

# Cave History Presentations

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## ***A Thumbnail Sketch of the Leeuwin Ridge and Caves History Since European Settlement***

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**Brian Combley**

### **Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste**

- Named visited and recorded by the Dutch in 1622 and French in 1772.
- Mathew Flinders charted Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste in 1801.
- Augusta was the third settlement in W.A. in 1830 after Albany in 1826 & the Swan River Colony in 1829.

### **Port Augusta**

- Used by whalers and sealers for fresh water before and after settlement.
- Some of the first residents
  - Captain John & Georgiana Molloy.
  - The Bussell brothers John & Alfred.
  - The Turner family.
  - The Allnutt family.

### **H. M. Ommanney reports cave 1840**

- A surveyor based in the South West.
- On a trip from the new town of Busselton to the western edge of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge, reported finding a cave (refer Appendix 1).
- It is assumed it was one of the Yallingup caves, possibly Northcote Grotto.

### **Deepdene Cliffs**

- Deepdene Cliffs were adjacent to the Turner property and were known of at the time. Some small caves exist in the cliff face.
- Early mariners called in for fresh water near Deepdene as it was visible from the ocean and was on the lee side.



***Figure 1 - Ducalup or Deepdene on Turner Brook***

### **Cave discovered in Augusta 1848**

- Mr G Turner found two caves about 12 kilometres north of Augusta.
  - Caves were Old Kudardup and AU 10
- Caves explored by Edward Hester and reported by him in the Inquirer of November 1848 (refer Appendix 2).
- The find was attributed to Turner in the article.

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### House Cave later called Wallcliffe

- Augusta found not to be suitable for farming.
- Bussells moved to Ellensbrook in 1857 and later to Wallcliffe about 1865.
- House Cave discovered about this time (Wallcliffe).
- Visitors were encouraged by the Bussells.
- Several reports are recorded in the West Australian newspaper of visits.
- Albert & Fanny Bussell's initials inscribed on the flow stone in Wallcliffe Cave.



*Figure 2 - Albert and Fanny 1882*

### Warrawerrie or Blackboy Hollow

- Discovered by John Bussell in the late 1860's.
- Bussell encouraged visitors.
- Enlarged opening and installed a ladder of sorts.
- Visitors accommodated at his house.

### Moondyne or Coronation Cave

- Discovered by Fred Grange in 1879.
- Used by Western Australia's only bush ranger "Moondyne Joe" or Joseph Bolitho Johns.
- Opened as a public cave on the coronation day of King George V.
- Was called Coronation Cave.

### Lake Cave doline

- In 1867 Fanny reported to her family the existence of the Lake Cave doline found whilst searching for lost cattle.
- The family did not believe her as it could not be located again.

### Mammoth Cave

- Reports of the cave in 1895.
- Tim Connelly credited with the first exploration.
- Mammoth was known as the "Dawn of Creation Cave".
- The name was possibly because of fossils found in the cave.
- The skeleton of a European was also found in this cave.



**Figure 3 - Mammoth Cave Early 1900's**

Photograph's courtesy of Rauleigh Webb



**Figure 4 - Tim Connelly**

### **Yallingup or Ngilgi Cave**

- Discovered in 1899 by Edward Dawson when searching for lost horses.
- Explored by Dawson and two friends Seymore and Curtis.
- First tours conducted 1900.
- Edward (Ned) Dawson became the sole guide at Yallingup for the next 37 years.

### **Tim Connelly rediscovers Lake Cave doline 1897**

- Tim Connelly, C. Price Conigrave and Wm. A. Nelson relocated the Lake Doline and found the Lake Cave entrance.
- They lowered themselves down into the doline to explore in November 1897, the cave was named "Queen of the Earth" by Connelly.

### **Connelly also explored other caves**

- Museum, Calgardup, Bride's and Golgotha caves were probably first explored by Connelly.
- Connelly passed away in 1933.

