



# BINOOMEA

The Newsletter of the Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society.

Issue 126 May 2006

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society Inc.

Our May meeting on Saturday 6th will be somewhat different to the norm. We are planning to start with a dinner in Caves House Dining Room, and then hold our meeting in the Kanangra-Boyd Conference Room in the House.

There will be two main speakers at the meeting. Ted Matthews will speak about his recent visit to Western Australia, and hopefully will show slides of his visits to the caves. Secondly, Jenny and Gary Whitby will speak about their recent trip to USA including expeditions to Carlsbad Caverns and Lechuguilla.

There will also be the usual opportunity to speak your mind on JCH&PS and its aims and progress (and anything else you want to raise).

It should be a good night to meet the members and enjoy the food and company!

Cheers,

Arthur Gray  
President 2006

## WHAT DID YOU MISS ?????

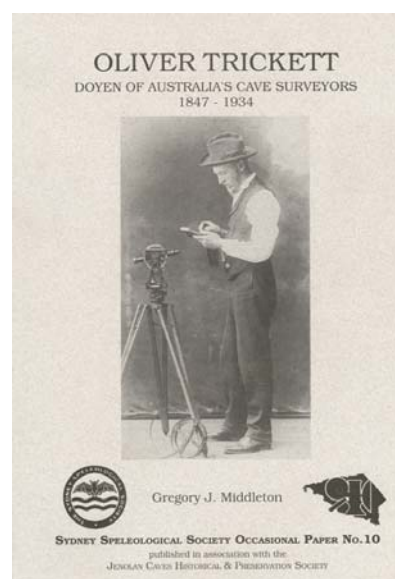
The last meeting, our Annual General Meeting, was held on 11 February 2006, with many members present. Elections were held and the following people were elected:

President Arthur Gray, Vice Presidents David Cook & Barry Richard, Treasurer Grant Commins, Secretary Phyllis Calvert, Assistant Secretary & Treasurer Scott Melton, Newsletter Editor Jenny Whitby, Research/Curator Rob Whyte, Curators Robert Lindsay, David Cook, John Callaghan. Committee members: Cathy Draheim, Kath Bellamy, Jimmy Lim, Sasa Kennedy, June Heiron, Margaret Commins, Ted Matthews, Alan Griffin. Public Officer Arthur Gray, Patron Bob Debus. Trustees John Callaghan, Janet MacFarlane, John Culley.

Thanks to Cathy Draheim, who is the outgoing membership secretary. Due to an interstate move to Queensland, it was no longer practical for her to continue in the role. Items of general discussion at the meeting included what we could do about the Bird display in Caves House, cataloguing, various plaques around the place, the upcoming dinner, raffles, and the post office display. Jimmy Lim also donated a great poster collated of photographs he has taken in the Pool of Cerberus Cave. It is envisaged that this will be the prize for a future fundraising raffle. So in a nutshell, that was it! Thanks to all who attended.

## FUNDRAISING RAFFLE.

JCH&PS is holding a raffle which will be drawn at the next meeting. The prize is the 1991 publication titled "Oliver Trickett - Doyen of Australia's Cave Surveyors 1847-1934" by Gregory J Middleton. The prize was kindly donated by John Bonwick from Sydney Speleological Society, and member of JCH&PS.



The book is A4 size, and includes 40 B&W photos, has 156 pages and includes his great maps, including 2 fold out coloured Jenolan Plan maps, and large copy of the 1925 coloured Trickett Jenolan map. (63cm x 37cm) Like the one in the guide's office at Jenolan. It is also has chapters on the man and his work with Mines Department, his Cave Guidebooks, Surveying Techniques, his Cave and Mine Models. Tickets are only \$2 each or 3 for \$5.00, with all proceeds going to the Society. Send your cash (at own risk) or chq to JCH&PS Locked Bag Jenolan Caves 2790 along with your name, address and phone number.

If you prefer to do a direct bank deposit, please contact Jenny Whitby on (02) 49432265 or [jwhitby@iinet.net.au](mailto:jwhitby@iinet.net.au) for details.

