



# BINOOMEA

The Newsletter of the Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society.

Issue 123 July 2005

ISSN 0310-7248.

## President's Column

We now have most our Historical collection relocated into Cottage 17 at Jenolan Caves. For this milestone we need to thank all those who have made this possible. I would particularly like to acknowledge the Trust and its management and staff at Jenolan for their assistance, and the members who rallied around to provide storage and furniture and who shifted cabinets and boxes and other items into the Cottage.

Our next task is to sort the items and properly classify them, and I will be asking our Curators to set out a plan to implement this. This is a task in which many members can play a part, so I hope we can start as soon as is practical.

Let me encourage you to come along to our next meeting in Cottage 17 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, and have your say in the programme and its implementation for this coming year.

I do hope you will find time to give us your support.

**Arthur Gray**

2005 President

## NOTICED A FEW CHANGES ?

Following the 2005 AGM, I am your newly elected (or is that conned!) newsletter editor. Thanks to our outgoing editor Phyllis Calvert for her past efforts. This newsletter is the only communication to the membership, so please remember that this is YOUR newsletter.

Contributions from members of articles or even suggestions as to what you would like to read about in your Binoomea are welcomed, and encouraged !

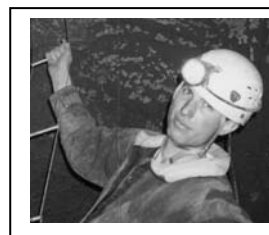
Currently JCH&PS has about 80 memberships, and I wouldn't know many of you if I bumped into you in the Grand Arch, (or anywhere) so here's my attempt at getting you all involved in this publication. I am hoping that you all will share with me your relationship with Jenolan & JCH&PS . I have started a column titled "Society Spotlight" which puts the spotlight on our membership and shares YOUR story. This months featured member is yours truly.

I hope to publish these as a regular item in future newsletters. There are lots of you out there, so start writing so we can get to know a bit about each other. Contributions can be posted to me at 48 Park Street Charlestown 2290, or emailed to me at [gary\\_whitby@hotmail.com](mailto:gary_whitby@hotmail.com).

Jenny Whitby, Editor

## WHAT DID YOU MISS ?????

Last time at JCHPS (14<sup>th</sup> May 2005) after the meeting , we had presentations given by the guiding staff at Jenolan. Dan Cove shared his Powerpoint presentation that was shown at the recent ACKMA conference in New Zealand on the Lighting of The Lucas Cave. This paper discussed the reasons behind, concept planning, technical aspects, and how and why this was undertaken. Then Scott Melton gave an entertaining slideshow titled "Scott's Wacky & Tacky American Caves Tour" about his visits to USA Show Caves and his guide exchange at Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. Both presentations were excellent! Thanks guys!



**Dan Cove**



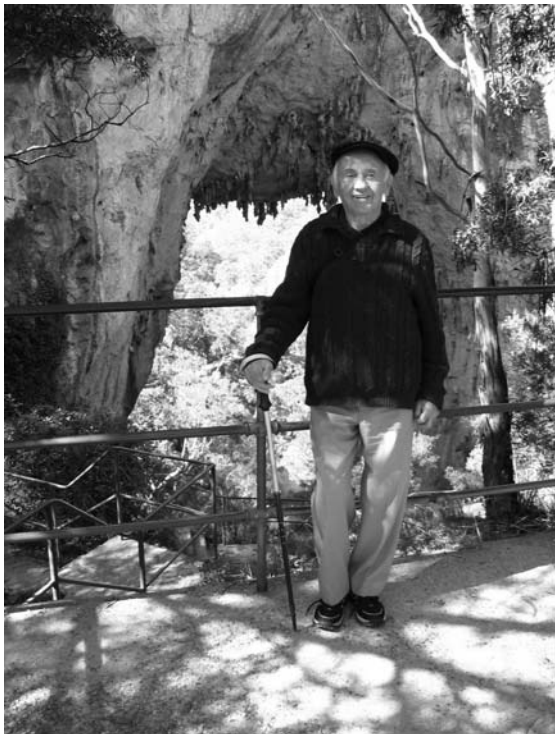
**Scott Melton**

## **GOLDEN MAN OF CAVING VISITS JENOLAN.**

Basil Ralston (author of the book *The Golden Ages of Caving*) and his wife Irene, recently visited Jenolan Caves in April 2005 some forty years after working there as a guide. Basil worked at Jenolan in 1964-1965, during the time that Ron Newbould and John Culley discovered the Barralong Cave. After a days' work showing the caves to the public, they would go off exploring in the show cave system till all hours, and although not on the initial discovery trip, Basil made many trips into the Barralong helping to explore it.

This trip, Basil took in a tour of the Temple of Baal, dropped in at the Guides office for a long chat, walked around Carlotta Arch, the Blue Lake his old home in Burma Road, and even ventured up McKeowns Valley.

Basil said "My unforgettable memory of the whole weekend was sitting in the guides office and being accepted as one of them. They are beautiful people" He also commented upon leaving at the end of the weekend "he felt like he was leaving home!" ♦



Basil Ralston at Jenolan 2005.  
Photo by Jenny Whitby.

