

3.0 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENTS

3.1 THE RESERVE OVERALL

3.1.1 RESERVE BOUNDARIES

History: **1901:** 160 acres (containing Moon Cave, Foul Air Cave, and subsequently found to contain Federal Cave) temporarily reserved from sale ‘for Public Purposes and for the protection of the natural features’ following earlier reservations in the Buchan area for similar purposes

1902: Additional 119 acres (containing Spring Creek Cave and other features, and subsequently found to contain Fairy Cave) temporarily reserved west of the 1901 reservation

1913: Additional 396 acres (in three parcels, i.e. bisected by two road reserves) temporarily reserved to the north and west of the 1901 and 1902 reservations

1915: Additional 11 acres temporarily reserved (comprising the road reserves excluded from the 1913 reservation), enlarging the reserves of 1901, 1902, and 1913

1918: Additional 34 acres (south and west of the confluence of the Spring Creek and Buchan River) temporarily reserved, enlarging the reserves of 1901, 1902, 1913, and 1915

1919: Additional 8 acres (known as the Police Paddock) temporarily reserved, enlarging the reserves of 1901, 1902, 1913, 1915, and 1918

1930: Camping ground of 5 acres permanently reserved on the south bank of the Buchan River (stretching from the new road bridge to the confluence of Spring Creek) [*Victoria Government Gazette*, 1930, p.2408.]

1932: The committee noted that the fence around reserve had been in place for about 20 years and was still in good condition except for some damage from wombats. [Committee of Management minutes, 18 April 1932]

1938: Revocation of all previous reserves and simultaneous reinstatement as a reserve comprising 863 acres in nine discrete parcels (including the main Buchan Caves Reserve of 724 acres)

1938: Short list of works (to be finished by 30 June 1938) finalised, headed by the fencing of the reserve. [Committee of Management minutes, 26.4.1938]

1947: Revocation of 10 acres contained within the main Buchan Caves Reserve; reinstated 1976

Description/integrity: The current reserve boundaries date from 1901, 1902, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1919, and 1930, and were consolidated to form the present reserve in 1938. The various boundaries embody evidence of earlier uses (e.g. the former mining reserve) and the evolution of the current use, and may retain evidence such as survey pegs, fences, and other features (such as cleared / retained vegetation) but it is beyond the brief of the current Action Plan to examine this evidence in detail

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.1.2 THE OUTER RESERVE

Analysis of cultural significance: In accordance with the brief, the outer reserve has not been considered in the current Heritage Action Plan with the exception of its boundaries (Section

3.1.1), the contrast in vegetation between the inner and outer reserve (section x.y), and walking tracks that extend from inner to outer reserve (section x.y)

3.2 CAVE INFRASTRUCTURE

3.2.1 MOON CAVE INFRASTRUCTURE

History: 1906: Frank Moon enters and explores Moon's Cave, which was named because it located on what was once the family farmland. However, Moon appears to be unaware that it had already been entered and investigated by Stirling in 1889.

1927: All caves in reserve being surveyed early in 1927, extra man employed to assist with exploratory work in Moon Cave. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 July 1927]

Description/integrity: Access to this cave is currently closed as a measure to protect the platypus environment at the river level, of significance from a natural heritage perspective

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* no appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* no appreciable value; *Scientific:* no appreciable value

3.2.2 FEDERAL CAVE INFRASTRUCTURE

History: 1915: Federal Cave discovered and explored by Wilson and Bonwick

1915–21: Earliest sections of iron railings and **limited** wire netting installed under the supervision of Frederick Wilson in a similar manner to his work at Jenolan Caves

1917: Cave opened to the public, lighting presumably undertaken by this date [Annual Report, 1927–28]

1924: Wiring in Federal Cave described as being in good order, capable of lasting at least another 12 months [Committee of Management minutes, 16 July 1924]

1926: Federal Cave rewired [Committee of Management minutes, 13 September 1926]

1932: Federal Cave described as being in fair order but not well patronised by the public [Committee of Management minutes, 8 December 1932]

1935: Federal Cave rewired [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1934, 11 March 1935, 12 April 1935, 14 June 1935, 23 August 1935; Annual Report, 1935–36]

Description/integrity: Federal Cave was only developed at a low-key level; it is currently being cleaned, restored as far as possible, and new illumination installed by the Friends Group; this is being done in a particularly sensitive way, with significant innovation in lighting design and technology; several of the original switchboards have survived, at least one of which is a striking example, and provides an excellent sample of early lighting fixtures

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.2.3 ROYAL CAVE INFRASTRUCTURE

History: 1910: Chamber reached by Wilson's party, channel (leading to Federal Cave, then unknown) partly explored by Wilson's party until stopped by water

1910–21: Earliest sections of iron railings and wire netting installed under the supervision of Frederick Wilson in a similar manner to his work at Jenolan Caves

1913: Entrance constructed

1915: Exploration of channel completed, the interlinking Federal Cave discovered by Wilson and Bonwick

1918: First mention by the committee (at only its second meeting) of lighting caves by electricity, estimated cost of £670 provided by PWD [Committee of Management minutes, 13 September 1918]

1919: Wilson permitted to visit Jenolan Caves to report on their lighting and management; Buchan Progress Association request that the electrical system be extended to benefit the town but advised that generator only sufficient to light the caves; PWD asked to install the electric lights in the caves as soon as possible [Committee of Management minutes, 11 January 1919, 21 January 1919, 4 July 1919, 29 July 1919]

1920: Electric lighting in the caves producing good result, committee resolves to resume work on the lighting immediately to ensure its completion before the opening of the next tourist season, reflectors still to be fitted and numerous lamps properly fixed [Committee of Management minutes, 23 July 1920]

1924: Wiring in Royal Cave entirely renewed, additional lights installed and some special reflectors were being tried [Committee of Management minutes, 16 July 1924]

1925: Danger of electric shock to visitors to the caves from some exposed wires mentioned by committee [Committee of Management minutes, 22 January 1925]

1926: Committee resolves to send a committee member to Jenolan Caves to report on methods of wiring and lighting; visit made in July and report given to committee regarding lighting and its improvements [Committee of Management minutes, 4 February 1926, 13 September 1926]

1927–28: Caves being surveyed, Surveyor General to be asked to arrange for a surveyor to find an outlet for Royal Cave, tunnel completed and an exit made (but not ready for public to use) [Committee of Management minutes, 21 January 1927, 31 May 1927, 15 November 1927, 1 June 1928, 5 September 1928]

1928: Committee of Management Report to the Minister of Lands states that lighting had been gradually developed from magnesium flares and candles until today the principal caves (Royal, Fairy and Federal Caves) are lit by electric light, Royal Cave and Fairy Cave lighting were being further improved by the addition of flood lights and in some places coloured lights, the intention was to further improve the lighting effects so as to improve the attraction of the caves. [Committee of Management minutes, 15 December 1928]

1929: Tender accepted for 'steel stairway' for Royal Cave at a cost of £27 10s, exit opened for public use [Committee of Management minutes, 24 July 1929, 7 October 1929, 19 December 1929]

1929: New lighting in Royal Cave completed [Committee of Management minutes, 19 December 1929]

1930: Moon stated that he could open up a small but beautiful cave between Royal Cave and Blackwood Cave. [Committee of Management minutes, 17 January 1930]

1932: Committee report that the 'splendid; lighting in Royal Cave is still in excellent order [Committee of Management minutes, 8 December 1932]

1936: Committee enquires about neon lighting in Jenolan Caves [Committee of Management minutes, 27 November 1936]

1968: Report on infrastructure by Department of Mines, recommends 'light steel girders (old rails) and logging ... placed to secure the roof' in the Blackwood Chamber; a concrete retaining wall in Blackwood Chamber, and extensive renewal of handrails, suggests possibility of using PVC netting to replace protective wire mesh [Report attached to copy of plan, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: The best example in Australia of Wilson's skill in the installation of protective infrastructure is that in the Royal Cave from the point of entry into the very richly decorated section through to the flowstone known as *Niagara*. The protective netting is particularly neat in design and well constructed. Further, Wilson 'improved' the aesthetic quality of the site by taking stalagmites removed during the pathway construction and placing these in what now appear to be perfectly natural positions in the *Font of the Gods* pool. The resulting *Twelve Apostles* display only had three stalagmites when first discovered and as depicted by Howard Bulmer in the first photograph of the site. Many examples of Wilson's iron railings also survive in Royal Cave. These were constructed of wrought iron and remain remarkably free of rust.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2) Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.2.4 FAIRY CAVE INFRASTRUCTURE

History: **1907:** Entrance to Fairy Cave discovered by Moon, exploration limited by rock fall, cave opened to the public [Committee of Management Report to the Minister of Lands, 15.12.1928, copy in minutes]

1907–21: Earliest sections of iron railings and wire netting installed under the supervision of Frederick Wilson in a similar manner to his work at Jenolan Caves

1909: ‘The best known of the Caves has been named the “Fairy Cave”, and is only a short distance of about half-a-mile over the hill from “Riverview House”, or about a mile by the road. A stairway leading from the face of the hill affords access to the first chamber, about 20 feet below the surface, and from this the journey through the gradually ascending and descending passages is very easily made. ... The beautiful formations are protected from injury by railings and wire netting.’ [Victoria’s Tourists’ Resorts: The Buchan Caves, Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1909; copy of tourist map in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC 37 ‘Brochures’.]

1910: Rock fall negotiated by Wilson, Moon, and Brown, and Blackwood Chamber and passage to Royal Cave discovered

1911: Entrance (later exit) constructed

1918: See Royal Cave Infrastructure for general notes on the history of lighting the caves (Section 3.2.3)

1921: Passage for tourists constructed, visitor flow altered with 1911 entrance changed to become the exit

1924: Decision to continue with the re-wiring of Fairy Cave. [Committee of Management minutes, 16 July 1924]

1928: Special lighting tender for fairy cave accepted, committee to concentrate on Fairy Cave before Royal Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 9 November 1928]

1929: Additional lighting of Fairy Cave completed, improved lighting effects much admired, committee resolved to proceed with work in Royal Cave when funds permitted [Committee of Management minutes, 14 February 1929, 9 April 1929, 24 July 1929]

1930: Frank Moon requested that his daughter be allowed to hold her wedding in Fairy Cave, to which the committee agreed; this took place in the King's Chamber on 14 April 1930 [Committee of Management minutes, 9 May 1930]

1931–32: Rewiring and new lighting undertaken in Fairy Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 11 September 1931, 26 August 1932, 18 November 1932]

1968: Report on infrastructure by Department of Mines, recommends minor works, as well as extensive renewal of handrails, suggests possibility of using PVC netting to replace protective wire mesh [Report attached to copy of plan, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Many examples of Wilson’s iron railings survive in Fairy Cave.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.3 VEGETATION

Note: Tree reference numbers refer to the Tree Survey and Tree Plan in Appendix xx

Tree list will be further verified by a follow-up site inspection prior to completion of the final report.

3.3.1 INDIGENOUS SPECIES

History: Pre-European settlement, the Buchan Caves area consisted of lightly wooded open areas on the Buchan River flood plain. Indigenous vegetation included:

- *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *viminalis* (Manna Gum)
- *Eucalyptus botryoides* (Southern Mahogany Gum)
- *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box)
- *Eucalyptus tricarpa* (Red Ironbark)
- *Eucalyptus rubida* (Candlebark)
- *Eugenia smithii* (Lilly Pilly)
- *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood)
- *Acacia caerulea* (Buchan Blue Wattle) described as a separate species as late as 1989. Prior to this was included under *Acacia obliquinervia* (Mountain Hickory Wattle)
- *Brachychiton populneus* (Kurrajong)

1938: ‘The dedication [of the national Park, by the Minister for Lands, A.E. Lind] will take place on the camping-ground, where the bellbirds have their own amphitheatre. Here are numerous mana gums which are to feed a small colony of koalas. Possums will live in the gum trees and fauna make their home in the parklands of the Caves’ reserve.’ [*Argus Weekend Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1939: Thousands of manna gums reported flourishing on the hillsides

Description/integrity: Much indigenous vegetation remains, especially above the valley floor. Mixed aged examples of above species represented in reserve, except *Eugenia smithii* (not sighted). This is partly due to Linaker’s plan to feature indigenous and native plants together with exotics, and partly because of deliberate National Park policy to retain and plant indigenous trees for wildlife throughout the twentieth century. Trees remaining from this time: *Eucalyptus melliodora* (133 and possibly 427), possibly *E. maculata* (374—the only occurrence in Victoria is south of Buchan: although could be part of Spring Creek camping ground planting), some specimens of *E. rubida* [check numbers], possibly *Angophora floribunda* (389), *Brachychiton populneus* (315), and possibly others

Analysis of cultural significance: Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Contributory value; *Scientific:* Primary value

3.3.2 EARLY PLANTINGS (PRE-1929)

History: 1913: Frederick Wilson was the first to carry out ornamental planting in the reserve, with some initial planting around the newly created artificial entrance of the Royal Cave. Although he was not a horticulturist or gardener, he believed personally that cave reserves should have attractive gardens.

