

NARACOORTE

Naracoorte Caves were known from the earliest settlement in the South-east of South Australia. It is commonly believed that they were first seen in about 1845 when Benjamin Sanders and William MacIntosh pursued a group of Aborigines who had stolen some of Sanders' sheep. They soon became popular and were commonly visited by local people.

Woods (1862) visited the caves in 1857 and his subsequent writings drew attention to the caves not only as a feature of general interest, but also as a phenomenon of scientific importance. However, the caves were not formally managed until 1885 when a caretaker was appointed. The second and fourth appointees, William Reddan and Robert Leitch were both men of remarkable energy and vision who established the park essentially as it is today.

Reddan discovered a number of new caves, particularly the Victoria and Alexandra, and was responsible for the initial construction of stairs, paths and other aids to visitors. Both he and Leitch gave great attention to planting of trees, shrubs and flowering plants which they saw as improving the appearance of the Park. As a result, many of the postcards depicting the Blanche Cave (= Big Cave or Old Cave) show impressive plantings of both ferns and exotic flowers.

In 1969, Rod Wells and Grant Gartrell, members of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia, discovered an immense deposit of mammalian sub-fossils in the Victoria Cave. These have been the subject of continuing research since that time but have also become a major feature of the visitor experience at the park. The cave has also been re-named the Victoria Fossil Cave. (Lewis, 1977; National Parks & Wildlife Service, S. Aust., 1986)

Although not a postcard, Naracoorte was until very recently one of the very few cave areas commemorated in any way by the Australian Postal Authorities. The "Shower" in Alexandra Cave appeared on scenic lettercards issued in 1915.

One of the major puzzles is identification of the photographers involved at Naracoorte. There is no record of who was responsible for many of the series below, e.g., The Tourist Bureau series, Sands and McDougall, and many others.

However, W.A. Francis was responsible for many, not only on postcards, but also in the souvenir booklets which were published firstly by Bevilacqua and then by Vivian.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA : STATE TOURIST BUREAU AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICE : NARACOORTE CAVES SERIES [1909]

Pu State Tourist Bureau and Intelligence Office

F Full-frame picture with words 'Naracoorte Caves' superimposed; back with distinctive propaganda message on each card. As these are more easily distinguished than any other

feature of the cards, we use them below to list the individual cards. The name which follows in brackets is that used for the same view in a Tourist Bureau Guidebook of c.1909. The cards listed without scene names have not had named illustrations available for comparison. A total of 18 views appear this booklet and in a somewhat similar one of c.1920, hence there may be as many as 18 cards in this series.

South Australia produced in 1908 2,061,987 gallons of wine H (The Snow Scene, Alexandra Cave)

[pm.13 Nov.1911]

For the season 1907-8 there were 3,308,385 acres under cultivation in South Australia H (The Broken Pillar, Albert Edward Grotto, Victoria Cave) [pm.5th May 1909; 10 May 1909]

The wheat yield of South Australia for 1907-8 was 19,135,557 bushels, valued at £3,747,380 H (Mystery Formation. Alexandra Cave)

The area of South Australia is 578,361,600 acres H [pm.Jan.1909] (Second Chamber, Big Cave)

South Australia's imports for 1907 valued £12,120,052 while her exports for the same period valued £13,898,585 H (Reddan Grotto, Victoria Cave)

South Australia produced in the year 1907 minerals to the value of £814,220. H (View in the

The population of South Australia is 401,000 H (The Mirror, Alexandra Cave)

For the season 1907-8 South Australia exported 271,629 frozen lambs and 4,490 carcasses of mutton. H (The Candles, Victoria Cave)

South Australian wool exports for 1907 totalled 50,639,368 lbs., valued at £2,100,067 H (View of roof from the Ballroom, Alexandra Cave) [pm.18 Nov.1909]

During the year ending June 30th., 1907, produce valued at £210,695 passed through the Government Produce Export Department. H

The earliest postmarked cards we have seen are dated 1909, and this is the almost certain date of issue. They were almost certainly printed prior to both the grand event which marked the opening of Alexandra Cave to the public by the then Governor on 12th May 1909 or even the 'un-official' opening on 7th. April 1909.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS SERIES

Pu South Australian Railways

Pr Donald Taylor Collotype Co.