### **Erskine May report commissioned 1900**

- From the Chief Inspector of Lands
- To the Undersecretary of Lands
- Completed by Mr C. Erskine May
- Re the caves in the Margaret River Region.
- After pressure from a local resident Mr Brockman.
- Mr C. Erskine May prepared the report after visiting the caves of the region (refer Appendix 3).
- Reported that vandals were already at work defacing these marvellous and beautiful geological features.

### **Description of the report**

- A report on the proposed management of the caves on the Leeuwin Ridge.
- It is interesting that conservation was recommended in 1900 due to damage being done to these caves.
- It is also interesting that even back in those days the solution proposed involved bringing more people to the caves.

### **How to save the caves**

- Road from Busselton must be upgraded.
- A hospice for accommodation will be needed.
- Entrances ought to be guarded by iron gates.
- A caretaker should be appointed.

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### C. E. May specifically mentioned

- Wallcliffe.
- Blackboy Hollow.
- Calgadup (Calgardup).
- Boodjidup (Witchcliffe).
- Nindup (Giants).
- Deepdene.
- Crystal (recommended closing off).
- Historical photographs from the May report are shown below alongside current views (2002) of the same features.



***Figure 5 - The Devils Hand Wallcliffe Cave***



***Figure 6 - The Poultry Show Wallcliffe Cave***





*Figure 7 - Queens Crown Blackboy Hollow*



*Figure 8 - Broken Column Blackboy Hollow*



**Figure 9 - Suspended Dome Calgardup**



**Figure 10 - Lots Wife**

### **Connelly appointed as guide**

- As a result of the C. E. May report Tim Connelly was appointed as a guide and caretaker on a salary of \$100 (fifty pounds) per annum.
- Gates and locks were installed.
- Magnesium flares and blackboy torches were no longer used.
- Caves Board formed.

### **Strong's Cave**

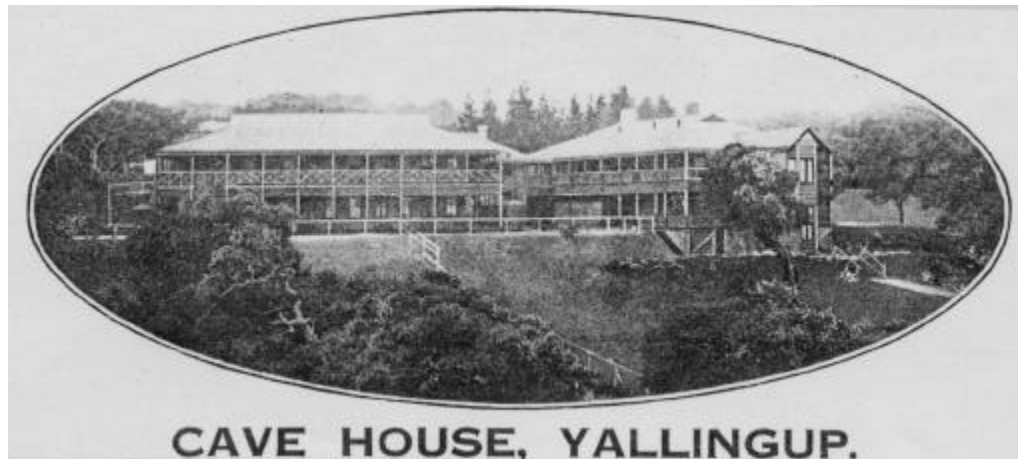
- Recorded by Marmaduke Terry in a survey in 1900.
- Many other caves in the area recorded around this time.
- Terry married Filumina Bussell on St Valentines Day 1900 about the time he was completing his survey.

### **Caves House**

- Caves House, the accommodation recommended by May, was built in 1903.
- A fire destroyed it on 1930.
- The new Caves House opened in 1938.