Welcome to new members Laura Lavery of Wodonga, John Dunkley of ACT, and Greg Middleton from Tasmania. John & Greg were both founding members of JCH&PS, and were our first treasurer and secretary. Welcome back to JCH&PS.

Also a belated welcome to new members who joined us in 2005. Ted Matthews from Engadine, Considine Family from Aberglassyn, Alan Griffin from Bathurst, Dan & Dom Cove from Oberon.



## REMINDERS.

Remember that our headquarters for archives at Cottage 17 has a security system. If you are planning a visit, please ensure you call at the guide's office first, and make arrangements for access.

Moving? Please don't forget to advise JCH&PS of your new address.

Do you know anyone that may be interested in joining JCH&PS? We can send a complimentary Binoomea to them, along with an application & invitation to join. Please contact the editor to arrange.

## CORRECTIONS.

In the last Binoomea (125) the date of the Carols in the Caves for 2006 was incorrect. Please note this will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006.



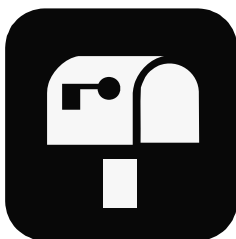
Also the photo credits were omitted from the John Culley article in the last newsletter (number 125)



Thanks to John Bonwick, Basil Ralston and Jenny Whitby for providing photos that accompanied the John Culley article.

## CONTACT DETAILS

JCH&PS  
LOCKED BAG  
JENOLAN CAVES NSW 2790



## SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT.

Hayley Elkins from Hamilton Victoria, age 11

First memory of Jenolan: - When aged about 4 yrs old on her first visit, she remembers driving through the Grand Arch, and visiting the Chifley cave.

Favorite thing about Jenolan: This is a hard one... It's all good!  
Ambition: To become a guide at Jenolan of course!



Here is a story Hayley wrote about a trip to Jenolan that was published in the Australian Geographic children's D-Mag magazine in January 2005. Photo at Elder Cave, Jenolan.

On Saturday, the 18th September 2004, all of the Jenolan email group came down to the SchoolHouse at 9am. We got dressed into our overalls. Then we started walking down the valley. We walked around to the naked lady (*Ed. It's a cave*) and we stopped to have a look. Most people were enjoying the scenery of the mountains. We stopped for a quick snack.

Then we walked up the steep hill. Scott was leading the way to McKeown's Hole. It was better than what we all thought! There were some beautiful formations. We came out of the hole. The first aid kit came out to get the sting away from the stinging nettles in my hand.

Off we went down the valley to Henning's Cave. I heard the sound of the Lyrebirds squawking. I think everyone had jelly legs with walking all that way. After a few more minutes we had got to Henning's Cave. There was a tight squeeze, only Grant, Jamie & I got through. There was a sucking tree root in there. We all walked up to Wiburd's Lake Cave and had lunch. We crawled to the Yawning Gulches. Then Ted sent me up a hole. I saw fossils and gunk up there. Then Ted and I went through another hole and we couldn't get through because there was too much water in there. Ted said maybe next time.

Scott and Grant led Tony, Kath, Asher, Jamie, Ashleigh, Arthur, and Mum while Rob, Ted & I were looking at fossils and bedding. Rob took pictures of the fossils. When we came out we saw a wombat. We headed back to the SchoolHouse. We took lots of photos.

I don't know about you....BUT I HAD A BALL !!!!!  
Hayley.

