

ACKMA Conference and AGM, New Zealand 2023

At last – the moment we have all been waiting for over the past several years – an in-person ACKMA conference!!!!

Tākaka, New Zealand, May 21 to 26, 2023

The Next ACKMA conference is to be held at Tākaka, in Golden Bay, Mohua. Golden Bay is known as the “heart of the parks” as it is nestled between the Kahurangi and Abel Tasman National Parks. This area is one of New Zealand’s most geologically and ecologically diverse places. The little town of Tākaka is off the beaten track and located beneath stunning marble mountains, pockets of limestone and beside beautiful golden beaches.

For an overview of the geology of this region, the last chapter of NZ Geology is recommended, https://www.geotrips.org.nz/downloads/Ballance_NZ_Geology-V2.pdf

Transport:

For those interested in taking the bus to and from the conference (this needs to be specified on your registration form), the departure times are as follows:

Friday 19th – 9.00am departure from Nelson city for the pre-conference field trip

Sunday 21st – 2.00pm departure from Nelson airport for Tākaka

Saturday 27th – 8.00am departure from Tākaka for Nelson airport (arrive ~10.00am)

Monday 29th – 9.00am departure from Collingwood for Nelson airport (arrive ~12.00pm)

Caving and Tramping equipment:

Please bring all your own caving and tramping (bushwalking) equipment. NZ Caves can be cold and wet. Outside temperatures may also be cold. A good raincoat is required to be carried on all excursions. If you have a helmet please bring it with you. At a bare minimum please ensure you have a headlamp and torch as NZ caves are naturally dark inside!

Didymo cleaning stations will also be provided between locations, www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo

First Aid and Communication equipment will be carried on all trips. While all endeavours will be made to cave safely participants undertake all activities at their own risk.

Trip leaders reserve the right to modify routes and/or select participants after accessing suitability, please be realistic with your selections.

COVID:

In NZ if you test positive to COVID then you are required to isolate for 7 days. While we will operate a high trust model with delegates, we communicate the following expectations to help us run a safe conference.

Please bring your own face masks. It is not mandated to wear facemasks in NZ other than hospitals and medical centres, however we encourage you to use face masks in all group travel (airlines, mass transit points, and public transport). As we will be together for the best part of a week there is a chance COVID may affect delegates.

- The evening prior to joining the conference group travel we encourage you to complete a RAT and only join the conference if you test negative.
- We strongly recommend you wear a face mask during any group shared travel prior to joining the conference itinerary in Nelson. During the conference, when sharing transport, the use of face masks is an individual choice, and we ask everyone respect delegates decision on mask wearing or not.
- We will provide a personal hand sanitiser and ask you commit to maintaining hand hygiene at all times.
- During the conference if you have any COVID symptoms or just feel fluey please complete a RAT (we will have a supply of these free to delegates) We ask you disclose/communicate a positive RAT test as soon as possible to conference convenor.
- In the event of a positive test, we will discuss the best isolation location for you, and if your Takaka accommodation isn't suitable then we will arrange transport back to Nelson where there are better options including health facilities. Onwards travel from Nelson and isolation arrangements are at delegates own expense.

Provisional Program:

Additional times will be posted as soon as verified on the website.

Papers and speakers that have been confirmed are listed, but this listing is far from complete – there is still room for some papers and plenty of room for posters, so if you are now inspired to contribute, please let the Conference Organisers know ASAP!

Sunday 21st May

From 5pm – Registration and Welcome Meal supplied at Tākaka Recreation and Sports Clubrooms

Monday 22nd May

8.30am pickup from Accommodation

9.00am Welcome from Ngati Tama Tangata Whenua (location to be confirmed)

Morning Tea

Keynote Speakers: Ngati Tama
Paul Williams
Andrew Yuille

Packed lunch to be eaten enroute to Waikorupupu Springs

1.00pm Visit to Te Waikorupupu springs hosted by Ngati Tama

Return to accommodation

4.00pm Optional Karst Walk

6.00pm Dinner at Tākaka eat spots of your choice – self-organised

8.30pm After Dinner Talks – Note **Alcohol free venue**

Tuesday 23rd

7.30am pickup from Accommodation

8.00am Full day trip to Tākaka Hill – Groups will swap locations morning and afternoon