F Full-frame collotype with superimposed title; Railways emblem in small square on view side

and on back.

"The Castles", Victoria Cave) Naracoorte Caves H [ms.31 Jul.1907]

This view is, as far as we can find, the only cave scene in the series, which apparently comprises 80

views.

W.J. CLAYFIELD SERIES

Ph All identified views are by W.J. Clayfield, Millicent

F Often crudely printed cards with wide and uneven margins; occurring on a complex range of backs (Note early spelling - Narracoorte)

Crystal Grotto, Victoria Cave, Narracoorte V [pm.28 Dec 1904; 29 June 1906]

Reddan Grotto, Victoria Cave, Narracoorte V

The Candles, Victoria Cave, Narracoorte V

Victoria Cave. "Laurie Grotto" H [pm.20 Sep.1905]

Card has two H views arranged in V format and also has Clayfield imprint on front of card.

Reddan/Grotto//Laurie Grotto//Naracoorte Caves [pm.1 May 1916].

(This card is signed by Lily Laurie, daughter of A.P. Laurie after whom the Laurie Grotto is named.)

Victoria Cave - "Albert Edward" H

Victoria Cave - "Amber Grotto" H

Victoria Cave - Near "Laurie Grotto" H

Old Cave. 1st. Chamber Looking Back. H [pm.2 Jul.1905]

Old Caves. 2nd. Chamber. H [pm.20 Sep.1905]

Old Cave – Entrance to Third Chamber H

Old Cave - Third Chamber looking back H [pm.6 Oct.1910]

J TIDDY

Ph Geo. Watson, Mt. Gambier

Pu J. Tiddy, Mt. Gambier

F Collotype with very wide R.H. & Lower margins; title and imprint in lower margin with title

also superimposed on picture; undivided back.

[Entry to Blanche Cave] Narracoorte Caves H H [pm.20 Nov. 1904; 27 Jan.1906]

(Watson has been identified as the photographer from a souvenir booklet, 'Gems of South Australian Scenery', published by Buring and Sobels (winemakers) of Adelaide. This includes two photographs of Narracoorte Caves attributed to Watson, one of which is this one, and bears the title 'The Parlor'.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS FRANCIS

Pu Under Francis Imprint

F Full-frame real photo in dark sepia toning with superimposed hand-lettered title and imprint

Naracoorte Caves Second Chamber V

K-A

Alexandra Cave The Octopus V

K-A

Alexandra Cave The Shower V

K-A

Alexandra Cave The Mirror V

K-A

A number of Printers and Publishers used what almost certainly were images from W.A. Francis

Pu Taylor Collotype Series

F Printed by Collotype with title in wide lower margin; undivided back with coat-of-arms; Picture may be B. & W. or coloured with title in red.

Naracoorte Caves, S. Australia Old Caves - Entrance to 3rd. Chamber H [pm.23 Dec.1904]

Naracoorte Caves, S. Australia Victoria Cave, "Albert Edward" H [pm.2 Dec.1904]

Naracoorte Caves, S. Australia Old Caves - Entrance to 3rd. Chamber H (Control no. 46457 on back) [pm.28 Mar 1905]

Naracoorte Caves, S. Australia Victoria Cave, "Albert Edward" H (Control no. 46458 on back) [pm.10 Mar.1905]

(We have a 1905 copy of this card addressed to Mrs.Davidge of Exeter (suburb near Port Adelaide) which was acquired along with a series of Davidge's own cards.

F As above but printed on divided back; again pictures may be B. & W. or coloured
Naracoorte Caves, S. Australia Old Caves - Entrance to 3rd. Chamber H [pm.21 June 1905]

Naracoorte Caves, S.Australia Victoria Cave, "Albert Edward"

Naracoorte Caves, S.Australia Victoria Cave, "Albert Edward" [pm.1907]

(This card is brightly coloured, with tinsel added. However, Miller (1985) argues that tinsel was

often added by the retailer as one way of clearing slow-selling stock.)

