

Journal of the

Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association



The ACKMA Journal

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FRONT COVER and BACK COVER

Chillagoe Caves, North Queensland.

ACKMA Inc OFFICE BEARERS 2020-2021

President

Ian Eddison Email: president@ackma.org

New Zealand Vice President

Neil Collinson Email: nz.vice.president@ackma.org

Australian Vice President

Scott Melton Email: aus.vice.president@ackma.org

Executive Officer

Cathie Plowman Email: executive.officer@ackma.org

Treasurer

Dave Gillieson Email: treasurer@ackma.org

Publications Officer

Christian Bom Email: ackma.editor@gmail.com

Committee Member

Mark Delane Email: committee@ackma.org

Committee Member

Liz Reed Email: committee@ackma.org

Committee Member

Teagan Symonds Email: committee@ackma.org

Committee Member (Co-opted)

Shannon Corkhill Email: committee@ackma.org

Committee Member (Co-opted)

Regina Roach Email: committee@ackma.org

Webmaster

Rauleigh Webb Email: webmaster@ackma.org

International Affairs Officer

Andy Spate Email: international.affairs@ackma.org

Secretary

Steve Bourne Email: public.officer@ackma.org

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Editorial

Christian Bom

It is with great pleasure that I can introduce myself as the new ACKMA Journal Editor, but firstly, I want to thank Tim Moore for the great work he has done in past journals. I certainly have a lot to live up to and I am looking forward to seeing what I can do with the journal in the future.

I am blessed to have worked for the wonderful Ann Augusteyn for several years. Ann inspired me to push my own boundaries and continuously grow, both personally and professionally. In my seven years as a tour guide, my interest in science has grown significantly. Starting out as just a job, interpreting our natural world has become a passion of mine. I have been to three ACKMA conferences, at the Capricorn Caves, Te Anau, and Margaret River.

I have recently been given the Head Guide position at the Capricorn Caves. This role involves the training of guides, the management of tour content (ensuring content is up to date and correct), and much more. It has been a time of major change here at the Capricorn Caves since Ann's passing. Now with new management and staff structure, the future of the Capricorn Caves is certainly in very good hands and there are many exciting projects in the making.

Now that I've introduced myself, I would like to share my plan for future editions of the journal. As this is the first time putting a journal together like this, it has taken me longer than I had anticipated. In the future I will strive to send out reminders to submit material (with the deadline) much earlier so I will have more time to plan the layout. I would also like to base each journal around a particular subject (or subjects). For example, I would like to add a large section in the next journal about the bushfire recovery and how we have all fared through this pandemic (and the strategies that have been put

in place to manage it). I strongly encourage feedback on this, so please feel free to let me know if you have any suggestions as to what should be added.

As a result of the continuing lockdowns and travel restrictions in much of Australia, this year's meeting and Guide School will be conducted online. It is certainly a new age in communication and this year will be the first time this event has been conducted entirely online. I, along with many of you, have grown a deeper love for all things caves as a result of our conferences and guide schools. I look forward to the day that we will all be able to gather once again.

As you will notice, this journal includes a section about Ernie Holland. He was the first president of ACKMA and contributed dramatically to the formation of our association. As many of us never had the honour of meeting him, you will find a wonderful story of his life that has been put together by Andy with comments from many others that were touched by the life of this charismatic man.

If you are not already aware, David Gillieson has released a new book, titled Caves – Processes, Development, and Management (Second Edition). In this journal you will find a review of this book by Andy Spate and Kevin Keirnan.

As you may notice, we have some new names added into the ACKMA Fellows and Life Members section. I would like to congratulate John Brush and Tim Moore on becoming our newest ACKMA Life Members and David Gillieson and Andy Baker on becoming ACKMA Fellows. In my relatively short time in ACKMA, I have been blown away by the commitment I have seen from these wonderful members. Thank you all for everything you have done and continue to do.



Grand Entrance, Capricorn Caves

ACKMA President Report June 2021

Ian Eddison

The ACKMA committee and some members have been particularly busy on a number of fronts since my last report in June 2021. This has included numerous online meetings with relevant key stakeholders and emails between committee members who then contributed to build our responses. You can be pleased that there is an active committee representing ACKMA and the management and conservation ethics we instill in our constructive communication with others who are responsible for caves and karst landscapes.

As your president, I am supported well by those who lead our organisation.

To summarise for you I list these activities below. A lot of commitment by various people went into this work of late.

- Australian Fossil Mammal Site, Naracoorte Inter-agency Community Reference Group. ACKMA was invited to nominate a representative to this group and you may recall email communications inviting submissions. We thank everyone who nominated. In particular we thank our former outgoing representative Kevin Mott and thank all those who nominated and announce and thank Brian Clark for accepting the role for ACKMA.
- Jenolan Caves Stakeholder Group. Recently Jenolan Caves formed this Stakeholder Group. ACKMA wrote to the current director of Jenolan Caves supporting the initiative and offered access to our member expertise if and when required.
- Mt Etna caves. This well known conservation battle of the past raised its head again as a change of quarrying material and expansion was proposed by the operator. ACKMA responded following online meetings and numerous communications and telephone calls. We lodged concerns with the Livingstone Shire Council as well as the Queensland Government.
- Nullarbor green energy proposals. There is a significant plan for a 'Green Energy Hub' in the Nullarbor in Western Australia. This is solar and wind farm energy but also includes developing the production of green hydrogen and ammonia. ACKMA has concerns about the push for green energy overriding the need to conserve the existing natural environment such as the very significant karst in this region. On top of that, this is huge in scale and there is a lot more work ahead for us to digest the coming proposals and to advise on them. For now we have written to the Western Australian government and the federal government to show the scientific research that has been done on the karst of the region, demonstrating its significance.
- Pinagrealan Cave and nearby quarry Philippines. After receiving a request to sign a petition to protect Pinagrealan cave from the impacts of a nearby quarry we researched a little deeper. This resulted in addition to including our signature on a petition to writing to the Philippine government. The quarry continues but the site is of historic significance for the Philippines and we formally added our support to protect Pinagrealan Cave.
- Kosciuszko National Park. There has been both a revision of a Plan of Management and a Draft Yarrangobilly Precinct Plan to digest and respond to. This involved considerable discussion, consideration and exchange of communications to provide a thorough submission. There was also a request to add a signature to an open letter to the Premier of New South Wales in an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald on the Kosciuszko National Park.
- Liaison and relationship building with the ASF and NZSS. A positive relationship between ACKMA and the ASF has been evolving and I am pleased to report we have formally established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between our two organisations. Indeed, the ASF has hosted some of the online meetings mentioned above and we have shared draft communications to ensure we have strong but unique submissions on those issues we both respond to. The MoU has then been used as a draft to create a similar formal agreement between ACKMA and the NZSS. Our three organisations have communicated on the Australasian Celebration of the International Year of Caves and Karst. Indications are that the NZSS will be responding with communications to develop an MoU between them and ACKMA.
- There is a combined effort in the creative Celebration of Caves and Karst in Australasia competition. ACKMA, ASF and NZSS will contribute to a \$1,000 grand prize and Ledlenser are providing four \$500 vouchers for each of the divisions of the creative competition. Check out the conditions and get creative!
- Atmospheric Data Logger project. Despite the challenges with restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this project continues with data coming in and analysis being conducted by Professor Andy Baker enabling a better appreciation for all our members. This project funded by ACKMA, assists tourist cave sites across Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to have factual data of temperature and humidity records. Andy Spate, David Gillieson and Andy Baker have all worked on making this a successful program. Additional effort is going into the possibility of formal research opportunities related to this project.
- Sixteen Legs. This exciting travelling exhibition through Bookend Trust has been defying the pandemic restrictions by exhibiting in Queensland. Specifically Capricorn Caves and Charleville. Do consider how you might be able to work your town in with this team and especially for those of you who work in caves tourism.
- Cave tourism site restoration. Work continues for cave tourism sites following devastating bushfires and flooding. These include Jenolan Caves, Wombeyan Caves, Buchan Caves and Kelly Hill Cave. We look

- forward to presentations at our October online meeting in conjunction with Wellington Caves.
- Best practice guidelines for show caves. Input is invited from those managers who can contribute from recent experience in restoration and repairs following fires and floods as well as other developments. This project really is an extension and update on past guidelines. Contact Andy Spate and David Gillieson.
 - Caves 2nd Edition is soon to be launched. Author Professor David Gillieson has printed copies and the official launch will be at our online meeting in October. This is an exciting new must have book.
 - The Guide School and ACKMA meeting. These online activities hosted by Wellington Caves are approaching. Get your registration in now. The Guide School, more precisely the EcoGuide Certification is 20 & 21 October facilitated by Savannah Guides and our meeting is on 23, 24 October. The online sponsor is Weidmuller who have been a cave lighting specialist of many years in Australasia. These will be accessed via ZOOM for those who register and pay a very modest \$20 AUS. daily access fee. The ZOOM will be managed by Savannah Guides and David Gillieson.
 - Inland Rail Grant submission. In the early planning of our EcoGuide training and ACKMA meeting, we explored the professional help of an events company for technology and presentation fineness. This is what led to the Weidmuller sponsorship. We sought additional funds in a grant submission from Inland Rail which was unsuccessful however the task was considerable and led to other considerations such as our Public Liability coverage. Our needs have also changed surrounding our event and there is less of a need now for an additional sponsor. The Weidmuller support remains and we value this ongoing relationship.

