



BINOOMEA

The Newsletter of the Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society.

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President's Column

November 2005 Binoomea

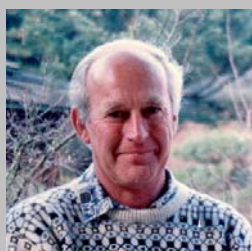
On 24th September we held a working bee at our cottage 17 at Jenolan Caves. Its purpose was to start sorting out our collection of artifacts, documents and memorabilia. Although only four people were able to come, the enthusiasm was apparent as we delved into the boxes in which the collection is stored.

Personally I was surprised and entranced at what we found: tableware from Caves House Dining Room, notes on the discovery of the Barralong Cave, a photocopy of an early description of a visit to the Caves (c 1883), copies of early guidebooks. Added to these are the records of the Society itself, with its interesting and sometimes tempestuous happenings. Not everyone has always agreed with the Society's activities, but one thing stands out; the early days were well attended and members keenly followed the debates and activities.

We have the opportunity now to continue the work of JCHPS in classifying, preserving and displaying the items making up the collection. But we must have a proper plan, expert advice on preservation and displaying material, and the workers to put all this into operation.

Our next meeting will be at Cottage 17 on Saturday 12th November, so let me encourage you to come along to and have your say in how we deal with our historical resources for the benefit of both our members and the public at large.

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



Arthur Gray
2005 President

Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society

The story of the man behind the JCH&PS Logo.

By Jenny Whitby

Having a thirst for knowledge for all things Jenolan, I recently asked John Callaghan about our logo. Just like a inquisitive child, I wanted to who/how/when/where and why. Since joining the Society, I had heard some interpretations about the logo, but I wanted to know the facts. I wondered who was the artist, and what thought process that person went through when designing it. The person to talk to I was told was a man named Warren Targett.

I contacted Warren with the aim of getting some information to put an article together. He said he'd write something for JCH&PS, so when I received his article, I was captivated by the story, thought and detail that went into the design. His article well and truly answered my questions about the logo! I'm sure you all will enjoy reading the article, which is now documented as a part of our history.

Before we read all about his design, first a little about him. Warren is an entertainer, musician, songwriter and recording artist whose professional career spans over forty five years. He became well known for his one man show, "Rollin' To Jenolan", presented every weekend between 1984 and 1987 at Jenolan Caves House. While there, he released his "Warren Targett Live at Jenolan Caves House" LP cassette which featured the songs "I Am Nature", "Rollin' To Jenolan" and the haunting instrumental "Jenolan Dawnsong".

Also a graphic artist, Warren drew a design which was adopted by the society. Warren's connection with Jenolan goes back a long way. His great grandfather was an engineer and worked on the building of the Five Mile road, and his grandfather was christened in the Cathedral Cave. After his time entertaining at Jenolan, he then took on the role of Artistic Director at Old Sydney Town on the Central Coast. Today he is semi retired and teaches the guitar.



WHAT DID YOU MISS ?????

The last meeting was held on 12 August 2005, and the venue was changed on the day to Burma Rd. At the meeting we discussed the need to continue on the inventory, and as Arthur mentioned above, a working bee date was set. The opportunity to purchase items including some rare Shelley ware from a substantial private collection held by Paul Richards is being investigated. Jimmy Lim has also taken some fantastic photos in the show caves, and is considering organising to do some postcards. A discussion was also held about a research paper done by Kath Bellamy on the filming of the Jedda movie, which we hope to produce as an occasional paper.



WORKING BEE AT COTTAGE 17.

At the last meeting, it was decided to hold a working bee at Cottage 17 to consolidate and start organising the inventory of the JCH&PS collection. Unfortunately between the two dates there was not a Binoomea published to advise all members. Apologies if you wanted to help out and just found out now.

After the last meeting on the Sunday, several members moved items being stored in the old seismic shed, up behind the no 2 carpark to the JCH&PS cottage. A stationwagon & 4WD full of all sorts of things were moved including an old guides uniform, lithograph, branding irons, historic bottles, teapots and cutlery plus numerous items from Caves House that had been rescued from the garbage in the 1970's. There is still plenty of work to be done, so if you are interested just let us know.

