

# Contents

**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCING JENOLAN CAVES . . . . . 1**

**CHAPTER 2: HIDDEN IN THE MOUNTAINS . . . . . 9**

- LOCATION
- THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE
- RIVERS
- LAND USE
- ACCESS ROADS
- GEOLOGY
- CLIMATE
- VEGETATION

**CHAPTER 3: CAVES - ROCK, WATER, AND TIME . . . . .19**

- CAVES IN LIMESTONE
- DEEP TIME
- 416 MILLION YEARS AGO - ANCIENT SEAS
- 390 MILLION YEARS AGO - TURNED TO STONE
- 350 MILLION YEARS AGO - FOLDING AND FAULTING
- 340 MILLION YEARS AGO - THE FIRST CAVES
- 340 MILLION YEARS AGO - FILLED WITH VOLCANIC ASH AND COVERED
- 290 MILLION YEARS AGO LOWERED BELOW SEA LEVEL
- ABOVE SEA LEVEL AGAIN
- NEW CAVES FORM
- KARST LANDFORMS
- CAVE COLLAPSE
- CAVES FILLING UP AGAIN
- OTHER CAVES DEPOSITS - BONES AND EXCREMENT
- SUMMARY: A LOT CAN HAPPEN TO A ROCK IN 416 MILLION YEARS

**CHAPTER 4: CAVE FORMATIONS - SPELEOTHEMS . . . . .45**

- SOLID CRYSTAL FROM WATER
- CAVES WITHOUT SPELEOTHEMS
- CAVE CRYSTAL
- SPELEOTHEMS - A GREAT VARIETY

STRAWS  
STALACTITES  
STALAGMITES  
SHAWLS  
RIMSTONE POOLS  
CANOPIES  
FOLDS AND TERRACES  
CAVE CORAL  
HELICITITES  
CAVE PEARLS  
LARGE CALCITE CRYSTALS  
COLOURATION  
SPARKLES  
WAXY LOOK  
THE TWILIGHT ZONE  
HOW FAST DO THE FORMATIONS GROW?  
FURTHER MYSTERIES  
ERODING SPELEOTHEMS  
THREATS TO THE CAVES

**CHAPTER 5: EXPERIENCING THE CAVES OVER TIME. . . . . .85**

THE ABORIGINAL EXPERIENCE (From 45,000 years ago to 1788)  
EUROPEAN DISCOVERY (1836 - 1867)  
ROUGH ROADS AND BUSH CAMPING (1867 - 1879)  
ACCOMMODATION AND COMPETING ROADS (1880 - 1896)  
GREAT DISCOVERIES AND COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION (1897 - 1929)  
THE GREAT DEPRESSION, WAR YEARS, AND BEYOND (1930 - 1950)  
INCREASING POPULARITY (1951 - 1975)  
NOSTALGIA AND INNOVATION (1976 - 2010)

**CHAPTER 6: THE SHOW CAVES OF JENOLAN. . . . . .155**

THE SOUTHERN SHOW CAVES  
LUCAS CAVE  
RIVER CAVE  
ORIENT CAVE  
RIBBON CAVE  
TEMPLE BAAL

THE NORTHERN CAVES AND CAVERNS  
 JUBILEE CAVES  
 IMPERIAL CAVE  
 CHIFLEY CAVE  
 THE DEVIL'S COACH HOUSE  
 SELF GUIDED NETTLE CAVE  
 ADVENTURE CAVES

**CHAPTER 7: THE JENOLAN SURROUNDS . . . . . 203**

BUSHWALKS AROUND JENOLAN  
 AN INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE PLANTS AND ANIMALS  
 EXTINCT MEGAFUNA  
 PLANT COMMUNITIES  
 MONOTREMES  
 MARSUPIALS  
 PLACENTAL MAMMALS  
 REPTILES  
 INVERTEBRATES  
 BIRDS  
 FERAL ANIMALS  
 'MISSING' ANIMALS

**POSTSCRIPT. . . . . 241**

**APPENDIX 1: GUNDUNGURRA DREAMTIME STORY. . . . . 243**

**APPENDIX 2: CAVE CHEMISTRY . . . . . 247**

**APPENDIX 3: DATING JENOLAN CAVES . . . . . 249**

**SUGGESTED FURTHER READING . . . . . 253**

**ENDNOTES . . . . . 254**

**INDEX . . . . . 260**