



ANZAC Weekend

@ the Waitomo Caves Museum

Celebrating the **International Year of Caves & Karst**

www.iyck2021.org

PROGRAMME

All activities are free of charge but a donation to the museum, which is a community-run charitable trust, would be appreciated.

	Morning 9am – 12 pm	Afternoon 1 pm – 4 pm	Evening
Saturday 24th April	<p>TREK Waitomo Waterfall: Visit Waitomo’s disappearing waterfall.</p> <p>Places are limited and prior bookings will be required. Email info@waitomodiscovery.org to book.</p> <p>CAVE TRIP Cave Creatures – Discovering the different creatures that live in, and just beyond cave entrances “the twilight zone”.</p> <p>Places are limited and prior bookings will be required. There will be trips at 9am & 10:30am. Email info@waitomodiscovery.org to book.</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES @ the WAITOMO CAVES MUSEUM</p> <p>Virtual Reality – Harwood’s Hole. Experience a 176 metre cave descent. – Nicole Miller</p> <p>Bookings will be taken on the day.</p> <p>Backroom museum tours Bookings will be taken on the day.</p> <p>Caving gear and rope demonstrations</p> <p>Caving movies: – Underworld and First Crossings (a re-enactment of the 1958/59 Harwoods Hole descent).</p>	<p>TALK – History and evolution of the Waitomo Valley Karst – Professor Paul Williams. Waitomo Caves Museum Theatre 7:30 pm.</p> <p>Places are limited and prior bookings will be required. Email info@waitomodiscovery.org to book..</p>
ANZAC morning services	Ōtorohanga: Dawn service, 6am, at the World War I Memorial. Civic parade at 9.30am, meeting at the Ōtorohanga Reserve.		
Sunday 25th April	<p>WALKING FIELD TRIP History and evolution of the Waitomo Valley Karst – Professor Paul Williams.</p> <p>Places are limited and prior bookings will be required. Email info@waitomodiscovery.org to book.</p>	<p>CAVE TRIP Cave geology – Mangapohue Cave: how caves and cave formations are created.</p> <p>Places are limited and prior bookings will be required. There will be trips at 1pm & 2:30pm. Email info@waitomodiscovery.org to book.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES @ the WAITOMO CAVES MUSEUM</p> <p>Backroom museum tours Bookings will be taken on the day.</p> <p>Caving gear and rope demonstrations.</p> <p>Caving movies: The Nettlebed Chronicles</p>	<p>TALK & RUAKURI CAVE TOUR History of the Ruakuri dry cave tour – John Ash and Van Watson. Waitomo Caves Museum Theatre - 5 - 6pm</p> <p>Book signing and finger food – 6 - 6:30 pm. The Search for the Deepest Hole in the World – Van Watson. Tea, coffee and finger food.</p> <p>Ruakuri Cave Tour – 6:30 - 8:30 pm.</p> <p>Places are limited and prior bookings will be required for both talk and cave tour. Email info@waitomodiscovery.org to book.</p>
Monday 26th April	<p>A TRIP THROUGH TIME – self-drive exploration of our karst landscape - see details on the last page.</p>		

WALKS AND CAVE TRIPS

Waitomo Waterfall trek

Trek and climb your way alongside a river, through a karst landscape and under pristine podocarp rainforest to where the river becomes a waterfall and disappears into the subterranean world below. You'll then clamber down the dry valley beyond the waterfall to where the underground river re-emerges into daylight from a short picturesque cavern.

This adventure requires a reasonable level of fitness and agility to be able to climb over rocks and cross streams as well as a reasonable level of maturity as there are height and water risks and no walkways or handrails. Own transport is required from Waitomo Village to the end of Ruakuri Road (8.7 km).

Minimum age - 16 years old. Children under 18 years old will require adult supervision on the trek.

History and Evolution of the Waitomo Valley Karst

This is an educational walking field trip, led by eminent Professor Paul Williams, that visits sites of interest discussed in his public lecture 'History and Evolution of the Waitomo Valley Karst'. This walk begins at the Waitomo Caves Museum and follows the Waitomo Walkway up-stream to the Ruakuri Scenic Reserve (approximately 3.5 km). Transport from the Ruakuri Reserve back to the Waitomo Caves Museum will be available.

Please bring at least one torch per party as the fieldtrip will likely include a short cave visit.