1919: Frank Moon suggested that imported pines be planted in the reserve, matter held over until next season (and not mentioned again in minutes) [Committee of Management minutes 22 October 1919]

1920s: Bill Bonwick reportedly planted a *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark) in the Spring Creek camping ground [Coles]. More were growing ‘wild in the bush’. [This may have been *E. mackintii* or Gippsland Stringybark, indigenous to only the Orbost–Bruthen area and described as a separate species in 1990. [Costermans 1994]

1925: Old tree guards to be replaced and all dying or dead acacias, removed Moon directed to give regular attention to these matters (first mention of trees in minutes for many years) [Committee of Management minutes, 1 April 1925]

1925: 100 cypresses planted around newly completed Caves House [Committee of Management minutes, 19 June 1925]

1928: Committee of Management report to the Minister of Lands on improvements to the reserve makes no mention of beautification of the reserve with landscaping or trees but does mention tree guards; Willows were planted along the river, and near the underground stream, but a date is not known [Committee of Management minutes, 15 December 1928]

Description/integrity: Some cypresses near Caves House may date to this period, but difficult to distinguish from 1930s plantings. Trees remaining from this time include *Pinus halepensis*, planted c.1920 [92], *Populus nigra* 'Italica' (all along the main roadway) [334 and/or 342], *Eucalypts* is one from Bonwick? [*E. macroryncha*]

Analysis of cultural significance: Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* no appreciable value

3.3.3 LINAKER-ERA PLANTINGS (1929–38)

History: 1929: First mention of landscape improvements: Mr Waters (PWD) suggested that as a means of beautifying the reserve Mr Linaker be invited to visit Buchan so as to submit some design for effective tree planting etc., Waters agreed to write to Dr Jones (Inspector-General for the Insane) for the necessary permission to use Linaker's services. [Committee of Management minutes, 30 August 1929]

1929: By this date Linaker had visited the reserve and attended the committee meeting, where he 'stated that he would submit a plan shewing all details later on for the benefit of the Committee, but some of the main points suggested are as follows:

1. Plant dwarf trees along the road to Caves and sow acacias near the entrance gate on steep bank
2. Cut off corner of Moon's fence so as to make a better approach to Ticket Office and make a plantation of scarlet oaks and poplars opposite cottage
3. Scheme for making a fairy bower where the underground stream crosses the road
4. Define walks to all the caves by planting avenues of trees as directed
5. Leave parking areas for all caves and plant two phoenix palms at entrance to Royal Cave
6. Plant golden privet hedge around pavilion with 1 large shady tree and cupressus at back. Make rustic seats and place some 50 feet from the road
7. Plant trees to screen buildings [at Engine House] and also large oak trees so as to park under them
8. When defining walk to Fairy Cave dark trees should be planted in order to give a better effect, screen all lavatories with cupressus [sic] lambertiana and plant mesembryanthemums on the hill near Federal Cave.' [Committee of Management minutes, 8 October 1929]

1929: Linaker draws up plan for reserve. In it he stipulated mixed plantings of deciduous exotics and evergreen native trees, especially eucalypts, throughout reserve. He also designed an avenue of alternating exotic and native trees along the length of the main access road through reserve. Linaker recommended the planting of exotics such as poplars, planes, ash, maples, conifers, and native trees and shrubs including gums, wattles, and Norfolk Island hibiscus. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 November 1929]

1929: Linaker's plan discussed, committee resolved to obtain two tracings of the plan—one to be given to Mr Moon 'or his guidance' when the work is being carried out [Committee of management minutes, 19 December 1929]

1930: Mr Waters suggested a start should be made to carry out portions of Linaker's plan after Easter, especially near the underground river but the matter was held over [Committee of Management minutes, 17 January 1930]

1930: Waters again suggested beginning Linaker's planting scheme, for example, at the 'rockpool', and noted that the trees could be procured at little cost. Fricke pointed out the

need for planting trees or shrubs to hide the conveniences in the camping ground. Secretary to write to Linaker and arrange him to have a discussion with the sub committee in order to 'expedite matters' [Committee of Management minutes, 9 May 1930]

1930: Committee was committed to carrying out Linaker's programme of tree planting throughout the reserve. Request had been made to the Minister for Public Works for the allocation of £300 out of Unemployment Relief to provide labour for tree planting, but no response had been received. Committee secretary had spoken to Linaker to expedite works. [Committee of Management minutes, 4 July 1930]

1930: A start had been made with the tree planting scheme, with 29 ornamentals planted in the camping area and in the small paddock opposite the caretaker's cottage (Caves House), Linaker's plan specified these trees as *Populus monilifera*, *Populus dilatata* (poplars) *Acer negundo* (box elder) *Quercus palustris* (oak) and *Platanus orientalis* (plane). More would have been done but the committee had not received the £300 it needed. Hoped to get better results with funding next winter. [Committee of Management minutes, 19 September 1930]

1930: Trees doing well. Committee agreed to plant mesembryanths around the rocks and start work on the 'little bathing pool' [Committee of Management minutes, 14 October 1930]

1930: Waters urged further tree planting as soon as possible, to which the committee agreed [Committee of Management minutes, 18 December 1930]

1931: Waters encouraged further beautification works, especially the entrance to the caves and the rockpool. Committee decided to erect a 3'6" wire netting fence around the rock pool and Linaker was to be consulted as to further tree planting. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 February 1931]

1931: Wire netting fence completed. 200 posts were to be bought for new tree guards. Committee to visit the reserve soon and examine the hedge around Moon's cottage. Beautification of the entrance gate and the reserve generally to be discussed [Committee of Management minutes, 11 May 1931]

1931: Committee (in company of Linaker) visited the reserve and noted that the trees planted in the previous year were doing well and on Linaker's advice it was decided to plant more trees this season. 8 large lambertianas were to be planted just beyond the caretaker's cottage. Linaker promised to submit a design for the rock pool along with a general list of trees to be planted in other parts of the reserve as per his original plan. Linaker stated that he considered it a privilege to help such an enthusiastic committee. Committee was to clean up the area at Royal Cave where a new ladies WC would [had?] been built and plant trees here. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 May 1931]

1931: The trees planted last year near the caretaker's cottage [i.e. not the lambertianas] were doing well and many more were being planted 'almost immediately' according to the original design. The small area around the spring would shortly be planted with trees and shrubs in accordance with Linaker's plan. Area near Royal Cave had been cleaned up and ground readied for planting trees and shrubs. [Committee of Management minutes, 17 July 1931]

1931: Trees planted in winter doing well, especially those in the rock pool section. This was a much improved area and now a very interesting feature. Obstructing cypress hedge at caretaker's cottage removed as part of road rounding off and widening here [according to Linaker's advice of 1929]. [Committee of Management minutes, 16 October 1931]

1932: Most of the plantation doing well. Further planting of trees to be done this season. Linaker to be asked to visit soon. Dangerous willows in the camp reserve to be lopped [Committee of Management minutes, 18 April 1932]

1932: Linaker sent report on tree planting at Buchan also suggesting a list of trees to be planted this season. Approved by committee. [Committee of Management minutes, 24 June 1932]

1932: Further tree planting was carried out in accordance with the Linaker plan and most doing well. The men now busy planting about another 80 trees as a result of Linaker's recent visit to Buchan, including 4 large lambertianas to replace the trees which [unclear] minutes unclear] last year. Mr Waters suggested a cypress hedge to be planted on both sides of the ramp at the entrance to reserve [near Moon's cottage], to which the committee agreed. [Committee of Management minutes, 26 August 1932]

1932: Cypress hedge planted at entrance gate, poplars planted near Buchan Bridge. Need to water the new plantations; use of a Furphy tank suggested. [Committee of Management minutes, 20 October 1932]

1932: Committee to examine the possibility of hiring a horse, cart, and water pumping equipment for watering trees [Committee of Management minutes, 21 November 1932]

1932: Most of the trees planted in the camp reserve are reported as thriving and the area looks 'very beautiful'. A horse and cart are to be hired for watering. [Committee of Management minutes, 8 December 1932]

1933: Plantations doing well and committee resolved to continue planting in accordance with Linaker's plan when the season arrives. [Committee of Management minutes, 7 April 1933]

1933: Committee to speak to Linaker about further planting of trees [Committee of Management minutes, 19 May 1933]

1933: Some of the trees planted in the reserve doing well, especially the poplars [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933]

1934: Committee resolved to continue the scheme of tree planting and to contact Linaker regarding pruning 'and other matters' [Committee of Management minutes, 4 May 1934]

1934: Committee inspection of reserve: tree plantations looking particularly good, especially in the camp reserve and small paddock near cottage. Whole valley 'is a picture just now with the autumn foliage showing off to perfection'. Next section will commence at Royal Cave and consist of about 40 trees. Holes and tree guards needed. [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1934]

1934: Moon requested permission to cut down 'ti-tree' and scrub from the camp reserve but committee said no ti-tree was to be removed until committee had inspected the site. Blackberries were to be destroyed in this area. Trees planted in previous years reported as thriving and 'have decidedly improved the appearance of the reserve'. Linaker to be asked to expedite delivery of the trees for this season's planting. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 July 1934]

1934: Moon instructed to retain most of the ti-tree and all wattles in camp reserve. Trees planted in this area thriving. Committee suggested a 'pine tree' be planted on the pinnacle of Spion Kop. [Committee of Management minutes, 14 September 1934]

1934: Linaker forwarded a new design for tree planting at Buchan to committee. The committee resolved to thank him for this and invite him to have a discussion with the chairman regarding the suitability of certain trees. Committee decided to let the small paddock opposite the caretaker's house to Moon at a nominal rate (for grazing) but all plantations must be preserved. [Committee of Management minutes, 12 October 1934]

1935: The reserve reported to be in splendid condition and the trees were doing well. [Committee of Management minutes, 22 February 1935]

1935: Linaker's new plan recommended to be implemented. It was decided to plant the area above the Royal Cave outlet and the section up to Fairy Cave according to the new plan as supplied by Linaker. Moon was directed to clear out 'useless scrub' in the camp reserve and cut out scrub and 'certain pussy willows' around the underground stream area as this area was very overgrown. A 'nice fence' had been erected around the Royal Cave outlet and it was intended to plant this enclosure shortly with suitable trees. The camping reserve was fairly overgrown. [Committee of Management minutes, 11 March 1935]

1935: Tree planting decided upon and digging holes for trees and new timber tree guards undertaken [Committee of Management minutes, 12 April 1935]

1935: Trees reported to have been planted according to plan [Committee of Management minutes, 23 August 1935]

1935: Tree plantations have now been made up to Fairy Cave and also in the Royal Cave outlet enclosure and this practically completes the planting of the valley. It was decided to obtain some mesembryanthemums for Royal Cave outlet and hillsides. [Committee of Management minutes, 23 September 1935]

1936: Willow trees at camp reserve have been thinned and blackberries removed Weedex in use but not working very well. Virginia creeper to be planted soon. Decided to suspend any

planting this season but a few extra trees will be needed. [Committee of Management minutes, 23 March 1936]

1936: Camping reserve improved and extra grass seed needed for cleared areas [Committee of Management minutes, 8 May 1936]

1937: Committee resolved to plant more Virginia Creeper on the rockeries at Royal Cave outlet. Many of the trees planted in recent years doing well. Further tree planting discussed and the secretary was asked to bring Linaker's plan to the next meeting. [Committee of Management minutes, 19 April 1937]

1937: Committee decided to hold over further tree planting in accordance with Linaker's plan on the high ground [Committee of Management minutes, 25 June 1937]

1937: Trees ordered for the reserve from Melbourne Botanic Gardens (6 eucalypts, 6 cypresses, 2 poplars, and 2 plane). The secretary was also to talk to the Forests Commission to see if the department was prepared to plant trees on the existing bare hills on the east side of the caves reserve. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 August 1937]

1937: The secretary of the committee reported that when the committee was ready to plant the hills, Mr Murray see Mr Lind and get an interview with the Forests Commission. [Committee of Management minutes, 27 October 1937]

1938: Tree planting 'to be effected', matter discussed in some detail by committee but not recorded in minutes; holes subsequently prepared, trees ordered, and Mr Linaker to visit and supervise in the next few weeks [Committee of Management minutes, 14 May 1938; BC 21]

1938: Mr Firth to select a site in the reserve for making a nursery for trees. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 June 1938]

1938: Site for nursery chosen [Committee of Management minutes, 24 August 1938]

1938: Linaker's death recorded. Committee decided to continue the scheme of planting as set out by Linaker [Committee of Management minutes, 15 October 1938, 4 December 1938]

1938: Official opening of the Buchan Caves National Park (3 December, 1938). Old camping area along river abandoned (see 3.4.1).

