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## Binoomea, Issue 130, May 2007

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# BINOOMEA

The Newsletter of the Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society.

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## President's Column - May 2007

I would like to thank all who attended the Annual General Meeting in February, and the associated Historical Weekend. Unfortunately, due to illness I was not able to come myself, but the reports I received later point to the weekend having been very successful, and should be continued.

I would like to congratulate those elected to Offices at the AGM, and to thank those who have stood down, for their efforts. I would particularly extend my personal thanks as well as those of JCH&PS to Phyllis Calvert for her outstanding contributions to the Society. She has served as Secretary and Newsletter Editor, as well as being a major contributor to the renovations to the Post Office.

Recently I spent some time sorting out the papers I have accumulated as an office Bearer in JCH&PS. I notice that this month (April) it is fifteen years since the Newsletter was given the name "Binoomea". Because our membership is scattered over Australia, the newsletter is a major method of communicating with members (although I must say the Rob Whyte's website is also very helpful). Down the years (almost 35 now) newsletter editors have provided many items of interest, historical, gossip, Society information etc, either from their own contributions or twisting other people's arms (mine still hurts!).

I give my heartfelt thanks to all newsletter editors and contributors for making Binoomea a successful and informative publication. Our next General meeting is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. I hope you can come.

**Arthur Gray**

2007 President

Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society



Outgoing secretary Phyllis Calvert  
Photo by Kath Bellamy

## HISTORICAL WEEKEND AT JENOLAN CAVES 10<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> February 2007.

By Kath Bellamy

An historical weekend happened in February with special cave tours and activities in Caves House. Theme tours included a Wiburd special and Nettle Cave inspections. An historical display was presented in the Magnolia Room at Caves House which attracted many visitors. This proved to be very successful as there is access to this room from the pathway leading from the car park. Items on display included Caves House Dining Room memorabilia, numerous old publications and pamphlets, many postcards including stereo views which proved to be particular favourites with visitors. David Cook arranged a wonderful display of Shelley ware in a beautiful glass cabinet which was a highlight in the room. Rob Whyte's lighted cave display was a drawcard especially with the children, although, interestingly an electrician commented that the 'bread knife' technology is still in use today. Thanks to David and Robert Cook, Rob Whyte and Barry Richards for contributing to this very successful display

The AGM was held on Saturday night in the Kanangra Boyd Room. Around 5pm drinks, cheese and biscuits were served in the Ballroom and prior to the meeting Barry Richards gave an informative talk on the history of Caves House. We were disappointed that heavy rain prevented the much anticipated walkabout in the House precinct but all enjoyed the presentation. Well done Barry. Caves House staff provided us with a delicious BBQ dinner with those present enjoying the ambience very much. Indeed, some required motivation to move on to the mundane requirement of a meeting. A big thank you to Dennis and his staff at Caves House for a lovely meal and to Scott for his dedication at the bbq plate.

A very productive meeting followed and those of us who were staying at Caves House retired to a comfortable night's rest. On Sunday morning a group went looking for platypus in the Blue Lake. Ian Eddison led us on an enjoyable early morning stroll which culminated in a sighting of a young platypus which was content to be photographed and scrutinised up close. The historical display was well patronised during the day and we look forward to repeating this success on the Easter weekend. Congratulations to all those involved, it is heartening to see such a large contingent of members enjoying the very place we all love.



## DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ARTICLE FOR THE BINOOMEA?



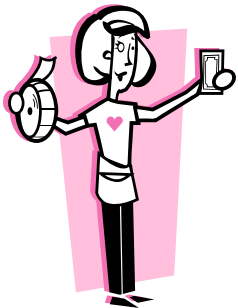
You don't necessarily have to write the article, just tell me what you would like to read about. Articles, suggestions, letters to the editor, complaints, and stories are welcome, and can be forwarded to the editor.

Please contact:

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[jwhitby@iinet.net.au](mailto:jwhitby@iinet.net.au)

JCH&PS address:  
Locked Bag. Jenolan Caves NSW 2790

### POOL OF CEREBUS POSTER RAFFLE.



At the AGM it was decided to draw the raffle at the May meeting, so it's your last chance to buy tickets for the Jimmy Lim, Pool of Cerebus compilation photo poster, but you better be quick.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5, send your money to JCH&PS today.

## SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

This edition, the Society Spotlight is focussed on member Kent Henderson.

Some members may recognise his name, as he is the publishing editor for ACKMA The Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association, and is also author of several cave books published in the 1990's, one in particular being "Jenolan Caves"

I asked Kent about this involvement with Jenolan & ACKMA, and have included an article he wrote for us about this, along with information about ACKMA on the following pages. Here's a brief personal summary about Kent.