I wish you all continued health, improved economic situations in your respective work especially those show cave member sites. Please remember to promote the International Year of Caves and Karst and the themes explore, understand and protect.

Ian Eddison

President

The Australian Cave Cricket Poem

Australian Rhaphidophoridae

I'm a very special critter you know, and quite ancient too.

I date back in time, to Gondwanaland.

Even without wings, I got from place to place, until those land bridges closed.

Apart from a few relatives in far north Queensland, we don't talk about them.

I'm confined to the southern & south east of the land.

I'm a little like you, I prefer caves too.

In fact, they're my home, larva, granite, limestone, heck even sandstones.... Which all you southerners know.

You may have passed me on the way in.

I'm brown, sparsely hairy, with long and slender drumstick golden spotted legs. My wife who can be bigger than me, may get in your way – watch your step! She carries my future ME's.

She'll bury these eggs in the substrates that you see, so take it easy and let her be!

I don't bite, and I certainly can't chirp, like my ancient acoustic allies do.... but I give a mighty fright.

You'll see me jump at you from a height, Get out of the way! I could be endangered or endemic you see..... That's something very special about me.

We're often fought about by you, called troglaphiles or troglaxenes.

There doesn't need to be a fuss, it's all the same to us.

We just like to keep cool and come out at night to feed.....

Deep in the forest we can be seen munching on leaves, but our favourite piece of dinner is another critter if it happens to be.

After this, it's back in the cave it seems, where we can be found in large clusters making a scene.

This is where we mingle and meet with our relatives from Junee-Florentinee....

See, off the mainland we rule in large numbers from the north to the sea.

I think that's just enough about me, but, we'd like to thank Entomologist Aola Richardee.

I'll leave it at that, but please respect and be kind to me,

I'm the very special 2020 Australian cave animal of the year you see....

Written by Sil Iannello

FUSSI

ACKMA October 2021 online new ways to learn and connect in the pandemic

The Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association and Dubbo Regional Council are excited to present two online events this October.

EcoGuide Certified Guide training course

ONLINE

Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 October

EcoGuide Certification is a national tour guide certification program. The program is owned by Ecotourism Australia and operated in Australia by Savannah Guides.

TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT: will be delivered online by Savannah Guides.

COST: \$269 includes two days online training, EcoGuide certification application fee and annual fee for 12 months.

The EcoGuide training course involves completing work prior to the online training. Register now to start your training and assessment program.

(If not wanting to apply for EcoGuide certification, you may sit-in on the training for \$20 per day.)

FURTHER DETAILS:

EcoGuide - Savannah Guides
savannah-guides.com.au

ACKMA <http://www.ackma.org/conf2021/index.html>

REGISTRATION FORMS:

email president@ackma.org

All cave guides working at sites that are members of ACKMA are warmly invited to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to gain a recognised Australian guiding qualification.

Any ACKMA members are welcome to attend (but may not be eligible for EcoGuide certification).

ACKMA online workshop

ONLINE

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 October

This is a great opportunity for ACKMA members to catch-up online and hear some up-to-date details about cave and karst management. We can share experiences and strategies for coping with natural disasters, the pandemic and emergencies. By doing so we can build resilience in the broad ACKMA cave community.

The two-day program includes:

- Presentations on how cave sites have been impacted by and responded to a range of serious calamities including:
 - 2019-20 bushfires
 - Floods
 - Landslips
 - The COVID-19 pandemic
- Updated guidelines for cave and karst management that have been prepared by an international team led by Australia's Professor David Gillieson and John Gunn for the International Union of Speleology (UIS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN, a UNESCO program).
- A review of recent ACKMA submissions in response to proposed developments impacting on caves and karst.

- News from cave sites around Australia and New Zealand as well as Mulu (Sarawak), Cango (South Africa) and Korea.

- Cave climate monitoring program in Australia and New Zealand show caves, a program of ACKMA in association with the University of New South Wales.

- Book launch: *Caves: Processes, Development, and Management* by David Gillieson. The second edition of this book is a revision of the first edition written 25 years ago. It has been updated, significantly expanded, and largely rewritten. Published by Wiley International in June 2021.

- A social event where you can catch up with ACKMA people online.

FURTHER DETAILS: ACKMA

<http://www.ackma.org/conf2021/index.html>

COST: \$20 per day

REGISTRATION: email president@ackma.org

Thanks to Weidmuller Australia for their support for these events.

The Ups' & Downs of Covid-19 and the Mole Creek Caves Enterprise

Rebecca Kearns, Mole Creek Caves.

It certainly has been a resilience building experience at the Mole Creek Caves over the last couple of years. During the initial lock down Autumn 2020 we were lucky enough to be considered essential workers and the team got down and dirty sorting all the Maintenance tasks we hadn't got around too since the big floods of 2016, this involved lots of track work and a deep clean of all the buildings including both Marakoopa and King Solomons caves, bucket loads of coffee and tonnes of cake.

Post the initial shock and a return to some semblance of normal our experience has probably been a little different to peeps in other states. As Tasmanians we are experiencing a lock in, we have a covid-19 safe plan for the Enterprise which requires smaller groups, Maximum of 10 at Marakoopa and 6 at King Solomons, no multiple tours. We're at less than 1/3 capacity, not great for the bottom line. Our much-loved Enterprise Manager Haydn Stedman has retired, they are the downside's.

The Upside, Caves are so happy... the cave fauna has rebounded significantly, Tasmanian Cave Spiders have been eating, mating and egg laying. We have observed a much more diverse bunch of critters in the public access areas of the cave, including the most elusive Cave Animal of the Year cave beetle. Guides have more time to interact with their smaller, more engaged groups. We have had the opportunity to get some 'science' embedded into our processes with rainfall sampling for a Climate, Bushfire research project, Cave Climate analysis with The Andy's, up and coming Interpretation work with Cathie Plowman, and we now have some exciting research on the cave micro spiders in progress.

Good luck everyone, stay safe we hope to see you soon.



Cutta Cutta Caves Northern Territory

"Here in the Northern Territory, we have been quite lucky in relation to Covid-19. This season, the Cutta Cutta Caves opened later in the year than usual due to a limited number of people being allowed on the tours as a result of restrictions. Last year the Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park was closed for the entire season.

More Recently, Covid-19 has had very different impacts. Earlier in the year, Darwin and Alice Springs went into lockdown for a week. The largest town between Darwin and Alice Springs is Katherine, and that's where everyone travelling waited for the week. We had the busiest week of the season! Several customers had to be booked onto later dates to accommodate for the rush, we just didn't have the capacity to get everyone on a tour as we were so booked out.

Come to August; however, and Covid-19 had the complete opposite effect, as Katherine went into lockdown. Cutta Cutta closed for 4 days, and on return, we had tours that didn't run as we had no one and some with only one person. All in all, the ups and downs have really evened out the impact, so we do consider ourselves very lucky in comparison to other areas within Australia."

- Kristie

(Kristie also takes care of the banking and administration at Cutta Cutta as well. Our all-rounder!)

"It was very hot for us guides and customers wearing masks in the cave after the Katherine lockdown. Cutta Cutta cave sits at a temperature of 33 degrees, which is the perfect temperature for the bats that inhabit it and the calcite crystals Cutta Cutta is known for. Lucky it was only for the week"

- Ben

"Lots of new staff learning tours at Cutta Cutta has created a reliable team that helped a lot over the busy covid period" Cait

"We have been busy wiping handrails after each tour and ensuring covid protocols are in place. It can be challenging but everyone has worked well as a team to ensure we are Covid compliant"

- Angus

Contact Details Update for Dr Armstrong Osbourne

Dr Armstrong Osbourne

H: 02 9351 6266

M: 0407 788 504

E: palaeokarst1@outlook.com

Cutta Cutta Cave (and Gunns Plains Caves)

Ben Deer ~ Cave Guide

I just want to thank everyone for their support in my move to the Northern Territory to work. Especially Cathie Plowman for her great reference.

It was all a bit rushed. On the 2nd of June I passed my P's and got the job all on the one day and only a week later I started work nearly 4000km from home.

Dad (Geoff) and I flew to Darwin Leaving Tassie Sunday 6 June, bought a car, and drove down to Katherine. I started as a Cave Guide at Cutta Cutta Caves the next day, Wednesday. Found a good room in a share house with people from the company I work for. I am enjoying working here.

Cutta Cutta is vastly different to the 11o C at Gunns Plains Caves. Although, I am just not keen on the mulga snakes.

If you come to the Northern Territory, please look me up. In my first week I already had people on tour from Riana near home in Tasmania and two who I had taken through Gunns Plains Caves not too long before I moved.

Before this all happened Dad and I did a little trip through three states over two weeks. We stayed with and enjoyed Wellington Caves with Ian Eddison. Also, Tantanoola Cave, Englebrecht Cave and Umpherston Sinkhole in Mt Gambier.