1938: 'There is the beauty of willows and gums, acacias, and flowering shrubs. Poplars and elms and birch, cypress, and planted thousands of little trees make a riot of gay greens and leafy brown shadows.' [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1939: Article in *Walkabout* magazine described the developments: 'Now a section of the 750-acre Buchan Caves National Park has been developed into one of the most attractive and most up-to-date motor-camping resorts in Australia. ... when clearing was first begun ... care was taken to preserve trees wherever possible. A progressive policy of tree-planting has since been followed, so that today golden and black wattles, poplars, cypresses, kurrajongs, and imported ornamental trees and shrubs add to the attractiveness of the natural setting. Thousands of manna gums flourish on the hillsides and a further plantation of these trees has been established, as it is proposed to make the Buchan Caves National Park one of the locations where the koala will be encouraged to breed. The manna gum is one of the few eucalypts on which the koala can live.' Brush fencing evident in photograph accompanying article. [*Walkabout*, 1 February 1939, pp.36–37]

Description/integrity: Linaker's plan for planting the reserve was very detailed and specific and it appears that a great many of these trees recommended were planted in this decade. Some early failures were reported due to unsuitability of species for climate (see Section 3.3.4). The 1960s and 1970s saw tree losses due to age and disease, removals due to invasive roots (poplars), and the introduction into Australia of the serious poplar leaf rust fungus. Many of the trees suggested in Linaker's plan were planted during this decade. Some early failures reported due to unsuitability of species for climate. 1960s and 70s saw tree losses due to age and disease, removals due to invasive roots (poplars) and the introduction into Australia of the serious poplar leaf rust fungus. Many trees remain from Linaker's time. Those identified so far are: Nos 1–7, 10, 11, 12, 14–17, 22, 23, 33, 34, 35, 51, 59, 63, 64, 65, 67, 66, 68, 70, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 85, 86, 87–92, 94–96, 97? 100, 103, 105–6, 115–6, 118, 122, 121–131, 133, 134, 136, 143 139–152, 158, 231, 251, 253, 249, 255, 260, 263, 265? 267, 270, 272, 277, 303, 310, 342, 344, 345, 352?, 375?, 376?, 377, 379, 380?, 382–384, 387, 388, 390 ?, 393?, 394, 396, 397, 414?, (402? Could be 1955 T), 406, 408–9, 410–16, 418, 429,

430–1, 432? 434, 436?, 448? 450, 451, 452, 455?, 465?, 468, 459,456, 458, 457, 460, 461, 462, 463, 467, 468 [may be Owens / Sandford period] [This list will be further verified by a follow-up site inspection prior to completion of the final report.]

Analysis of cultural significance: Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* no appreciable value

3.3.4 OWENS / SANDFORD ERA PLANTINGS (1939–42)

History: 1939: Plantation of *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *viminalis* (Manna Gum) established to encourage koalas to breed; improvements in reserve to include construction of koala park (£180) and tree planting (£150), 900 exotic and native trees were purchased for £139 [filed before May 1939]

1939: Committee decided to contact J.T. Smith (Melbourne City Council) and ask him to submit his report to the committee re ‘removal and planting of large trees in Camping Area’ [Committee of Management minutes, 20 January 1939]

1939: Letter to the committee from Woodgate (employed in the Reserve) suggesting he transplant some of the larger deciduous trees for shade trees for the camping bays [File BC 21, 9 February 1939]

1939: Committee decided that ‘an area commencing from the fence line above Caves House and continuing along the fence line to a point above Federal Cave be planted with around 300 trees in accordance with the scheme laid down by the committee of management’. Secretary was to make an application to the Forests Commission for a supply of 500–600 trees for the reserve and obtain seed for two ploughed areas above Federal Cave. Committee resolved that when Smith makes an inspection of the reserve he was to report on planting the camping area with trees, planting the area between the dressing sheds with trees, planting the area in front of the Campers’ Lounge with shrubs, and planting suitable shrubs around the communal kitchen. At this time Frank Moon was also instructed to cut and trim the hedge at the ramp and erect brush fencing [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939]

1939: Quotation for digging of 300 holes for trees accepted. The committee was to approach J.T. Smith to see if his assistant curator, Mr Owens, would come to Buchan and report on planting ‘in view of the necessity of planting the Camping Area and Swimming Pool area with suitable trees’. [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1939]

1939: Committee arranging with Smith to supply 100 trees suitable for planting in the reserve, trees were to be planted in accordance with instructions as set out by Mr Owens. Holes to be dug by 30 June. Committee also applied for a grant from the Employment Council for £2500 various works including road reconstruction, building, and tree planting. [Committee of management minutes, 14 June 1939]

1939: 100 trees were to come from Mr Smith. A supply of mesembryanthemums was sought from the Chief Civil Engineer, Way and Works Department, Victoria Railways. [Committee of management minutes, 10 August 1939]

1939: Moon was instructed to place wires in position at entrance to the park for creepers to climb on, plant hedge and lay out areas adjoining Engine House and Storeroom [Committee of Management minutes, 29 October 1939]

1940: Balance of monies held in the maintenance vote to be expended on oil, electrical equipment, folders and *trees*. Secretary of committee to speak to Smith re submitting a plan for the ‘beautification of certain areas at the Buchan Caves park by the planting of creepers, shrubs etc.’ [Committee of Management minutes, 17 May 1940]

1940: Report by J.T. Owens, Parks and Gardens, Melbourne City Council, laid before committee and discussed fully [see 4.3.3]. Committee wished to speak with Owens again with regard to implementing certain of the proposals made. In his report, Owens noted poplars and willows lined river banks on approach from main road. Reported losses in recent plantings due to climatic unsuitability and over-planting, but avenue trees thriving. Noted that the

following trees were *in situ* – plane, poplar (four types) cypress- *macrocarpa*, *arizonica*, *torulosa* and *lawsoniana*, silver birch (*Betula pendula*), and fine specimens of indigenous trees, including *Brachychiton populneus* (kurrajong). Suggested additional plantings of flowering shrubs and trees and the creation of selected sites devoted to rhododendrons and azaleas. His report criticised tree spacing around swimming pool and camping ground, and proposed new planting scheme for the high ground at the head of the pool and the approach to Fairy Cave (see Appendix xx for full transcript of report). ‘The report will serve as a valuable basis for ...formulating future plans as regards the development and beautification of the Park’. [Committee of Management minutes, 19 July 1940; letter from Secretary of the Buchan Caves Committee to J.T. Smith, Curator of Melbourne Parks and Gardens, 6 August 1940].

1940: Committee raised the question of whether a creeper had been planted on one of the dressing sheds. [Committee of Management minutes, 6 September 1940]

1940: Retirement of Frank Moon (20 November 1940) [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

1940: Albert Sandford appointed curator following Frank Moon’s retirement. Sandford had a long background as a foreman at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens.

1941: Sandford present at meeting at request of committee. Hedge at cattle pit to be trimmed. Trellis for creepers to be erected outside Caves House. [Committee of Management minutes, 6 April 1941]

1941: Sandford proposed, and was permitted, to relandscape the swimming pool area to Owens specifications. [Letter from Sandford to Mr Rix, Secretary of Buchan Caves Committee of Management 16 April 1941]

1941: Sandford’s proposals for Caves House garden deferred by the committee [Committee of Management minutes, 16 May 1941]

1941: Sandford to proceed with the proposed alterations and improvements at the Swimming pool rockery as shown in his sketch of 1 June 1941. Sandford suggested a mixed planting of native (*grevillea*, *eriodendron*) and exotic (*nerium*, *viburnum*) shrubs in the new pool rockery, but it is not known if the re-design and planting was ever carried out. [Committee of Management minutes, 27 June 1941; letter 28 June 1941 from Secretary of Department of Lands and Survey to H. Sandford] **Lee to clarify this (see above 27.6.1941)**

1941: Secretary reported completion of the rockery work at the pool and mesembryanthemums had been planted. [Committee of Management minutes, 28 November 1941]

1941: Trellis opposite Caves House had been planted up with the mock vine cuttings taken from vines at the dressing shelters at the pool. [BC 21, 4 December 1941]

1942: Sandford recalled to Melbourne due to the war, other employees had enlisted. 2 men to be employed temporarily under the supervision of the Inspector of the Lands Department. [Committee of Management minutes, 24 April 1942]

Committee agreed that the vine creepers on the Ladies dressing Shelter be transferred to the conveniences opposite Caves House and the brush fences at the camp ground. ???

Description/integrity: Some recommendations of the Owens’ report appear to have been carried out and remain to date, for example, the careful provision of shade trees for main camping ground, flanking trees along Fairy Cave approach, and sites devoted to rhododendrons and azaleas. Trees remaining from this time: **may be from Linaker [450, 451, 452, 455?, 465?, 468, 459,456, 458, 457, 460, 461, 462, 463, 467, 468]Will need to be clarified by measurements from path on final site visit, 256, 271 [rhododendrons], 258, 259, 254, 248, 245 [shrubs]**

Analysis of cultural significance: Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.3.5 POST-WAR PLANTINGS (1946–72)

History: 1942–46: Caves closed (1 March 1942 to 3 April 1946) due to World War 2

1946: First meeting of the advisory committee. Position of curator to be abolished and the reserve supervised by local Lands Department Inspector. [Advisory Committee minutes, 16 April 1946]

1955: Percy Trevaskis, Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, Public Works Department, visited the park, listing the existing trees along the main drive and camping ground and suggesting new tree plantings, especially on the slope opposite the Royal Cave entrance (see [Appendix xx](#)). Trevaskis would remain involved with planting in the park for the next few years.

1958: New advanced shade trees suggested for 16 new camping bays (one between each bay at the entrance) in Spring Creek camping ground (then new) near the new (1958) public conveniences. 12 advanced shade trees recommended for similar planting in 80 acre gully (northern arm), used for overflow of campers. Suggested replacement of brush fences between bays in central camping ground with live hedges of green and golden privet. This did not go ahead. Recommended 100 manna gums planted on northern slopes near the main camping area for food for koalas.

1964: Toilet facilities, ground prepared and trees planted in the (new) northern camping area (northern arm). New entrance to Royal Cave proposed ([happened post 1971?](#)).

1966: New planting plan drawn up to cope with tree losses due to age and disease, removal of poplars due to invasive roots and plantings needed to screen new utilitarian buildings

1967: R.T.M. Pescott, Director of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, joined Buchan Caves Advisory Committee and reported on proposed native garden (possibly a sanctuary for East Gippsland flora) in reserve

1968–69: Southern slopes of Spion Kop and banks of Spring Creek planted with natives as a result of report

1969–72: Many trees in campground area planted. Threat of poplar leaf rust infestation meant *Populus deltoides* and *P. nigra* no longer planted, and recently planted specimens were removed. Many exotics (conifers and deciduous broadleaf species) ordered for reserve. 1970 (ordered from the Natural Resources Conservation League in Dec. 1970 and received July 1971)- 6 each of silver and gold variegated *Acer negundo*, 6 *Fraxinus excelsior* 'Aurea', 20 *Fraxinus raywoodii*, 6 *Prunus* 'Elvins', 6 each of *Prunus pissari nigra* and *P. nigra*. Possibly also 12 *Virgilia oroboides* (syn. *capense*) and 50 *Eucalyptus viminalis* were ordered at this time from the NRC league. From the Forests Commission, Macedon some 6 *Acer palmatum*, 6 *Populus deltoides* and assorted shrubs such as boronia, buddleia, cistus, clethra, diosma, euonymus, felicia, forsythia, hydrangea, leptospermum, philadelphus and viburnum also appear to have been ordered. Eric Coles states that the trees and euonymus and leptospermum shrubs were planted. The Forests Commission, in 1971, also appears to have provided 6 *Acer pseudoplatanus*, 6 *Sequoia sempervirens*, 50 *Cupressus arizonica*, 50 *Cupressus lambertiana* 'Horizontalis', and 6 *C. aurea saligna*.

Description/integrity: Campground area trees mature and intact. Natives planted on Spion Kop and Spring Creek possibly gone, due to senescence. Trees remaining from this time: *Acacia* sp. No 398, *Acacia* sp. No. 403, *Brachychiton populneus* no. 401, *Platanus x acerifolia* 400, *Pittosporum / buechananii* 399, (*Cupressus torulosa* 402? possibly, although said to be 1938 by Cole), *Acacia baileyana* 404 (all from Trevaskis 1955 Royal Cave slope but unconfirmed – need to check size of trees), *Pinus ponderosa* no. 66, 226, 434 - 1960, *Populus yunnanensis* no. 135- 1960, *Thuja plicata* no. 93, 321?, 471? –1960, many specimens of *Tilia (europaea or cordata)* – 1960, *Quercus palustris* no 273, 299, 437, 439, 441 – 1970, *Quercus rubra* 309, *Q. species* 284 – 1970, *Sequoia sempervirens* no. 373, 446? Too big? Maybe in the 1950s because of its size?, 473, 475 by 1970,

Spring Creek camping ground and picnic area (taken from plan only because of new development here 1958 onwards) - 312, 313, 317, 318, 323, 324, 325, 327, 328, 333, 335?, 334, 336, 339, 341?, 342?, 343, 344, 346? (too young?) 345?, 350? 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 381, 382, 383 ([may belong to avenue planting earlier date check](#))

Analysis of cultural significance: Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable significance

3.3.6 RECENT PLANTINGS (POST-1972) [LEE help]

History: 1976: Projects considered necessary to the future development of the reserve included a continuing programme of tree planting, screening Royal Cave toilets with a hedge or shrubs, and the development of the northern arm camping area. This area had shade trees and dividing hedges planted? Check, tree and shrub planting required throughout the entire northern arm camping area, which was to be extended beyond the 'cattle grid' [and amenities block] to the end of the arm. [General report of the sub committee meeting and inspection at Buchan Caves reserve on 24 and 25 May 1976 in BC 21 file]

1976: Variety and attractiveness of trees in reserve to be exploited by measures such as arboretum register of the trees (position, identification), extensive naming of trees via name tags, maintaining diversity of new plantings, interpretation of tree information to public via information shelter, zoning of different types of vegetation in the reserve [Letter dated 25 November 1976 from P.B. Lavery, Land Management Officer, Dept Crown Lands and Survey, Regional Land Office, Bairnsdale, to Secretary Buchan Caves Advisory Committee]

1980s–90s: Screen planting at Royal Cave entrance and swimming pool; tree species planted to continue Linaker recommendations

1990s–2003: mixed (native and exotic) shrubberies planted outside and across from guides' room, along entrance road, adjacent interpretation centre, cabins and offices, and outside Royal and Fairy Cave entrances. Extensive plantings of *Acacia caerulescens* (Buchan Blue Wattle) on hillsides within the reserve and around the toilet/ shower facility in northern arm camping ground, re-planting of hillsides to improve cave microclimate.