"I am a 53 year old former teacher (Dip.T, BEd, GradDipEd, MEd) although haven't taught for 15 years. I am the National Marketing Manager of *Formplex Weatherboards*, a company that manufactures and markets vinyl weatherboards on houses. We employ about 300 people nationwide I'm No.2 in the Company and effectively my own boss. I was born and bred in Geelong, but moved to Melbourne about 12 years ago. I do travel interstate a bit on business - often to where there are caves (funnily enough!) I am a member of the Victorian Speleological Association (VSA), and Southern Tasmanian Caverneers (STC)."



Kent Henderson (left) with Dale Calnin from Buchan Caves Vic.

### HELP SOLVE A JENOLAN MYSTERY.— An article from "News From the Underworld"

The magical Jenolan Caves is home to many strange mysteries. Odd noises, blasts of cold air from seeming nowhere and glimpsed sightings of long departed cave guides are frequently mentioned. However, a new mystery has emerged, not supernatural like the others, but as intriguing.

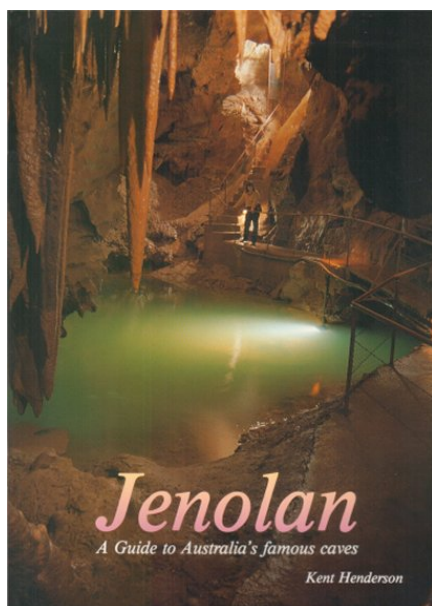
David Hay, a guide at the Caves, has been researching material for special Commemorative Tours being held throughout the year. The most recent was held 14/15 April to commemorate the naming of the Chifley Cave in April 1952. Originally known as the Left Imperial Cave, it was renamed The Chifley Cave to honour Ben Chifley, Prime Minister and long serving Member of Parliament for Macquarie. Whilst reading a press cutting about the ceremony, David noticed mention of a girl "little **Allison Richards**" who presented Mrs. Elizabeth Chifley, Ben Chifley's widow with a bouquet of flowers.



"Alison is important in that she is most probably the only person still alive who was mentioned along with such luminaries as Dr. Evatt, Mr. Clive Evatt and Tony Luchette." David said. "I assume that Allison would be a primary school pupil, probably attending either the then Jenolan Caves School, or Hampton School. Mrs Chifley did not often appear with her husband on official occasions, so it is particularly poignant that she came to the Caves to see one dedicated to him. Allison Richards would now be about 60 years of age. If any knows of her, or her whereabouts, David would be most keen to contact her." David can be reached by phoning Jenolan Caves on 1300 76 33 11 or by email at [jenguides@jenolancaves.org.au](mailto:jenguides@jenolancaves.org.au).

## A STRANGE INVOLVEMENT IN CAVES - Kent Henderson

From an early age, I had developed an interest in Caves – I have no idea why. Perhaps it was an early visit to Buchan with my parents that did it. Indeed, my honeymoon in 1978 was partly spent at Jenolan – where over a few days I visited all nine show caves (as you do)!



In 1984, I was driving from Sydney to Melbourne (where I live), and I managed to get wife to agree to a diversion to Wombeyan Caves, where we stayed a few nights. Again, I visited all five show caves there, and met the manager, Mick Chalker, for the first time – who has long since been a close friend. I said to Mick – “Pity there is no tourist book on Wombeyan”. He replied that he’d love one, but he’d never get the funding. I replied that I come up again and do it, and publish it. I am sure Mick thought as I drove off after that initial visit that he’d never see me again...! No so. A few weeks later I was back at Wombeyan for a week, after which my first cave book – *The Wombeyan Experience* – was completed, and later duly published. The bug had struck me. So I rocked up to Buchan, and *The Buchan Experience* followed (1985). I was on a roll! Next was *The Naracoorte and Tantanoole Caves* (1986), followed by *The Princess Margaret Rose Caves* (1987), *The Wellington and Abercrombie Caves* (1988), *Jenolan – A Guide to Australia's famous Caves* (1990), *The Wombeyan and Abercrombie Caves* (1992), and *The Buchan Caves* (1995). Only the last named is still in print, though I re-printed the Jenolan Caves book several times – I may do so again at some stage. I also put books in the can on Yarrangobilly and Kelly Hill Caves (Kangaroo Island) in the can, but never published them in the end (marginal economics...).