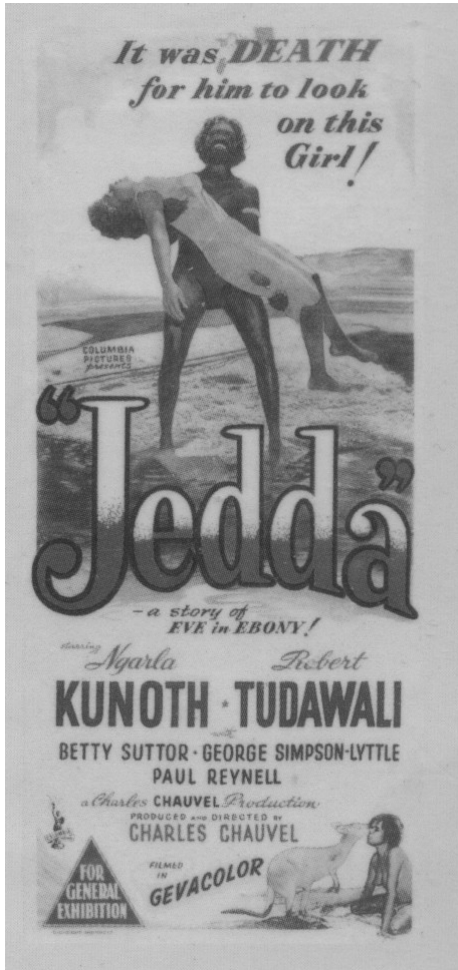
## DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ARTICLE FOR THE BINOOMEA?

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

Contact: Jenny Whitby at: 48 Park Street, Charlestown 2290 or send your email to: [jwhitby@iinet.net.au](mailto:jwhitby@iinet.net.au) or Phone (02) 49432265.

## Jedda - by Kath Bellamy.

JCH&PS member Kath Bellamy recently did some research on the Edwards family at Jenolan and interviewed Edna Nankervis (nee Edwards) in June 2005. Edna worked as a waitress in Caves House in 1951. She was the kiosk supervisor for two years, up to the time of her marriage in 1954. She worked under the supervision of Miss Chisholm. When talking to Edna, Kath was told about when the cast and crew of a film called Jedda came to Jenolan. Here is the story.



In 1952, Charles and Elsa Chauvel made a film called "Jedda." A compelling feature of the film was the grandeur and the mystery of the Northern Territory landscape which provided the location for the shooting of the film. At the end of filming, the Chauvels returned to Sydney, to receive the news that the last can of film had left for England by plane to be processed. But the plane crashed in Djakarta and all was destroyed. The final scene was re-shot in the Blue Mountains at Kanangra Walls with the rocks being sprayed with red paint to resemble the Northern Territory.



Scene at Kanangra Walls

During filming, the cast and crew stayed at Caves House and Edna Edwards became acquainted with them while looking after their needs. Edna said that during the time of filming, a corroboree was held on the Playing Fields up McKeown's Valley.

Cast and crew of "Jedda" taken at back of Caves House in 1950.

Front row left-right:

Daphne Dean – Housekeeper Caves House

Ngarla Kunoth – Jedda (sitting behind them Charles Chauvel)

Elsa Chauvel on right kneeling near car  
Robert Tudawali back row 3<sup>rd</sup> from right.



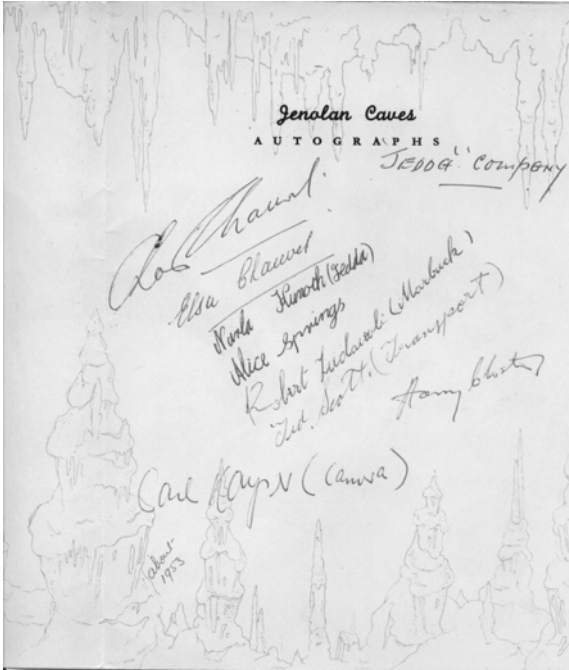




Robert Tudwali as "Marbuck" shaking hands with Charles Chauvel.