Description/integrity: Appear intact and thriving. Trees remaining from this time:

Pseudotsuga menziesii no. 82, 83, 84 post 1970, 194 *Tilia* species - new planting, 395

Quercus robur Royal Cave

Analysis of cultural significance: Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value;

Social/spiritual: Contributory value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.4 CAMPING AREAS

3.4.1 FORMER CAMPING GROUND

History: 1926: First mention of camping when the committee resolve not permit camping in the reserve [Committee of Management minutes, 20 April 1926, 13 September 1926]

1929: First positive mention of camping sites, several sites examined and the site between Caves House and the bridge judged the most favourable. Sanitation considered the main problem, but this could be overcome by the committee of management taking control of this area. Committee considered it might be advisable to purchase a small strip of land adjoining the camp site near the bridge; survey undertaken and land purchased for £5. [Committee of Management minutes, 9 April 1929, 17 May 1929, 24 July 1929, 30 August 1929] 1929, 8 October 1929]

1929: Sub-committee formed to deal with the campsite. It was decided to make it between the bridge and Caves Reserve. Four 'proper conveniences' were required to be located above high water mark for campers and a road was needed through the campsite to the reserve coming out near the 'main sign board'; sanitary conveniences provided and the site cleaned up in readiness for Christmas. 'It will be some time before a serviceable road can be made from the camping area into the reserve.' [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1929, 19 December 1929]

1930: Buchan River flats gazetted for public purposes, camping site operating satisfactorily, trees planted [see 3.3.3] [Annual Report, 1930–31; Committee of Management minutes, 17 January 1930, 9 May 1930]

1930: Toilet structures consist of hessian enclosures with pans and night soil service, four new water closets erected [Committee of Management minutes, 7 March 1930, 14 October 1930; Annual Report, 1930–31]

1930: Some fencing been erected at the camp reserve near the bridge, improving the appearance of the reserve [Committee of Management minutes, 18 December 1930]

1935: Camping area refenced [Committee of Management minutes, 11 March 1935, 12 April 1935, 14 June 1935]

1935: Committee considers provision of septic tank at caves and the camp ground [Committee of Management minutes, 23 September 1935, 25 October 1935]

1936: Camping area cleared of blackberries and scrub, trees reported as thriving [Committee of Management minutes, 17 July 1936]

1936–37: Problems with flooding give rise to discussion of alternative sites [Committee of Management minutes, 24 January 1936, 23 March 1936, 17 July 1936; letter from Secretary Buchan Caves Committee to the Secretary, PWD, in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee ‘Development’ file, BC 21]

c.1938: Facilities described in RACV guide including ‘Sheltered area of 5 acres accom. 20 car parties ... fresh water from river running through area ... Six fireplaces [and] Sanitary convs. (septic tank).’ [*The Official R.A.C.V. Camping and Caravanning Guide*, Broadbent’s Official Road Guides Co., Melbourne, c.1938, p.75.]

1938: Camping ground superseded by greatly enhanced facilities on Spring Creek (see 3.4.2)

1939: Moon requested to obtain offers for the right to graze this area. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 October 1939]

1940: Proposal for disused camping ground to provide grazing for ‘curator’s domestic stock and ... committee’s horse.’ [Plan in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee Development File, BC 21, Department of Crown Lands and Survey]

1941: Conveniences retained and screened with trellis and vines [BC 21, 4 December 1941]

Description/integrity: Grassed river flats no longer used for camping

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.4.2 MAIN CAMPING GROUND

History: **1937:** Proposal for new ‘Camping and Parking Area’ initiated by Committee of Management, possibly with log cabins for shelter; the Betterment and Publicity Board strongly recommended that the Minister for Lands, as Chairman of the Unemployment Relief Fund Committee, be approached in order to obtain the necessary funds for initial works [i.e. provision of camping and parking area and water supply] in the proposed development into a National Park from the Fund. [Memo from Betterment and Publicity Board, to Secretary for Lands, 15 September 1937, in BC 21 file]

1937–38: Tree planting continued along main road and new camping area under supervision of Linaker. Vines and shrubs also planted to decorate newly constructed buildings [see 3.3.3]

1938: Resolution by committee ‘That the present camping area on the bank of the river near the bridge be abandoned and a new parking and camping area developed on the right-hand side of the roadway at a point on the flat approximately opposite the entrance to the Federal Cave.’ [Report on the Development of the Buchan Caves Area by the Buchan Caves Committee, in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee ‘Development’ file, 2 February 1938, file BC 21]

1938: ‘Along the banks of the Spring Creek approximately two-thirds of a mile from the Buchan entrance there is an area of approximately 4 acres of land ideally situated for the establishment of a modern camping park. The proposed scheme for the development of this area is the construction of access roads to the camping sites, provision of water (supplied by water scheme from underground river), electric lighting (from Caves lighting plant), sewered conveniences, shelters, laundry, kitchens, kiosk (for the sale of provisions, etc.) and other amenities in the form of a recreation hall, children’s playground and tennis courts. ‘ [Memo from A.D.Mackenzie ‘Development Buchan Caves Reserve’ submitted for the information of the Employment Council, 11 April 1938, in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee Development’ BC 21 file]

1938: Detailed plans formulated and works carried out, including kitchen ([see Section x.y](#)), campers lounge ([Section x.y](#)), laundry ([Section x.y](#)), toilet and shower block ([Section x.y](#)), two sections of brush fencing (forming screens to provide privacy for caravan users) (now demolished), car wash ([Section x.y](#)), and children’s playground ([section x.y](#)) [[see Appendix xx for full text of relevant documentation from the Development File](#)]

1938: ‘Further on are the camping compartments, room for 100 camps, separate sites for cars and caravans or places to pitch tents ... This is a home ground of prettily planned and distinctive buildings. [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1939: Committee decided to contact J.T.Smith (Melbourne City Council) and ask him to submit his report to the committee re ‘removal and planting of large trees in Camping Area’. Committee resolved that when Smith makes an inspection of the reserve he was to report on planting the camping area with trees, planting the area between the dressing sheds with trees, planting the area in front of the Campers’ Lounge with shrubs, and planting suitable shrubs around the communal kitchen. [Committee of Management minutes, 20 January 1939, 2 April 1939, 2 April 1939]

1939: Woodgate, an employee at the reserve, suggested to the Committee of Management that instead of using posts along the roadway in the camping area, rocks could be used. He suggested that use could be made of excess rocks plentiful in the reserve. He recommended placing the rocks against each other with a large header painted white placed every 10 yards and at corners. He also included a diagram. Woodgate also suggested to the committee that rock-edged, gravelled parking bays could be constructed to stop cars ‘running and parking all over the flats’. [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 ‘Development’, 9 February 1939, 17 February 1939]

1939: Moon was instructed to erect stone edging in the camping ground and to mark off camping areas in rows of stone and complete stone work in the camping area [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939, 29 October 1939]

1939–40: Stone fireplaces (barbecues) erected in camping area (see 3.5.10)

1939: The committee was to approach J.T.Smith to see if his assistant curator, Mr Owens, would come to Buchan and report on planting ‘in view of the necessity of planting the Camping Area and Swimming Pool area with suitable trees’, committee arranged with J.T. Smith to supply 100 trees suitable for planting in the reserve, to be planted in accordance with instructions as set out by Mr Owens. [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1939, 14 June 1939, 10 August 1939]

1939: Committee applied for a grant from the Employment Council for £2500 to cover various works including road reconstruction, tree planting, and construction including building shelters and covered fireplaces [presumably in the camping area]. [Committee of Management minutes, 14 June 1939]

1939: Moon instructed to mark out camping areas in rows of stone and complete stone work in the camping area. The barbecues were to be erected as a matter of urgency. [c of m minutes, 29 October 1939]

1941: ‘... the Camping Park within the National Park possesses accommodation for 100 cars and caravans.’ [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

1941: Additional shrub planting following suggestions of the 1940 Owens’ report [see 3.3.4]

1958–59: Brush fences between bays in central camping ground becoming dilapidated. Recommendation to replace with live hedges of green and golden privet. The brush fences were eventually removed, but were not replaced [see 3.3.5]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows detail of electrical ‘outlet heads’ for caravan sites; 26 fluorescent light fittings installed on poles throughout main camping ground and along road [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

1967–72: Major replanting of camping ground trees [see 3.3.5]

Description/integrity: The campers lounge, kitchen, and rustic stone edging remain from the 1938 works, as do the general layout of the camping ground (including the 1938 roadways, the location of other major features (such as the toilet / shower block), and considerable tree planting (see section x.y)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.4.3 NORTH ARM CAMPING GROUND

History: 1958: 12 advanced shade trees recommended for planting in 80 acre gully (northern arm— also known as Moon Cave Gully), used for overflow of campers [see 3.3.5]

1964: Toilet facilities, ground prepared and trees planted in the (new) northern camping area (northern arm). [see section 3.3.5]

1970s: Many new trees ordered for reserve in general, some planted in this camping ground.

1976: Additional sites suggested in area beyond amenities block, resulting in extension of the roadway from the ‘cattle grid’ to the end of the arm, approximately 150 yards. A total of 70 camping sites provided, 30 of which were powered. Tree and shrub planting throughout the entire northern arm camping ground, and shade trees and dividing hedges in place [General report of sub-committee meeting and inspection held at Buchan Caves Reserve on 24 and 25 May 1976: Projects necessary for future development of reserve, in BC 21 file]

1979: New Northern Arm toilet facilities commissioned [John Rogerson notes]

1980s?: Camping ground extended northwards beyond the amenities block **check date**

Description/integrity: Used for overflow camping during busy times; roadway also forms part of walking track through **[Moon Gully?]**; contains many plantings which continue the design themes of the main camping ground and reserve

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.4.4 SPRING CREEK CAMPING GROUND

History: 1939: ‘Tins Sheds’ and a footbridge between the two ‘flats’ shown in the vicinity of the future Spring Creek camping ground on plans accompanying report by L.H. Archibald. Archibald’s report recommended the use of this area not for parking, but ‘a valuable area as the park develops [*sic*]’. He recommended that cars could gain access to the flat via a track, and ‘a rustic foot bridge’ over the watercourse could link both flats [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 ‘Development’, report dated 2 November 1939.]

1957: Area cleared of stones, levelled, and ‘sown down’ [i.e. with lawn], road entry constructed, site for toilet block and laundry selected, arrangements made for reticulated water and lighting to area, intention to have new camping ground open for use by Easter

1958, recommended expenditure £3000 (mostly for toilet block) [Memorandum prepared by Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, 29 October 1957, attached to drawing of toilet block, copy held by PV, BCR]

1958: Plans and estimates prepared for toilet block [see 3.5.25]

1958: 16 new camping bays and advanced shade trees recommended [see 3.3.5]

Description/integrity: Used for overflow camping during busy times but now disused; contains many plantings which continue the design themes of the main camping ground and reserve; contains Spring Creek toilet block

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1) European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

3.5.1 ENTRANCE ARCHWAY

History: 1925: First mention in minutes of entrance gates when committee resolved to paint entrance gates and strengthen them (these seem to have been outside Moon's house). [Committee of Management minutes, 1 April 1925]

1926: First mention in minutes of 'arch' on roadway near bridge (presumably Buchan Bridge). The committee decided to carry out this work as soon as possible under Mr Reed's direction, but presumably this did not occur. [Committee of Management minutes, 20 April 1926]

1931: Designs being drawn up by Mr Waters for improving the entrance to the reserve considered very satisfactory by the committee. Committee was also waiting for a design from Linaker for his scheme for the area. [Committee of Management minutes, 17 July 1931; Annual Report, 1930–31]

1931: At the entrance (outside caretaker's cottage) a 'very good cattle pit' constructed of pipes on heavy wooden bearers and road rounded off as Linaker had suggested in 1929. Committee decided to erect a suitable gateway to the reserve at the turn off near the Buchan Bridge to consist of a double gate and a cattle pit similar in design to the one recently installed past the cottage, but this work may not have been undertaken (given other proposals mentioned in ensuing years) [Committee of Management minutes, 16 October 1931]

1937: Grant of £150 obtained for entrance to reserve, erection of the entrance to be carried out by the PWD [Committee of Management minutes, 27 October 1937]

1938: 'Entrance structure consisting of masonry pillars with log archway has been completed. To enhance the appearance of the main entrance to the Caves Reserve a section of ornamental masonry walling, incorporating a suitably designed notice board, is suggested from the entrance archway towards the bridge abutment. If desired a design for this feature could be submitted.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, in BC 21 file, filed between 26 June 1938 and 16 August 1938]

1938: Linaker planted '4 Scarlet Vines and 6 shrubs' at the 'Main Entrance: Pergola' [Letter from Linaker to Caves Committee, n.d.]

1939: Frank Moon instructed to oil the logs at the entrance and erect a tablet (for which a quote had been accepted by committee) and cut and trim hedge at the ramp. Moon also instructed to place wires in position at the entrance to the park (presumably on the entry arch) for creepers to climb on. [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939, 29 October 1939]

1941: Small photograph of entrance archway [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

2001–02: Log archway rebuilt in an altered configuration to permit use by high vehicles [Dale Calnin, pers. comm., 19 May 2003]

Description/integrity: Masonry base structure remains substantially intact from 1938, log archway rebuilt 2001–02

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.2 PUMP HOUSE

History: 1939: Construction date of pump house not known, but after 1939 [building not shown on 1939 plan]

1942: Inventory of stores and tools in ‘No. 1 Pump Shed’, possibly this building [Copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve: BC52]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows ‘Pump shed’ [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Small concrete and timber structure with associated pipe outlet [Dale: what is this building used for? Still pumping?]