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*Figure 11 - The original Caves House*



*Figure 12 - Caves House reconstructed*

### **Jewel Cave**

- Solution pipe found by William Ellis in 1908 but not entered, called Windy Hole.
- Discovered by Cliff Spackman, Mr & Mrs Jack Burrows, Harley Webster and Tony Tapper in 1957.
- Jewel Cave will be covered in a specific presentation by Lloyd Robinson who first explored it in 1958 with Lex Bastian and Cliff Spackman.

The history from the 1950's on is well recorded in SRGWA and WASG documentation. Even today Witchcliffe Cave is not locked and is being used as a camp site. Many other caves still remain unlocked.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to:

- The Battye Library of Western Australian History, for permission to reprint historic photographs and documents.
- Tracey Bushell, for her expert assistance in locating items in the Battye Library.
- Jeff Murray of the Department of Land Administration, without whose help much of the material used would not have been found or confirmed to be accurate.

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## APPENDIX 1 - Exert from "An Excursion from Busselton to the Western Sea Coast by H. M. Ommanney - June 1840"

*....At 10.15am we came to a sort of hole in the ground, its sides supported by limestone rock, some few points of which are just raised above the ground and drew our attention. We descended this with some difficulty for about 40 feet, and then advanced about 15 or 20 feet under an arch, the crown of which is about 15 feet high. Here it became dark, but it seemed to have one or two smaller passages leading from it. The floor of the cavern was of sand and appears to have a powerful stream of water running through it sometimes. The roof is limestone and had long pendants, stalactites, with stalagmites on the floor corresponding. I regretted that neither our time nor means permitted us to explore this interesting place further....*

## APPENDIX 2 - Discovery of Two Large Caves in the neighbourhood of Port Augusta.

*We are indebted to a correspondent for the following particulars:*

Though so many years have elapsed since the first settlement of Augusta, yet strange to say a most stupendous and wonderful production of nature was in the immediate neighborhood unnoticed and unknown. I allude to two caves of surprising beauty situated within eight miles of the north-ward of Augusta at the back of the sea hills. These caves were discovered accidentally by Mr G. Turner a few weeks since, but it is to Mr Edward Hester I am indebted for the following particulars, he having minutely inspected them during a late journey to Augusta.

On approaching the first cave there is nothing to indicate its proximity; the eye merely beholds a large limestone rock about 40 feet high. A more minute examination discovers two apertures in the eastern face of the rock separated from each other by a space of thirty feet, each large enough to admit the passage of a man in a creeping position. Upon entering either of these apertures Mr Hester had to descend an inclined plane at an angle of 45 degrees for a distance of 100 feet. The descent he describes as somewhat difficult from its steepness and ruggedness. This passage led to the floor of the cave and the scene which then presented itself fully repaid him for his trouble. He found himself in a lofty and spacious apartment of exquisite magnificence; it was thirty feet wide, one hundred feet in length and its extreme height one hundred feet. The roof was of circular form and the floor semi-circular, the inclined passage encroaching one one portion of the circle. The ceiling was in appearance a vast dome, hanging from which were splendid stalactites of every shape, form and size and in countless numbers, nor was the top of the cave the only portion thus adorned - around the sides the same glittering display was exhibited. The sizes of the stalactites varied, some being no thicker than a pipe stem, while others were from ten to fourteen feet in length and of a proportionate thickness. A short distance from the sides were pillars of the same material rising from the floor to the dome and of an equal circumference from top to bottom, the diameter of each pillar varying from eight feet to two inches. They were in every stage of their formation, some apparently just rising from the ground, others rather longer, while the post perfect had effected their junction with the roof. The masses of stalagmites assumed every form that can be imagined and from Mr Hester's description the appearance must not have been dissimilar to the ornamental screens seen in Cathedral Churches. The interior of the cavern as seen by torchlight must have formed a most striking 'coup d'oeil.

My narrator states it is impossible for him to attempt a description. Those who had seen it had exhausted their powers in this respect and yet one view was sufficient to convince him how far the reality exceeded the description.