Ngarla Kunoth as "Jedda"



Caves House menu signed by cast and crew of "Jedda"

A postscript to this story occurred in 1995 when Edna Edwards was visiting Alice Springs. She mentioned to some locals about being at Jenolan when "Jedda" was filmed. Edna was put in radio contact with Ngarla Kunoth who was on a visit to an outback community and they chatted about Jedda and Jenolan. Ngarla laughed about her enduring memory of Jenolan: being stung on the bum by nettles and how it took so long for the stinging to stop!



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## BIRD RESTORATION WORK



"36 birds and 1 old duck". Caption suggested by Kath herself !

A big thanks to member Kath Bellamy pictured here painting the Bird Display situated in Caves House.

Kath spent three days working on the display, cleaning it up inside and out, and cleaning all the birds individually. She got some tips from a local taxidermist before undertaking the job.

When painting the inside of the display she remarked it was more like a training session on caving technique, as she had to twist and contort around the birds!

Congratulations on a great job Kath, check it out next time you're at Jenolan.

## MEMBERS QUESTION TIME .....do you have a question ?

I am hoping to run this as a regular article, and no this is not a quiz. It's just a way of trying to share information amongst our readership and tap into the knowledge of our members. So if you have a question, please send it in. If you have the answer, we'd like to hear from you!

**Tony Leask asks.....**

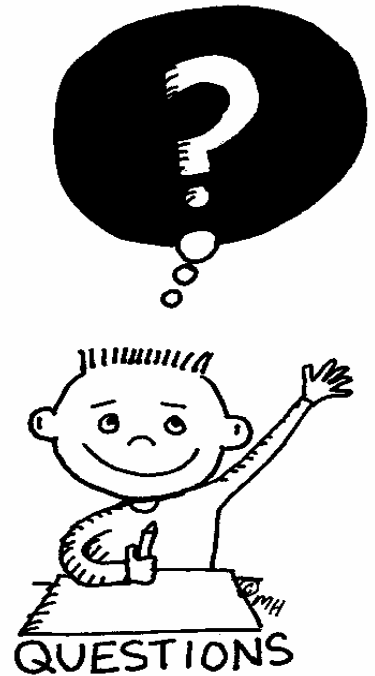
Since first visiting Jenolan back in the 1950s there have been several things that have really interested me, and still do. There is an endless water supply behind BAAL that does not alter its flow rate even in long drought periods. Access over the years has been attempted but fear of damage to Gabriel's Wing and the Sword of St. Michael have thwarted attempts to my knowledge. Is there a modern school of thought regarding a possible access to the area, or perhaps another access from somewhere? Years ago I had a theory that access may have been possible to the area from the end of the Mafeking extension, and even discussed this with Rob Whyte, but Rob told me he had had a look and the going was dangerous and jumbled in the extreme. That area is the right height and not too far away from BAAL. Any views anybody?

Another "interest" is the end of Ribbon. This is going in the right direction to be above Barralong, and at times does "breathe" I think. Could this lead to the "Beautiful area above Barralong" that Ron Newbould has been quoted as reporting after a climb.

Finally what do the modern day Jenolanites think of the theory that the great JCW found many more caverns, but blocked access to avoid them being developed and spoiled?

### **Comment from the editor:**

Have also heard the theory about more caves being hidden, quite possible I suppose. Cave entrances can be small, so unless you search under every rock at Jenolan it could be true! So who coined the phrase "leave no stone unturned" ? Maybe it was Mr Wiburd!



### **Question from the editor:**

Does anyone know anything about the Jenolan Explorers Club badge? Some years ago this was for sale on Ebay, and I kept a copy of the picture for future reference. Maybe one of you bought it?

I have often wondered what it was about? Was it simply a souvenir you could buy at Jenolan, was it a keepsake from a special children's tour, or was something that one had to earn in some way? Do any of you out there, know the story behind it? Hopefully someone has an answer, which we can print in the next newsletter.

