another post conference option will tour a different form of geodiversity – the geothermal and volcanic heritage of the Rotorua – Taupo area. The very fit might be able to include the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This tour is likely to be three days.

**Post Conference****West Waikato karst & Auckland lava caves**

A three day post-conference tour will ramble from Waitomo back up to Auckland along the less known karst of the Waikato's western coast. The route passes several harbours and some fantastic karst scenery, as well as the largest polje in New Zealand and the Nikau Cave tourist operation at Waikaretu. We will finish the tour with some lava caves in Auckland and the Auckland Harbour islands. Places on this tour are likely to be limited.

**Touring New Zealand?**

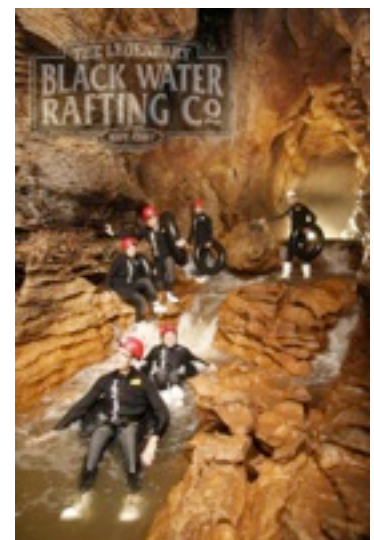
If you're taking a bit more time to visit more of New Zealand, feel free to get in touch with local ACKMA members for advice. The Waitomo Caves Discovery Centre also has an information centre that can help you with advice and bookings for much of the country.

e: info@waitomodiscovery.org



Conference program

May 2013	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday 10th – Sunday 12th	Pre-conference options: #1 Waitomo wild caving trips, or #2 Geothermal Rotorua & Taupo		
Sunday 12th	Transport leaves Auckland CBD about 1pm and Auckland airport around 2pm, arriving Waitomo approx 5pm.		4pm – 6:30pm: Registration open at Waitomo Caves Discovery Centre. Leave 6:30pm for powhiri (welcome) and function at Waitomo Glowworm Cave
Monday 13th	Papers	Split groups: #1 Spellbound cave tour, or #2 Aranui Cave & Ruakuri Natural Tunnel	Committee meeting
Tuesday 14th	Papers	Split groups: #1 Spellbound cave tour, or #2 Aranui Cave & Ruakuri Natural Tunnel	Waitomo Glowworm Cave tours
Wednesday 15th	Papers The AGM	Options: workshops, free time, adventure cave tours, other cave and karst options	Waitomo Caves Discovery Centre behind the scenes tour
Thursday 16th	Papers	Split groups: #1 Ruakuri Cave or, #2 Caves to Coast limestone tour	Maybe a local hydrology session ...
Friday 17th	Papers	Split groups: #1 Ruakuri Cave or, #2 Caves to Coast limestone tour	Final function
Saturday 18th – Monday 20th	Saturday 9am bus departs Waitomo, arriving Auckland Airport around 12-1pm Post conference tour – karst of the western Waikato		



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WAITOMO

Nau mai, haere