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value;

Social/spiritual: No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.3 CAVES HOUSE

History: 1922: Erection of a new cottage suggested for caretaker Moon by PWD and committee agreed to a 4-roomed cottage [Committee of Management minutes, 27 October 1922]

1923: Chief architect of PWD to be approached for design for new cottage, design for 5-roomed cottage approved by committee. It was agreed that the new cottage would be much closer to the caves than the existing old one and a new site was to be chosen at the committee’s next visit to the reserve [Committee of Management minutes, 11 April 1923, 30 May 1923]

1923: Tender accepted for constructing the cottage ‘in wood’ from S. Halmshaw at a cost of £1187 10s [Committee of Management minutes, 29 November 1923]

1924: Cottage nearing completion and ready for occupancy in a few weeks. Gravel for paths around the new cottage to be purchased. New lino and furniture to be provided for ‘office’ (presumably in new cottage) [Committee of Management minutes, 16 July 1924]

1925: Moon requested some cypress plants to make a hedge around the cottage; 100 cypress trees ordered from the Forestry Commission [see 3.3.2] [Committee of Management minutes, 19 June 1925]

1925: Committee orders that no-one is allowed to live or camp in the old cottage, or sell off any useful timber at present [Committee of Management minutes, 9 July 1925]

1926: Old cottage sold for £15 (excluding bricks and stone) [Committee of Management minutes, 13 September 1926]

1929: Caretaker’s cottage painted [Committee of Management minutes, 24 July 1929]

1935: ‘All buildings in the reserve have been painted in accordance with a design to suit the landscape and the curator’s cottage was brought into line when painted a few months ago.’ [Committee of Management minutes, 23 August 1935]

1935: New wire fence constructed around the back of Caves House ‘like new one erected around the camp reserve’ [Committee of Management minutes, 13 December 1935]

1936: Cottage ‘thoroughly renovated under the supervision of Mr Orgill’ [Annual Report, 1935–36; see also Committee of Management minutes, 23 March 1936]

1940: Office at Caves House to be removed and the PWD asked to prepare a plan for the building of an office [Committee of Management minutes, 19 January 1940, 3 March 1940]

1941: Small oblique aerial photograph of Caves House [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

c.1948: Valued at £2200 in c.1948 insurance valuation

1957: Advisory Committee recommend additions to office at Caves House to enhance ticket-selling facilities, appears to correspond with undated plan of ‘Buchan Caves Residence / Proposed Extension to Office’ prepared by Public Works Department [Memorandum prepared by Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, 29 October 1957, attached to drawing of Spring Creek toilet block, copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve; copy of PWD plan held at Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Weatherboard bungalow, continuously maintained and used as residence, initially for caretaker? but more recently for Parks Victoria staff? used to sell tickets until 19??

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.4 SHEDS

History: 1950s: Construction possibly commenced during the 1950s and then continuously extended and upgraded [Building not shown in c.1949 envelope of photos]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows two man buildings labelled ‘Power House’ and ‘Garage’ in this location [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Weatherboard bungalow; used as residence of who???

Analysis of cultural significance: Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value;

Social/spiritual: No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.5 TENNIS COURT

History: 1935: Committee to consider the provision of septic tanks, swimming pool, and tennis courts in reserve. PWD asked to estimate cost of erecting tennis courts at a suitable place further up the valley than the underground stream. [Committee of Management minutes, 23 September 1935, 25 October 1935]

1936: Estimates received for tennis courts from PWD, but committee decide not to proceed at present [Committee of Management minutes, 14 February 1936, 23 March 1936]

1938: Tennis court constructed as part of the National Park works [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, in BC 21 file; memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file]

1938: ‘The tennis-court is the first structure beyond the Caves’ House.’ [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1938–39: Peppercorn trees planted on southern corner of court [see 3.3.3]

1939: Moon instructed to roll and mark the tennis court. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 October 1939]

1941: ‘The tennis court is flounced by pink mounds of portulaca elevated in the scenic balance of trees and slopes.’ [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

1957: Floodlighting of tennis court recommended by Advisory Committee ‘to provide entertainment at night’, estimate of cost £100 [Memorandum prepared by Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, 29 October 1957, attached to drawing of toilet block, copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Resort]

Description/integrity: The main structure of the tennis court remains substantially intact although the facility is no longer maintained for its original purpose and has in recent years been used for staff parking

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.6 ENGINEER’S RESIDENCE

History: 1950s: Probably constructed in the 1950s [not shown on 1948 CRB plan nor mentioned in c.1948 insurance valuation]

1952: see letter in thin file

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows ‘Engineer’s residence’ [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Weatherboard bungalow; used as residence of **who???**; small timber shed in rear of yard

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.7 SWIMMING POOL

History: 1930: Committee agreed to plant mesembryanths around the rocks and start work on the ‘little bathing pool’ [Committee of Management minutes, 14 October 1930]

1931: Mr Waters encouraged further beautification works, especially the entrance to the caves and the rock pool. 3’6” wire netting fence erected around the rock pool. Linaker to be consulted as to further tree planting. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 February 1931, 11 May 1931]

1931: Linaker visited the reserve with the committee. Linaker promised to submit a design for the rock pool along with a general list of trees to be planted in other parts of the reserve as per his original plan. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 May 1931]

1931: The small area around the spring would shortly be planted with trees and shrubs in accordance with Linaker’s plan. [Committee of Management minutes, 17 July 1931]

1935: Committee to consider the provision of septic tanks, swimming pool, and tennis courts in reserve. PWD asked to estimate cost of establishing a swimming pool at the small enclosure for the underground stream [Committee of Management minutes, 23 September 1935, 25 October 1935, 14 February 1936]

1936: Establishment of a swimming pool ‘at the mouth of Spring Creek’ (apparently at its confluence with the Buchan River) approved by committee, location of the swimming pool shed fixed [Committee of Management minutes, 23 March 1936, 5 October 1936; Annual Report, 1935–36]

1938: Report from A.C. Drew (25 July 1938) regarding the proposed swimming pool (see **Appendix xx for transcription**). Committee minutes show that Drew’s report for the pool was accepted and Mr Waters was to be ‘interviewed’ about construction of the walls. [Committee of Management minutes, 24 August 1938]

1938: Swimming pool constructed at the mouth of the spring as part of the National Park works. 'The construction of the swimming pool has involved removal of considerable quantities of solid rock and the winter conditions have made progress slow. The excavations have now been completed and the walls are being constructed. Tenders have been obtained for the supply and delivery of selected tiles for the pool and the tender of the Australian Tessellated Tile Company for the sum of £62 ... will be recommended.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed between 26 June and 16 August 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: 'The construction of walls and surfacing of floor of pool nearing completion. The sluice valves had to be made and only received this week. They are now being fitted and when ready will enable furnishing of promenade around pool.' [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file]

1938: Committee approved the construction of the 'promenade walk' around the swimming pool 6" below the walls. [Committee of Management minutes, 4 November 1938]

1938: Linaker supervised planting of '9 evergreen trees' (later criticised in the 1940 Owens report for incorrect spacing) on the hill behind the pool [see 3.3.4]

1938: 'Out of the hills comes a stream of the purest mineral water, very faintly green and refreshing. It has the temperature of the caves, always 59deg. in winter and summer. This water fills a fine modern swimming pool, running ceaselessly in, and overflowing under the road and into Spring Creek. It increases in warmth on exposure to the sun and by reflection from the rock walls of the pool. The pool is floodlighted at night ...'. [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1938–39: Swimming pool used for swimming lessons [Committee of Management minutes, 29 October 1939]

1940–41: Rock formation at back of swimming pool 'properly prepared for the growing of rock plants', Sandford to proceed with the proposed alterations and improvements at the swimming pool rockery as shown in his sketch (dated 1 June 1941), mesembryanthemums planted. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940, 27 June 1941, 28 November 1941]

1941: 'All-the-year swimming in the swimming pool is one of the outstanding attractions. In this pool, sunk in the hard marble rock, the water in summer is delightfully cool and refreshing; in winter it is warm at 59 degrees. While the temperature of the water never varies in its course underground, it increases in the pool, rising to 70 degrees by the action of the sun on the rocks. Drawn from an underground stream, the crystal-clear water runs continuously, fed by an inexhaustible deep spring. From the nearby dressing sheds, you look down on the pool, tinted a pale lime-green. It is a mirror set in a frame of dark coping stone, fringed by the white flags of the promenade on which stand ornamental seats of stained wood.' [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

Description/integrity: The swimming pool is intact and still in use.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.8 SWIMMING POOL CHANGE ROOMS

History: **1938:** Committee approved the construction of two shelters (each 10'x 8') at the Swimming Pool [Committee of Management minutes, 4 November 1938]

1938: '... there are dressing rooms for men and women.' [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1939: Committee resolved that when J.T. Smith makes an inspection of the reserve that amongst other items he was to report on planting the area between the dressing sheds with trees [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939, 12 May 1939]

1939: Cuttings taken from the 'Mock Vine' screening the swimming pool conveniences, for growing on trellis screening old camping ground conveniences [see 3.3.3]

1941: 'Also available [adjoining the pool] are hot and cold shower baths, with porcelain basins and complete bathroom fittings, and sewered conveniences.' [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows the original separate dressing sheds demolished by this date and replaced by present single building [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity:

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.9 FENCE AROUND DOLINE

History: Date of iron fencing around doline (the large depression on the hillside overlooking Moon Gully) unknown, but possibly as early as the Wilson era (1907–21), or presumably by 1938–39.

Description/integrity: This fence is intact.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.10 BARBECUE

History: **1939:** 3 stone fireplaces were to be erected in the lee of the hill at the camping area. [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939]

1939: Committee applied for a grant from the Employment Council for £2500 for works including the building of shelters and covered fireplaces [Committee of Management minutes, 14 June 1939]

1939: 3 stone fireplaces to *urgently* be erected in the camping area by Moon. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 October 1939]

1940: Additional fireplaces to be erected for campers. New ones to adjoin the existing ones at each set of car bays. Committee agreed to remove the present iron fireplace (adjoining the kiosk) and replace it with a stone one 'in keeping with the adjacent buildings'. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

1941: 'Other features of the National Park include rustic seats for open-air picnics; open fire places ...'. [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

Description/integrity: Rustic stonework, last remaining one of at least four similar structures (one near rotunda and two on flat immediately before Fairy Cave entrance)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable significance

3.5.11 OFFICES

History: Constructed 1990s? [Dale: any ideas?]

Description/integrity:

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.12 FEDERAL CAVE ENTRANCE

History: 1919: Arch over the entrance to Federal Cave to be constructed in the same style as the one at Royal Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 11 January 1919]

1923: Chief Architect, PWD, to be consulted regarding a new structure at entrance to Federal Cave. Rockwork structure at Federal Cave entrance being built by PWD for a cost of £85 [Committee of Management minutes, 11 April 1923, 21 August 1923]

1931: New designs sought for Federal Cave entrance and Royal Cave outlet [Committee of Management minutes, 11 May 1931]

1938: Committee decided that the roof at the entrance to this cave be painted green [Committee of Management minutes, 10 April 1938]

1942: Caves to be closed for the duration of the war [Committee of Management minutes, 24 April 1942]

1946: Fairy and Federal Caves to be opened by spring following wartime closure [Committee of Management minutes, 16 April 1946]

Description/integrity: Most of the cave remains in good condition, but a significant number of calcite crystals were removed from the rear section of the cave by a minerals trader, at some time during the 1960s or 1970s.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.13 ROCKWORK (ALONG CREEK)

History: **1928:** Moon instructed to widen Fairy Creek opposite the entrance to Royal Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 26 September 1928]

1931: Unsightly condition of creeks in the valley due to dead trees and rubbish. needed to be cleared [Committee of Management minutes, 11 May 1931]

1938: 'Many sections of the roadway are endangered by the erosion of the creek and assistance from the Rivers and Streams Fund will be sought to carry out protective works.' [Memo from A.D. Mackenzie 11 April 1938 'Development Buchan Caves Reserve' submitted for the information of the Employment Council, in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee 'Development', BC 21 file; Committee of Management minutes, 14 May 1938]

1938: The flat area in front of conveniences to be gravelled, the existing fence removed and replaced by a curved [? paper torn] wall. A low protection rail to be erected around [?] in this area and the creek adjoining this area to be beached. [Improvements and Tree Planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: 'Banks of creek have been beached with stone enabling widening of the camping area.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed between 26 June 1938 and 16 August 1938 in BC 21 file]

Description/integrity: Check?