The entrance to the next cave (about 200 yards from the one just mentioned) was an opening in a rock eight feet high by twenty feet broad, the passage having a general slope of about a hundred feet, led into a small cavern, the floor of which continued to slope towards another passage similar to the first, which likewise leads to a small cave- forming in fact a double cave. These, though inferior in size to that above described, presented the same splendid appearance, and were of the same beautiful form, save except that the roofs : were flat instead of domed. Their height was only twenty feet, length one hundred feet and breadth thirty feet. The floor of the larger and innermost of the double caves was perfectly flat and smooth and of a dark colour and yielding to the pressure of the feet. Mr Hester states its appearance to be that of a dark loam. In the centre of the former



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were several pools of water, three feet in circumference and a few inches in depth, constantly supplied by droppings from the ceiling. This water was tasteless, limpid and ice-cold. here were also found the skeletons of three kangaroos.

Mr Hester on his return discussed two more of these natural apartments and has no doubt that there are many more. He had not time to institute a minute examination but states their appearance to be similar to the others from which they were distant one twelve and the other twenty-five miles North. The first had a rivulet running into it.

### **APPENDIX 3 - C Esrkin May Report**

#### **MARGARET RIVER CAVES**

Pursuant to instructions, I have inspected the caves in the vicinity of the Margaret River, with a view to tendering "definite information as to what caves it will be advisable to protect, the means to be adopted, and the cost of the same". At the outset, I wish to emphasise that vandals have already been actively at work defacing these marvelous and beautiful geological features, which, in my judgement, excel in extent, picturesqueness, and variety the Jenolan Caves of New South Wales, which the sister colony takes the greatest care of, and has at large expense made a favourite trysting place of travelers. The Margaret River Caves are so remarkable that if they were known they would become one of the famous tourist places of the Southern Hemisphere, if not in the world. But if nothing should be done to stop the wanton destruction that has been going on by curio collectors, the caves will, in a few years, be despoiled of much of their charm, and a national opportunity will have been lost of fostering health and recreation by founding on the Margaret River a sanatorium in a mild and bracing climate, fresh with the breezes from the ocean. To the goldfields people especially the Margaret River should be the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, the Derwent of Tasmania, or the Lakes of New Zealand, when they are making holiday.

#### **How to Save the Caves**

If the caves are to be visited as they deserve to be, the greater part of the road from Busselton, the nearest town, must be improved; a hospice for the accommodation of excursionists will be needed; entrances ought to be guarded by iron gates, and it is imperative that a caretaker must be put in charge, and, if necessary, a charge made to recoup his pay while he is acting as a guide. To leave things as they are would, I am convinced, be a reproach to the Department and the community. The spot is so isolated that, in the absence of an hostelry, the caves are practically inaccessible, except to bushmen, and there is no oversight to prevent the hacking off of the most exquisite and delicately-wrought specimens or the scrawling of names on the brilliant and fantastic handiwork of Nature. The New South Wales Government, recognizing in the Jenolan Caves a valuable heirloom of the Colony, have lavished money upon them, placing bridges to cross difficult places, and in many other ways devising that the pleasure of the sightseer shall be free from toil, alluring alike to the invalid or to the convalescent, as well as to the hale. While I do not counsel at present any prodigality, I am assured that the spending of a moderate sum will, even commercially speaking, be a most judicious step in adding to the fame of the Colony. The beauty spots of Western Australia are not so numerous that we can afford to leave them unknown or in ruthless hands.

#### **Where the Caves are**

The caves lie 35 miles South-Westerly from Busselton, the terminus of the South-Western Railway, and within a mile of the ocean, the total distance from Perth being 185 miles. They extend for about 25 miles Southerly from Wallcliffe (formerly the property of the late Mr Bussell, the pioneer of the district, but now owned by Mr Gale), towards Flinders Bay, where the M.C. Davies Karri and Jarrah Company do the loading of Jarrah. The caves are nearly all within a mile of the sea, in undulating limestone country, or a series of low hills. There are probably about 45 caves in all, but many of them have not yet been explored.