In 1987, I attended the 7th Australian Conference on Cave Management and Tourism in New South Wales. It was a roving conference which started at Jenolan and went onto Wombeyan, Abercrombie, Wee Jasper and Yarrangobilly. Conferences on Cave and Karst Management have been held in this region since 1973. From then until 1983, they were organized under the auspices of (but not organised by) The Australian Speleological Federation, the first five being termed Australian Conferences on Cave Management and Tourism. The 6th Conference was held at Waitomo Caves, New Zealand in 1985. In 1987, The Australasian Cave Management Association (ACMA) was formed at a meeting held at Yarrangobilly Caves during the 7th Conference in New South Wales. All conferences since have been referred to as Australasian Conferences on Cave & Karst Management.

The Association re-named itself *The Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association* (ACKMA) at the subsequent biennial General Meeting associated with the 8th Conference held at Punakaiki, New Zealand, in 1989. At the 1995 biennial General Meeting at Derwent Bridge, Tasmania, during the 11th Conference, the Association became incorporated as *ACKMA Inc.* Prior to that date Officers of the Association were elected to two-year terms. The tenure of officers is now twelve months. The *Proceedings* of all sixteen Conferences thus far held have been published, and are also available on CD Rom – the 2006 version has just been released.

Soon after the 7th Conference, I was approached by Ernie Holland, the Manager of Jenolan Caves and first President of ACMA, to produce a half-yearly Newsletter for the organisation – to which I agreed. I have now completed twenty years as ACKMA's Publications Officer and Editor – with no time off for good behaviour! For some strange reason they keep re-electing me, so I suppose I have no alternative but to carry on. Sigh...

The first edition of The ACMA (later ACKMA) Newsletter was published in June 1988 – a mere 12 pages. It was thereafter published half-yearly until 1993. For the subsequent 18 months, it was published quarterly, with two full “Journal Editions”, and two (minor) “Newsletter Editions”. The publication was permanently renamed the ACKMA Journal from edition 16 issued in September 1994, and from edition 19 (June 1995) it was been issued quarterly as a full Journal.

The 17th ACKMA Conference (which will be my eleventh) will be held at Buchan Caves, Victoria, over the first week of May this year. We expect over 80 attendees, with a substantial number from overseas. Membership of ACKMA is open to anyone with an interest in caves and karst. Anyone interested can visit our website at <<http://ackma.org/>>. Therein are full membership details, and you can readily download the membership form.

All cave managers of all show caves sites in Australia and New Zealand are members, many cave guides, and many cavers – amongst others. Of course, members receive the quarterly ACKMA Journal – generally 40-44 pages. ACKMA holds a full Conference every two years, and an “Annual General Meeting weekend” in non-Conference years. Conferences revolve around Australia and New Zealand – the latter traditionally gets every fourth Conference. The 16th Conference was held in 2005 on The West Coast of New Zealand's South Island. It will be at Buchan this year, as I've mentioned. The 2009 Conference will be at Margaret River in Western Australia. It is likely that the 2011 Conference will be in Tasmania, with 2013 in New Zealand. In 2015 it will be New South Wales' turn, possibly being held at Jenolan.

Editors note: JCH&PS has entered a magazine exchange with ACKMA.

Also in their Sept 06 edition they ran a plug about JCH&PS, and have reprinted the article “Nettle Cave Past & Present” from newsletter 129 in their March 07 edition. We also recently received a new membership from within their ranks, and we welcome Cathie Plowman from Tasmania as a new member of JCH&PS.





## CAVES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES – Jenny Whitby

The title says it all. This article is all about a trip 80 years ago..... to the caves, by train and automobile. What was so special about this trip, was it was the fifth Royal Visit to Australia.

### CAVES.

The caves were Jenolan of course. The visitors were a young Duchess (who was later known as the Queen mother), and her husband, a future king of England. This photo is of the Duchess then aged 27. If anyone knows any history about this picture, we would be interested to hear from you. It used to be on display in the old ticket office. On the next page is an extract from an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald by their special representative on the Royal train. It gives us an insight into the journey, weather, tour and time they spent at Jenolan. The remainder of the article (not reprinted here) is about their visit to Mount York, Mount Victoria where they had a brief lunch at the Imperial Hotel, and the journey to Sydney.



Photo of the Duchess of York. Photo from JCH&PS collection

### TRAINS

The Governor-General's railway carriage.

The Royal party travelled to Jenolan by train in the Governor-General's carriage. Here is a little history from the Powerhouse Museum about this carriage.