On tour with Ian Eddison at Wellington Caves.



Flowstone at Cutta Cutta Caves - Northern Territory



Ben Deer in his new habitat.

Ernst (Ernie) Albert Holland

25 September 1938 - 20 June 2021

A Celebration of a Life Well-Lived



It was an honour to have known, worked, and played with Ernie Holland over some forty years although, alas, I have had little contact in the past few years – narrowly missing seeing him in Tasmania over Easter this year as he judged at the Hobart Gemboree.

Ernst Albert Holland left us on 20 June to investigate many mineral sites and caves around and under the surface of the globe.

Some of ACKMA's current members will not have encountered or heard of Ernie. He was our first, very charismatic, President of ACKMA. He contributed dramatically to our Association and to Australasian cave and karst management generally. And overseas.

I sought comment from ACKMA members and others who had contact with Ernie over the years. These are reproduced below – some have been edited. Thanks to all those who contributed – many of you have supplied further background beyond caves to help ACKMA celebrate Ernie's life.

In the words of one inaugural ACKMA member he was: 'without doubt, one of the greatest characters in the history of Australian cave management in general, and Jenolan in particular'.

His cheery approach and enthusiasm of looking after caves and karst cannot be underestimated although sometimes his enthusiasm led him into difficult political fields. For example, on a consultancy in Malaysia he was told the communists utilised many caves during the Malayan emergency in the 1950s. At a formal dinner with the State Governor, Ernie expressed a desire to meet with these communist cave users – shock, horror around the table!

But any difficulties are far outweighed by his amazing contributions to the understanding of cave management and interpretation.

Let's review the life of this remarkable man:

He was born in Grenfell, attended school there and then at Wolaroi College in Orange as a boarder before gaining his Intermediate Certificate in 1953. From 1954 until 1971 he records his life as a 'farmer, driver of earth moving equipment, shearer, share farmer and structural welder'. He joined Jenolan in 1971 – one wonders what drew him there? This started a remarkable career in the cave world. From Grenfell to caves around the world.

He rose through the ranks at Jenolan from Guide to Senior Guide, to General Manager of the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and finally to Karst Resources Manager for the Trust until retiring in 2001. His retirement was not spent sitting down as you will see from the various tributes below.

Ernie's education did not stop at Wolaroi College – his document 'Ernst Holland My History' lists 13 short courses including work toward a Masters degree at UNSW – the latter unfortunately not completed. Things ranging from Laboratory Skills to Environmental Economics – again a measure of this man's intellect.

Turning back to caves: Ernie visited and consulted at many sites across the world including Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland and France. This led to him becoming a co-chairman of the International Union of Speleology's Commission on the Protection of Show Caves.

Over the years he was on numerous advisory and community committees providing guidance not only on caves and karst but on a number of other subjects.

Ernie received a number of awards over the years. These include:

- Honorary Life Member of ACKMA
- Life Member of the Bathurst Stamp Coin Collectors and Lapidary Club Inc
- Award for 50 years' service to the NSW Rural Fire service.
- NSW Rural Fire Service recognised 63 years of service.
- Fellow of the Australian Institute of History and Arts.
- Declared one of 200 Living Legends as part of the 200 years celebrations for Bathurst, 2015.

So where did such awards as the Australian Institute of History and Arts come from? As well as caves and bushfires Ernie was hooked on rocks, minerals and fossils. So much so that he became a national, and subsequently international, judge at gem and mineral shows (Gemborees) in Australia and elsewhere.

And what happened in retirement? As can be seen from the contributions below he increased his role in the Rural Fire Service!



Ernie's memorial service was as well attended as one could expect in this time of COVID difficulties. Had there been no COVID the attendance would have been numbered in the hundreds, if not thousands. The RFS had an honour guard and presented Elaine with the RFS NSW flag as a mark of respect. But he still had to do things differently, instead of a flower wreath on top of his coffin it had to be vegetables from his garden.

As his daughter Lea says:

It was a beautiful day, and he was farewelled with love, laughter and tears. He will be greatly missed.

No truer words!

ACKMA has lost one of its legends – but his legacy will not be lost.

Andy Spate AM

.....



On the Nullarbor.

Ernie Holland: from caver to speleologist.

Ernst started as a guide at Jenolan Caves in 1971. Whilst working in the tourist caves he explored numerous small tight leads. During that time, he would have would have known of the contributions that speleological societies and caving clubs had made at Jenolan. He acknowledged these when in 1985 as senior guide; he assigned them a cottage on Burma Road (The Cavers Cottage). The cottage was burnt to the ground in a bushfire in December 2019. For 34 years, Ernst's foresight had provided an excellent base at Jenolan for cave exploration, rescue, surveying and science.

In 1972 he was a founding member of Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society (JCH&PS). He used history in cave interpretation, publications and track signage. He delved into the history of speleothem protection at Jenolan. In a paper "Away with the Wires" he acknowledged that Jeremiah Wilson the first keeper of the caves (1866-1900) hand wove the unsightly wire netting that protected irreplaceable decoration. Writing this paper prompted Ernst to consider and research alternative methods for the protection of speleothems.

When in 1984, Ernst was appointed Senior Guide there was an acceleration of scientific studies at Jenolan. To prevent overlap, as many disciplines were involved, Ernst founded a scientific committee consisting of cave and karst investigators. Ernest chaired the meetings of the speleologists who were working at Jenolan. The meetings gave him an overview of cave and karst projects and allowed the participants to discuss their projects. During this period many university students (Honours to PhD) worked on various projects at Jenolan. Many scientists and their students have acknowledged Ernst's assistance and contribution to their publications.

The cavers had always recorded and surveyed caves in the Reserve. Ernst required a complete survey of the tourist caves. It had to be of a suitable standard that the maps could be used for interpretation, science and management. The cavers of NSW took on Ernst's challenge and started the Jenolan Caves Survey Project in 1987. Ernst accompanied the surveyors through caves he knew like the back of his hand. Remember those holes he explored as a slim guide: he pointed them out and for completeness they needed to be surveyed. A small caver was sent in with surveying gear; fortunately none of them went for kilometres. When it was found difficult to keep the tourist caves underground from existing surface data; he organized an aerial survey of the karst that allowed the caves to be placed accurately below the surface.

Ernst's time as Senior Guide, saw Karst Conservation Reserves (KCR) established. Jenolan Caves KCR, Wombeyan Caves KCR, Abercrombie Caves KCR and Borenore Caves all fell under the care of the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust. When Ernst was made the inaugural Karst Resources Manager for the Trust in 1990 he had a budget for karst research. He used his resources to establish a laboratory at the Trust office

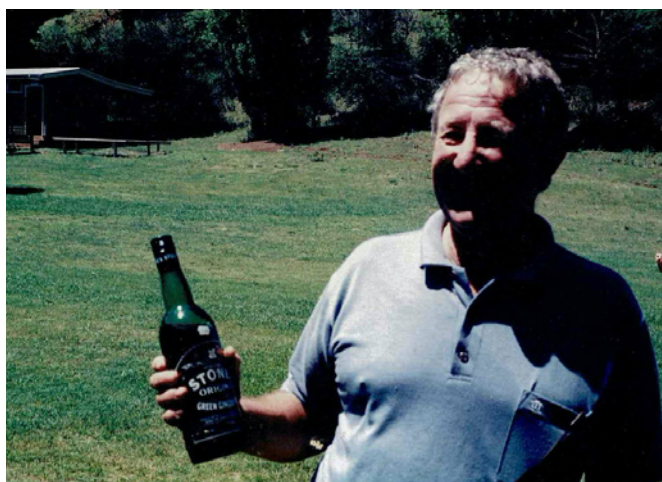
in Bathurst, employed and trained karst research assistants and oversaw research in the four Karst Conservation Reserves. In this role he was able to visit other caving areas through Australia and New Zealand. In 1996 he visited the Nullarbor with a group of speleologists. During this time he was investigating the effect of bushfires on karst.

When he retired from Jenolan in 2000, the wealth of information this inspiring person had supplied to cavers and speleologists was greatly missed.

Julia James

I first met Ernie Holland when I started going to Jenolan with CSS, and then we started to work together when I joined the Social & Environmental Monitoring Committee at Jenolan. Over the next decade we spent quite a lot of time together and I gained a great appreciation of his intellect, immense experience and abundant good humour.

He grew up on a farm at Grenfell in humble circumstances. We went out there one weekend and re-found a sandstone cave in a deep valley near his old farm. As kids he and a mate had climbed up to it and found a tin matchbox and a Colt revolver, both now in the Grenfell Museum and attributed to Ben Hall's gang. I led the climb up to the cave and found it most interesting. We sat up there reminiscing and drank Stone's Green Ginger Wine out of tin mugs.



He was one of the most intelligent people I've ever met. His encyclopaedic knowledge of rocks and minerals, delivered with his habitual, and often delightful, malapropisms, impressed all that met him and was an abiding interest. His collection at Raglan was justly famed and one could spend hours in there learning from him. He developed an interest in the effects of fire on limestone, which led to some innovative experimental work at Jenolan and several papers.