CALLING ALL JCH&PS ITEMS

So far there has been little response to the request for information about JCH&PS items that are out there in people's homes. It is known that numerous JCH&PS items have been lent out to persons over the years for a variety of reasons including research purposes, and these have never been returned.



If you are currently safe keeping a JCH&PS item please contact us and provide us with a description and condition of the item you have. Now that we have facilities to store the items at Cottage 17, we would like to ultimately see all items returned to Jenolan.

SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

In response to my request for information about our members, I am pleased to report several responses were received.

Tina Benson-Inglis contacted me and told me that she lived at Jenolan and went to the school there as a youngster when her father (Giles) worked as an electrician at the caves. She is keen to ensure that memories and stories from that time are documented in our records and is hoping we hear from any others who are past students from the school.

Tony Leask emailed to say:

"I made my first trip to Jenolan in 1958 at age 20, and fell for the caves big time. From then on regular visits to Jenolan were made, until 1986 when I introduced my wife Val to caves, and that commenced a period until the year 2000, during which we made four trips a year from Port Stephens, staying at Caves House (or Barry Richard's cabins when built) for a minimum of three days each visit. We are fundamentally "Show Cavers" but have made occasional off track forays, which were totally enjoyable. Regrettably as we are now in our late 60s with the usual osteo problems we are now restricted to show caves. These days at least annual visits are made to Jenolan."

Chris Firbank also emailed and said:

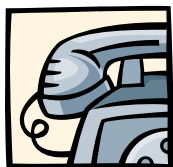
"I don't get to Jenolan as often as I would like but have an unquenched interest in the Caves, the History and the area. My Grandfather (also Chris Firbank) came to Australia as a carpenter and worked on the building of Caves House, then stayed on as a guide until his retirement. He lived in one of the cottages on the way up the 5 mile hill. I have fond memories of visits to Jenolan as a boy with my father (also Chris Firbank) where we wandered the area and had some memorable late night tours through many caves. Dad grew up at Jenolan until he came to Sydney for schooling at 8 years of age where he boarded. He returned during his school holidays and was a casual guide from time to time during his teenage years. I hope that as I move towards retirement (about 5 years off) that I may be able to spend more time at Jenolan and be able to have some involvement in the JCH&PS."

Keep on sending in your stories please!



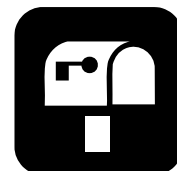
LOST MEMBERS

Recently we have had some returned Binoomea's from people who have moved and forgotten to advise us their new contact details. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Judy Keena or Sally Court could you please contact the editor. Also this is a reminder that if you move, to let us know!



CONTACT DETAILS:
JCH&PS Locked Bag Jenolan Caves 2790

Contributors or suggestions for articles can be sent to the editor Jenny Whitby at:
48 Park Street Charlestown 2290 or emailed to jwhitby@iinet.net.au (NEW email)
I can also be contacted at home on (02)49432265. (after 5:30 weekdays)



The following report was posted to the Jenolan Users group yahoo site in August 2005. Casual guide and JCH&PS curator Rob Whyte administers this site. For more information about this group go to www.jenolangateway.com.au Some of you reading this are members of this list and have seen this posting written by Jenolan Guide Scott Melton. It is included in this Binoomea, as it documents meteorological history at Jenolan Caves. (First time in 15 years snow on the valley floor!) For those not familiar with the names of the people in the report, they are all current staff at Jenolan Caves.

"Snow down to the Blue Lake" by Scott Melton.

As some of you may be aware, my regular days off are Tuesday and Wednesday however this week due to an appointment in Oberon, I had Monday and Tuesday off instead. As I needed to be in Oberon at 8.30am I left Sydney at 6.00am where it was very warm for that time of day. As I drove through the Blue Mountains there was the odd spit of rain. However, as I approached Oberon I could see a build up of clouds to the southwest which were looking dark and threatening. As snow was predicted down to 600 metres (Caves House is at 800 metres) I figured we were in for an interesting time.