The Governor-General's carriage is one of the most luxurious railway carriages in Australia. It represents the work of the most skilled artisans employed in the New South Wales Government railways at the turn of the century, especially in the work of local timbers. The carriage was built at the Eveleigh Railway Carriage Workshops, Sydney, in 1901 for the use of the newly appointed and first Governor-General of Australia, the Earl of Hopetoun, John Adrian Louis Hope Hopetoun (1860-1908). It is one of five special cars built by the New South Wales Department of Railways between 1891 and 1920 for the exclusive use of royalty, governors-general, governors, premiers and the railway commissioners.

The carriage is constructed of wood and finished in crimson lake, lined with gold leaf. The body shell is of Indian teak and the floor framing and under-frame are of pitch pine. It has platforms at each end, one of which is open and the other enclosed. Aprons enclosing the platforms are of brass fashioned in an elaborate filigree pattern. The carriage is mounted on two, six wheel bogies and has a standard high semi-elliptical roof with canopy ends. At the time it was built, the carriage was the longest to date in New South Wales and is double insulated against dust and heat.

The interior of the carriage is decorated in 311 individually hand-carved timber panels of polished English oak and Australian cedar depicting botanical specimens of New South Wales and fluted pilasters. There are etched glass panels fitted into the doors featuring Australian flora, fine carpets, gold-tinted velvet and silk drapes and the best Morocco leather and upholstery. A total of 260 gold-plated items are featured in the car ranging from coat hooks to light switch covers. Fourteen gold sovereigns were said to have been used for the plating. The ornate ceilings are cream-coloured stamped zinc panels by Wunderlich in Louis XVI style inset with the royal coat of arms.



The carriage is internally divided into an observation room, three sleeping suites, a dining-room, galley and attendants' quarters. The observation room enabled the occupants an unrestricted view of the surrounding countryside and is furnished with a number lounge chairs, a bookcase, writing cabinet and cellarette in polished oak. The master bedroom and two auxiliary bedrooms are fitted with brass bedsteads, mirrored dressing tables, built-in wardrobes, fans, heaters, and ensuite toilet and shower facilities. The dining-room features a carved oak sideboard with matching dinner wagon, six dining chairs and an extension dining table. Decorative vases are set in recessed niches in the walls.

The Eveleigh Railway Yards, Sydney. Photo dated 1884



King George VI and the Queen Mother

In 1920 the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), while visiting Australia on 'HMS Renown', used the carriage to travel from Sydney to Canberra. It was on this occasion that the bedheads in the staterooms were gold plated.

The next time the carriage was used by Royalty was in 1927 when the Duke (later King George VI) and Duchess of York (later the Queen Mother) were in Australia for the opening of the first session of the Commonwealth parliament in Canberra. Their arrival at Sydney Harbour attracted the nation's first million plus congregation.

For this royal visit, the carriage was redecorated in a blue motif, with blue Wilton-pile carpets, blinds of blue silk and dining chairs of blue leather. The re-upholstery was by Beard Watson Ltd. Two glistening 36-class locomotives hauled the train from Sydney to Katoomba on 31 March 1927 after which the Royal couple was driven to the Jenolan Caves. The Duke & Duchess of York were escorted through the caves by James Wiburd. They rejoined the train at Mt Victoria the following day and returned to Sydney. Four more Royal visits used this carriage, the last being in 1964. In 1992 the State Rail Authority, officially handed over the carriage to the Powerhouse Museum

The Royal couple 1927. Photo from JCH&PS collection.

## AUTOMOBILES.

This photo of the Royal party, is taken in front of the main porch in Caves House. If you look at more recent photos of the building, you will see that nothing has changed. The 5 white panels are still there and look closely you will make out the other white woodwork near the wall. The downpipe is still there today also.



Here we see the Duke shaking hands with Wiburd (far right) on their departure from Jenolan.  
Photo from JCH&PS collection.

JCH&PS research officer Kath Bellamy also had read about the visit and there were some incidents along the way. One was the stopping of the motorcade at Katoomba and the request for the QM to open the Anzac Memorial hospital then and there. She agreed innocently and caused a protest as it was unofficial and didn't include the people who had a right to attend including war veterans and families of deceased soldiers. Another cause of discontent was the snubbing of Lithgow with no visit to that important town.

If you like co-incidences: at the time of the tour, Mrs. Lang, wife of Jack (who opened the harbour bridge and was premier) fell ill and could not attend the royal visit ceremonies. Likewise, the Minister of Railways, Martin Flannery who accompanied the royals to Jenolan, fell ill at the caves and had to spend some days in Caves House recovering. He must have had something serious as he was no longer the minister from 26th May 1927 which was shortly after the visit. Another co-incidence is that our research officer Kath Bellamy was born in the hospital that the Queen Mother opened!