Before I moved north to Cairns, Ernie, and I went out to the Nullarbor for about three weeks. We had a ball. We managed to find the campsites where several hundred First Nations people gathered in 1907 to conduct ceremonies. There were many stone hut circles, flaked bottle glass and telephone insulators, and a ground stone axehead, which turned out to come from Mount William in western Victoria. We had an interesting time exiting Mullamullang when our caving lights gave out, using a cigarette lighter to illuminate the next few metres. Ernie was a great companion, absolutely unflappable and interested in everything.

Ernie came on a trip to the Mitchell-Palmer and Chillagoe with my late wife Jill Landsberg and Lana Little. We had a great trip which took us to some quite remote karst and caves, also to the Palmer River goldfields and thence to Chillagoe. Ernie loved the bush and was blown away by the rock art – one cave in particular with a gallery of paintings and only one set of naked footprints on the soft red dirt floor...

I feel very privileged to have known Ernie and will miss him very much.

Dave Gillieson

I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Ernie's family on this very sad day.

Ernie was a stalwart and life member of the Raglan Rural Fire Brigade and a committed member of the NSW Rural Fire Service, since joining the Brundah Bush Fire Brigade in 1956.

It was my very great pleasure to present Ernie with his 60th year Long Service Medal in August 2019 and to reflect on the many achievements he had contributed during a long and distinguish career with the Rural Fire Service as a proud member of the Chifley-Lithgow District.

Ernie's willingness to support his local community, not only the Rural Fire Service, was renown, although he was not one for personal accolades, just to get on with what needed to be done to help others.

His sudden passing was unexpected, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

Assistant Commissioner Steve Yorke AFSM

I first met Ernst in the early nineteen eighties at Jenolan Caves. I found Ernie to be a lover of caves and karst, not only the Jenolan karst as his interest was worldwide. If he hadn't seen it he had certainly read about it, such was his passion.

In 1989 the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust was formed, and Ernie was appointed karst resources officer; from this position he played a major role in the conservation, preservation, and presentation of the karst reserves under the control of the then Trust.

Ernie and I became good mates, he was always forthcoming with good advice. We enjoyed working, travel, caving and the occasional Green Ginger together!!!!

RIP. Ernie he was ONE OF A KIND.

Mick Chalker

Ernie joined the Brundah BFB in 1956. He moved with his family to the Jenolan Caves area in 1970 for his work in the caving field. Over the next several years he attended many fire related incidents alongside other local residents, but there was no organised or formally constituted Fire Brigade. Ernie, along with other residents, got together and formed the Jenolan Caves BFB in 1979.

Ernie was part of the working group that then built a dedicated brigade station and lobbied the then Department of Tourism to acquire fire appliances over the ensuing years.

In addition to attending fire related incidents, brigade members also assisted with search and rescue in the rugged surrounding national park. Ernie would tell the story of how, on one such S & R in winter, the crew ran out of daylight and sought refuge in a cave for the night. It was cold, but one person said he was ok because he found an old blanket in the cave. When dawn broke, it became apparent the old blanket was the skin of a very smelly dead wombat. We reckoned the story must be true because he told it often enough.

Upon retiring from the Caves in 1998 Ernie moved to Raglan and joined the local brigade. It was around this time that I first met Ernie. Through my role as DFCO and also an instructor, and Ernie's increasing involvement in the Raglan brigade, including Captain from 2002 to 2005, we developed a good working relationship and a friendship. I attended many local and out of area fires with Ernie.

I knew that any area that Ernie was responsible for, was one less problem I had to worry about.

In more recent years Ernie trained up and became an air base manager in the Aviation arm of the RFS. His people skills, initiative and "can do" attitude came to the fore in this role, particularly in the recent disastrous fires. I often had the pleasure of working with Ernie in his Air Base Manager role and my Air Observer role.

Ernie was highly regarded by all that worked with him in the RFS Aviation fraternity. His gentle friendly nature, along with his patience, encouraged many volunteers to learn the skills to run an AB.

In my mind it was Ernie's personal qualities that distinguished him.

Some of the many comments about Ernie's death on the Chifley RFS face book page are worth repeating:

Champion little bloke. Lovely man. True gentleman. Great mentor. You have graced us with your knowledge and experience.

Jeff Larsen RFS Senior Group Captain (Retired)

Ages ago, shortly after Ernie retired, Mike and I visited him at Kelso.

We were not surprised to find he had a wombat or two under his suburban house.

Another anecdote: Ernie had a habit of saying "been there" when a new cave was described to him. One person who should remain nameless spun a great yarn, about amazing non-existent extensions to a cave and of course Ernie said he'd been there too.

What a wonderful fellow and well-loved.

Jill Rowling

I first Ernie Holland back in 1987 while taking part in a Staff Exchange Program that he had helped orchestrate at the time between Jenolan and Buchan Caves.

The program involved a complete swap between Senior Guide Keith Oliver of Jenolan Caves and myself, Senior Guide at Buchan.

I quickly learnt that behind Ernie's wicked sense of humour was a very clever mind and a pioneer in many cave and karst management initiatives.

Ernie remained a wonderful mentor and a constant source of inspiration during my early days in cave and karst management.

I will be forever grateful for his friendship and guidance.

May his legacy live on forever.

Dale Calnin

I was the school teacher at Jenolan Caves Public School 1973 - 1974. In those two years I taught four of Ernie and Elaine's children - Deirdre, Derek, Leah and Michael.

They were both welcoming and kindly to me, in 1973, a first-year teacher. Ernie was helpful and diligent in his role as President and held regular meetings of the P & C. I knew that if I needed any support Ernie would back me - this was rarely needed as my years at Jenolan are amongst my happiest memories. Elaine provided a friendly welcome opening up the school and doing her cleaning before school and making sure the heaters were turned on - a necessity in Jenolan winters.

The school community was a happy one of children, parents, Jenolan workers and me as teacher. We all benefitted from Ernie's easy-going approachability and counsel and help.

Vale Ernie - you will always be gratefully remembered by me for helping to make my time at Jenolan enjoyable and rewarding.

With deep sympathy to Elaine and the children whom I remember so well.

Julie Brackenreg [Hayes]

I seem to remember all these pillowcases on the back of chairs around the guides table full of baby wombats and when we scared a wombat further into a cave, Ernie taught us the wombat mating call to try and entice it back out. I think we may have been calling the wrong sex.

Peter Brown



Ernie was the judge for mineral entries in the competition at the 2021 Easter Gemboree (National Gem & Mineral Show) in Hobart.

He will be greatly missed in the gem & lapidary community.

Jimmy Lim

Ernst Holland had been interested in rocks and mineral since he was a child, thanks to his father, an interest that Ernst turned into a lifelong hobby. Unable to attend any formal education on the topic Ernst began reading any book on the subject that he could get his hands on – he yearned to learn how to identify rocks and minerals as well as amass an impressive collection of rock and mineral specimens. His knowledge as a geologist and lapidarist will be sadly missed by the club and the hobby generally.

Another aspect was his hobby of lapidary - the age-old art of transforming natural rocks and minerals into polished gemstones suitable for use in jewellery and for other ornamental purposes. Ernst had taught himself the artistic skills of gem cutting, faceting and jewellery making; he volunteered in teaching his gemstone artistry at the Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables and Lapidary Club and more recently the newly named Bathurst Lapidary and Collectors Club Inc.

Several years ago, Ernie became a 'National Level Judge' with the Gem and Lapidary Council of New South Wales. Along with his wife Elaine he has regularly attended, since the year 2000, the annual GEMBOREE National Gem and Mineral Shows held all over Australia. Many of his specimens from his personal collection have won many prizes in competitions.

Another passion that Ernst pursued was cycling and kayaking along with collecting early brass microscopes and other equipment, having amassed a very impressive and historic collection. He enjoyed charity rides such as the 1000km pushbike ride through the Flinders Ranges to raise money for the Royal Flying Doctors Service and the 3000km ride from Adelaide to Perth across the Nullarbor - just two of some 20 fundraising rides he has taken part in, some with Elaine.

Alan McRae

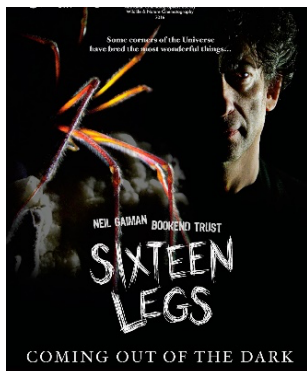


Firemen never die, they just burn forever in the hearts of the people whose lives they saved

Susan Diane Murphree

Sixteen Legs

Tours Nationally



The multi award-winning **SIXTEEN LEGS Project** is an exploration of the hidden underground world beneath our feet. This is a home of twisted beauty, haven to a variety of weird inhabitants but hostile to others. Enter a sanctuary full of unusual animals and misshapen rocks, overseen by still-living, giant prehistoric spiders the size of dinner plates.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.

SIXTEEN LEGS: Enter the Cave Exhibition - A travelling exhibition of caves, cave biology and the exploration and discovery of how this unique environment works. This Exhibition showcases the results of over 30-years of scientific research, 7 years of filming, and hundreds of millions of years of evolution, from the break-up of Gondwana to the present day!