### **Another question from the Editor: Roll Call Jenolan.**

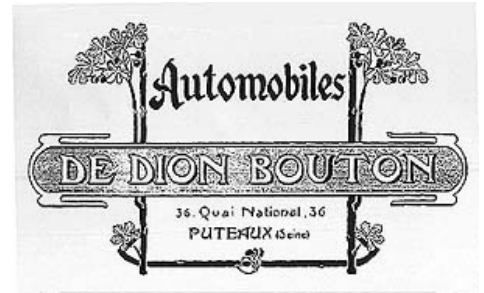
Do you know anyone that schooled at Jenolan? I am currently researching information on the school, and the students that attended it. I would like to try and track down as many ex-students, and teachers as I can. JCH&PS has some information about the school and some photos in the Post Office museum. I am interested in documenting the stories and memories of their schooling days at Jenolan. If you know the names of any past students, and/or their whereabouts, please contact me, or pass my details along to them.



**Please send your questions or answers to the editor. Contact details on are page 2.**

## THE FIRST CAR AT JENOLAN CAVES. by Jenny Whitby.

Did you know that the first car to travel to Jenolan Caves from Blackheath took 9 hours! It was a French made vehicle called a De Dion Bouton. This company was founded by Albert de Dion and Georges Bouton, who began building steam-powered automobiles in Paris, France in 1882. They were the first company in the world to offer cars for sale publishing their first catalogue in 1886. In 1900, de Dion-Bouton was the largest automobile manufacturer in the world. The company produced 400 cars and 3200 engines that year and employed 950 workers. The company was the first with a mass produced V8 engine, a 35hp unit in 1910.



Quoting from the booklet by Ward L Harvard "The Romance of Jenolan Caves' ....

*"Early in June 1903, Mr Mark Foy conducted a party in two motor cars from Blackheath. After delay occasioned by boggy roads and a mechanical defect in one car, the first car- an eight horse -power single- cylinder De Dion, driven by Mr B Beckham- reached the caves at eight pm, having left Blackheath at eleven am. This trial showed the need for motors of greater power."*

Now for all you rev heads out there, this De Dion motor was a single cylinder 8 h.p. engine (943 c.c.) with 100 mm bore and 120 mm stroke. The gearbox is a 2 gear epicyclic with a reverse gear (disconnected) which gave a comfortable cruising speed of 24 mph at about 1600 rpm. (not going down the Five Mile!) I contacted our curator Rob Whyte to ask if there were any known photographs of this event. Below is a photo by Charles Kerry but we are unsure if this was of the first car at Jenolan.



Kath Bellamy also has forwarded some information regarding cars at Jenolan.

*"I attended a family reunion at the Hydro at Medlow Bath and arranged to meet a bloke from Winnalee who is a historian on the mountains. He is researching the Hydro and Carrington hotels and as I have a connection with both hotels we share a lot of info. I asked him what his thoughts were on the first car to go to Jenolan. He had a book on early cars from the Springwood library and I showed him the two early postcards in the Grand Arch so as to identify them. He thinks that the car on the western side (with Wiburd) is a 'De Dion Bouton'. (Ed. Photo above) Mark Foy had a number of these cars at the Hydro so this car is most likely from the Hydro. This means that the photo would be after July 1904 at the earliest as the Hydro opened July 4th, 1904. It is probable that Mark Foy would have been the one to pioneer driving to Jenolan because of his position on the Mountains. It is possible that he was instrumental in having roads built and upgraded for cars to use in the area. My mother knew Mark Foy in the early 1940's and she always said he was the first to drive cars across the Blue Mountains. Maybe because he was such a notable figure, he got a lot of credit for things."*

Now, the first cars imported into Australia were in 1903 and Harvard sites the first car at Jenolan in June 1903. So Mark Foy obviously was taking visitors to Jenolan before the Hydro opened.



AND DON'T FORGET  
ABOUT BUYING TICKETS  
IN THE RAFFLE! IT'S A  
GREAT PRIZE!

## NEXT MEETING & DINNER 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006

VENUE: CAVES HOUSE DINNER STARTS AT 6PM.

PRESENTATIONS AND MEETING AFTERWARDS FROM 8PM IN THE KANANGRA BOYD ROOM-  
UPSTAIRS IN CAVES HOUSE.

PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR, JOHN CALLAGHAN OR PHYLLIS CALVERT AT  
JENOLAN CAVES ON 63593911 IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE DINNER.

MEETING DATES FOR 2006. 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.