# DUKE AND DUCHESS RETURN.

## ENRAPTURED WITH THE CAVES.

## OVATION AT THE CENTRAL STATION.

### Triumphant Mountain Tour.

The Duke and Duchess of York returned to Sydney yesterday delighted with their visit to the Blue Mountains and Jenolan Caves. They greatly admired the natural beauties along the mountain road and the magnificent panoramas unfolded to them as they motored from the caves to Mount Victoria.

As on the outward train journey, the Duke and Duchess were greeted with the utmost enthusiasm at all points along the line.

An ovation by 10,000 people was accorded them on their arrival at Central Station, and the Royal progress to Government House was the occasion for another demonstration of loyal affection by the thousands of people who lined the route.

## MOUNTAIN TOUR.

### Succession of Receptions.

(By our Special Representative on the Royal Train.)

Bright sunshine flooded the mountains yesterday when their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York left Jenolan on their return journey to Sydney. Later the skies clouded over, but, except for an occasional misty shower during the motor journey from Jenolan to Mt. Victoria, there was no rain. Indeed, visibility throughout was remarkably good, and the wonderful panoramic scenery from the mountain tops was not in any way obscured. Rather, the lowering clouds seemed to lend an added clarity to the air, that brought distant objects into close perspective.

The Duke and Duchess were both delighted with their visit to the Left Imperial cave on the previous night. They were shown through the cave by the chief guide (Mr. J. C. Wiburd), whose explanations of the supposed origin of the caves and of nature's construction of the marvellously beautiful formations, particularly in the Orient Cave, kept them constantly interested. Both would like to have been able to explore the caves further; but this was thought inadvisable, in view of the heavy day that they had before them.

### PRESENTATIONS.

Just prior to their departure from the Caves House, the staff of the establishment was assembled, and, in the presence of Ministers of the Crown, the Under-Secretary to the Chief Secretary's Department (Mr. E. B. Harkness), the Director of the Government Tourist Bureau (Mr. H. J. Lambie), the manager of the Caves House (Mr. S. S. Stillington), and the chief guide (Mr. Wiburd), the Chief Secretary (Mr. Lazzarini) made presentations to the Duke, the Duchess, the Countess of Cavan, and the Hon. Mrs. Gilmour. The gift to the Duke was a book of Jenolan Caves scenes, specially prepared by the Government Printing Office. That made to the Duchess was a beautiful leather cushion, on which were painted waratahs and Christmas bells. The Countess of Cavan and Mrs. Gilmour received cushion covers, on one

of which was painted kookaburras, and on the other Australian wild flowers.

The Duke and Duchess and the other recipients warmly expressed their thanks.

During the night the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Flannery) was taken ill with constipation. He was attended by the Royal physician (Surgeon-Commander White), and remained at the Caves House. The Under-Secretary to the Premier's Department (Mr. C. H. Hay) was also attended by Surgeon-Commander White for a poisoned leg, but Mr. Hay was able to make the trip to Sydney the Royal train.

### THE DEPARTURE.

The residents of Jenolan gathered outside the Caves House to bid their Royal Highnesses farewell. Promptly at 10 o'clock the latter entered their car and departed amid the plaudits of the onlookers.

Gradually, as the cars swiftly mounted the steep road, the sky became overcast, and presently they ran into a driving, misty rain that necessitated a halt to raise the hoods. Soon, however, the rain was left behind, and the Duke and Duchess looked out over the immense expanse of the Kanimbla Valley, rising beyond to blue-shrouded mountains, and rugged crests hidden by a leaden mantle of clouds. Down below the peaceful valley smiled, its broad face studded with gums and dappled yellow and green by shafts of sunlight.

### PRETTY INCIDENT AT HAMPTON.

Now came into view the little hamlet of Hampton, gay with bunting and flags, its population swelled to an unprecedented size by hosts of visitors from the surrounding districts, come to do honour to the King's son. At the famous Half-way House the Duke and Duchess were entertained informally at morning tea, with the remainder of the party.

There a pretty incident occurred, which seemed to please their Royal Highnesses immensely. While tea was being served, a little flaxen-haired girl of six or seven, Kathleen Corderoy, the daughter of the local store-keeper, gave a series of recitations in a pretty, childish voice. Introducing imitations of the cries of Australian birds and animals. She was rewarded by smiling thanks and compliments from the Duke and Duchess.

The Half-Way House is owned by Mrs. Wilson, of the well-known family of that name in the district, who were associated with the early exploration of the Jenolan Caves. Mrs. Wilson received the Duke and Duchess on their arrival.

# A TRIP TO JENOLAN CAVES

Compiled by Kath Bellamy from material sourced by Paul Innes of Winmalee.

