

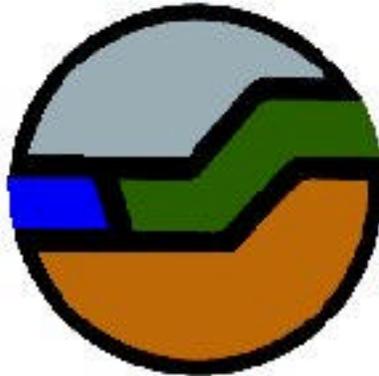
5.1 CAVE PERMIT SYSTEM FOR THE LEEWIN - NATURALISTE RIDGE

LEEWIN – NATURALISTE

NATIONAL PARK

Caving and Abseiling Permit System

Revised Booklet



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

Revised November 1999

1. INTRODUCTION

This booklet replaces the old Cave Permit System Booklet as from 1st December 1999.

The revised booklet has been left as brief and concise as possible so that it is cheaper to produce and circulate, but also to encourage more people to read the contents thoroughly. Every effort has been made to convey clear intent of the revised system. If upon reading you see an uncertainty, please contact a member of the Cave Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) and we will (if necessary) correct the intent in a Cave Newsletter and revise this document as appropriate.

The CMAC will continue to put recommendations to CALM as problems/issues arise warranting a change so that the high conservation values of the caves and environments are not diminished.

2. OBJECTIVES OF CAVING AND ABSEILING PERMIT SYSTEM

CALM objectives for the Caving and Abseiling Permit System remain the same:

1. Improve cave and abseiling safety. Where appropriate information will be provided on site relevant to caving and abseiling generally and to each site specifically where necessary.
2. Comply with the recommendations in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park Management Plan (revision due 1999).
3. Improve cave conservation by classifying most of the caves as having restricted access. Restricted Access (RA) Caves require the guidance of an approved trip leader through a WA Caving Club to ensure that cave trips are taken in a responsible and safe manner.
4. Educate users on all aspects of caves by:
 - installing information signs
 - providing educational cave tours
 - ensuring trip leader skills for self guiding caves conform to minimum standards.
 - Provide education material/courses to trip leaders.
 - Providing detailed information to interested people on the cave permit system.
5. Raise revenue on a user pay basis. Use the monies raised to acquire staff, rehabilitate caves and to research and monitor caves in the Park.
6. Obtain information on the number of people using the various types of caves by:
 - recording the number of permits issued
 - providing log books (register) at some cave entrances
 - installing monitoring devices within the caves
 - analysing returns from concessions

3. CAVE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The classification system has been amended to better reflect abseiling and caving activities and to better portray the high conservation values of caves (self-guiding caves replace the title Adventure Caves). The Calgardup guide hut is the 7 day/week contact for Cave Bookings.

3.1 Self Guiding Caves Class I

Essentially these are the 'beginners caves', but because of the high management cost to maintain their conservation values a fee of \$5/children and \$10/adult applies. The fee does not require a formal Cave Permit, the ticket can be purchased on site from the guide during opening hours. These caves may also be accessed via the Permit System by groups with an accredited leader.

The name (Self Guiding Caves) is intended to convey to users that they **MUST AT ALL TIMES** stay on the marked paths for their own safety and for the protection of the cave. Random exploring off marked paths is likely to be hazardous and damage the cave and is prohibited.

3.2 Self Guiding Caves Class II and III

Access into these caves is via a Cave Permit obtainable from the CALM Calgardup Guide Hut. Only leaders possessing the CALM Cave Leadership qualification can apply for these cave permits.

Self Guiding Caves Class II are horizontal entry caves, whereas Class III are caves requiring roping/laddering skills to enter the cave.

Bookings can be made 12 months in advance.

There is no minimum booking fee. Cancellations giving 14 days notice will receive a full refund, cancellations giving less than 14 days notice will incur a \$5 minimum booking fee per site. All payments must be made in advance of cave trips. Commercial Operators can pay their accounts monthly by arrangement.

