



# Welcome to Naracoorte

## 21<sup>st</sup> Australasian Conference on Cave and Karst Management

### 10 to 15 May 2015

### Naracoorte, South Australia

#### **Come to Naracoorte's 2015 Conference!**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Caves and Karst Management (ACKMA) Conference will be convened in May 2015 at Naracoorte, South Australia under the auspices of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) with input from the South Australian (SA) Friends of Parks group, the Friends of Naracoorte Caves and local ACKMA members.

DEWNR manages a majority of the sites that the conference will visit on field excursions, including three that are internationally significance - Naracoorte Caves National Park World Heritage Area, and Bool Lagoon and Piccaninnie Ponds RAMSAR sites.

Conference excursions will visit many of the sites in the south-east of SA to which participants were introduced in 1999, when the ACKMA conference was based in Mt Gambier. The achievements of DEWNR and its partner agencies will be showcased in 2015 as will the investigations and findings of Flinders University palaeontologists in Naracoorte Caves National Park.

#### **Conference theme: 'Caring for Country'**

The conference theme acknowledges the association of Australia's first peoples to their land - to "country", allows insight into cultural relationships, reflection on early European settlement and insights into today's economic, social and conservation endeavours.

#### **Getting to and from Naracoorte**

Naracoorte is approximately 330 kilometres south east of Adelaide (capital of South Australia). By car it is approximately 3½ hours from Adelaide (via Taillem Bend, Keith and Padthaway; or around 4 hours via the coast). There are flights from all other capital cities into Adelaide daily. Adelaide airport has an international terminal with many direct flights available (check with airlines).

Regional Express (REX) ([www.regionalexpress.com.au](http://www.regionalexpress.com.au)) flies into Mt Gambier (Mt Gambier is 100 km south of Naracoorte Caves) daily from Adelaide and Melbourne. Delegates could then travel via bus to Naracoorte.

Alternatively (and a better option) is travel via coach from Adelaide. Premier Stateliner Coach Group travels to Naracoorte daily from Adelaide (see below for timetable). The required service is Adelaide to Mount Gambier (via inland) leaving from the Central Bus Station (Franklin St, Adelaide), with delegates getting off the bus in Naracoorte township (Battery Service, Smith St). It is then only a short walk or taxi ride to accommodation. Go to <http://www.premierstateliner.com.au/> for more information on the bus service.

There are three taxi services in Naracoorte township; Naracoorte Taxis 131 008 and South East Taxi Service Ph: (08) 8762 0689 or (08) 8762 0798.

#### **Accommodation in Naracoorte township**

See - <http://naracoorte-sa.street-map.net.au>

**Kincraig Hotel** – 158 Smith Street, Naracoorte

Ph: (08) 8762 2200

Email: [kincraig@rbm.com.au](mailto:kincraig@rbm.com.au)

**Bushmans Arms Hotel** – 20 Robertson St, Naracoorte

Ph: (08) 8762 2100

Email: [admin@bushmans.com.au](mailto:admin@bushmans.com.au)

**Naracoorte Hotel/Motel** – 73 Ormerod St, Naracoorte

Ph: (08) 8762 2400

Email: [info@naracoortehotel.com.au](mailto:info@naracoortehotel.com.au)

**Country Roads Motel \*\*\*\*-** 20 Smith St, Naracoorte.

Ph: (08) 8762 3900

Email: [countryroads@rbm.com.au](mailto:countryroads@rbm.com.au)

**Greenline Motel \*\* ½** - Bordertown Road, Naracoorte.

Ph: (08) 8762 2599

Email: [greenlinemotel@bigpond.com](mailto:greenlinemotel@bigpond.com)

**Cave Park Cabins \*\*\* ½** - self-contained cottages

Located adjacent to the Naracoorte Caves National Park in a natural bushland setting. Caves Rd Naracoorte

Ph: (08) 8762 0696

Email: [robm@rbm.com.au](mailto:robm@rbm.com.au)

**William MacIntosh Motel \*\*\*\*** - Stewart Tce, Naracoorte  
Ph: (08) 8762 1644  
Email: [info@william-macintosh.com.au](mailto:info@william-macintosh.com.au)

**Naracoorte Cottages \*\*\*\*** - five self-contained cottages.  
Ph: 0408 810 645  
<http://www.naracoortecottages.com.au>

**Naracoorte Holiday Park \*\*\*** - Caravans, cabins.  
Ph: (08) 8762 2128 or 1800 999 899  
<http://www.naracoorteholidaypark.com.au/>

**Willowbrook Cottages \*\*\*\*** - Jenkins Tce, Naracoorte  
Ph: (08) 8762 0259

If you are phoning from overseas the prefix is 0011 61 or +61. The SA area code is 08 from within Australia and 8 from overseas. also delete the leading 0 from a mobile number.

#### **Accommodation and camping at Naracoorte Caves National Park (NCNP).**

Wirreanda Bunkhouse has four rooms with between one and five bunks in each and H, I, J are three separate units with four bunks in each. The bunkhouse has a shower and toilet. A communal kitchen is only for accommodation users; communal showers and toilets are shared with campers. There are 13 powered sites and a tenting area. Wirreanda has been put aside for ACKMA attendees and will remain available until two weeks prior to the conference at a cost of \$10 per person (shared) or \$45 per room or unit (single or one couple). Bedding packs are available at \$10 per person. Bring own towels.