The following is an excerpt from an article called "A Trip to Jenolan Caves" which appeared in **The Blue Mountain Echo** over two editions on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May 1912. It is quite a lengthy piece so I will present the 'shorter version' in two sections. The first part provides a vivid description of the motor trip from Katoomba to Jenolan and through the Grand Arch into the valley where: "Hill piled on hill tower all around – a mighty barrier of mossy rock and fern-crowned eminences standing between the sequestered elfin hollow and the madding roar of commercial energy in the ultra montane orld. ....which but for the natural portal mentioned (the Grand Arch), might have slept unknown to mortal ken until aerial navigation became as common as tram traction".



(\*Note for readers: Some explanations are included at the end.)

Our newly elected Research Officer – Kath Bellamy

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We pick up the narrative from the arrival at Caves House:

"Many people imagine that **THE CAVES HOUSE** is a very ordinary sort of habitation, which by reason of its remoteness, allows only the absolute necessities of life and shelter. It is time that such an erroneous idea was dispelled.

The Caves House is really a compendium or digest of Delmonico's, Spier and Ponds and Paris House transplanted from New York, London and Sydney and set down near the heart of the Mountains. It is built of rough hewn porphyritic stone on the first floor and of brick stucco on the upper story, gabled and dormered a la Cheapside before the great plague. Bright red tiles add a touch of warm colour to the grey masonry and white stucco. A broad portico extends from the road way back to the main reception hall. A daily scene of great animation occurs here from 1 o'clock to 2 p.m. These are the hours for the arrival and departure of the various lines of motor cars which bring the visitors of today and take back those of yesterday. This means a daily change of some thirty tourists which occasions more hand shaking to Mr. and Mrs. Sydenham than is necessary to the popularity of an East End borough politician.

The 'ring out the old, ring in the new' act having been duly performed, quiet again obtains until dinner bell.

Good gracious, where do they all come from? Just stand with your back to the great log fire and watch the procession. There they go, impelled by the levelling sensation of hunger. Dowager, Duchess and daughter, Mr and Mrs Honeymoon, prim slim elderly maids, bouncing beauties, plain Janes, callow youth with wonder in every feature, and blasé city men who would consider it a crime to betray any sort of emotion other than weariness.

From corridor and broad staircase they file into the great dining room and chatter incessantly of stalagmites and stalactites until the universe seems to grow into a composition of calcium and soup steam. Silently and dexterously, pleasant faced waitresses and suave waiters steer through the maze of well decorated tables that seat about one hundred and thirty guests. The soft light of petrol gas glints from silver and steel, sparkles on necklace and bracelet, wantons in the peroxide yellowness of the auxiliary locks of society dames, gleams in the ruddy glory of the curls of unsophisticated girlhood and touches with playful fire the dental gold exposed in laughter.

IT IS:

## A VERITABLE TABLE D'HOTE

And the heterogeneous gathering of the great outer world is hard to please in its many varied tastes and fancies. BUT it is done. With an apparently un-studied precision the staff works deftly and politely. No call is unheeded, from that of the bald headed city accountant to that of the equally bald infant, whose glossy pate gives signs of better days to come. From the swinging doors that open into the hall, the urbane Sydenham casts a keen, kind and comprehensive glance over his pince-nez. It is the supervisory glance of satisfaction bestowed by an engineer over a smooth running piece of machinery. Mrs Sydenham is not visible to the naked eye, but her influence extends in a very tangible way from the depths of the culinary department to every corner of the dining room where sit those that come from the dry interior and the care of flocks and herds; from the stew and turmoil of the great cities; from the coral solitudes of the Pacific Isles; from the rolling plains of North Queensland; from the gold mines and from the ancient centre of European art, science and commerce.

The post-prandial scene upon the piazza is a gay as an evening walk on the spa at Scarborough. Friendships spring up under the influence of lady Nicotine, between men whose vocations and interests are separated by half a world. A crescent moon has climbed up the steep of night, high enough to be able to peer over the edge of our inverted cone and placidly watch the puppet scene below. In the purple gloom little stars of fire appear and disappear marking the places where cigars are mixing their peculiar aroma with the gum scents of the foliage.

The musical tinkle of a bell gives a signal of 'something doing' and a procession of shadowy figures moves from the portico and group round a little cabin where three men wait with lanterns. They are the guides, preparing for the night inspection of:

## THE WONDERFUL CAVES:

The temple of Proserpine, the beautiful daughter of Ceres.....

