

# Partner's Program

We are organising the activities below so that accompanying partner's and family members can enjoy some popular and lesser-known features of the Sydney area during the Congress.

To register your interest for the activities below, or for further information, please email [excursions@speleo.com](mailto:excursions@speleo.com)

Bookings and payments will need to be made at the registration desk on Sunday 23 July.

## **Monday 24 July.**

Afternoon program will follow the Congress opening and plenary lecture session.

Keen to see some Australian wildlife? We will visit the Featherdale Wildlife Park at nearby Doonside. Here you can have close-up encounters with a range of native Australian mammals including wallabies, wombats, koalas, Tasmanian devils, bilbies as well as many birds and reptiles. [www.featherdale.com.au](http://www.featherdale.com.au)

## **Tuesday 25 July.**

A day beside Sydney Harbour. We will catch the public bus to Penrith railway station and then the train to Milsons Point on the northern side of Sydney Harbour. After some morning tea, we will walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Circular Quay. You can enjoy the harbour close-up with magnificent views. This is a free walk across the pedestrian footpath, rather than the commercial BridgeClimb. While some steps are required to get to the footpath, it is a level walk with a paved surface.

At Circular Quay, we will explore the historic Rocks area and the adjacent Barangaroo parklands and perhaps get a ferry to Darling Harbour, depending on the weather of the day and the group.

This is a walking day so sensible shoes and outdoor clothes, including rainwear, are a must.

## **Wednesday 26 July.**

Partner's and family members are most welcome to book places on the mid-week excursion to Jenolan Caves. Bookings open until 1 June.

For those who enjoy craft, local speleologist and lace-maker Anna Binnie will lead a 'craft crawl' travelling by train to some specialty craft shops in the lower Blue Mountains. Contact Anna for more details or register at the desk on Sunday 23 July. [speleo2017@binnie.id.au](mailto:speleo2017@binnie.id.au)

## **Thursday 27 July.**

Travel from Penrith via train to Katoomba and we'll then visit Scenic World. Here there are varied options to ride, walk and enjoy the sights so you can choose to do what will suit you best. You can walk on your own, linger at lookouts, relax in the forest and more. Options include the scenic railway down into the forests, bushwalking tracks and the aerial skyway. The fantastic views of the Blue Mountains include the Three Sisters, one of the most famed sites in the Blue Mountains. As time permits afterwards, we can spend time in the town of Katoomba before catching the train back to Penrith. [www.scenicworld.com.au](http://www.scenicworld.com.au)

[As it is winter time, warm clothes will be required.](#)

## **Friday 28 July.**

Not far from Penrith is the city of Parramatta, a significant part of colonial New South Wales, especially with the development of agriculture. Today, glimpses into the area's history can be sensed via historic buildings and guided tours. There is a gallery, parkland and shopping experiences. The day will include a mix of guided activities and free time. [www.discoverparramatta.com](http://www.discoverparramatta.com)

## **Stitching Circle**

There will be a 'stitching circle' on Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Thursday in the marquee. Open to everyone whether you're a skilled craft-person, a keen beginner or just want to 'have a try'. Bobbin-lace, patchwork, knitting, crochet are all options. Very informal, relaxed and fun. We will be joined by local lace-makers on the Thursday. There are also Speleo 2017 commemorative lace-making bobbins available for purchase. For more details contact Anna at: [speleo2017@binnie.id.au](mailto:speleo2017@binnie.id.au)

If you are coming to the congress from a lace-making area, the local cave-associated lace-makers would love it if you might bring a bobbin from your local area.

## **Options to suit you**

We are keen to hear what your preferences and interests might be. Please get in touch and let us know if you'll be coming to the Congress with your partner and if you have specific interests that you would like to pursue with us. We'd love to assist you with your visit to Sydney. Contact Cathie at:

[excursions@speleo2017.com](mailto:excursions@speleo2017.com)

## **Children's Activities**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the next generation of cavers.

Families with accompanying children aged 0-17 registered for the congress may bring them to any of the Partner's Program activities. Children must be accompanied by a parent or family friend and bookings can be made at the registration desk.

Several other family friendly activities are available most within walking distance of the congress venue including ice-skating, trampolining, indoor rock-climbing, ten pin bowling and laser tag, indoor skydiving, a golf driving range, flight simulator, go-karting, Segway and bike riding as well as many water sports (which will be too cold in winter).

Penrith Council is keen to promote free outdoor adventure activities in the area including the Great River Walk, short bushwalks to lookouts, and quality local playgrounds.

A children's table will be set up in the marquee as a centre for kids to hang out doing paper crafts, quizzes and artistic stuff in between times.

Updated 15/4/2017