

BOOK REVIEWS

Scott Melton

Jenolan Caves – The Complete Guide**Mark Hallinan 2013****Critical Concepts Pty Ltd Brisbane****268 pages \$45 + P&H**

“Jenolan Caves – The Complete Guide” by Mark Hallinan is perhaps the most comprehensive visitor guide book ever published about Jenolan Caves.

Come and explore the hidden wonders that make Jenolan Caves so special. The stories of the caves are revealed in a fascinating mixture of quaint historical photographs, informative illustrations, detailed maps, easy to read text and stunning colour photographs. Chapters cover the setting of Jenolan Caves, the geology of the caves including the development of Jenolan’s world famous crystal displays, changing visitor experiences over time and a detailed description of each of Jenolan’s show caves.

Not all of Jenolan’s wonders are to be found underground however. The caves are surrounded by world heritage-listed eucalyptus forests which are replete with abundant wildlife. The book looks at the extinct megafauna that once roamed the Jenolan landscape and also describes some of the animals that may be encountered along the numerous walking tracks that surround Jenolan Caves.

This book is highly recommended for anyone seeking a comprehensive overview of Jenolan Caves in an easy to understand format.

Guide to and Description of the Fish River Caves**An early account of a visit to Jenolan Caves (circa 1882)****Geo. H. Rawson****Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society 2013****In association with the Australian Speleological Federation****96 pages \$25.00 + P&H**

This book is a lovely account of a trip to the remarkable Jenolan Caves, then known as the Fish River Caves, in about 1882. Travelling to Jenolan in those days was an expedition of no light matter, and it is wonderful how many women not only made the journey but also explored the caves for many hours.

Everyone seems to have had an exciting time and the account is well written and accurate. This account by Rawson ranks with the best writings of early trips to Jenolan including Foster (1890), Trickett (1899) and Cook (1889).

Beautifully illustrated throughout with a selection of historic photos and engravings, this is a “must have” book for anyone interested in the history of Jenolan.

Both books are available from the Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society by contacting Jenny Whitby at jwhitby@exemail.com.au.