A group of about sixty form themselves into three parties, each having a guide who leads the way. In the Grand Arch, the parties separate and take different paths to the left and right up into the great galleries. Each party goes in single file, and from the main roadway, the receding figures look like a caterpillar being conducted to prison by a glow worm. An iron door in a rock niche swings open and swallows the distance-diminished procession. The door closes again and gross darkness prevails. For two hours the sixty souls roam through SCENES OF FAIRY LIKE BEAUTY, the design of which was laid when God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters".



In the meantime, festivities are being made at the Caves House. It is the custom for Mr. & Mrs. Sydenham to lighten the duties of the staff by an admixture of pleasure. The neighbours dwelling among the hills are invited and the menu cards carry an invitation to any guest that happens to be in the House at such time. The dining room becomes a ball room. The piano is wheeled from the drawing room and soon thirty couple are engaging in the delight of the waltz or lancers. The billiard room is an ideal spot for a tale and the settee drawn up before the pine log fire holds comfort for the raconteur whose yarn is punctuated by the rhythmic pulse of the distant mazurka.

A weird screech without announces the late arrival of another party from the outer world. Four great gleaming eyes peer through the blackness of the Grand Arch and two motor cars pant up to the steps and deposit a bevy of ten charming girls. It is a chorus from one of the light operas that has escaped from the city. With the dash and abandon that springs from constant publicity, they join the dance, and mirth and song reigns until midnight when a weary but intensely happy crowd saunter lazily up the grand staircase to court the favour of Somnus.

The bedrooms are extremely well appointed and airy. At every landing, the bath rooms and lavatories of the best type are found. In fact, every modern convenience enjoyed in city life is epitomised in this old world corner. And the morning: One must rise from a refreshing sleep and step out to the hillside paths to realize the exquisite joy of living. The silence of the hills sings in the ear. The sweet purity of the air insinuates its vitalising grace into every lung cell and every fibre and muscle works with consummate ease under the divine elixir. Every sense is quickened to the revelations of the glory of earth and sky, and nothing is too small to escape the vigilance of a comprehension cleared from the dust and debris of the work-a-day world by the spirit of nature. With such environments is the Caves House hedged. Apart from the mysterious subterranean grandeur of the calcareous chambers which make Jenolan world famous, there is a charm in the upper earth seclusion that puts the Caves House rock hollow into a unique place in the list of pleasure resorts”.

**In the next edition we will join the visitors and their guide, Mr.Wiburd, as they tour the Left Imperial.**

Some definitions.....And some wonderful examples of politically incorrect language.

Sequestered.....secluded

Montane..... mountainous

Delmonico's..... a hotel in New York;

Spier and Ponds..... connected with the Bournemouth Association of Hotels UK;

Paris House..... possible Sydney hotel;

Cheapside..... Street of shops in London dating from the 1300's. After the Black Death 1348-49 many tiny shops disappeared from Cheapside.

Mr. & Mrs. Sydenham..... possible Caves House manager/hosts

Callow..... unbearded

Table D'Hote..... French term meaning “The Table of the Host” or table settings in a hotel or restaurant.

Pate..... head

Urbane.....refined

Pince-nez..... glasses held on nose

Post prandial..... after dinner

Scarborough..... seaside town in England.

My lady Nicotine..... cigarettes and cigars

Proserpine and Ceres.....daughter and mother in Greek mythology.

Admixture..... something added

Lancers.....a dance

Mazurka..... a lively Polish dance

Somnus..... sleep

### The story of Ceres and Proserpine.



Ceres

In mythology, the turning of the seasons is explained with the following story: Ceres was the sister of Jupiter, and Proserpine was their daughter. Proserpine was kidnapped by Pluto, god of the underworld, to be his bride. By the time Ceres followed her daughter, she was gone into the earth. Making matters worse, Ceres learned that Pluto had been given Jupiter's approval to be the husband of his daughter. Ceres was so angry that she went to live in the world of men, disguised as an old woman, and stopped all the plants and crops from growing, causing a famine. Jupiter and the other gods tried to get her to change her mind but she was adamant.



Proserpine

Jupiter eventually realized that he had to get Proserpine back from the underworld, and sent for her. Unfortunately, Pluto secretly gave her food before she left, and once one had eaten in the underworld one could not forever leave. Proserpine was therefore forced to return to the underworld for four months every year. She comes out in spring and spends the time until autumn with Ceres, but has to go back to the underworld in the winter. Her parting from Ceres every fall is why plants lose their leaves, seeds lie dormant under the ground, and nothing grows until spring when Proserpine is reunited with her mother. Ceres was the goddess of agriculture, and the word cereal is derived from her name. Proserpine is the Goddess of the Underworld.



## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF JCH&PS, AUGUST DINNER.

To be celebrated at the August meeting Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

Dennis Winchester from Caves House is again offering us a great accommodation package to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JCH&PS.