#### **A Gem of a Holiday Place**

The district possesses almost every desideratum for a perfect holiday to please diverse tastes. There is a trip by land and sea when a steamer is provided, as it would be at once if excursionists knew what they would enjoy in escaping the summer heats in the salubrious latitude. They could

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go by way of Busselton, see the caves in a leisurely excursion down to Cape Leeuwin, thence driving or riding to the banks of the Blackwood River, at Augusta, to fish and shoot over Hardy's Inlet or stream, or sail to Flinders Bay, and follow the caves up to Boodidup Brook, to bask by the waters of the brook that is fed from a silver spring gushing from the side of Witchcliffe Cave. There is the Leeuwin Lighthouse to reach as a picnicking place from Augusta, with a broad, smooth beach for the children to paddle in, and a splendid cruising ground for the yachts of their elders. And when the caves are reached, there would always be the finding of something new to whet the zest of the explorer, and dispel the slightest sense of fatigue in rambling in and out of the huge and sparkling grottoes, each in a new garniture of cunning device and dazzling radiance.

### **The Trip as it is Today**

The only route at present, when the caves are, I am sorry to say, a terra incognita to nearly everyone, is by railway to Busselton, a quiet and delightful rural retreat of itself, and thence by road to the hospitable homesteads of Mrs John Brockman, (Burnside), and of Mr Gale (Wallcliffe). The track, for it is little more, five miles beyond Busselton, winds in and out of an avenue of giant karri and jarrah, or of peppermints growing luxuriously; thence to the Margaret River, overlooking some fine reaches of which is the Wallcliffe residence, the broad bosom of the stream fully 100 yards wide, resembling a clear inland lake.

### **The Cunning Mouth of the Cave**

No beaver ever more artfully concealed the entrance to his nest than is the lip of the Wallcliffe Cave. Part some peppermints, push aside the flowing fronds of ferns and bend low, almost on all fours, creep slowly for thirty feet, eyes bent to the ground, and then, what a transformation scene! The fairy grotto of a pantomime, the lustrous hair of the King of Jewels of Arabian Nights is, although this is an official report, the only simile that gives even a prosaic idea of it. A circular chamber, richly bedecked in gleaming white stalactites, with mammoth bunches of grapes (see Nos. 1 and 3), fleecy wefts apparently as soft as lambs wool, but solid as marble, and up springing from the floor of the chamber, as if greedy to clutch the fruit, yet frozen in making the grasp, is a monstrous hand several feet long (see No. 2). These are just hints of what we see. Why not spend a few pounds so that so singular and beautiful a place could be reached without having to do penance like Nebuchadnezzar when he was under sentence to eat grass?

### **The Blackboy Hollow**

The Warrawerrie or Blackboy Hollow Cave is about two miles South of Wallcliffe, and is a mantrap for the unwary, for there is a 15ft. drop, if you fall in instead of using the ladder that the discoverer (Mr John Bussell) made in order to sound his find, and was thoughtful enough to leave behind him. This vertical hole will not take in anyone of very round proportions, so that Ministers or aldermen, for example, will be glad to hear of some simple enlarging work, which I recommend being done. So rough and high are the boulders on the floor of this cave, that we scrambled over, with the dim, flickering light of a candle, that we called it "Spion Kop". It was more than worth the scramble, however, for the flashlight by which we took some photographs revealed some superb pyrotechnic effects shining on the damp stalactites (see Nos. 4 and 5) like the glitter of a thousand diamonds. There is another chamber of this cave that has never been entered. A broken column (see Nos. 6 and 7) apparently cut from Italian marble, as pure as alabaster, should make a noble monument for a patriot. There are also semi-transparent shields that look like snow-white tapestry from an Indian loom, and which only the touch shows to be hard as flint, formed by the dropping for ages of mineralized water, encrusted far down below the light of the sun. If this cave were lit with electric light and passes across chasms formed after the model of what has been done in the Jenolan Caves it would draw better than Millais.