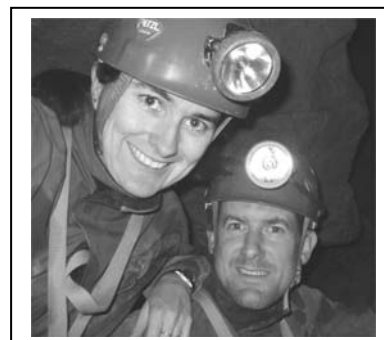
## **SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT**

Hi, I am your new editor Jenny Whitby. I have been a member of JCH&PS for about 4 years now. My first Jenolan experience was a family trip when I was a child. Now that I'm a grownup, I like to crawl through tight passages, get dirty & muddy, explore, just like being a child again. Yep, I'm a caver! For the past 11 years now we have driven to Jenolan from Newcastle over 50 times now to pursue our weekend recreational activity, caving.

My husband Gary and I are members of Illawarra Speleological Society and Sydney Uni Speleological Society. We are actively involved in cave surveying, and exploration at Jenolan, and many other caving destinations both around Australia and overseas. In fact we even spend our holidays going caving!

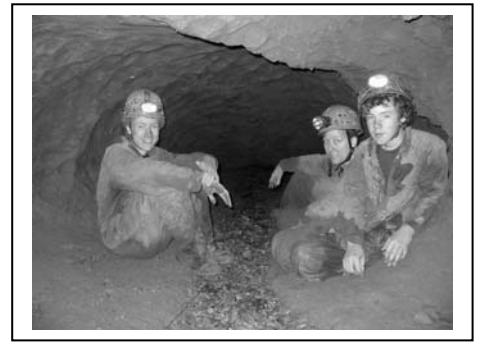
A recent caving highlight for us was in January 2005 we led several other JCH&PS and Illawarra club members on a trip from Spider Cave through to the Jubilee which featured in an article in the Sydney Morning Herald (24 January 2005 page 3). That morning heavy rain fell, 59.6mls in that 24hr period. Only three trips ever have completed this journey between the two caves, and we have been on 2 of them. The linking passage was only discovered late last year during times of drought. Within 2 weeks of the January trip, the Water Cavern at the end of the Jubilee Cave had filled with water again and was sumped. It only dried up a few times last century, so who knows when it will be passable again.

The old photo of Jeremiah Wilson abseiling down the Grand Arch (that hangs in the guides office) first got me thinking more about the early days of Jenolan. Having seen many old initials and signatures in the caves, I started to wonder about the life and times of our early day cave explorers who etched their mark on the limestone walls deep inside Jenolan. It was these inscriptions of Wilson, Wiburd and others that inspired me to want to know more about Jenolan and its history. So thus one of the reasons we joined the society. ♦



Jenny & Gary Whitby waiting at the bottom of a 92m pitch in a cave in Alabama USA July 2005. self portrait.

Welcome to new members The Kennedy Family. Sasa is a guide at Jenolan, and along with her sons they are also members of Sydney University Speleological Society. Photo of Richard, Sasa & Stephen Kennedy at the Dry Syphon in Mammoth Cave by Jenny Whitby.



## **POST OFFICE POSTINGS.** By Richard Kennedy.



The Old Post Office has been opened several days over the last month. (*Ed. March/April*) The museum has been quite successful, with donations averaging approximately \$10 a day over the 6 days it has been opened since Easter (2005)

It has also been quite a hit with visitors, with some travelling as far afield as Canada, Wales and Indonesia to see it! As the comments in the visitor's book reveal, aside from some confusion as to whether stamps are sold at the museum, most visitors were quite impressed with comments such as "awesome" "great" and "very interesting" filling the pages.

The Old Post Office has been very successful, and should continue to be a great fundraising opportunity for JCH&PS. ♦

P.S. THANKS TO THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE POST OFFICE OPENINGS, AND THE RECENT EASTER & MOTHERS DAY RAFFLES. A TOTAL OF \$ 712-60 HAS BEEN RAISED AS AT 5/2005.

**WE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO OPEN THE POST OFFICE ON A REGULAR OCCASION, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT JOHN CALLAGHAN ON PH 63593911**

**DID YOU KNOW IT COSTS US BETWEEN \$100 -\$150 A YEAR JUST TO SEND OUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

**If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, and help save us money, please email your address to:**

**[gary\\_whitby@hotmail.com](mailto:gary_whitby@hotmail.com)**

## **WHAT'S IN YOUR CUPBOARD ???**

Do you have any items you are holding on behalf of JCH&PS, or have any items you may wish to be let known that you have that are of significance to Jenolan that we could record? We are currently preparing an inventory listing of JCH&PS & Jenolan items. This inventory will note a description of the item or document, its condition, if owned by JCH&PS or by individual and its whereabouts. We have Cottage 17 for our archives and feel it is important for us to have an accurate inventory of the items we hold. Those of you that are safe keeping JCH&PS items, we do not want them returned at this stage, we just want to know what is where.

Items held in private collections that may be in the bottom of a suitcase in your garage, may have significance, and we would like to ensure that these records are documented. Don't feel threatened that we want to take them off you. We wish to record items relating to Jenolan that exist. Please leave instructions for your family to contact us, they may see it as a box of old junk, but to JCH&PS it's a box of treasure!

So please check in your cupboards, and send your list to JCH&PS Locked Bag Jenolan Caves 2790.



**OUR NEXT JCH&PS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2005  
IN THE JCH&PS COTTAGE COTTAGE 17, 5 MILE HILL,  
JENOLAN CAVES AT 7-30PM**



Indian Canopy, Jenolan Caves. Original photo by Gary Whitby. Embossed using Paint Shop Pro 7 by Jenny Whitby.