The Exhibition includes:

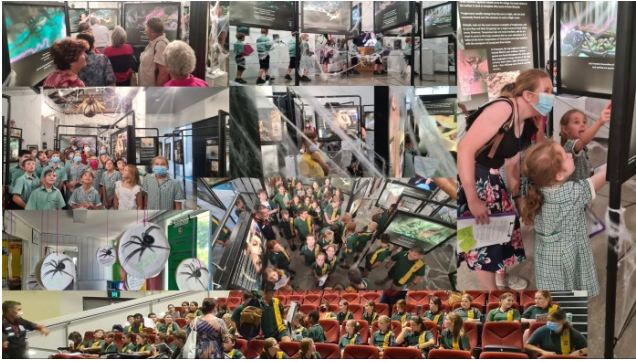
- (i) 48 giant backlit panels showcasing a photographic journey through the science and conservation of caves and groundwater, including the biology of the caves and the giant spiders that dominate the food chain;
- (ii) Woven within these is a dark fairytale telling of this story, created in collaboration with Queensland artist Jodee Taylah and international best-selling author **NEIL GAIMAN**;
- (iii) These panels are surrounded with artworks inspired by the exhibition, and created by artists and students around Australia;
- (iv) 2 giant mating spider replicas with 18 foot leg-spans in the roof of the exhibition area, and a giant egg-sac pulsating with spider young...

"Truly magnificent. One of the best cave-related displays that I have seen in my viewings around the world." - Andy Spate - Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association.

The Exhibition is paired with the **SIXTEEN LEGS Documentary**, a nature documentary like no other. Featuring Neil Gaiman alongside appearances by Stephen Fry, Tara Moss, Adam Hills, and Mark Gatiss, and with a score co-written and performed by Kate Miller-Heidke.

"I don't think it could ever be said that the work of Attenborough will at any point be irrelevant – but, like all art, there is always room for adaptation and imagination. SIXTEEN LEGS arguably does just that." – Wild Melbourne Review.

After a short hiatus due to COVID restrictions we are extremely excited to be back on the road and touring. We have chosen many karst areas for our tour but have also included many other areas in an effort to educate the wider community about karst, caves, their inhabitants and the environment in general. The exhibition and documentary are successfully exciting students and the public and caves in general. As a not-for-profit organisation we try to raise funds wherever we can, and it is very satisfying to also put money back into regional and remote communities across Australia that have been struggling in the current economic climate.



This year we have already toured several Queensland locations including Goondiwindi, Emerald and The Caves near Rockhampton. We've already had over 4000 people visit the exhibition across these locations with a portion of those being repeat visitors, mostly school students, who came back with their families. In addition to that we've had over 200 people

provide artworks for display in the exhibition across numerous locations, from junior primary students right through to a giant metal spider that was produced by Goondiwindi Engineering (seen below coming out of a standard sized doorway). Some of the artworks now travel with the exhibition.



Each venue presents its own interesting challenges and experiences. Whether it be a heritage building with wooden rafters, incredibly high ceilings or a showgrounds pavilion/shed the exhibition has the flexibility to fit lots of different spaces. This also, makes it interesting for us as the exhibition takes on a new appearance at each venue to suit the space.

Our visit to Capricorn Caves included a totally unique and new experience, with a special screening of the film for a select audience within Cathedral Cave on World Environment Day. With a mostly flat 230 million-year-old section of cave wall, great natural acoustics, and periodic visits from bats and a frog on sentry duty,



this was a new way to watch the film, and the very first time it has ever been screened in a cave. An informative Q&A session after the documentary was held with Dr Niall Doran, Scientist behind the research, Director of

Bookend Trust and Co-Director of the documentary. Capricorn Caves staff Mindy and Dan are to be commended on successfully pulling this event together and supporting us throughout the process. I think all would agree that it was a lovely setting for such an event.

The exhibition is currently on display in Charleville until early October after five weeks up at The World Theatre in Charters Towers. We were supposed to go to Wellington in New South Wales later this year, but COVID has put a stop to that. We are still planning to tour Western Australia for two years starting in January 2022. The tour has already extended from two years to three and we are open to adding further locations if there are suitable venues and support to do so. For further information feel free to get in contact with me at sixteenlegs@bigpond.com or 0439840758.

Gold, gold, gold - Oops that was the Olympics!

What I meant was: *Caves, Caves, Caves!*

Andy Spate

I have just received a copy of Dave Gillieson's second edition of his book, *Caves: Processes, Development, and Management* (Wiley Blackwell).

This 508-page masterpiece is not a book that one reads cover to cover over a few weeks – rather it is a book you will dip into every so often when you want to know more about cave development, or speleothem types, or cave history, or karst management, or ...

When you want to know a little more about the processes of cave and karst management – or of archaeology relating to caves – or the ages and rates of speleothem development – and what they might tell us about past environments this is the book for you.

It is all there in Dave's book! The book is divided into 15 chapters. Each chapter has many subdivisions dealing with various issues. For example, Chapter 12, Historic Uses of Caves; has the following subdivisions:

Introduction

- Caves as Shelter
- Caves as Sacred Places
- Caves as sources of raw materials
- Cave Tourism
- Cave dwellings in Turkey

As another example, Chapter, 14, Catchment Management in Karst, has 11 subdivisions including the management needs of golf courses on karst. Spectacular attention to the minutiae of karst management.

This should give you some idea of the detail that is encompassed in this very comprehensive survey of caves and karst, and their management.

The one quibble I would have with this wonderful book is that the references are at the end of each chapter rather than consolidated at the end of the book, Also Figure 6.6

... The reason why the references are handled this way is that each chapter will be available online.

The book contains two indexes – one subject index and a geographic index so that you can easily find out what he says about your favorite sites(s). There is also a very useful glossary.

I launched the first edition of Dave's book at Wombeyan Caves on 2 February 1997. I look forward to launching the second edition at Wellington Caves in October 2021. Dave advises that there will be two copies of his great book available for auction in October to aid the Life Member's fund.

In 1997, the publisher's blurb said about the first edition:

Special features:

- *One of the most comprehensive accounts of caves, cave science and cave management ever published.*
- *Well-written, non-technical with case studies*
- *Shows how cave deposits can reveal great insights into past climates and ecological systems.*

And readership:

- *This book will appeal to all those who are curious about the underworld and its inhabitants. It is illustrated throughout with photographs, maps and line diagrams, many of which are original to the book.*

These publisher's comments in 1997 are entirely apposite to the second edition. Dave is to be congratulated of his second edition - a real labour of love – for the caving community. Every Australian and New Zealand show cave operation - and all the others around the world - should have this available to their staff. And many other caves people should be buying it and learning.

People have been interested in caves for a very long time. Our distant ancestors used them for shelter, as sources of water, and as places in which to conduct essential rituals. They adorned their walls with quite sophisticated artwork depicting both their existential and spiritual concerns. Caves feature in our mythology, they are used as places of worship in many cultures, and they are used throughout the world as places in which to store prized foodstuffs and wine. For at least two hundred years they have attracted scientists, artists, photographers, and recreational cavers. This book examines how caves form, the light they shed on past environments and climates, and the values, both environmental and cultural, that they provide to humanity.

Caves. Processes, Development and Management. *Second Edition.*

Book Review ~ Kevin Kiernan

Gillieson, David Shaw 2021 *Caves. Processes, Development and Management*. Second Edition. Wiley Blackwell, Hoboken NJ. 508 pp.

Many ACKMA members will be familiar with the first edition of Dave Gillieson's volume on caves and their management, published in 1996. This revised edition expands upon the scope of that original volume and presents much additional knowledge of caves and cave management that has been gained by researchers world-wide over the subsequent two and a half decades. It will be an invaluable addition to the library of today's cave managers, cave scientists, and others interested in the topic.

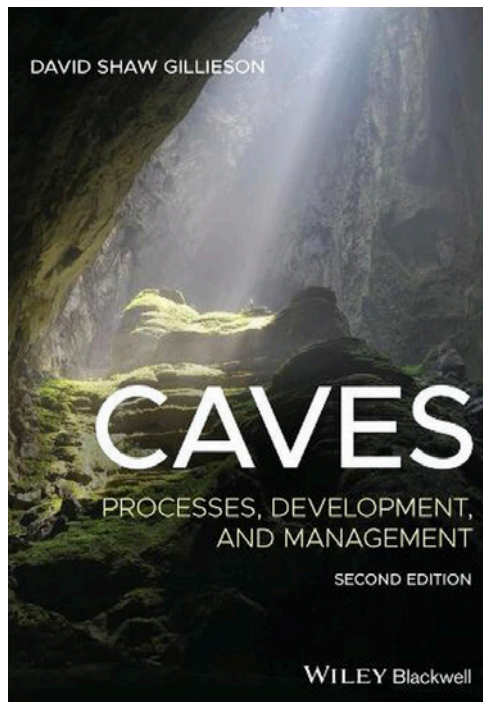
The initial chapters commence with an introduction to caves and karst before focusing on more technical details of cave science, including cave hydrology; processes of rock dissolution; speleogenesis; speleothems; and other cave sediments. Cave and karst managers seeking to broaden their understanding of such topics will be very well served by these chapters.