A. Travel along Caanan Road to visit Harwoods Hole Lookout, Homestead Creek Submergence and passing the 21 Ha Greenlink Cave entrance property (presently being 'crowd funded' to be purchased by the NZSS Cave Conservation and access trust) and travel along East Tākaka Road, to see the interface between the Tākaka Hill and the Tākaka valley

Lunch Supplied at the Woolshed Café by Jessica and Tony Salmond

B. Visit to Ngarua Show Cave, hosted by David Hobson and Janet Morga
Optional Caving trips to Hawkes and Kairuru Cave part of this ancient (for NZ) system
Possibly visit to closed Marble Quarry, used for Nelson Cathedral

7.00pm Dinner at Tākaka eat spots of your choice– self-organised

After Dinner Talk: Van Watson – The Nelson deep caving scene prior to Oz and all arriving

Wednesday 24th

8.30am pickup from Accommodation

9.00am Papers

Morning tea

Papers

Packed lunch

Fit walkers take a hike to Rawhiti Cave

Gentle walkers take in local Karst features visiting the labyrinth and the Grove

4.00pm **ACKMA AGM**

Dinner (included in the Conference Fee)

Enjoy a convivial evening at Tākaka's famous Wholemeal Cave

Thursday 25th

8.30am pickup from Accommodation

9.00am Papers

Morning tea

Papers

Packed lunch

East Tākaka Excursion, visit environment of the mornings talks and entrances of Tōtara Cave

Optional walk to Elliot's Cave, a long-closed tourist cave To be confirmed...

7.00pm Dinner at Tākaka eat spots of your choice– self-organised

After Dinner Talk: Kieran McKay

Friday 26th

8.30am pickup from Accommodation

9.00am Start

Papers Subject – Offshore from NZ

Morning Tea

Papers / workshop

Packed lunch

Tour of Limestone of Tarakohe and Aorere Valley

OR Commentary Cave – Wild / Adventure cave used by school groups, A sporty cave!

Van Watson– A summary of the PNG 1973 expedition and the opportunity for people to buy the PNG cave book. Will fit this in somewhere!

6.00pm Final Dinner and Entertainment at Tākaka Recreation Hall

Post Conference Tours:

Saturday 27th

Re located to Collingwood, Historic town 30km north of Tākaka (no farewell spit tour available this day due to early low tide)

Westhaven Inlet Geology, Wharariki Beach Walk, Puponga Coalmine ruins walk

Sunday 28th

Either Farewell spit Safari Ecotour , start at 6.30 am Finish at 1pm 40 km each way along the beach at low tide etc \$175 pp, see <https://www.farewellspit.com/our-tours/farewell-spit-tour/>

OR Excursion to Mt Burnett, a 641 Metre dolomite mountain near Collingwood with unique flora and fauna- led by Greg Knapp, local DOC Botanist, and long-time local resident

Mt Burnett has endemic shrubs and sedges and the endangered carnivorous land snail *Powelliphanta gilliesi*. Access is only available on a Sunday as there is a Quarry operating the other 6 days. Good fitness is required as there is a 90-minute uphill walk to start.....Bring water and lunch

The conference booking form is at the end of this journal, as is the Committee Nomination form for the ACKMA AGM. They are also available on the ACKMA website as fillable pdfs – the nomination form is in the members only area under [ACKMA Committee Nomination Form Current!](#)

Topics for papers confirmed so far include:

- The latest exploration news from the Greenlink Middle Earth System
- A decade of exploration in Golden Bay marble: Many modest caves or tiny fragments of a vast network?
- Diverse Karst landforms revealed by digital topography: examples from the Nullarbor and Golden Bay.
- The Grecian Stream and the back of the Pupu: How the most remote input to the aquifer was overlooked.
- Speleothems from Concrete
- The difficult problem of weighing a cave from the surface and what it tells us about the Nullarbor Karst.
- Jillabenan Cave
- ACKMA strategic plan- where to from here?

For those unable to attend in person:

While it will be sad not to see everyone in person at the upcoming ACKMA Conference and AGM in Takaka, NZ, we acknowledge that the world has changed and not everyone feels comfortable or is able to travel.

The Conference Organisers are therefore looking at ways that the paper sessions may be recorded and uploaded to the ACKMA website at a later date for access by members. Once logistics have been sorted, details of access will be forwarded to all members.

The AGM will still be a live on-line event and access details will be forwarded to all members closer to the date.