All SG3 leaders must have MSR Abseil Instructors Certificate or equivalent at time of applying for trip leader status. Qualifications will be approved by CMAC and circulated in a Cave Newsletter.

NOTE: 1. Only the trip leader on the permit can conduct the trip. Approved trip leaders cannot book a permit for other people to run the activity.

NOTE: 2 Trip leaders must ensure each member of their party is adequately equipped and briefed to enter each cave.

3.3 Abseiling Sites

Abseiling sites receive heavy usage and large impacts on all sites.

Impacts on these sites will be monitored to determine how sustainable the levels of use are.

Sites can be booked up to 12 months in advance. Cancellations giving 14 days notice will receive a full refund, cancellations giving less than 14 days notice will incur a \$5 minimum booking fee per site.

Piggy backing a booking is an acceptable practice provided:

- a) The person with the original booking agrees.

- b) The maximum number of people on site is not exceeded (one participant over the limit exceeds the limit, spectator/non participants are not included in the numbers).
- c) CALM at Calgardup hut is notified and paid fully in advance for the extra people on site.

(Note – for those unfamiliar with the term piggy backing it is where a small group book an abseiling site and others want to share the site up to the people numbers limit).

Calgardup solution Pipe is a fragile area and is open for groups of up to 20, but only 10 are permitted on the decking at any one time. Once a person has abseiled into Calgardup instructors should ensure the correct path back to the top is walked by participants to avoid erosion and short-cutting past dangerous areas. The cave gate **MUST** remain closed if using the site after normal hours.

Abseiling on the Wilyabrup sea cliffs is to be administered under this Permit System from December 1999. Fees and payments are the same as for other abseil sites.

3.4 *Restricted Access Caves*

3.4.1 Access into Locked Caves

CALM acknowledges the role played by the Caves Access Committee (CAC). People wishing to access locked caves should contact a CAC member and get copies of the Constitution and By-Laws which will show locked caves and the numbers of non-affiliated people to a specific cave.

3.4.2 Unlocked Caves

Access into an Unlocked Cave is via the granting of a permit through the normal cave booking office. Only approved Club Trip Leaders can apply for a permit. Approved Trip Leaders are currently evaluated within the Speleological clubs. A maximum of 1 person/trip not affiliated to a speleological club are permitted per trip. This is the responsibility of the trip leader to ensure this condition is not abused.

3.4.3 Fees

Members of Speleological Clubs must apply for access permits into all permissible caves. Members of Clubs only pay the cost of processing the permit through the normal booking office (administrative costs are currently \$5 per permit). Non speleological club members on trips through restricted access caves pay normal cave entry rates. Speleological clubs enjoy the reduced charged in recognition of past and continuing service in the maintenance of caves.

3.4.4 Work vs Research vs Recreation Trips

Work and research Programmes are only those approved by CMAC in advance of trips being undertaken. Such trips have work or research as the prime reason for the cave visit. Recreation trips are those where no substantial work or research is performed. These trips must be booked. Work trips approved by CALM/CMAC do not incur a fee for the permit.

Note: All bookings (unless otherwise indicated) are on a half day basis. Evening caving/abseiling is a p.m. booking slot.

4. TRACK MARKING

CALM aims to track mark all Self-guiding Caves and some restricted access caves. The process of track marking a cave is not a simple process that can be uniformly applied to all passages of cave.

Various marking systems are in place within the Park. In general reflective markers are yellow into the cave and white coming out and red for NO GO AREAS. Continuous marking (track marking) is used to clearly define explicit tracks (the medium of continuous marking may be plastic tape, fishing line, plastic chain etc). Reflective coloured discs are most commonly used. Some caves have stairways and others have heavy fishing line to indicate pathways. Please use common sense when following the markers. Signs explaining track marking (and route marking) will be placed inside the entrance of each self-guiding cave.