Two subsequent chapters usefully summarise the techniques available for dating cave deposits and for deducing past climates from them, with excellent examples of how this has contributed to emerging knowledge of the past.

Whereas many karst texts tend to have a fairly limited focus on geoscientific and/or hydrological aspects of karst, Gillieson's volume is distinctive in adopting a wider perspective, and doing so comprehensively and well. Separate chapters are devoted to cave ecology, cave archaeology and historic uses of caves, before the book then zeroes in on the key focus of ACKMA, namely the management of caves.

One chapter entitled simply "Cave Management" ranges widely. Material on tourist cave management includes discussion of such issues as lighting, engineering, interpretation, guide training, radon gas, and the impacts of cave cleaning. The impacts and management of recreational caving and cave rescue operations are included in this chapter, together with sections on cave classification and other matters.

The old adage about it not being possible to conserve the holes in the cheese without also considering the cheese is also to the fore in this book. A lengthy chapter on catchment management should leave readers in no doubt that caves are not a separate underground world, but part of a single world of which the surface environment forms part – and that protection of caves requires appropriate management of that surface. This chapter ranges across a myriad of issues including the



importance of karst catchment definition, the need to protect soil, vegetation and water quality, and risks associated with groundwater lowering. A wide variety of threats including soil erosion and microbial contamination of groundwater are addressed, together with the potential for activities such as agriculture and golf course management to result in pollution of karst groundwater by fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides. Useful discussion of conflicts in karst management is also included

A chapter on the documentation of caves, including geoheritage assessment, concludes the volume.

Of particular interest to southern hemisphere readers will be the inclusion in this book of numerous examples of cave science and cave management topics drawn from the southern hemisphere. With the notable exception of the previous *Karst* tomes by Joe Jennings, and the New Zealand perspectives so effectively injected by Paul Williams into Ford and Williams *Karst Geomorphology and Hydrology*, most karst texts tend to be written by northern hemisphere authors with predominantly northern hemisphere perspectives.

An excessively northern hemisphere perspective does not always serve southern hemisphere readers well (one of my fondest memories is of an International Geomorphological Congress in Spain where the conclusions of a researcher from Africa that features on the southern side of a mountain were likely of glacial origin were resoundingly challenged by prominent northern hemisphere expert on the basis that "everyone knows that glaciers form on the more shaded northern side of mountains"). No such blind spots are permitted in this Gillieson volume. While amply covering the northern hemisphere, it also includes considerable material from southeast Asia, New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere in the southern hemisphere. This includes long overdue acknowledgement of some of the unique characteristics and global significance of the Nullarbor karst, something that might hopefully influence its future management, including decisions yet to be finalised regarding the putative "green energy" project that has recently been proposed and which would see hundreds of square kilometres of this iconically flat and brittle hollow karst landscape covered by visually intrusive and heavily water-dependant infrastructure.

No karst or cave manager should be without this book.

Kevin Kiernan

Bushrangers at Timor Caves, New South Wales Australia

Part 2 – Jimmy Governor

By Garry K. Smith

Newcastle and Hunter Valley Speleological Society

Part 1 of this article published in ACKMA Journal No 123, looked at the bushranger Fred Ward alias, “Captain Thunderbolt” and his signature dated 1865 in Main Cave at Timor NSW. Part 2 investigates the signature of outlaw Jimmy Governor dated 1899. Jimmy and his brother Joe along with Jacky Underwood are infamous after committing several brutal murders that quickly became known as the Breealong Massacre.

The discovery of this outlaw’s signature raises questions about its authenticity. Is it possible that Jimmy visited or used this cave as a hideout? Is the date correct or was it a mistake? What previously documented sightings of his signature can be found?

“Jimmy Governor 1899” is written in black lead pencil on the wall in an obscure location well inside the cave and in the style of writing characteristic of the time. The signature was located by NHVSS members in 2007 (Argent 2007, Smith 2020).

So, what drove Jimmy and his two accomplices to become bushrangers/outlaws and what did they do during their reign of terror to have their names recorded in Australia’s history? What historic evidence can be found to substantiate authenticity of Jimmy’s signature? To set the scene let’s look at Jimmy’s life and whether he was in the Timor area during the year inscribed alongside his signature.



Jimmy Governor signature in Main Cave Timor - July 2020 - Photo by Garry K Smith

James (Jimmy) Governor (1875-1901)

Jimmy was born to a full-blood aboriginal father and a half-cast mother in 1875. He attended several schools: Gulgong, Denison Town, Leadville, Wollar, Coonabarabran and finally Allynbrook or Gresford in 1886. He was a bright student but was constantly taunted by the white students and adults (Daily Telegraph 13/8/1900)

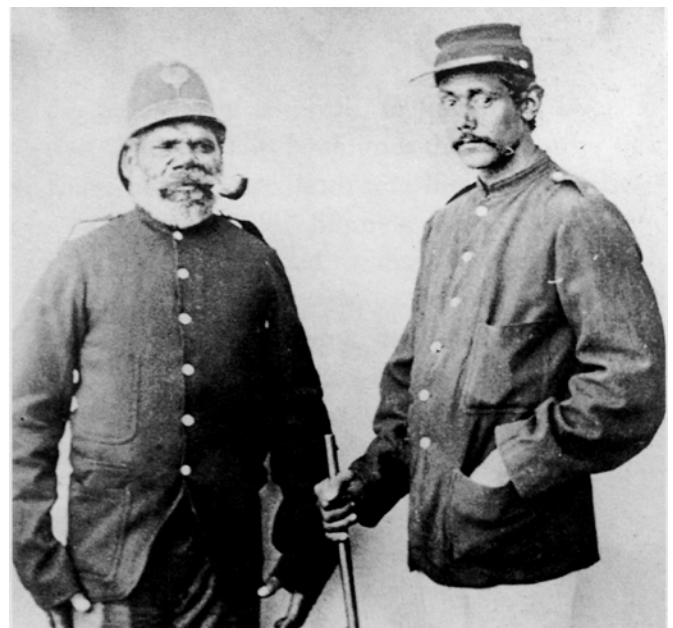
Young Jimmy was short for his age, good-looking and dark skinned with reddish hair (Walsh 1983). His father, Tommy was a hard worker and gained paid work in the European world, setting an example which Jimmy would follow. The family then moved to Leadville, east

of Dunedoo where Tommy discovered silver ore at Mt Stewart in 1887, which resulted in the opening of a mine a few years later. Tommy was given a horse, harness and cart as reward since aboriginals at the time had no citizenship rights and were not permitted to own land (Moore & Williams 2001). Soon after the family moved back to the Paterson River area, most likely Gresford in the Hunter Valley in 1888. On New Year’s Day 1890, a boy described as Tommy junior (most likely Jimmy, then aged 15) won the high jump at the Gresford Sports Day.

In 1890 the family moved to Singleton, where they lived in a tent at the “black’s camp” near St Clair, as described by a police officer’s report (Moore & Williams 2001). So besides being proficient at reading and writing through his education at school, Jimmy learnt the bush skills and traditional ways of his aboriginal heritage (Clune 1959). He became an excellent horse breaker, tracker, musterer, tree lopper and fencer. Work took him to many areas around the Hunter Valley and Central West NSW. “Increasingly, his employers refused to pay him, assuming as ‘a black’ that he should be satisfied with rations” (Moore & Williams 2001). He was a proud man stating at his trial for murder in 1900, “I always worked, and paid for what I got, and I recon I’m as good as a white man” (Moore & Williams 2001).

In the 1890’s the family moved back to the Gulgong-Wollar area, and they lived in the Aborigines’ camp at Wollar. Jimmy found conditions very difficult as spending time at “the Blacks’ camp only caused him humiliation and the streets of Gulgong, or any town, were constant reminders that they were his only by default ...so long as he was a quiet, good Black” (Davies 1979).

“In 1895 he turned 20, an adult who had been at work for five years and more. He was an educated white man; he was also an outcast half-caste” (Davies 1979). He was raised in two worlds and belonged to neither.



(L to R) Joe Button and Jimmy Governor - tracker at Cassilis Police Station 1896

At age 21, Jimmy presented himself at the Cassilis Police Station, and on the 15 July 1896 was sworn into the NSW Mounted Police Force as a blacktracker (Davies 1979). Initially proud of his new uniform and perceived status, he soon became very disgruntled at how he was treated as a blacktracker compared to white police and in December 1897, he quit the police force to move back to Gulgong with his family (Moore & Williams 2001).



Ethel Governor -
State Reference Library

Sometime during 1898, Jimmy met Ethel Page in Gulgong. Now aged 23, Jimmy had planned to marry 16yo Ethel at St Luke's Church of England, Gulgong on 10 December 1898. But in view of Ethel's advanced pregnancy (5 months) with their child, shame and nineteenth-century convention caused the ceremony to be transferred at the last minute to the church rectory (Davies 1979, Walsh 1983). Ethel had English parents who had both migrated to Australia. Interracial marriage was not considered socially acceptable at the time, particularly a dark skinned aboriginal like Jimmy, marrying Ethel, a white lady.