Ph: (08) 8762 2340  
Email: [DEWNR.NaracoorteCaves@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWNR.NaracoorteCaves@sa.gov.au)

#### **More information**

For more information about the Conference contact

#### **Deborah Carden**

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Ph: (08) 8762 3412  
Mob: 0409 006 710

#### **Meals and services in Naracoorte township**

Naracoorte township has a population of around 5,500 people and serves a large extended rural community. The conference venue is the Naracoorte Town Hall. This is located in the main street of the town, allowing attendees and partners easy access to accommodation and shops. There are supermarkets and other retail shops available in the town centre. Other services include: five service stations for fuel and essentials including a 24 hour facility, medical facilities, post office and pharmacists. There are branches of the Commonwealth bank, National bank, ANZ bank, BankSA, Westpac bank and Savings and Loans credit union. Automatic teller machines dispensing cash are available at these locations. There is a Woolworths supermarket which is open 7 days (until 9pm on weekdays and 7pm on weekends) and a Foodland supermarket also open 7 days.

Please note – delegates (and partners) staying at Wirreanda Bunkhouse or Campground at the NCNP will need to bring their own groceries for breakfast and for any other meals where they don't join in with what is provided by the conference. There are excellent kitchen facilities including ovens and fridges. The Caves Cafe is open from 10am to 3pm daily.

#### **Touring Australia?**

If you're taking a bit more time to visit more of Australia feel free to get in touch with local ACKMA members for advice. Naracoorte also has an information centre that can help you with advice and bookings.

Email: [naracoortevic@nlc.sa.gov.au](mailto:naracoortevic@nlc.sa.gov.au)  
Ph: (08) 8762 3199



## Conference program

May 2015	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday 8 May Saturday 9 May	Pre-conference caving or field trips: to be confirmed		
Sunday 10 May	Registration opens 3pm, Naracoorte Town Hall		
Monday 11 May	Papers	Split groups and rotating tours: Victoria Fossil Cave, Bat Centre and Blanche Cave, Wonambi Fossil Centre, Fossil Laboratory	Key note address: Economic Development - a partnership approach
Tuesday 12 May	All day tour departing 9am to Ramsar site Piccaninnie Ponds, Ewens Ponds Pick Swamp, SE water licensing, other wet places....		Key note address: Prof John Long
Wednesday 13 May	Papers	Site visits: Sand and Robertson Cave blocks and Ramsar site Bool Lagoon Game Reserve	ACKMA Committee meets
Thursday 14 May	All day tour departing 9am to Mount Gambier. Aboriginal Centre, volcanoes. ACKMA AGM		Evening meal in Mount Gambier
Friday 15 May	Papers	Free time or organised trips to Coonawarra wineries	Final function
Saturday 16 May	Delegates depart for home or post conference trips		

### KEY SITES

#### Australian Fossil Mammal Site - Naracoorte

Naracoorte Caves was inscribed on the World Heritage list on 18 December 1994 as a serial nomination with Riversleigh in North Queensland. Together they form the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (AFMS).

To become World Heritage listed, a property must meet at least one of ten criteria of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the AFMSs meet two. Criterion eight states that outstanding examples of major stages of earth's history must be represented and criterion nine requires representation of significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals. The fossil record at Naracoorte Caves spans a major stage of earth's history (the Quaternary ice-ages) and the record provides examples of how ecological communities developed through the Pleistocene ice-ages. Dedicated research at both AFMSs over the past forty years helps the sites meet obligations under the World Heritage Convention by furthering the understanding about the sites' OUVs, adding to existing knowledge and allowing

transmission of that knowledge to the world-wide community. Recent work by Dr Liz Reed and colleagues shows that it's not only animal fossils that are preserved at AFMS Naracoorte.

2014 is the 20th anniversary of the World Heritage listing and while this will be celebrated in 2014, we will also celebrate it with ACKMA at Naracoorte in 2015.





## Ramsar Sites

Bool Lagoon Game Reserve and the Piccaninnie Ponds are recognised under the Ramsar Convention as being Wetlands of International Significance. Both will be visited on the field excursions. Bool Lagoon, approximately 20 minutes drive south of Naracoorte, is considered one of the most valuable wetland conservation areas in Australia. It is also protected under the Japan/Australia and China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreements because of the importance of the area as a summer refuge for migratory waders. While the summer visits are especially spectacular in a good rain-year, bird life is viable throughout the year. The beautiful ponds are a prime example of the region's fresh water aquifers and it's a renowned cave diving site.

## Fire and Water

The field excursions will pass through a variety of landforms comprising volcanoes, karst and other features. A highlight of one excursion will be to see a superb geological extravaganza showing in Mt Gambier at the city's new Main Corner. Feel free to google that but don't spoil the fun for those who don't!



Above. Umpherston's Cave, Mount Gambier  
Photo: Steve Bourne

Below. Locality for Naracoorte



Above. Town Cave, Mount Gambier  
Below. Display at Main Corner, Mount Gambier  
Photos: Steve Bourne

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