I had finished my business in Oberon by 9.00am and had arranged with Ian Eddison to give him a lift to Jenolan. Walking to the car it was sleeting. Driving towards Jenolan it started to snow quite heavily past Edith and the road was white.



Snow at Caves House August 2005

Anyway, as the day progressed it kept snowing and the decision was made to send the Oberon staff home so that they would not be stuck in the valley. This made life interesting as this was also the week of the annual Normanhurst Boys High School "Invasion". John Callaghan asked me to do the night Lucas Cave tour for Normanhurst as I was in the valley. I finished the tour just before 9.00pm and walked out of the Lucas Cave into a winter wonderland. At first I didn't realise it has snowed so low in the valley because as I looked at the bridge it looked dry which seemed surprising so I walked out and realised it had snow on it. I walked back towards the Guides Office and there was snow sitting on the valley floor for the first time since July 1990. I walked back to the Blue Lake and there was snow down to the water's edge.

I decided to wait in the Grand Arch for the second tour which was taken by Graham Cummings. At that point the heavens opened and did it snow!! I warned the second group to be very careful due to the slippery conditions and walked back towards the Guides Office. Well, there was 5cm's of snow in the valley and my red commodore was white with a similar amount covering it. In all my years at Jenolan I have never seen the valley look like this! Fantastic - and believe it or not it was not cold (well by my standards anyway!).

I started to drive towards Burmah Road but got as far as #1 car park and decided it would be safer to leave the car there and get a lift home with Graham in his 4WD. Arriving home I could not resist and built a snowman on my front lawn. Waking up the next morning was a sight. Snow everywhere and a nice clear day. I walked from Burmah Road down to the valley and the view from the Coach House Lookdown was inspiring. Snow right down to valley level. As I walked down the track there were big lumps of snow falling from the trees. As some of you would know I like skiing in Canada but there is something special about Aussie gum trees with snow on them. Cresting the rise for the final descent down to the main valley presented an excellent view of Caves House covered in snow. Guess who had no film for the camera - maybe I should catch up to the digital age (but that is another story when you are a guide!!!).

Due to road closures the Oberon staff could not make it into Jenolan (although Dom & Dan made it in by the early afternoon). The Five Mile road never officially closed - it always seems to be somebody else's responsibility. I ran ticket sales and reception from the guides office and everyone did their bit to help out. By lunchtime most of the snow in the valley had melted but was still around up the top. Sasa Kennedy stayed at my place so she would not have to drive in the icy conditions on the road and the following morning (today 12/08/05) there was a brief snow shower which left a further dusting of snow at about 7.55am. Arriving at the office our cottage caretaker Anjum rang to advise that it was snowing at the Cottages. All in all it was an interesting experience and I was glad my days off changed so that I could experience the magic of "Snow down to the Blue Lake".



RECOLLECTIONS ABOUT THE LOGO FOR THE JENOLAN CAVES HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

By Warren Targett



Very soon after the formation of JCHAPS in June 1972, the Society members realised the value of a logo as a focus to its existence. Knowing my graphics background, the Committee members asked me to prepare a design or a series of designs for consideration.

After much research and many pencil drafts, I arrived at an analysis of the elements for a logo. Each element was, in my opinion, very significant to the Society. I prepared just one design counting heavily on the strength of the elements. At the November, 1972 meeting of the Society in Caves House, I presented the design that combined all the elements into a unified, attractive and distinctive whole that I thought would satisfy the aims and objectives of the Society. My address explained each element and the logo as a whole.

THE ELEMENTS

The colours.

The three colours, black white and gold were chosen carefully. The black, while obviously used to convey the absence of light in the caves, also signified the lack of depth in the collective knowledge of the Society and the research yet to be undertaken.

The white, obviously about light outside the caves, was also used to convey the exploration by Man of the area – casting “light” into the hole of knowledge. White is also significant because it is the colour of the magnesium flame used by early guides.

The gold was used to convey three ideas – the colour of polished brass of the early lanterns, the colour of the badges on the old uniforms and thus the colour of the government influence in the development of the Caves.