Cost is \$30 per traditional room for two consecutive nights. The dinner is \$45 per person. As a package it amounts to \$75 for dinner and two nights accommodation. (cheaper if you share your room)

Ring Caves House on 1300- 763311 then option 2 to book. Remember to mention its for the JCH&PS anniversary to get this special package.

So come along, have a weekend away, and enjoy dinner with your fellow members.



## PHOTO GALLERY FROM RECENT JENOLAN EVENTS



Congratulations to John Callaghan (left) who is seen here receiving a presentation mug from Peter Austen (General Manager of JCRT) John has completed 15 years as a permanent staff member at Jenolan Caves. He first started at Jenolan in 1970, then later spent a stint managing Tantanoola Cave system in South Australia, before returning to Jenolan in 1992.

Here's some more photos from the AGM & BBQ meeting by Kath Bellamy.



BBQ King & JCH&PS Secretary Scott Melton.



Barry Richards gives his historic talk.



Sandi Bartlett and David Cook at the JCH&PS display set up in Caves House.

Below: Jeremiah Wilson (aka David Hay) conducts his first tour this century! Photo by Rob Whyte.



Over Easter, there were 227 guided cave tours conducted. They were very busy little bunnies at Jenolan!





## IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2007

Jenolan Caves is running a series of historical themed tours throughout 2007. Here is a list of them. There have been two held already this year, one with Jeremiah Wilson, & Ben Chifley. On the Saturday evening following the historical tour, there is a further opportunity to hear more about the featured tour/person over cheese and wine in Caves House. Contact Jenolan Caves for further details or check out the details on their website [www.jenolancaves.org.au](http://www.jenolancaves.org.au)



**Sat 5 May JCH&PS Meeting -6:30pm at the JCH&PS Cottage.**

**\* May 12 & 13 "The Other Wilson's Discoveries "** Several special history tours will commemorate the discovery of the Mafeking Branch (off the Lucas Cave) in May 1900. Tours will be conducted by "Fred Wilson", along the usual Lucas Cave route, with special emphasis on the Mafeking Branch.

**\* July 7 & 8 "Lights On" (the lighting of the Margherita Chamber, Chifley Cave)** We are celebrating Cracknell's amazing electrical lighting experiment in the Chifley Cave with special history tours.



**August 11 & August 12. A big weekend at Jenolan. JCH&PS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner Saturday night. See previous page for great accommodation/dinner package. BOOK NOW.**



**\* Also another special commemorative tour is on that same weekend "Aught More Beautiful"** (the 1st tour of the Imperial Cave) In 1879, the 1st tour of the Imperial Cave was led by Jeremiah Wilson and famous limestone formations, such as Lot's Wife, Sentinel Column and Pompay's Column were named. Now, although long dead, Jeremiah will mysteriously return, to guide you through the beautiful Imperial cave.

**\* October 13 & 14 – John Lucas Tour** Although he died in 1902, "John Lucas" will conduct historic tours of the cave named after him and will give his own commentary. If you love history, you will enjoy these special tours.



**Sat 14 November JCH&PS Meeting**

**\* December 1 & 2 Orient Express** A weekend of special history tours, combining the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Orient Cave (December 1917) Also hear about the planning, gestation, building and opening of Binoomea Cut.

### **\* Dec 15 & 16 The Jenolan Christmas Festival 2007**

Jenolan has been hosting Christmas carols under the Grand Arch for 16 years. This has become an annual institution, with many visitors making the yearly journey just for the carols. This year they are planning something much bigger than just carols - an event for the whole weekend - much more than we've ever attempted before. This year, we want to raise in excess of \$20,000 for research into the causes and treatments of childhood cancer. We will have a big market/bazaar, buskers, raffles, Christmas tree decorating competition, buffet style 3-course dinner at Caves House, lucky door prizes, traditional Carols in the Caves Concert, band, dance until midnight. Next morning, there will be an underground church service.



- Commemorative tours & special events being run by Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust.

Information on Jenolan Commemorative Tours was sourced from [www.jenolancaves.org.au](http://www.jenolancaves.org.au) special events calendar. Members may also consider subscribing to "The News of the Underworld" a regular email summary and update of events & happenings at Jenolan. It issues a couple of times a month. To subscribe simply email your details to [carolyn.melbourne@jenolancaves.org.au](mailto:carolyn.melbourne@jenolancaves.org.au) and tell her you wish to be included on their e mailing list.



The next meeting will be held on **SATURDAY 5th May 2007 at Jenolan in the JCH&PS Cottage 17, Five Mile Rd, Jenolan. 6:30pm.**

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER. THE MAY MEETING IS THE FIRST SATURDAY, DUE TO MOTHERS DAY .