

ACKMA CONFERENCE 6-11 MAY 2018 MARGARET RIVER, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mark Delane
Conference Convener



*Lake Cave, Margaret River
Photo: Courtesy AMRTA*

It's hard to believe that only a few months ago we were in New Zealand, enjoying the hospitality and beautiful scenery in Ta Anau, but now we have to start to look forward to the 2018 conference in Margaret River, Western Australia.

Planning and organisation started in the flights home and since then and we are pleased to be able to provide you all with the following update!

Conference Committee:

As many of you know the task of organising a conference is no small feat, but we are blessed with a load of experience with this committee, consisting of 2 ACKMA fellows and 2 Life members, and me!

- Robyn McBeath
- Peter Bell
- Andy Spate
- Rauleigh Webb
- Mark Delane

Conference Date and Location

The 2018 ACKMA conference will be held in Margaret River, Western Australia, with the welcome gathering on Sunday 6th May and the final dinner on Friday 11th May 2018.

Located in the South West of Western Australia, the Margaret River Region is home to over 150 cave and karst formations, nestled in the spine of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.

The Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association (MRBTA), is a not for profit, membership based organisation that manages 4 cave and 2 lighthouse precincts, 4 visitors centers and the ground handling at the Busselton- Margaret River regional airport, and destination marketing for the region.

MRBTA, is proud to host the 2018 ACKMA conference, with the support and assistance of a number of key operators within the region.

Conference Theme

The conference committee is pleased to announce that the theme of the 2018 conference is Hydrology Management, with a working title of "Water to Wine".

Water was a fundamental element in the formation of the karst landscape in the region, the flourishing new wine industry, with other land uses now capitalizes on this water; with what impacts and implications? We are keen to share, explore and discuss the management of water in all aspects above and below ground in cave and karst landscapes.

Pre- and Post-Field trips

Both the pre- and post- conference field trip are yet to be confirmed, and will be subject to interest:

The Pre-conference field trip is purposed to head north of Perth, taking in Yanchep, Eneabba, Cervantes, Nambung and Beekeepers Nature Reserves, ending in Margaret River

The Post-conference field trip is purposed to head south, from Margaret River, taking in Black Point, Pemberton, Mt Chudulup, Albany, Porongrup, Stirling Ranges, ending in Perth.

More info on both field trips will be issued once details are confirmed.

Conference Papers

A call for conference papers will be made in the coming months, Andy Spate will co-ordinate and manage all conference papers.

Conference Program

The conference will run with the same format each day; with papers being presented in the morning including morning tea, then grabbing pre-packed lunch, and afternoon snacks prior to boarding buses for afternoon field trips. Below is a sample day:

8.30 – 9.00 am	gathering for morning papers
9.00 – 10.30 am	presentation of papers
10.30 – 11.00 am	morning tea
11.00 – 12.30 pm	presentation of papers
12.30 – 1.00 pm	collect lunch and board buses
1.00 – 5.00 pm	field trip

Conference Venue

The primary venue for the 2018 conference venue for the presentation of the papers is the Margaret River TAFE which is centrally located within the town of Margaret River and is centrally located to the accommodation, food and beverages and key services.

Field Trip Locations

The itinerary of field trip locations is currently being compiled and will include a range of caves and karst formations, other key attractions and places of interest in an effort to provide a broader cross section of management and conservation. MRBTA is working with Department of Parks and Wildlife to host one day of field trips also. The field trip itinerary will be published in the December journal.

Accommodation

We have sourced a number of accommodation options that are located in close proximity to the town center and also cover a

good cross section of budgets. Venue details and booking options will be published in the December journal.

Conference Catering

In an effort to accommodate all and to keep the overall conference cost as low as possible, the purposed format for catering at the conference will be as below, please note information will be provided for local shopping centers, cafes and restaurants.

Breakfast at own cost

Morning Tea

- Provided at conference venue
- Self-serve tea and coffee, with assorted muffins, biscuits and fruit

Lunch and Afternoon Tea

- All pre-packed for taking on field trips - assorted rolls, bottle of water, fruit, cake/cookie etc and cheese and cracker style pack

Dinner

- Casual BBQ dinner of Sunday of arrival
- Catered dinner Monday, Wednesday and Final Dinner Friday
- Tuesday and Thursday dinner at own cost, we are speaking to local suppliers to source discounts or offers from venues in town to offer to ACKMA

Conference Transport

Buses will be supplied for field trips each day, which will depart and return to the conference venue.

Buses will be supplied to and from scheduled dinner venues on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings if required.

A support vehicle and driver will be available if required.

Bus Transfer to and From Perth

This will be as an optional extra, subject to numbers.

We have 3 options to get to Margaret River and then back to Perth

- Set departure time on Sunday early afternoon for a dedicated ACKMA bus one way down to Margaret River and the same on the return Saturday mid- morning – Costs per person, departure and arrival times to be confirmed
- Those outside these times we can offer either to book a seat on either Southwest Coaches or TransWA, both with set departure times and routes, both via airport - Costs per person, departure and arrival times to be confirmed

Conference Registration Form and Costs

The conference registration form will be issued in December, we are currently finalising the details of the conference including the registrations fee; all efforts are being made to minimise costs and to be in line with past conferences fees.

Early Bird List

We would welcome any early bird expressions, if you are keen to attend the 2018 ACKMA Conference in Margaret River, if you are indeed interested please send an email to:

<mailto:conferenceregistrations@ackma.org?subject=EarlyBird>
Conference Expressions of Interest