Cave Creatures

We will visit two cave entrances where we will investigate the creatures that live within the twilight zone and just beyond, such as glowworms, cave weta, and harvestmen. The caves are only 13°C so warm clothing and solid footwear are necessary, as participants will also get wet feet to around ankle depth.

We will supply cave helmets and lights but feel free to also bring your own torch. There is a 15-minute walk across farmland, in each direction to reach the caves. Your own transport is required from the Waitomo Caves Museum to Stubbs Farm (9.5 km).

Minimum age - 9 years old.

Cave Geology

We will visit a wild cave called Mangapohue, where there are no handrails or walkways, and learn how caves and cave formations like stalagmites, stalactites, and other less common types of formations grow. This will involve walking in a cave stream that is predominantly ankle-deep but, on occasion, is knee-deep (up to around 50 cm deep). The stream has minimal current and the Waitomo Caves Museum regularly runs Year 5 school trips in this cave.

The temperature in Mangapohue Cave is 13°C so warm thermal or polar fleece clothing and solid shoes, boots or gumboots are preferred. There is a 15-minute walk across farmland, in each direction, to reach the caves. Your own transport is required from the Waitomo Caves Museum to Stubbs Farm (9.5 km).

Minimum age - 9 years old.

History of the Ruakuri dry cave tour

A behind-the-scenes look at the unique development and construction of Ruakuri Cave by the original people who were involved. This begins with a talk by John Ash and Van Watson, followed by an intermission with finger-food where Van Watson will be available to sign copies of his and Paul Caffyn's recently published book 'The Search for the Deepest Hole in the World' (copies available for sale). Finally, a first-hand look at the development work to date will follow, with a tour through Ruakuri Cave.

The tour of Ruakuri Cave will be free of charge courtesy of Discover Waitomo.

VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

Harwoods Hole VR experience

Experience a breath-taking 176-metre abseil descent of Harwood's Hole through a virtual reality head-set. Harwoods Hole and its surrounding area possess an ambience that is felt by visitors, with its sheer size and depth evoking a sense of awe (and sometimes fear) in cavers that make the descent.

Nicole Miller has developed this cutting edge virtual reality experience, along with other virtual reality cave, sea and shipwreck diving experiences.

MOVIES

Playing on rotation during ANZAC weekend in the movie theatre at the Waitomo Caves Museum.

Harwoods Hole – The massive 176-metre deep entrance shaft required cave explorers to custom-make a winch to descend the hole as it was beyond the capabilities of caving equipment and techniques at the time, during the late 1950s. After its exploration between 1958 and 1960, Harwoods Hole became the deepest cave in the Southern Hemisphere. Although the depth record has now been surpassed, it was a spectacular achievement.

- *First Crossings – Harwoods Hole* (2014). A re-enactment of the pioneering descent and exploration of Harwoods Hole that took place between 1958 and 1960.
- *Underworld* (1969). This short documentary shows the Harwoods Hole winch, on display in the museum, in use. Cave explorers descend Lost World in Waitomo using the winch used to make the pioneering descent of Harwoods Hole in 1958.

(The VR experience available at the Waitomo Caves Museum during ANZAC weekend is a recent descent of Harwoods Hole).

The Nettlebed Chronicles – Exploration of New Zealand's deepest cave system. From small beginnings, the Nettlebed/Stormy Pot cave system has now been explored to a depth of 1174 meters.

- *Two Days to Soft Rock Café* (1983) – documents the early exploration of the lower sections of Nettlebed Cave at the foot of Mt Arthur.
- *Deep – the story of Stormy Pot* (2013) – chronicles cavers' efforts to connect Stormy Pot to Nettlebed Cave.
- *Nettlebed to Stormy Pot - closing the gap* (2020) – follow the story as the connection gets tantalisingly closer.

SELF-DRIVE TOUR

A TRIP THROUGH TIME – a drive through our Waitomo landscape

This is a self-drive and self-directed geological field-trip that traverses the diverse geological landscape from Waitomo Caves Village to the Marokopa coast.

Sites to visit include: caves, fossils, geological faults, “relatively young” to very old sedimentary rocks, volcanic cones and ash, as well as the Mangapohue Natural Bridge and the Marokopa Falls.

Copies of an out-of-print publication, the guidebook “A Trip Through Time” are available at the Waitomo Caves Museum for \$10 but only 25 are available.