Caves without markers (in the short term) should be traversed carefully and the group should stay to observable wear areas. Caving parties should not indiscriminately walk over formations to randomly 'explore' a cave.

5. CONCLUSION

CALM is proud of the positive majority response to conform to the Cave Permit System as commenced on 1st September, 1992. There already exists a strong recognition of the unique and fragile nature of the cave system within the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

Rules and regulations are necessary however to sustain the resource. CALM will continue to source funds to provide a wider based education program. It is hoped the review will be accepted in the same spirit as the initial system. All profit collected from the Permit System goes directly back into the management of caves used by cavers.

Any enquiries on Cave/Abseiling issues can be directed to the Cave Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) chairman or to the District Manager of CALM at Busselton.

CAVE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(As of November 1999)

Members details have been removed as they are now completely out of date!!!!!!

APPENDIX II

CONTACTS FOR CAVING

Conservation and Land Management:

Anne Wood, Cave Manager	08 9757 7035	email; annewood@calm.wa.gov.au
Roger Banks, District Manager Busselton District Office	08 9752 1677	During normal business hours
Margaret River Office	08 9757 2322	During normal business hours
Rob Klok, Caves Ranger	08 9755 5324	During normal business hours

OR EMERGENCIES

Police Emergency	000	
Calgardup Guide Hut	08 9757 7422	Between 9-4.30 pm / 7 days a week

Information Contacts

CALM Calgardup Guide Hut
08 9757 7422 (For permit bookings)

Australian Speleological Federation Inc.
PO Box 388
BROADWAY NSW 2007

Speleological Research Group of WA
PO Box 1303
MIDLAND WA 6953
Phone No. (08) 9470 3023

Cavers Leeuwin
C/- Peter Wood
PO Box 388
MARGARET RIVER WA 6285

Western Australian Speleological Group
PO Box 67
NEDLANDS WA 6009
Phone No. (08) 9356 5550

Australian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA)
C/- Robyn McBeath, Caveworks

Cave Access Committee – All applications to be addressed to:

The Chairperson
PO Box 719
NEDLANDS WA 6009

Current membership of CAC

I. Newton (Chairperson)	
R. Klok CALM	L Hatcher
J. Cugley	W. Tyson

APPENDIX III

A: HIGH CONSERVATION CAVES:

	Max Number Participating (inclusive of Instructors & Assistants)	Max No. Bookings per week
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Self-guiding Caves Class I

Giants Cave *] Cave guide at entrance and one on a roving role inside the cave (does not include Adventure section of Calgardup)	20] no bookings required unless after hours
Calgardup Cave *		20	

(After hours only to accredited Trip Leaders)

Self-guiding Caves Class II

Golgotha Cave *	15	8]
Nannup Cave *	8	4	
Block Cave	6	1	
Quininup Lake Cave (No bookings Dec-Jan)	10	8	
Mordang Dar Cave	10	8	
Calgardup Tree Root Chamber *(6 max. in chamber at one time)	12	10	
Calgardup Cave Adventure Section	8	10	

Self-guiding Caves Class III

Brides Cave	12	2]
Mill Cave*	10	3	
Dingo Cave*	6	2	
Arumvale Pipe	6	6	

Note * - indicates locked cave, key will need to be collected once permit paid for.

Abseiling Sites

Brides Cave	20	10]
WI 16	20	10	
Giants Cave Pipes (2)	20	10	
Calgardup Cave Pipe (maximum of 10 on decking only)	20	10	
Willyabrup Sea Cliffs	20 (x 5)	7	

B: EXTREME CONSERVATION CAVES

Restricted Access Caves

Notes:

1. Self-guiding Caves Class I do not need any previous cave experience.
2. Self-guiding Caves Class II and III need an approved trip leader to book and lead the tour.
3. Any of the above sites (Caves or Abseiling sites) can be closed if there is a safety problem detected or the environment is deteriorating at short notice. CALM will endeavour to inform persons booked if a closure occurs.