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;
Social/spiritual: No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.14 CAR WASH SITE

History: 1938: Car wash constructed as part of National Park works: ‘On the side of the hill two great tanks gleam in the sun. They stand high up on a platform to give pressure of water for the washrooms and showers, lavatories and laundry, and for the washing of cars on a well-drained concrete square.’ [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1941: Other features of the National Park include ... a concrete floor draining into a little creek and fitted for car washing ...; car wash shown in panoramic photograph of main camping ground. [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

Description/integrity: now removed, documentary and archaeological evidence only

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Value jeopardised by demolition or removal; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Value jeopardised by demolition or removal; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.15 SEWERAGE PLANT

History: 1935: PWD asked to estimate cost of septic tanks at caves and camp ground [c of m minutes, 23 September 1935, 25 October 1935]

1936: Estimate of £750 for received for septic tanks from PWD. Committee asked for this item to be put on the estimates for 1936–37. [Committee of Management minutes, 14 February 1936, 23 March 1936; [Annual Report, 1935–36]

1937: Septic tanks expected to be in use shortly [Annual Report, 1936–37]

1938: ‘Sewer and water pipes laid and fitted.’ [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file, 14 October 1938]

1953: Drawing showing ‘Details of Septic Tank and Filter / Capacity of tank 1000 gallons’ prepared by Public Works Department, location of tank unknown [Drawing No. S.177, copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

1979: Sewerage treatment plant installed and commissioned

Description/integrity: Sewerage treatment plant installed in 1979 still in use

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value?; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.16 CABINS

History:

1937: Betterment and Publicity Board, to Secretary for Lands, 15 September 1937: ‘Development of the Buchan Caves Area ... To provide for the development of the National Park in the manner suggested, the following proposals are set down ... (5) That the present camping area ... be abandoned and a new parking and camping area developed on the right hand side of the roadway at a point on the flat approximately opposite the entrance to the Federal Cave. This area will lend itself to the provision of frame-work for tents and the construction of log cabins or some other suitable form of shelter along the gully known as “Moon Cave Gully”.’ [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 ‘Development’; also prepared was a schedule of proposals, and there are numerous carbon copies with various annotations, leading to the final version of the memo dated 2 February 1938.]

1939: Committee secretary to approach Mr Stevenson (PWD) for a design for the building of the log cabins and Committee applied for grant from the Employment Council for works including the construction of the log cabins [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939, 14 June 1939]

1941: Sketch of 'Future log cabins' sited in the location of the current cabins [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

1991: Two cabins erected (fulfilling an intention of the 1937–38 schedule of works)

Description/integrity:

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.17 NORTH ARM TOILET AND SHOWER BLOCK

History: **1964:** Toilet facilities provided in northern arm camping ground [see 3.3.5]

1979: Northern Arm toilet facilities commissioned, replacing earlier facilities [John Rogerson notes]

Description/integrity: Toilets erected in 1979 still in seasonal use

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.18 KITCHEN

History: **1938:** 'Communal kitchen under construction', constructed as part of the National Park works [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file, 14 October 1938]

1938: 'People may cook their own meals in a large kitchen, with set-in sinks and dining tables ...'. [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1939: Committee want J.T. Smith to report on tree planting including planting suitable shrubs around the communal kitchen [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939]

1940: Committee to hold over the matter of the construction of two communal kitchens and a new kiosk [Committee of Management minutes, 19 January 1940]

1941: '... a double fireplace, sinks and draining board, together with a dining hall, in the kitchen are immensely popular features, especially for the women-folk!'; kitchen shown in panoramic photograph of main camping ground [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

Description/integrity: Kitchen building substantially intact.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.19 LAUNDRY SITE

History: **1938:** 'Laundry completed' as part of the National Park works [memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file, 14 October 1938]

1938: On the side of the hill two great tanks gleam in the sun. They stand high up on a platform to give pressure of water for the washrooms and showers, lavatories and laundry, and for the washing of cars on a well-drained concrete square ... People may ... wash their clothes in coppers and tubs ...'. [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1941: ‘Coppers, tubs and an ironing board in the laundry ... are immensely popular features, especially with the women-folk!’; laundry shown in panoramic photograph of main camping ground [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows plan of laundry [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by PV, BCR]

199?: Laundry demolished and information shelter subsequently erected on the site (see Section 3.5.20) [Dale: date?]

Description/integrity: Now removed, documentary and archaeological evidence only

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* Value jeopardised by demolition or removal; *Social/spiritual:* Value jeopardised by demolition or removal; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.20 INFORMATION SHELTER

History: Constructed 199? [Dale: date?]

Description/integrity: ???

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value?; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.21 MAIN TOILET AND SHOWER BLOCK

History: 1938: Toilet and shower block constructed as part of the National Park works: ‘Conveniences and shower block doors being fitted.’ [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file, 14 October 1938]

1938: On the side of the hill two great tanks gleam in the sun. They stand high up on a platform to give pressure of water for the washrooms and showers, lavatories and laundry, and for the washing of cars on a well-drained concrete square.’ [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1941: Toilet and shower block shown in panoramic photograph of main camping ground [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows plan of toilet block [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Check???

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.22 CAMPERS’ LOUNGE / KIOSK

History: 1924: First mention in minutes of desire to have kiosk on reserve (along with iron tea house) [Committee of Management minutes, 14 May 1924]

1924: Mr Halmshaw’s tender for the kiosk successful at £70 (he had started building tea house and had built the caretaker’s cottage) [Committee of Management minutes, 16 July 1924]

1925: Kiosk completed. Committee agreed to pay for tables, shelves, and cupboards for fitting out the kiosk. [Committee of Management minutes, 1 April 1925]

1938: Plans of ‘Communal Hall’ prepared by the Public Works Department, building erected as part of National Park works [Copy of plan held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

1938: ‘Communal Hall: Design approved and work being started as materials delivered.’ [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file, 14 October 1938]

1938: ‘Community Hall’ renamed ‘Campers Lounge’ by committee [Committee of Management minutes, 17 November 1938]

1938: ‘People may ... dance or play in the beautiful recreation hall. Here they may establish themselves with home comforts at all seasons, be cool with open doors or warm by the great log fire recess.’ [Argus Week-end Magazine, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1940: Committee decided to ‘hold over’ the matter of construction of two communal kitchens and a new kiosk. [Committee of Management minutes, 19 January 1940]

1940: Committee referred the preparation of a plan for building of a pergola and an office to Mr Waters (officer of PWD) for drawing up by Mr Stephenson (PWD). Quotations to be called for the alteration of the campers lounge and construction of a ‘pergoda’ [sic]. Two quotes submitted for ‘round timber pagoda’ in front of the hall, running the full length of the dining hall and built over the pavement. Consisted of 10 round stringybark posts about 10” in diameter, 12’ long, sunk 3’ in the ground. 23 rafters with 6” diameters were required for the roof. All posts were to be spaced evenly to miss the dining hall doors. H.E. Clarke awarded the contract, starting the work in early August and completing it by early September. [Committee of Management minutes, 3 March 1940, 17 May 1940, 19 July 1940; Buchan Caves Committee, BC 21 development file]

1941: ‘Symbolising the modern character of its appointments, the camping Park provides a spacious, quaintly modern Campers’ Lounge, delightful in its bush appearance. It is built for dancing, for all the fun of a picnic ground, by day or night’; photograph of building and photograph of rustic sign ‘Campers Lounge & Kiosk’ included [Buchan Caves National Park, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941]

1976: Pine poles recommended to replace timbers forming the pergola in front of the kiosk [General report of sub-committee meeting and inspection held at Buchan Caves Reserve on 24 and 25 May 1976: Projects necessary for future development of reserve, in BC 21 file]

Description/integrity: Recent extension [what date?] to north-east end, new [what date?] Interpretation Centre joined at south-west end

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value (excluding later additions); *Aesthetic:* Primary value (excluding later additions); *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.23 INTERPRETATION CENTRE

History: 2002: Visitor centre refurbished and new interpretation centre added

Description/integrity: This building is intact and retains its initial fitout

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.24 CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND

History: **1938:** ‘Area situated between bridges 3 and 4: ...The central portion of this area to be laid out as a children’s playground – 2 double swings, 1 nursery swing and a gymnastic bar to be erected. This area to be fenced.’ [Improvements and Tree planting

to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: Playground, constructed as part of the National Park works, reported as ‘Completed’ [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file, 14 October 1938]

1938: ‘There are playgrounds for children and adults, swings, bars, and ladders, and chutes just erected.’ [*Argus Week-end Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

1940: Sign at playground repositioned (conforming with its position in 2003) [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

1941: ‘The children’s playground is the Mecca of the younger visitors. There are chain ladders to climb, trapeze and horizontal bars for tricks, and slippery dips and swings ... Here the children may romp and tumble and play their games in sun or shade’; photograph of slide and photograph of rustic sign ‘Children’s Playground’ [*Buchan Caves National Park*, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

Description/integrity: Equipment progressively upgraded

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.25 SPRING CREEK TOILET BLOCK

History: 1958: Drawings of ‘Proposed Toilet Block at Buchan’ prepared by Public Works Department C.E. Branch (after consultation with Committee of Management), accompanying letter gives estimate of cost as £3000, plans include toilets, showers, and laundry facilities [Copy of drawing and accompanying letter held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Building substantially intact from date of construction although now disused

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value;

Social/spiritual: No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.26 CULVERT

History: Probably constructed as part of late 1930s road upgrading (see 3.6.1)

Description/integrity: *check???*

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.27 ROYAL CAVE TOILET BLOCK

History: **1919:** Men’s WC at cave to be built [Committee of Management minutes, 11 January 1919]

1931: Committee was to clean up the area at Royal Cave where a new ladies WC would [had?] been built and plant trees here [Committee of Management minutes, 25 May 1931, 17 July 1931]

1933: Committee resolved to erect new WCs at Royal Cave and Fairy Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933]

1934: Several WCs had been provided (unspecified locations, but presumably at Royal and Fairy Caves). These were up to date constructions that fully complied with public health regulations. [Annual Report, in Committee of Management minutes, 13 July 1934]

1938: ‘Conveniences to be painted green.’ [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26.6.1938 in BC 21 file]

1939: Plan (by Woodgate?) shows ‘Lavatories’ at Royal Cave entrance [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 ‘Development’, report dated 1 November 1939.] [are these the current ones?]

1976: Royal Cave toilets to be screened with hedge or shrubs, from Buchan Caves Reserve Development and Planning Sub-committee meeting held in Melbourne, 5 May 1976 in BC file 21]

Description/integrity: Check ???

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.28 ROYAL CAVE ENTRANCE

History: 1913: First artificial entrance constructed to allow entry to caves for the public. Fred Wilson planted ornamental garden outside entrance [Elery has photograph? Yes]

1920: Wilson instructed to commence work on Royal Cave ‘pathway’ [Committee of Management minutes, 9 July 1920]

1922: New wooden door installed at entrance [Committee of Management minutes, 27 October 1922]

1926: Photograph of Royal Cave entrance, with rabbit-proof fencing over plantings [Elery Hamilton-Smith collection]

1929: Scheme by Linaker for landscaping entrance, including a pair of Canary Island Date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) (not implemented)

1931: Area near Royal Cave had been cleaned up and ground readied for planting trees and shrubs. [Committee of Management minutes, 17 July 1931]

1933: Committee considering replacing old wooden fencing and enclosure around Royal Cave with a ‘cyclone fence’. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933, 5 December 1933]

1937: Programme of work at the reserve included the repair of the fence at Royal Cave entrance. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 August 1937]

1938: Entrance cleared and construction of rock garden and steps undertaken. Handrail and rock edging to be placed in position along the steps leading from the roadway to the area in front of Royal Cave. This area to be laid out as designed by Mr. Linaker. [Improvements and Tree Planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938, BC file 21]

1938: ‘The work of clearing around the Royal Cave entrance and the construction of the rock garden and steps, etc. is now being done. [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed between 26 June 1938 and 16 August 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: Linaker planted ‘Each side of Royal Cave 8 new trees’ [Linaker letter to advisory committee BC 21 development file]

1939: Photograph of approach to entrance shows some specimen tree planting

1939: Moon instructed by the committee to erect a railing at the steps at Royal Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 2 April 1939]

1940: Seats to be placed inside the Royal Cave shelter [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

1942: Caves to be closed for the duration of the war. [Committee of Management minutes, 24 April 1942]

1946: Royal Cave open to public after the war [Committee of Management minutes, 16 April 1946]

1963–64: New entrance for Royal Cave investigated in 1963, but the estimated cost of £10,000 prohibited the work from being undertaken as funds were unavailable [Financial report dated 25 August 1964 in BC 21 file]

1976: Buchan Caves committee considered the ‘present entrance and tourist shelter’ for Royal Cave and recommended (again) that the entrance be replaced as it was inadequate, but not known when and if this was acted upon [General report of sub-committee meeting and inspection held at Buchan Caves Reserve on 24 and 25 May 1976: Projects necessary for future development of reserve, in BC 21 file]

Description/integrity: Check???

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.29 ROYAL CAVE EXIT

History: 1928: Tunnel through Royal Cave completed and an exit made, but not yet ready for public use (see also 3.2.3). Footpath to exit from the road to be completed. [Committee of Management minutes, 26 September 1928]

1931: New designs sought for Federal Cave entrance and Royal Cave outlet [Committee of Management minutes, 11 May 1931]

1933: Moon suggested building rock and concrete structures over Fairy Cave and Royal Cave outlets. [Committee of Management minutes, 8 July 1933]

1933: Committee to build a suitable structure at Royal Cave exit, but not at the moment. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933, 5 December 1933]

1934: Royal Cave outlet should also be fenced off in preparation for construction of a suitable structure over the outlet later. Colour scheme of the buildings [unspecified] ‘fits in very nicely with surroundings’. Committee recommends that when a new structure is built at the Royal Cave outlet it should be painted in the same colours as other buildings. [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1934]

1934: Progress with fencing Royal Cave outlet. [Committee of Management minutes, 14 September 1934]

1935: A ‘nice fence’ has been erected around the outlet and will be soon planted with suitable trees according to Linaker’s (new) plan. Committee decided to erect a rock structure over Royal Cave outlet. Waters (PWD) to design. Need to repair a door at outlet. [Committee of Management minutes, 11 March 1935]

1935: Outlet structure (described as an ‘arch’) completed by staff and paths around it well gravelled. Tree plantations have now been made in outlet enclosure. [Committee of Management minutes, 12 April 1935, 14 June 1935, 23 August 1935, 23 September 1935, 13 December 1935, 3 March 1936]

1937: Committee resolved to plant more Virginia Creeper on the rockeries at Royal Cave outlet [Committee of Management minutes, 19 April 1937]

Description/integrity: check???