### **The Pearl of the Diadem**

While all the caves we saw are worth many times the journey, the crowning beauty is, in my opinion, the one known as Boodjijup, a mile South of Blackboy Hollow, and 100ft. above the slanderously entitled "Devil's Pool". (See No. 8) A lady could go through this cave without soiling her dress. You get into this lovely "bower" on the side of a high limestone ridge that gives from the commanding situation a pretty prospect of water and lea, with the shimmering streak of the Boodjijup Brook in the foreground. The access to the cave is rather steep and somewhat rugged,

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but once the inlet is gained the labour is rewarded, and the visitor can move at ease and admire the terraces, the columns like the pipes of a cathedral organ, and the pendants that glow as the stars of night in the three chambers of this wondrous arcade. (See No. 9)

### **Calgadup Cave**

Nearly three miles South there is a descent of about 100ft. first through an enormous pit like the excavation of a quarry, and then by the side of a limestone cliff, when the "door" of Calgadup Cave is disclosed. The floor of this cave is moist enough to show that it is the bed of a subterranean creek; it is about 70ft. across. The chamber sides are hung with many stalactites of myriad shapes and colour under the rays of our artificial light. What would be taken in a lady's boudoir for a very beautiful opera cloak of swansdown, thrown over the top of a low pillar, stands out in the foreground. This is a stalagmite "growing" upwards, while the stalactite is formed downwards like the tendrils of fruit of a vine. Here, too, in my opinion, is the gem of all caves – the suspended dome (see No. 10), the delicate tracery of whose splendid and fantastic fretwork hangs in mid-air, held by almost gossamer threads of crystalline.

### **Nindup Caves**

The Giant's Cave (see No. 11) is the chief of the Nindup Caves, sixteen in number, which occupy a radius of two miles. Many of them, owing to the ugly approaches, are unexplored. Without the equipment of an Alpine climber, or of a cliff birdnester, it is not very inviting to attempt to clamber down the branches and boles of tall karri trees, that tower from the ground in front of the caves, up through huge "shafts" to the hillside, so that we, as well as all our predecessors, merely peered over the ledges and left these caves in their virgin solitude. The pits appear to have been due to the subsidence of what formerly were caves, but a more definite explanation I leave to the adventurous tourist who longs to set his foot on untrodden ground, and gaze on things that human eye has never seen.

### **The Giant's Cave.**

The Giant's Cave has a false entrance (see No. 12) opposite to the real one, which we got down to, after a rather toilsome drop of about 80ft. The roof of the vault is so high that I could not throw a pebble to touch it. The floor is mainly strewn with great boulders, ornamented with magnificent ferns. The false entrance, of peculiar limestone formation, is 130ft. deep and 80ft. high, while the proper entrance is exactly opposite and almost 200ft. wide. The Giant's Cave is of bolder design in its interior decoration than some of the others to which I have alluded, just as a drop-scene is painted with a freer brush and less attention to minute details than a daguerreotype.

### **Nannup Caves**

There is a very pretty approach to the Nannup Caves, which are a mile North of Boranup, and six miles South of the Giant's Cave. There are two chambers, separated by a "man-hole", which all but blocks up the noble frontal passage that is 200ft. long and nearly 30ft. high. The tunnel through which we crawl, or, in places, almost wriggle like an eel, is 30ft. long. The first hall is so full of the characteristics of Gothic ecclesiastical architecture that "The Cathedral Aisle" seems to be a most appropriate appellation for it. I am sorry to say that the walls preserve far too well the names of persons who scrawled them, in some cases 20 years ago, for such shoddy records in such a place look like sacrilege, and deserve the reprobation that Mark Twain so scathingly applied to the miscreant who tried with a spalling hammer to knock a memento off one of the pyramids of Egypt.