Ethel and their first child (Sidney born 9 April 1899)

stayed at the shack he inherited from his late father at Gulgong and his work as a horse breaker and fencer saw Jimmy and his brother Joe travelling to properties up to 100km and further from Gulgong. Jimmy was a hard worker and rarely if ever drank alcohol, but he was frequently taunted by racist comments and inequality, hence he often had quarrels with men who offended or cheated on him. But what Jimmy could not stand for was the constant whispers, giggles, insults and racial comments directed at Ethel (Davies 1979).

Gulgong at the time had just 100 or so residents. Gossip spread quickly after Jimmy made a complaint to the police that a woman's remarks were offensive. The woman was obliged to publish an apology in the local newspaper, "an amazing victory - but bought at a high price" (Davies 1979), as this resulted in an escalation of the taunting by townsfolk. During April 1900, to escape the constant taunting, Jimmy and his family moved to a farm called Breelong near Gilgandra after gaining a long-term contract to build nearly 5 km of fencing. The job consisted of splitting, boring wire holes and erecting posts (earning 10s, 10s and 12s per hundred respectively) on John and Sarah Mawbey's 1500-acre property (Davies 1979, Walsh 1983, Moore & Williams 2001).

The Mawbey's had agreed to pay Jimmy a wage (based on the quantity of fence posts) and provide basic rations of flour, meat and sugar and Jimmy had to pay for any extra general supplies (Moore & Williams 2001).

The basic food rations were usually delivered to their camp 3 miles (5km) from the Mawbey's house. However, Ethel Governor would often make the journey to collect tobacco and other general supplies for her family. Ethel also did regular servant and domestic duties at the Mawbey's house but wasn't paid anything. Several

historic accounts report that Ellen (Helena) Kerz (21yo) a school teacher boarding at the property and Grace Mawbey (16yo) constantly taunted Ethel about marrying an aboriginal and made fun of her baby (Moore & Williams 2001).

Injury was added to insult when John Mawbey rejected about 100 of the fence posts but offered to pay Jimmy only half price for them (Nepean Times 28/7/1900). Mawbey then used the condemned posts in his fence without paying and said he would pay in due course when other work was done. The payment was never made. (Nepean Times 28/7/1900). In June there was also a disagreement with Mrs Mawbey overcharging Jimmy for extra rations, which put him 15 shillings in debt. To compound the issue the Mawbeys decided to deduct this amount from money owed for completed fencing work, at a time when he had run out of supplies and had no money (Moore & Williams 2001).

Soon after Jimmy received a visit from his younger brother Joe and an old friend Jacky Underwood (sometimes called Jacky Brown) who camped for a period in a nearby paddock on the banks of Wallumburrawang Creek. "Under tribal law Jimmy, who had a job for which he was being paid and receiving rations, was required to also provide for these relatives who were not working. Because he was only receiving sufficient rations for himself and Ethel this demand to feed extra mouths was probably a contributing factor in the strains which developed" (Stackpool 1998). Jimmy offered to subcontract fencing work to Joe and Jacky, which they accepted and worked there for 3 or 4 weeks.

Joe and Jacky were intending to travel through to Coonamble to visit relatives so Jimmy asked if they could return with his nephew Peter Governor and Jackie Porter to also help with fencing work. They all returned in a week or two and set up camp nearby on the Mawbey's property. They were all then subcontracted by Jimmy to do fencing work. Stress on Jimmy would have been high as it was his responsibility to provide for everyone's needs in camp and Ethel was constantly in his ear about the taunting she was receiving at the Mawbey household (Sydney Morning Herald 29/10/1900).

Many reports say that Jimmy, Joe and Jacky, often romanticised about becoming bushrangers and bragging that each was better than the other and they could not be caught by the police. The four aborigines had been subcontracting to Jimmy for about a week, when things came to a head after an argument in camp on Friday night, 20 July 1900 (Nepean Times 28/7/1900).

Around 10pm, armed with a nulla nulla (also known as a waddie or boondie), tomahawk and unloaded rifle, Jimmy and Jacky went to the Mawbey's old home (Old Breelong Inn) where the men folk (John Mawbey plus 3 other men) were staying after sacking wheat on the Breelong property. Jimmy wanted to sort out a matter related to supply of rations, so he fronted up to the door and chatted with Mr Mawbey, while Jacky stayed out of sight with the weapons. After being satisfied with the outcome that rations would be supplied the next day, they headed off toward the new home a mile away, knowing that only the women were there. Most reports state that it was just Jimmy and Jacky, however this conflicts with Jimmy's statement months later at his trial when he stated that Joe and Ethel were also with them at both Mawbey's houses but they had all agreed on the night to cover up their involvement. (Moore & Williams 2001 p.34, Nepean Times 28/7/1900, Sydney Morning Herald 24/11/1900).

Jimmy wanted to confront Mrs Sarah Mawbey about the things she was saying to Ethel. At the new house that night, there were the 3 women: Mrs Mawbey and her 18yo younger sister Elsie Clarke and Helena Kerz, plus seven of the Mawbey children (Walsh 1983, Moore & Williams 2001).

Upon Mrs Mawbey answering the door Jimmy blurted out, "Did you tell, my missus that any white woman who married a black-fellow ought to be shot? Did you ask my wife about our private business? Did you ask her what sort of nature I had - black or white?" Mrs Mawbey and Helena made a sneering laugh at Jimmy pointing to the door. "Go home" she said in the voice of command that might be used to a dog. "Pooh, you black rubbish, you want shooting for marrying a white woman!" sneered Helena. With that Jimmy broke into a rage and struck Mrs Mawbey and Helena in the mouth. (Sydney Morning Herald 24/11/1900, Clune 1959)

A frenzied uproar broke out and others in the household awoke, some trying to assist the older women and some children fleeing out the windows to raise the alarm. Jimmy now in an uncontrollable rage began bashing the women and those trying to help, with his nulla nulla. Some of the children escaped out of the windows so Jimmy ran after them, quickly catching and laying into them with his weapon, so fiercely that they were killed. Jacky had remained behind to guard the badly injured women, then when Jimmy returned, they both laid into all the women and children till none were standing. Moore and Williams (2001) "believe that Joe took an active part and Ethel was at least a witness." In total there were 3 dead and 2 more who died shortly after from their horrendous injuries - the details too graphic to reproduce here. Two young children survived unscathed in the kitchen; one child survived by hiding under a bed. Another child Albert 'Bertie' aged 9 escaped and ran the mile to the other house on the property where his father John Mawbey and two other men were that night, to raise the alarm (Clune 1959, Moore & Williams 2001). Many reports say that Jimmy and Jacky quickly fled on foot after committing the atrocity. They arrived back at their bush camp and quickly packed up. Jimmy's threatened Joe with being tomahawked if he did not join them on the run (according to Jimmy's statement to a reporter after his capture), however this is contrary to what Jimmy later detailed in his statement to the court (Sydney Morning Herald 29/10/1900, 24/11/1900). From this point the three aboriginals became wanted men on the run hunted by posses of police and civilians alike.

Jacky Underwood had a bad limp after a fall from a horse as a child and had later lost one eye so was easily identifiable. He was quickly caught in a few days but the Governors escaped (Moore & Williams 2001). Jimmy and his brother Joe made their tracks through rough country in NSW, terrorizing townsfolk and remote property inhabitants, taunting police with hand written notes scrawled on pieces of paper and with their bush prowess outwitting police and civilians alike. They went on a 14-week, 2000-mile (3219 km) rampage, terrorizing a wide area of north-central NSW, committing more than 80 crimes including armed hold-ups. They robbed more than 35 huts and homesteads, including burning two of them to the ground while seeking revenge on persons who had wronged them (State Library NSW website, Moore & Williams 2001).

While on the run the Governor brothers committed more horrendous murder, killed 2 men, a child and a heavily pregnant woman and her unborn child (Biber 2008).

Jimmy was out to settle old scores, mainly with men he had worked for and whom he believed had treated him badly. The Governor brothers travelled along the Goulburn River around the Wollar area, then moved on to raid properties in the Paterson Valley and eastward through Allynbrook to rob huts in the Gresford district. Many of the settlers had already deserted their properties after being warned that the Governors were out for revenge and had already committed many murders. Such was the fear in the population over large areas of the Hunter Valley that business and schools closed and nobody travelled unless they had to.

While ever the Governors were at large, white settlers and squatters fled the countryside to seek refuge in small towns as they lived in fear of being the next victims, but those in power saw it as challenging colonial rule and delaying the white penetration of the Australian frontier (Sydney Morning Herald 30/7/1900, Biber 2008).

At Gulgong, 50 armed men patrolled the town perimeter and ladies practiced target shooting in the riverbed nearby. Wollar was like a besieged city with armed guards patrolling day and night. In the Ulan district forty-three people camped at Ulan Church after fleeing their home out of town. Only four out of 35 homes in the area remained occupied. Those remaining to defend their homes were terrified and constantly on guard for the slightest movement or noise, especially at night. (Moore & Williams 2001). There were frequent newspaper reports of farmers opening fire in the direction of a noise on a dark night, to kill their prize bore or an innocent kangaroo. One ambush party after hearing a sound after dark, let forth with a volley of shots to find in the morning they had killed an old cow with 13 shots. The following night a draught horse was done to death in a similar manner (Gulgong Advertiser 17/8/1900).

