

# The Tasmanic caves of eastern Australia

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Caves occur in Palaeozoic limestone from the southeastern corner of Tasmania to Mitchell-Palmer in north Queensland. These caves are developed in mostly small bodies of limestone in which surface karst features are relatively less significant than caves. The caves and the karsts in which they occur have many features in common. Many of them intersect palaeokarst, have complex histories with multiple periods of development (post-palaeokarst) caused by a variety of processes. They often have an early hypogene stage followed by multiple paragenetic stages. Some sections of the caves are extremely old. Very often these caves are disconnected from the present hydrology, some never intersect the water table while others have no obvious stream sink or spring.

This presentation takes a continental scale view of eastern Australian caves, suggests sites for international comparison and looks at where research might be heading.

Video

[http://nswsc.caves.org.au/trogalong/video/Tasmanic-karsts\\_Armstrong-Osborne.avi](http://nswsc.caves.org.au/trogalong/video/Tasmanic-karsts_Armstrong-Osborne.avi)