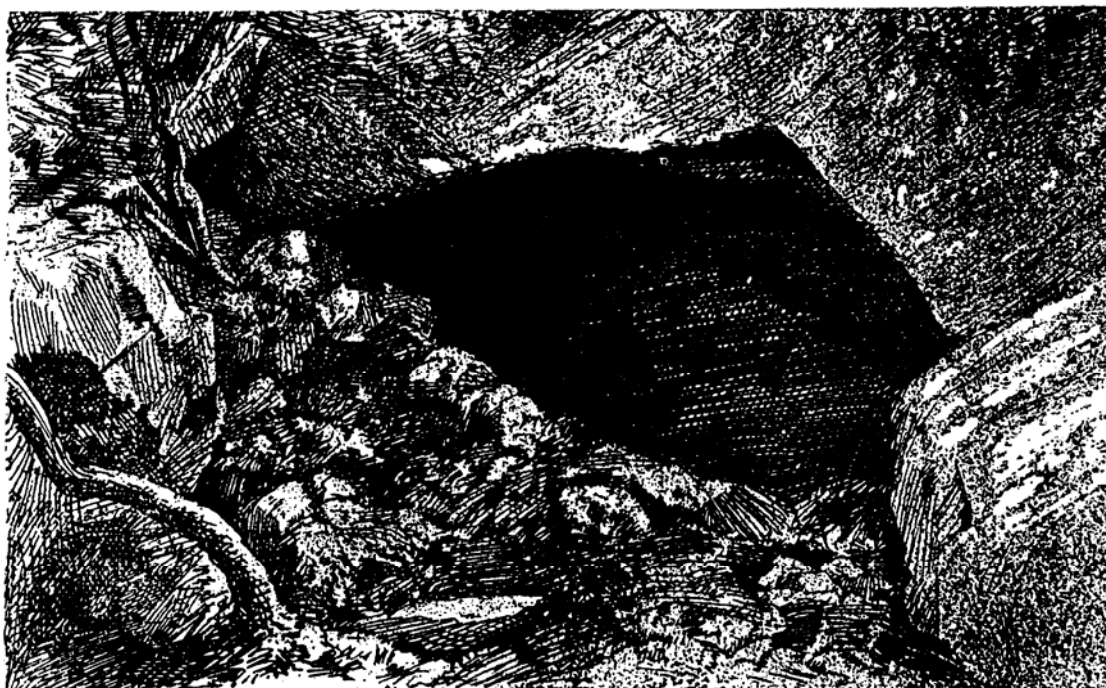
The circle shape.

This was to represent the fellowship of the members of the Society and their dedication to the causes of preserving and research. The lettering in gold represents the value of each and every member to the Society, the black for what we didn’t know.

The two illustrations.

The seemingly random black shape represents the formation of the Caves by Nature. The shape is not random, however. It is a carefully redrawn interpretation of the earliest published image of the most recognisable public face of the Caves for any visitor, the opening of the Grand Arch as seen from the eastern side. My drawing was suggested by and is adapted from the unattributed line illustration titled “The Bushranger’s Cave” that accompanies the short chapter, “The Robber Of The Caves”, in the “History of Australian Bushranging” by Charles White. [My own copy is in a facsimile edition, Volume 1, published by Lloyd O’Neil Pty. Ltd. 1970 as part of the “Australian Classics” series.] I had seen an original volume in my local Rockdale Shire library.

The original illustration shows the Arch in its undeveloped form – as rough as Nature made it. Truly this is a historical image. I remember early one morning before breakfast in Caves House, sitting on the wall in the sunlight in the vicinity of the pump house with my sketch pad on my knees, ink pen in hand, squinting to reach the true meeting of the black on the white and all the while, trying to remain true to the original illustration.



THE BUSHRANGER'S CAVE.