The newly appointed NSW Minister for Works, Mr O'Sullivan, toured the troubled area and reported: "There was a reign of terror around Cassilis and Merriwa, and many women and children were living in these towns in consequence of the depredation of the black bushrangers. Houses were empty, dogs were dying on the chain, and cows were sick with milk fever through not being milked" (Singleton Argus 8/9/1900).

On 22 September it was reported that Jimmy had raped a 15yo white girl at Cobark River (Singleton Argus 25/9/1900). Urgent representation to the Government resulted in the reward being increased on 25 September, from £200 to £1,000 for each Governor, dead or alive and outlawry was urged. (Dubbo Dispatch 26/9/1900, NSW Police Gazette 10/10/1900, The Murrurundi Times 10/11/1900, Biber 2008). Up to 2,000 volunteers and police (accompanied by bloodhounds and black trackers) were involved in the hunt for the Governor brothers, described as "the largest manhunt in Australian history" (Moore & Williams 2001).

The NSW government instigated the 'Felons Apprehension Act, 1899' on 2 October 1900 to proclaim the Governor brothers' outlaws so that, if they failed to surrender themselves to Maitland Goal by the afternoon of 16 October 1900, they became 'outlaws', who could legally be shot and killed on sight (Sydney Morning Herald 3/10/1900, NSW Police Gazette 10/10/1900). They were the last to be proclaimed outlaws in Australia (Walsh 1983). Under the 1899 Act, anyone found to be aiding or harbouring an outlaw or withholding or providing false information to a member of the police force, could be imprisoned for up to 15 years. (Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal 24/8/1900, Eburn 2005)



Jimmy Governor's Campsite - Photo by Garry K Smith

Jimmy's tracking skills and knowledge of police tactics kept them one step ahead of their pursuers as they moved north to the Forbes River, to evade capture. However, they came unstuck on 13 October 1900 when two civilians came across Jimmy and Joe and fired at them. They both got away, but Jimmy was seriously wounded, shot in the hip and mouth causing considerable blood loss. He had lost four or five teeth and his cheek had been ripped open, which made it hard for him to eat and probably inflicted such pain as to affect his thinking (Sydney Morning Herald 29/10/1900, Stackpool 1998, Moore & Williams 2001). The brothers then became separated when crossing a river.

Jimmy was captured a fortnight later at Bobin near Wingham on 27 October 1900 and Joe was eventually shot dead, at Mount Royal north of Singleton on 31 October 1900 (Walsh 1983).

Jimmy faced Sydney Central Criminal Court on 22-23 November accused of 'feloniously and maliciously murdering Ellen Kertz', the teacher employed by the Mawbey family. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging, but the execution date was delayed by almost two months due to planned festivities to celebrate Australian Federation in early January 1901. Warders kept a diary of Jimmy's time in the condemned cells, stating he "spent his last days reading the Bible, singing native songs and blaming his wife" (Walsh 1983, Biber 2014). He met his death by hanging at Darlinghurst Gaol on 18 January 1901. (Singleton Argus 19/1/1901)

The court found Jacky Underwood guilty of murder on 2 October 1900 and he was hung at the old Dubbo Gaol on 14 January 1901 (Sydney Morning Herald 3/10/1900, Moore & Williams 2001).

This surely would have to be one of the most horrific bushranger stories to emerge from our Australian history. Thomas Keneally's novel written in 1972, called 'The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith' was based around the

true story of Jimmy Governor and in 1978 it was made into an award-winning drama film.

So, what can be ascertained from the history books and reports, to verify the authenticity of the 'Jimmy Governor 1899' signature at Timor?

Jimmy attended school and learnt to read and write. It was reported on about the 9/8/1900 that a pencil and cheque book were stolen amongst other things from a hut not far from Gunnedah. The cover of the cheque book was later recovered with a pencil written note by Jimmy. Several other letters written in lead pencil (with poor spelling), taunting the police, were left at various locations as they fled their pursuers (The Age 9/8/1900) (Sydney Morning Herald 9/8/1900) (Newcastle Morning Herald 9/8/1900).

One note written by Jimmy, says that he had read the Mudgee newspaper articles about the efforts to capture them, and several different notes were signed "Jim Governor" (The Age 9/8/1900, Geelong Advertiser 10/8/1900, The Walcha Witness 18/8/1900). There was however one exception where a letter was signed "Jimmy Governor" as reported in the Singleton Argus, 18 September 1900, however this is relying on the accuracy of one journalist. It appears that most of the notes taunting the police were signed "Jim Governor".

If we follow the Governors' tracks they moved on to Quirindi, Colly Creek - within 10 miles of Murrurundi (Singleton Argus 6/9/1900) to Nundle, then around the Crawney Pass range (4/9/1900), Glenrock Station, Moonan Brook, Stewarts Brook and on to Tomalla Station (Singleton Argus 15/9/1900), Mount Royal and down through the Hunter Valley to Gresford and Dungog. During their zig zag run from the law, they had passed near to or through the Timor Caves area. See picture of the Governor's campsite at Crawney Pass.

But did the Governor brothers actually detour to the

caves on this occasion around August/September 1900? There is no historic record that they did. But if they did then it is doubtful that Jimmy would have signed his signature as 'Jimmy Governor' as the majority of notes he had been leaving for police were signed as 'Jim Governor', besides the date next to the cave signature is one year earlier. Could the date be a mistake? Probably unlikely as Jimmy was reading the newspapers he came across. Hence, we can almost rule out that he left his signature in the cave while on the run during 1900.



Jimmy Governor - New South Wales State Archives and Records Darlinghurst Gaol - Photographic Description Book-Jimmy Governor alias Jimmy Grosvenor.

So, if the signature is authentic and matches the date, it was written one year before he became an outlaw. He could have been signing his name as 'Jimmy' prior to the 1900 murders and possibly started signing his name as 'Jim' to be considered a more mature man after becoming a bushranger. Alternatively, he may have always signed as 'Jim' and was referred to as 'Jimmy' by his mates and people who knew him. Unfortunately, an extensive search for his marriage certificate was unsuccessful and no original signed letters or notes could be located.

After Jimmy was captured, he was taken to Wingham and placed in a wooden cell at the police station. Jimmy signed his name on the cell wall, while being held captive there for several days (Northern Star 1925, Western Age 1933). However, the wooden cell was relocated to make way for more courthouse facilities. The cell is now located at the Manning Valley Historical Society Museum, Wingham but unfortunately the signature was painted over years ago.

During 1899, the year of the signature in Main Cave, Jimmy was travelling substantial distances from his wife, child and home at Gulgong in order to gain work as a horse breaker and fencer. Gulgong to Timor is 221km (137miles) by road, which is within the approximate distance he was travelling for casual work. If he was in the Timor region (when not an outlaw), then it is conceivable that a local resident could have told him about the caves as they were well known at that time. Unfortunately, during the research for this article, no reference could be found as to Jimmy having visited the Timor Caves nor of him working in the immediate area during 1899.

While on the run, Jimmy and Joe did hide out for several days in a cave on James Cross' property near Gulgong (Moore & Williams 2001, p.195), so there is evidence that they used caves to hide from their pursuers. It seems the authenticity of the 'Jimmy Governor 1899' signature at Main Cave - Timor, remains unresolved till further evidence emerges.

Conclusion

It appears plausible both bushrangers 'Jimmy Governor' and 'Fred Ward' knew about these caves, due to their movements and acquaintances during their lifetimes. Also, it is feasible that each bushranger could have been in the Timor Caves vicinity at some point during the year that was inscribed with their signature.

It is unlikely that either bushranger used the caves to hide out from the law, as they would have been unable to escape if their whereabouts was known by the police or posse. The caves however may have been a good place to shelter during bad weather.



Melissa Hadley in Main Cave Timor

If we analyse the characteristics of both signatures to see if they fit with the time period, does this give us a clue to authenticity? Both are written in a running writing characteristic of the time period. They are written with mediums (reddish-brown chalk and black pencil), readily available during the time period. Both signatures are dated and this was typical for early visitors to caves and other natural features to carve or write their name and date at a location to prove they had been there. The interesting thing is that the signatures are in different parts of Main Cave and both in obscure locations so as not to be obviously seen. Is this an indication that they didn't want their signature seen?

A research request to the State Library of NSW resulted in the following reply "We have searched the collections of the State Library of NSW (including the Mitchell Library, the Dixson Library and the State Reference Library) thoroughly. We do not hold any original writings by Frederick Ward (Captain Thunderbolt) nor Jimmy Governor. As far as we can tell, none of their writings survive." They list a comprehensive list of reference books about both bushrangers. "None of these books include any reproductions of the signatures of these two men. We suspect that if the signatures of these men have survived anywhere, then any such documents would have been reproduced in some of the books listed above."

Given that no authenticated signatures for either man could be located after an extensive search while writing this article it is not possible to conclusively say that these signatures are authentic. However, given the accumulation of circumstantial evidence currently available, we must consider that both signatures may be authentic till proven otherwise.

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