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value?;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.30 ROTUNDA

History: 1923: Painting being done on ‘Fairy Cave Pavilion’ and noted completed by 21 August 1923 (could this be the rotunda or a structure over the entrance to Fairy Cave?) [Committee of Management minutes, 11 April 1923]

1924: Committee suggested that tea house be erected near the ‘powerhouse’ and a sketch was produced. Two tenders were received for erection of ‘iron tea house’. Successful tender to Mr Halmshaw (cottage builder) for £99 7s [Committee of Management minutes, 14 May 1924, 13 June 1924]

1925: Tea house completed but not in use yet [Committee of Management minutes, 22 January 1925]

1925: Tea house to be painted and: tenders called for letting of ‘tea rooms’ [Committee of Management minutes, 1 April 1925, 19 June 1925]

1926: Failure of tenders for ‘tea room’, no further action taken regarding tea rooms at this time [Committee of Management minutes, 4 February 1926, 13 September 1926]

1932: Committee inspection reveals that grass is very long in the Tea house enclosure, buildings in good condition [Committee of Management minutes, 8 December 1932]

1938: ‘Area between bridges 6 and 7 south side: The existing galvanised iron Tea House to be removed and replaced by a shelter similar to the existing one in this area. The roof of the shelters to be covered with shingles. [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938, in BC 21 file]

1938: Galvanised iron tearoom removed and timber cut for new shelter [Improvements and Tree Planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed between 26 June 1938 and 16 August 1938, BC file 21]

c.1939: Plan (by Woodgate?) shows rotunda and rectangular building to the east (both labelled ‘Shelter Sheds’) and a ‘Fire Place’ further east [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 ‘Development’.]

1940: New ‘rustic design’ seats to be built in ‘picnic shelter’ [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows rotunda and rectangular building to the east [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Buildings appears to date from 1938 or possibly earlier. Rustic timber design similar to earlier shelters in other parks. Shingled roof now replaced by sheet iron.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.31 ENGINE HOUSE SITE

History: 1928: Two engines, one crude oil and one kerosene and their generators, were housed in ‘a hardwood and concrete building’ and lit the 3 caves and the main road through the reserve [Committee of Management Report to the Minister of Lands in Committee of Management minutes, 15 December 1928]

1930: Engine room in good condition [Committee of Management minutes, 14 October 1930]

1931: ‘Inventory of Materials & Tools at Buchan’ prepared, the majority of items presumably held in engine house or workshop / store [Copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve, file BC52]

1933: Report of committee inspection, engine and store room to be painted—the same colour to be used on other buildings [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933]

1934: Colour scheme of the buildings [unspecified] ‘fits in very nicely with surroundings’; committee recommends that when a new structure is built at the Royal Cave outlet it should

be painted in the same colours as other buildings [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1934]

1938: 'Store House Engine Room and Tanks: Buildings and tanks to be painted colour slate and green. The Engineer to consult with Mr Linaker to see if these buildings can be screened to conform with the surroundings.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1940: Site for new engine house chosen. [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

1942: Inventory of stores and tools in 'Power House' [Copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve, file BC52]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows 'Main Power House' [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

199?: Equipment removed? and building demolished [Dale: date?]

199?: Mixed shrub and tree bed constructed on site. [see 3.3.6]

Description/integrity: Building removed, documentary and archaeological evidence (including underground tank) remain

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value?; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.32 WORKSHOP / STORE ROOM

History: 1923: Committee of Management agreed to provide a storeroom for storing kerosene [Committee of Management minutes, 30 May 1923]

1923: Storeroom erected for £58 5s [Committee of Management minutes, 21 August 1923]

1928: Mention of 'storehouse / workshop for spare lamps, wiring stores etc.' [Committee of Management Report to the Minister of Lands in [Committee of Management minutes, 15 December 1928]

1929: Building not shown on base plan (which shows 'Engine House')

1930: Workshop/storeroom in good condition but too small and committee agreed to extend it at an early date [Committee of Management minutes, 14 October 1930]

1931: 'Workshop' extended at a cost of £26 10s [Annual Report, 1930–31; Committee of Management Minutes, 11 May 1931, 17 July 1931]

1931: 'Inventory of Materials & Tools at Buchan' prepared, the majority of items presumably held in engine house or workshop / store [Copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve, file BC52]

1931: Committee resolved to remove old blacksmith shop near the cottage and re-erect as addition to workshop near engine house [Committee of Management minutes, 16 October 1931]

1932: Additions to the workshop have been completed and it is now 'a fine structure' [Committee of Management minutes, 18 April 1932]

1938: 'Store House Engine Room and Tanks: Buildings and tanks to be painted colour slate and green. The Engineer to consult with Mr Linaker to see if these buildings can be screened to conform with the surroundings. An addition to the existing building is to be constructed for a workshop. The dimensions of this building to be the same as the present storehouse. The existing workshop to be made into a storeroom and racks made for gum boots.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1939: Storehouse extensions mentioned and committee to obtain quotes [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1939]

1939: Present building in place by 1939 [Not shown on 1929 base plan, but shown on 1939 plan, labelled 'store' on 1939 (Archibald?) sketch plan]

1942: Inventory of stores and tools in ‘Store Room’ [Copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve, file BC52]

1948: Building labelled ‘repair shop’ in 1948 CRB plan, probably the ‘Wood’ ‘Store Room’ valued at £200 in the c.1948 insurance valuation

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows workshop building (with guide room in the central part of the structure) [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: An amalgam of weatherboard sheds erected in stages during the 1930s. Original roof profile has been altered by installation of new roof spanning the gables of the original buildings [\[see photo in Calnin album\]](#) [mention contents](#)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.33 GUIDE ROOM

History: 1942: Inventory of stores and tools in ‘Guide room’ [Copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve, file BC52]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows guide room in the central part of the workshop building and equipped with a telephone [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

199?: Present building constructed [\[Dale: date?\]](#)

Description/integrity:

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.34 FAIRY CAVE TOILET BLOCK

History: **1933:** Committee resolved to erect new WCs at Royal Cave and Fairy Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933]

1934: Annual Report states that several WCs had been provided [doesn’t specify where but presumably at Royal and Fairy Caves]. These were up to date constructions that fully complied with public health regulations. Original toilet facilities housed in separate male and female buildings across road from present day building. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 July 1934; plan in BC 21 development file]

1964: New toilet facilities erected at Fairy Cave– Financial report 25.8.64 in BC 21 file

Description/integrity: [check?](#)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* No appreciable value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.35 FAIRY CAVE ENTRANCE

History: **1919:** Painting of Fairy Cave ‘house’ to be carried out; new steps to Fairy Cave to be fixed ‘when traffic permits’. Wilson authorised to make concrete steps at Fairy Cave. [Committee of Management minutes, 11 January 1919, 28 April 1919]

1920: Wilson directed to immediately commence work on Fairy Cave ‘pathway’. Small iron gate to be obtained for entrance [Committee of Management minutes, 9 July 1920, 23 July 1920]

1922: Gravel to be placed on pathway to entrance [Committee of Management minutes, 10 April 1922]

1923: Air-tight door fitted to entrance to Fairy Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 21 August 1923]

1938: ‘At present the approach to the Fairy Cave is by means of a long climb up a steep slope which is too arduous for any elderly people and liable to tire anyone before they start on the actual inspection of the caves. The existing entrance to the caves is an antiquated structure and gives no idea of the magnificence within.’ [Memo from A.D. Mackenzie, 11 April 1938 ‘Development Buchan Caves Reserve’ submitted for the information of the Employment Council, in Buchan Caves Advisory Committee ‘Development’, BC 21 file]

1938: ‘Track to Fairy Cave: This track to commence from the roadway at the foot of the hill Fairy Cave, curved until it reaches the existing track then taken in a straight line to the entrance of Fairy Cave. Entrance to Fairy Cave: The existing structure to be demolished and replaced by a modern structure. Design to be submitted.’ [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: ‘Steps up to Fairy Cave nearing completion. Landings paved with stone flags. Old [entrance] structure removed and stone work of new structure nearing completion’. [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed between 26 June 1938 and 16 August 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: Linaker planted ‘virginian creepers, variegated ivy and maples’ on the rocks below Fairy Cave, and specified that the walk to Fairy Cave (presumably ascending the stone steps) should have selected plants on both sides [Linaker letter to committee, BC 21 development file]

1938: ‘Steps to Fairy Cave completed and the area being cleaned up and ramps formed. New Fairy Cave entrance building will be completed this week. Flooring to be reformed and landing outside being formed and paved.’ [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file]

1940: Owens report criticised planting along approach, referring to the ‘mixture of climbing plants, shrubs and general trees’. He recommended a carefully thought out design, which may have been implemented by Sandford in 1941–42 (see section 3.3.4 and full report in

[Appendix xx](#))

1942: Caves closed due to war. Entrance to Fairy Cave to be boarded up in front of, and over, stairway. [Committee of Management minutes, 24 April 1942]

1946: Fairy and Federal Caves to be opened by spring. [Committee of Management minutes, 16 April 1946]

Description/integrity: Constructed 1938. [check details???](#)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.36 FAIRY CAVE EXIT

History: Constructed [193?](#)

Description/integrity: [Check ???](#)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.5.37 RUSTIC SIGNS

History: 1935: Sign boards to be painted and repaired—black letters on white ground [Committee of Management minutes, 11 March 1935]

1939: Sketch submitted for ‘rustic hooded frame housing what can be either a glass fronted case to display regulations ... or a painted wooden panel suitably signwritten ... Estimated cost with local logs £10.’ The submission was annotated ‘Adopted’ [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee Development File BC 21, filed at 28 March 1939]

1941: Photograph of rustic signs for ‘Campers Lounge & Kiosk’ and ‘Children’s Playground’ [Buchan Caves National Park, brochure issued by Victorian Railways in conjunction with Buchan Caves Committee, 1941.]

Description/integrity: Constructed 1939. **Check which ones survive?**

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value (surviving examples), Value jeopardised by demolition or removal (demolished examples);

Social/spiritual: Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.5.38 STONE BOLLARDS AND LOG FENCES

History: 1938: ‘Area in front of Royal Cave gravelled and stone and log guard fencing will be completed this week. Log fencing [in area of bridges 8 and 9] being altered to one with stone pillars and log rails.’ [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file]

1939: Stone bollards and log fences shown in photographs accompanying report by L.H. Archibald [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 ‘Development’, report dated 1 November 1939.]

Description/integrity: Stone frustra largely intact although some logs deteriorated.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: No appreciable value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.6 ROADS AND TRACKS

3.6.1 MAIN ROADWAY

History: 1909: Road leading to Spring and Fairy Cave Creeks opened and gazetted, replacing an earlier track from the western end of Buchan township to Fairy Cave [Victoria Government Gazette, 1909, p.3242]

1926: Road to the caves was reported in ‘fair order’ but crossings were very unsatisfactory. The first crossing near Moon’s house was to be improved after consultation with the PWD and Mr Kermode. First culvert not yet complete. [Committee of Management minutes, 13 September 1926]

1928: More road work and filling required near Royal Cave and gravel needed for the ‘roads’ [Committee of Management minutes, 26 September 1928]

1928: Road to the Caves again ‘very rough’ and needed to be improved as much as possible [Committee of Management minutes, 12 December 1928]

1928: Road from the reserve gate to the caves entrance (about a mile) has been formed and gravelled and several crossings made over the creeks. The committee wishes to further improve the road and to bridge these dips with suitable culverts as funds permit. The ‘roads’ as well as the caves are lit by electricity [Report to the Minister of Lands in Committee of Management minutes, 15 December 1928]

1929: Committee resolved to get estimate from PWD for construction of 'a good road with necessary culverts' from the entrance gate to the engine house [Committee of Management minutes, 14 February 1929]

1929: Committee requested a grant of £1300 for construction of the proposed road. A self-closing gate at the entrance that would be impassable to stock mentioned. [Committee of Management minutes, 9 April 1929]

1929: Motor ramp to take the place of the old entrance gate constructed. A small cyclone hand gate has been provided for pedestrians. Road still very bad, not in a fit state to take motor traffic. Officers of the PWD reported that the road was now in a bad condition and work was urgently needed. Road considered dangerous and committee to send deputation to see Minister of Lands. [Committee of Management minutes, 17 May 1929, 24 July 1929, 30 August 1929]

1929: New motor ramp at entrance a great improvement on old gate but needs adjustments to keep stock out. As a result of committee's deputation, Mr Kermode instructed Mr Schulz to inspect the road and the report was to come from the PWD [Report of official inspection of Buchan Caves in Committee of Management minutes, 8 October 1929]

1929: Report by PWD engineer C.V. Vaughan on road through reserve, at that date gravel with fords over the creeks, resurfacing of road recommended

1929: Linaker's plan for the reserve suggested an avenue of alternating exotic and native trees along the main roadway (see section 3.3.3)

