

## **Explore Hastings Cave during Earth Science Week**

Special cave tours for kids will be hosted at Hastings Caves State Reserve, in Southern Tasmania, during Earth Science Week 11 – 19 October 2002.

The Parks and Wildlife Service will be running Kids only (big kids, too) cave tours at 11am and 2pm on Saturday and Sundays. The tours will be hands-on and will use props to help improve understanding of the underground environment. The props will include pouring some vinegar onto a variety on rocks to see the reaction, information, cards featuring different cave creatures and a close-up look at some real creatures.

Hastings Caves is also famous for its thermal pool (28°C all year around). The Parks and Wildlife Service will conduct activities around the pool and in the new Visitor Centre (Monday - Friday 11am – 2pm) including:

- Find platypus food and learn about insects and their growth stages.
- “Fizzy Drink”- This will be a simple demonstration of how a few ingredients can put bubble into water and the gas given off is carbon dioxide and the end product is drinkable.
- Hot Springs Walk - A guided tour around the walk explaining the forest, river and springs.
- Tree breathing- A little exercise to show condensation gathering in a plastic bag and of course the relevant explanation.
- Animal Identification games.
- Colouring-in and games session which are great for younger children and wet weather.

School groups are encouraged, at a time to suit them, to get the most out of their visit by partaking in both the tours and the activities. To organise a visit to Hastings Caves during Earth Science should contact Keith Vanderstaay on 6298 3209 or via email to [hastings.caves@bigpond.com](mailto:hastings.caves@bigpond.com)