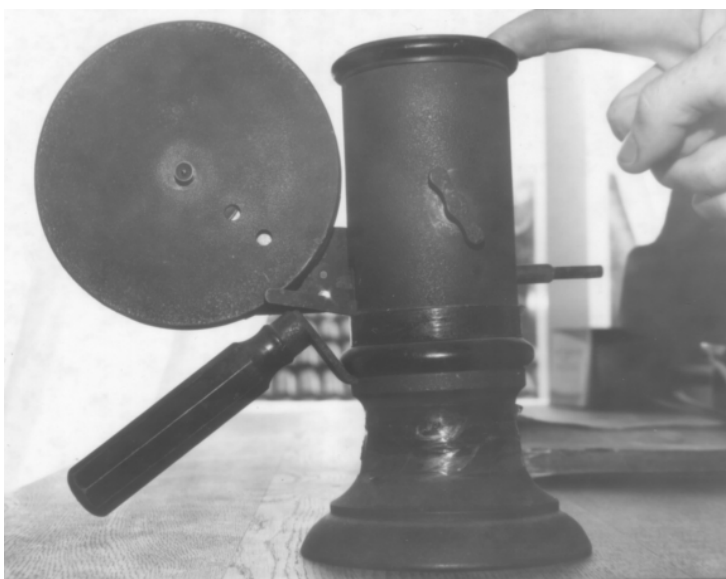
Illustration from the book "History of Australian Bushranging"

The drawing of the magnesium ribbon burning lamp was included to show the intervention of Man – the influence on the caves to date and what could be done to preserve the caves for future generations. It also signifies the wonder of the caves illuminated for the visitors to the caves by the brightest light then known.

The original lantern that I photographed specially for this drawing was in the collection of family artefacts owned by Society foundation member and longtime stalwart, Janet MacFarlane (nee Wilson). The clockwork lantern was made of brass, crusted heavily in old weathered varnish, and thus, very dark greenish brown in colour. It was in a fragile state and its reflector was missing. The mechanism was workable and some original magnesium ribbon wire was still in place. The wooden handle was intact and in good condition. The lantern is a machine, not just a candleholder which was again significant. This particular one had been used by the members of the Wilson family in the early years of guiding at the caves. It would have been used by Jerry and Fred Wilson, probably by James Wiburd and James Edwards as well other guides and family members who acted as unofficial guides at times. Again, a very historical image.

The reflector in my drawing was copied from an original silvered brass one (identified as fitting the Wilson machine) found in the rubbish box of old bits and pieces in the Guides Office and from careful observation of some very good old photographs. The lantern, if not made by, was definitely maintained by the instrument maker(s?) who was known to have worked in the area as part of the surveyor team for the NSW Department of Lands, developers of the roads and services in the village. My drawing is done side on, in outline and facing left to right to signify its place in history but looking to the future.

The style used for the lettering of the Society's name is also significant. I chose the typeface Windsor Bold Elongated to suggest a look reminiscent of the early letterpress printwork done by the NSW Government Printer for the Department of Railways who administered the Caves for a significant period in the early part of the Twentieth Century. The Windsor type family was used extensively in that period.



The first representations of the logo.