1930: Waters moved that the CRB be approached by deputation for the construction of a 'good road'. Waters visited Buchan and met up [accidentally?] with the Chairman of the CRB and the Minister for Public Works who happened to be there at the time [?]. He showed them through the caves and told them about the road and bridges problems. They were sympathetic and agreed the matter was urgent. [Committee of Management minutes, 18 December 1930, 4 July 1930]

1931: Mr Waters reported that the PWD had undertaken to build the necessary bridges and repair the road in the caves reserve. £1000 had been allotted as a special grant and works were well underway. [Committee of Management minutes, 11 May 1931]

1931: 'several good bridges' had now been constructed and the road will be good right up to the caves very soon. The present ramp had to be demolished because of the bridge building and the heavy cartage it entailed. The committee was waiting for a design from Linaker for this work [a new ramp? or a design for entrance gates?] [Committee of Management minutes, 17 July 1931, 11 September 1931]

1931: Bridges working well, creeks flowing well and road good despite heavy rain. At entrance a very good 'cattlepit' erected [see ramp above]. This was made of pipes on heavy wooden bearers. [Note entrance to the reserve still adjoining the caretaker's cottage.] Road at the cottage now rounded off and greatly widened [Linaker suggestion in 1929] and obstructing cypress hedge removed [presumably only the bit obstructing and not all of it]. [Committee of Management minutes, 16 October 1931]

1931: Committee intended to erect a suitable gateway to the reserve at the turn off near the Buchan Bridge. This will consist of a double gate and a cattle pit similar to the one at the cottage. Moon instructed to put logs at the approach to the ramp [at his cottage] and a railing at the steps near the cottage. [Committee of Management minutes, 16 October 1931]

1931: Committee decided to purchase a road grader from CRB for road upkeep [Committee of Management minutes, 11 December 1931]

1932: PWD asked to furnish a design for a suitable entrance to reserve near the Buchan Bridge. Pathway to be made for pedestrians around the south side of cattle pit using posts as a gateway [Committee of Management minutes, 18 April 1932]

1934: Main road now much improved and was perfect right up to Fairy Creek. [Annual Report in Committee of Management minutes, 13 July 1934]

1935: Suggestion of flood lights being installed in the reserve (presumably along or near the roadway) [Committee of Management minutes, 11 March 1935]

1936: Roads and bridges in good condition but more gravel needed [Committee of Management minutes, 24 January 1936]

1936: Committee enquired as to the progress of the Orbost –Buchan Road construction [Committee of Management minutes, 27 November 1936]

1937: Committee member Mr Waters (PWD) suggested the CRB take over control of the road to the caves. Committee to discuss. [Committee of Management minutes, 7 May 1937]

1938: Committee agreed that the CRB would take over and maintain the road at a cost to the committee of £25 per annum. CRB took over reserve road from 1 February 1938 [Committee of Management minutes, 27 October 1937, 8 February 1938]

1939: Committee applied for grant from the Employment Council for works including reconstruction of roadway [Committee of Management minutes, 14 June 1939]

1940: Road again needed repairs [Committee of Management minutes, 29 September 1940]

1941: ‘Here was a primitive bushland, right at the township of Buchan, reposing in the lovely valley by Spring Creek and the Buchan River. It was native in a mild kind of way, filled with sun and calm in the peace of the hills. Now a road like a main highway crosses the reserve, winding through avenues of trees along the banks of the two watercourses, terminating at a point far into the reserve and beyond the farthest cave.’ [Argus Week-end Magazine, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

c.1967: Plan of electrical reticulation prepared by Public Works Department shows positions of 26 fluorescent light fittings installed on poles throughout main camping ground and along road [Copy of plan in file BC46, held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Road progressively upgraded along original alignment.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1);

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.6.2 BRIDGES

History: 1926: Moon instructed to ‘take in hand’ the construction of proper culverts along the road and to consult with Mr Reed in the matter [Committee of Management minutes, 20 April 1926]

1927: Crossings still needed work. PWD to be again approached. [Committee of Management minutes, 22 March 1927]

1927: Moon began work on a pipe culvert (suggested by committee chairman) over the crossing outside Moon’s house. 36 inch Hume cement pipes to be used. Recommends that stone work from the old cottage be used in the formation of the roadway (across the crossing?) [Committee of Management minutes, 31 May 1927]

1927: Committee reports that the ‘culvert’ was a success and suggests that the crossings should all be so treated when funds become available [Committee of Management minutes, 25 July 1927]

1928: All culverts were in fair condition as the weather was dry, but committee considered a bridge over Spring Creek at the junction [of Spring Creek and Buchan River?] would be advantageous [Committee of Management minutes, 26 September 1928]

1928: Road from the reserve gate to the caves entrance (about a mile) has been formed and gravelled and several crossings made over the creeks. The principal crossing is made over cement pipes 3 feet in diameter. The committee wishes to further improve the road and to bridge these dips with suitable culverts as funds permit. [Report to the Minister of Lands in Committee of Management minutes, 15 December 1928]

1929: Reserve received a special allocation of £200: £150 for a bridge over Spring Creek and £50 for necessary approach [to bridge?] and repairs to road. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1929]

1929: Crossing over Spring Creek very bad with lots of water running over it. Needs a good bridge before Christmas. [Report of official inspection of Buchan Caves in Committee of Management minutes, 8 October 1929]

1929: Report by PWD engineer C.V. Vaughan on road through reserve, at that date gravel with fords over the creeks (except for one culvert utilising 3 feet diameter concrete pipes), all susceptible to the effects of heavy rain and floods; four bridges and one culvert recommended along with resurfacing of road

1930: Heavy rain meant that the road was closed and visitors had to walk to the caves, dodging creeks both of which were in flood. In wet weather the road from Caves House to Fairy Cave was 'useless'. Committee to look at erecting 1 or 2 bridges if funds permit. [Committee of Management minutes, 14 October 1930]

1931: Authority was given for the erection of one bridge over Spring Creek out of the maintenance vote [Committee of Management minutes, 13 February 1931]

1931: Committee very pleased with the bridge it had paid for and construction of the other bridges was progressing well. [Committee of Management minutes, 25 May 1931]

1931: 'several good bridges have been constructed' at a cost of £158 10s [Annual Report, 1930–31]

1932: End of year report: five bridges have been erected over the main crossings and only two small bridges were required to complete this work right up to Fairy Cave. Tenders received for the erection of the two remaining bridges. [Committee of Management minutes, 26 August 1932]

1932: Road through reserve reported to be well kept and two tenders received for construction of 2 remaining bridges. [Committee of Management minutes, 8 December 1932]

1933: A new bridge has been erected over Fairy Creek. There is now only one remaining to construct further up the same creek. [Committee of Management minutes, 7 April 1933]

1933: Tenders called for remaining bridge over Fairy Creek. [Committee of Management minutes, 19 May 1933]

1933: Last bridge erected and road 'really good now' [Committee of Management minutes, 8 July 1933]

1957: Advisory Committee recommends redecking and renewal of running strips at a cost of £220, an example of the continuous repairs undertaken to the bridges (too numerous to be noted in detail in this report) [Memorandum prepared by Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, 29 October 1957, attached to drawing of toilet block, copy held by Parks Victoria, Buchan Caves Reserve]

Description/integrity: Bridges progressively upgraded along original road alignment.

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value;

Social/spiritual: Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.6.3 CAR PARKS

History: 1938: Committee decided to reserve an area, situated on the north side of the reserve about 100 yds from the storehouse, for a parking site [Committee of Management minutes, 10 April 1938]

1938: The flat area in front of conveniences to be gravelled, the existing fence removed and replaced by a curved [? page torn] wall. A low protection rail to be erected around [?] in this area and the creek adjoining this area to be beached. [Improvements and Tree Planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: 'More gravel will be put around tree at end of parking area [area south-west of bridge 9] to provide turntable. Area in front of Royal Cave gravelled and stone and log guard fencing will be completed this week.' [Memo from Chief Engineer re visit to inspect the state of works at Buchan Caves on 11 October 1938, in BC 21 file]

1939: Committee applied for grant from the Employment Council for works including construction of parking area. [Committee of Management minutes, 14 June 1939]

1939: Existing and proposed car parks in the vicinity of Royal Cave shown on plans accompanying report by L.H. Archibald [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC21 'Development', report dated 1 November 1939.]

1940: Committee held over the matter of provision for parking cars at the swimming pool and Royal Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 19 January 1940]

Description/integrity: Car parks still in use

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Contributory value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value

3.6.4 WALKING TRACKS

History: 1928: On completion of the Royal Cave tunnel and outlet, committee decided to complete the footpath from the road to Royal Cave outlet and from there across the hill to the Royal Cave entrance [Committee of Management minutes, 26 September 1928]

1933: Committee visited Spring Creek Falls and noted that if a better track was provided these falls might attract lots more visitors [Committee of Management minutes, 25 October 1933]

1934: Hill track from Royal Cave exit is very rough and needs levelling as it is used by the public [Committee of Management minutes, 12 May 1934]

1934: Good gravelled pedestrian track now made from Royal Cave outlet to Royal Cave [Committee of Management minutes, 13 July 1934, 14 September 1934]

1937: Committee included in its programme of works that a track be made to Spring Creek Falls [Committee of Management minutes, 13 August 1937]

1938: 'Entrance from roadway to Spring Creek Falls: This entrance to be built up and a track leading from the roadway constructed.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed prior to 26 June 1938 in BC 21 file]

1938: Committee resolved the 'track' to Fairy Cave should be on its list of works to be completed by 30 June 1938 [Committee of Management minutes, 26 April 1938]

1938: 'Entrance from roadway to Spring Creek Falls is being built up with stone and spoil from other works.' [Improvements and Tree planting to be effected at the Buchan Caves National Park by the Committee of Management, filed between 26 June 1938 and 16 August 1938 in BC 21 file]

1990s: Indigenous planting along walking tracks undertaken, especially Buchan Blue Wattle (*Acacia caerulea*) adjacent to Fairy Cave and Royal Cave exit tracks.

Description/integrity: mention use of fire tracks this purpose

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Primary value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.7 DOCUMENTATION AND INTERPRERATION

3.7.1 MOVEABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

History: The moveable cultural heritage of the Buchan Caves Reserve dates from a wide time period, and little information is available to document this aspect of the heritage of the Reserve. The most important documents discovered during the research for the current Heritage Action Plan are inventories of stores dating from 1931 and 1942, both reproduced in

Appendix Seven. [Buchan Caves Advisory Committee, File BC52, 'Inventory of Material and Tools'.]

Description/integrity: It is not possible within the bounds of the current study to compile an inventory or undertake a detailed assessment of moveable cultural heritage at Buchan Caves Reserve. Most of the material is held in the store, the kiosk, and the offices. The archival documentation is treated separately (see Section 3.7.2) and within the reserve, this material is held almost exclusively within the office. There is a small display of early equipment in infrastructure in the kiosk, but by far the majority of the moveable cultural heritage is held in the store. This consists primarily of tools, equipment, spare parts for equipment, and other stores. Much of the 'stuff' (as it was disarmingly termed in the 1931 inventory) dates from the period from the 1940s to the present, although there may be isolated older items. There may also be some items of significance in other buildings, such as the sheds near the tennis courts, and in Caves House (although these have not been inspected internally as part of the current study)

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* No appreciable value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.7.2 ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION

History: Documentation that is now regarded as being significant for its archival value has been created by official and non-official sources and takes the form of written manuscripts, plans, photographs, published reports and articles

Description/integrity: The major sources of archival documentation are the following:

- Reserve files for Buchan Caves Reserve (Rs 1228), separated into four parts (pre-1939, 1940–67, 1967–2002, 2002–) which also contain reserve files for other Buchan caves reserves, including Slocombes (Rs1311), The Pyramids (Rs 1312), Wilsons (Rs 1313), Un-names (Rs1314), Buchan camping reserve (Rs 1315) and Dicksons (Rs 1317), all held by Lands Victoria
- Minute books and correspondence files of the Committee of Management (date-range) held by Parks Victoria at the Buchan Caves Reserve with the exception of BC 44 (Caves Road) held with Rs 1288
- Miscellaneous plans (including an original dyeline print of the 1929 Linaker plan) held by Parks Victoria at Buchan Caves Reserve
- Public Works Department records (held at the Public Record Office)
- Private collections of published and unpublished material held by those with an interest in local history and the history of caves generally

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2); Government social policy initiatives (see Section 4.1.3); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1); Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2); European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3); Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Primary value; *Aesthetic:* Contributory value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* Contributory value

3.7.3 ORAL HISTORY TRADITIONS

History: Closely allied to archival documentation—but sufficiently distinctive to warrant separate mention—is the rich oral history tradition that subsists at Buchan Caves; the tradition of guiding visitors through the Buchan Caves commenced in the late nineteenth century and it has always had strong links to the Buchan community through the use of local guides. For instance, in 1938, one newspaper reported: 'Daily the discoverer [i.e. Frank Moon] still guides people through the caves. He explains every beautiful group, its name and

significance, with entertaining commentary from his 30 years of experience.’ [*Argus Weekend Magazine*, 3 December 1938, pp.12–13.]

Description/integrity: Whilst changing social and cultural attitudes have altered the manner in which the caves are interpreted, the directness of communication between the guide and the visitor has been maintained, as has the body of knowledge passed from guide to guide

Analysis of cultural significance: Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1); Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1); Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2); Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2)

Ranking of heritage values: *Historic:* Contributory value; *Aesthetic:* No appreciable value; *Social/spiritual:* Primary value; *Scientific:* No appreciable value