

Non-Entry Inspections to Conserve Tourist Caves

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There are sections of Australian operating metal mines where human access is not permitted, yet mining continues using remote-controlled machinery overseen by remote-sensing techniques from a nearby tunnel or alcove in the mine. If applied to tourist caves, these techniques would permit visitors to experience the full ambience of a delicately-ornamented cave without actually entering it. Whilst this concept is particularly applicable to previously undeveloped caves, thus avoiding the wholesale cave damage involved in the construction of paths and installation of lights, it is also applicable in caves already open to the public eg. a vandal-prone section of a tourist cave.

Non-Entry Inspections to Conserve Tourist Caves

Using Remote-Sensing Techniques to
convey the Full Ambience of a cave
without actually entering it.

Vandalism of Caves



Figure 66. "Tuglow Cave" by Trickett
(showing the since-destroyed 'Tuglow shawl')
[From *Guide to the Jenolan Caves*, 1st Edn., p. 61]

Vandalism in well-protected Caves

- Vandalism ~ 1954: -
- ~ 10 cm broken off >
- ~ 10 cm broken off >
- This photo was published in 1952;



Destroyed after 80 yrs of Tours

1905



1952



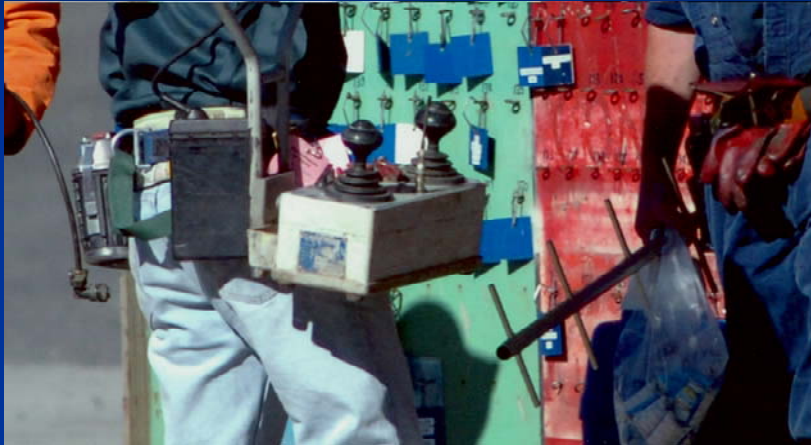
Opening a Cave for Inspection



Video Games during Lunch?



Remote Sensing in Mining



Non-entry of Miners for their Safety



Bringing a Photo to Life



Even amateur Video has Ambience



The Concept – Non-entry of the General Public into easily damaged caverns; no new caves opened

How could it be done?

- Make a movie in a few days (compact digital camera with 12 volt halogen lamps powered by rechargeable batteries and at least one speleo / ranger / presenter in-frame for scale) ; or
- Closed circuit TV (hard to justify the expense).

Where does the General Public View it?

- In a nearby cave or arch with plenty of space,
- or in a theatrette (suits visitors with disabilities)
- or sell copies for home viewing.