### **Crystal Cave**

A running stream, which flows over the bed of Crystal Cave, half a mile South of Nannup Caves, gives it its name. This cave, of sandstone formation, is almost a ruin through the ravages of marauders and the falling of Karri timber overhead, which have wrought havoc among former grandeur. Ascending some 50ft. or 60ft. another vast chamber is entered; the dome-shaped roof that is set off by colonnades is cracked, and to all appearance unsafe. I beg to recommend that this cave be closed, so that it may, in the course of 20 or 30 years, restore itself from the hacking about it has received with a timber "jack" which I found in the cave.

### **Deepdene Caves**

Deepdene Caves are six in number, within a radius of two miles, and are situated four miles South of Karridale. The one we visited, known as "Deepdene", is easy of access. It is very imposing in

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the beauty of its stalactite work, and, further, it is embellished with a column of white crystal, 10ft. in diameter and 15ft. high. To the left of the column is a perfect arch, the roof of which scintillates with hundreds of pointed stalactites. A narrow passage takes us into a chamber of majestic height, from the dome of which hang graceful festoons of petrified tree roots, remindful for all time of the great karris of primeval days.

In my opinion, all the caves, except the Crystal Cave, are perfectly safe for the exploration of visitors. The air is beautifully fresh, showing that there are other openings from beyond the points that have been penetrated, a distance that is not more than one-eighth of a mile. How much further the passages extend remains to be discovered. I cannot too strongly urge that the caves shall be protected, and to this end I beg to make the following recommendations:

1. That iron gates, with locks, shall be placed at the entrances.
2. That Mr T. Connelly, a local resident, who is familiar with the caves, may be appointed caretaker at a salary of £50 per annum.
3. That visitors shall be admitted to the caves only under the superintendence of the caretaker.
4. That the use of proper lights that do not smoke shall be insisted upon.
5. That regulations be framed providing for the punishment of any person injuring the caves in any manner. To show the call there is for oversight, I need only mention that, in addition to the mutilation and defacement of some of the choicest specimens, the burning in the caves of blackboy rushes, and the smoking in of names on the walls with candles have caused discoloration and disfigurement.
6. It is further desirable that those caves that are not already located should be fixed by survey; also roads to the several caves should be marked.
7. That a house of accommodation should be built by the Department at Boodjijup and at Augusta, or that steps should be taken to draw the attention of private enterprise to the good opening there is in making this district the foremost pleasure resort of the Colony. Already this season (while there are no facilities for visiting the caves and for seaside) about 70 goldfields visitors have, at special expense, equipped themselves for the tour, which, I understand, they found highly beneficial, interesting, and enjoyable.

### The Party's Work

The utility of the trip was much enhanced through the kind co-operation of the Surveyor General (Mr H.F. Johnston), thanks to whom I had the coadjutorship of Mr Morison, of the survey branch of the Department, in the taking of a series of views of the interior of the caves that have never to any extent been photographed before. Through the indefatigable efforts of Mr Morison, I am able to accompany this report with illustrations showing how much the Colony is losing by leaving these wonderful and beautiful phenomena unheard of and unexplored. Mr Thompson, inspector of lands for the South-Western District, also accompanied me and as guide Mr Connelly, whom I have in the foregoing recommended for the post of caretaker. The success of the magnesium light in heightening the loveliness of the caves was so marked that there is no doubt that they should be illuminated with electric light, as has been done in the Jenolan Caves by the New South Wales Government. It is noteworthy that the Margaret River caves are almost in the same parallel of latitude as those at Jenolan. It would be base ingratitude for me not to make acknowledgement on behalf of the party of the kindness with which we were treated by Mrs John Brockman, of Burnside; Mr Gale, of Wallcliffe; and Mr Herbert Davies, local managing director of the Karri and Jarrah Sawmilling Company. Mr Davies placed a special train at our disposal on the timber railway of the company, which runs through and opens up a considerable distance North and South of the cave country. In conclusion, I beg to state that it would probably cost from £150 to £200 to fence in the caves mentioned in this report. I recommend iron fencing, as I consider it to be cheaper in the long run.

C. ERSKINE MAY.  
Chief Inspector of Lands.  
Perth, 26th February, 1900.  
*Photographs were included.*