

Cave History Presentations

Now in conclusion I'd like to tell you a little story about Golgotha Cave at Forest Grove. Now in the early days of settlement a skeleton was found in that cave with a musket lying beside it. It was believed the skeleton would have laid there for about 30 years before white settlement. Now the musket was taken and sent back to Amsterdam where it was traced and that would be marked in the early... or in the 1600s, thereabouts. So that is the story of Golgotha. It is a large cavern which can be now entered, I understand, and it's just one of the many caves to be found in this area.

The New Caves of South Mole Creek, in Northern Tasmania

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ABSTRACT

The limestone and caves near Mole Creek have been known since the late 1820's when surveyors with the Van Diemens Land Company began their "westward" exploration. The first reports of cave exploration in the Mole Creek karst area date back to 1829 when caves were "discovered" in the Chudleigh area. The earliest descriptions of the "Chudleigh Caves": two neighbouring systems: Honeycomb Caverns and Wet Cave systems are recorded from 1833 and most of the cave descriptions in subsequent publications till 1878 relate to these two caves near Chudleigh. These "Chudleigh Caves" were known by several names during the course of their history. Some 40-50 years after being discovered by early settlers, the Chudleigh Caves became referred to as the "Old Caves" following the discovery of some new (initially unnamed) caves at South Mole Creek in the mid to late 1870's. This "new" area was described as being quite near to the Chudleigh district, but in actual fact the two cave areas were some distant apart and were thus considered separately as the "new caves" and the "old caves". In 1883, Higgins and Petterd described the Tasmanian Cave Spider (*Hickmania troglodytes*) from one of these unmanned "new" caves at South Mole Creek. In 1888, in his treatise on the Geology of Tasmania, R.M. Johnston describes the cave site with the recently described spider as one of the "New Caves in the Chudleigh neighbourhood" on the land of Mr Pickett. Although its location and name (if any) was a mystery, the cave was also known as a site recommended for further study because it contained a rich deposit of mammalian remains. In 1921, Baldocks Cave is identified as one of two caves in the Mole Creek district that was studied intensely, due to the presence of a rich deposit of mammalian remains. Literature sources and records from the Lands and Titles Office in Hobart indicate that the "New Caves" of the Chudleigh district were principally found in the Sassafras Creek area during the 1870's and 1880's, including Baldocks Cave that was opened for tourism privately, around 1890. Other caves known from this area - and believed to have been discovered during this time - are Sassafras, Glowworm and Cyclops Caves.