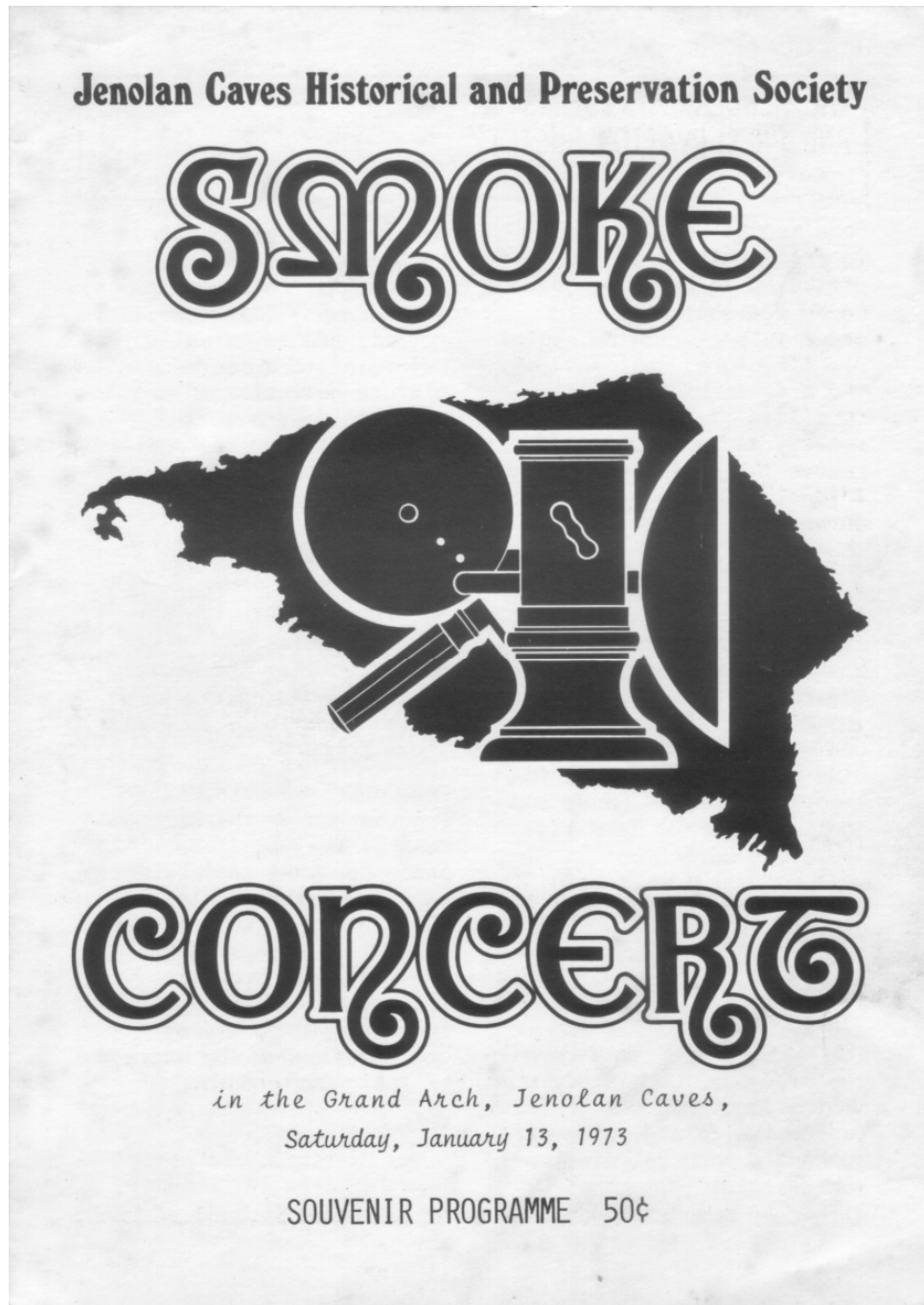
After my design was presented to the Society members at the general meeting, the logo was discussed, approved and adopted for use by the Society. Two large size line artwork bromide prints of two versions of the original artwork and a line negative of each were given to the Society for its use and archive purposes.

The logo was first used in print on the front cover of a programme for a Smoke Concert run under the banner of the Society. These concerts were run in the 1890's and revived in the 1960's by the villagers and friends, it was thought that the name of the Society added legitimacy to these events. The logo appeared in free form without its circle outline.

Badges in circle form were subsequently manufactured by Sydney's oldest badge maker, Patrick's of Parramatta Road, Ashfield, sadly now gone. Using Patrick's to make the badges was also an historic choice. Patrick's had supplied many forms of enamel badged souvenir articles (spoons, tea caddies, &c.) to the Caves management for many, many years. The JCHAPS badges unfortunately were not produced in the old vitreous enamel on electroplated metal which was considered too cost prohibitive but in a then new paint and resin process called cold enamelling on a barrel plated die struck metal base.

It is my hope that the logo will continue to be used by the Society. Proudly, I still have my original series issue badge.

Warren Targett 17th September, 2005



REMINDER ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING.



SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2005

**IN THE JCH&PS COTTAGE
COTTAGE 17, 5 MILE HILL, JENOLAN CAVES
AT 7:30 PM**