Pu Fullarton & Blackwell, Naracoorte

Pr J. Taylor, Collotype, Adelaide (Cook 1986, pp. 151-2)

F Collotype print with narrow and poorly defined margins and title at lower edge, either in B. &

W. or colour

The Flamingo, Naracoorte Caves H [pm.5 Apr.1907]

"Lauries Grotto" Victoria Cave, Naracoorte H

Entrance to 3rd. Chamber, Old Cave, Naracoorte H [pm. 3 Dec 1906]

A Cool Spot, Naracoorte Caves H [pm. 1907]

(These images are used in the Bevilaqua souvenir books)

Pu H.G. Bevilaqua

F as Fullarton & Blackwell

A cool spot, Naracoorte Caves. S.A. H (Third chamber, Blanche Cave) [pm.22 Apr.1907]

"Lauries Grotto" Victoria Cave, Naracoorte. S.A. H (s.n.a. 5B.2) [pm.12 Oct.1907]

The Crystal Grotto. Victoria Cave. Naracoorte. S.A. H [pm.1 Feb.1907]

Reddan Grotto, Victoria Cave, Naracoorte. S.A. H [pm.11 Jan.1910]

"Opening to 3rd Chamber" Old Cave, Naracoorte. S.A. H [pm.28 May 1907]

"Looking Back" Old Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H [pm.Jul.1909]

Pu MC ?

Pr in Germany
 F Similar to previous series, with the letters MC and a number in Lower RH front and a control number on back.
 MC9141/94810 "Lauries Grotto," Victoria Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H [pm.2 Mar 1909]
 MC9142/94811 Opening to Third Chamber, Old Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H [pm.20 May 1907]
 MC9143/94812 "Looking Back," Old Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H [ms.20 Apr. 1931]

SANDS AND McDOUGALL

Pu Sands and McDougall, Adelaide (not named on card)
 F Coloured picture with wide R.H. margin and non-specific title in red placed in upper R.H. corner.

Cave,/Naracoorte/South/Australia H
 4 different views, all depict Victoria Cave [pms.28 Feb1905 to 16 Oct.1906]
 Cave, Naracoorte,/South/Australia H
 One view, as above
 Cave/Naracoorte/South Aust. H
 Caves/Naracoorte,/South Aust. H
 2 views as above

EMPORIUM SERIES

Pu It is likely that this and the next series were published for V.G. Petherick of Naracoorte, who conducted his business under the name 'Emporium'.

F Printed in sepia with view enclosed in ornate frame; title placed in white area between frame and edge of picture.

Entrance to Big Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. V
 Second Chamber, Big Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H
 Victoria Cave, "The Castles," Naracoorte, S.A. H
 Alexandra Cave, "The Shower," Naracoorte, S.A. V
 Alexandra Cave, "The Mirror," Naracoorte, S.A. V
 Alexandra Cave, "The Bower," Naracoorte, S.A. H

F Very similar to above but no printed frame, and title is in lower L.H.corner (if H) or centered in lower margin (if V).

Entrance to Big Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. V
 Second Chamber, Big Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H
 Victoria Cave, "The Castles," Naracoorte, S.A. H
 Alexandra Cave, "The Shower," Naracoorte, S.A. V
 Alexandra Cave, "The Bower," Naracoorte, S.A. H

F Very similar to series 9, without imprint and with title (in white unless noted) superimposed on view.

The Shower/Alexandra Cave/Naracoorte V

Alexandra Cave/Francis Grotto/Naracoorte H

The Mirror/Naracoorte V (title in black) [pm.7 Oct.1910]

SEMCO SERIES

Pu Semco, Melbourne

F Very similar to Emporium Series. View enclosed in ornate printed frame; title is superimposed

"2nd Skylight"/Old Cave, Naracoorte/S.A. H [ms.2 Jun.1911]

"Looking Back"/Old Cave, Naracoorte/S.A. H

In the Old Cave/Naracoorte, S.A. H

Opening to 3rd. Chamber,/Old Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H

Laurie's Grotto/Victoria Cave/Naracoorte H

Reddan Grotto/Naracoorte Caves/ S.A. H

The Crystal Grotto/Naracoorte Caves/S.A. H

"The Shower"/Alexandra Cave/Naracoorte V [pm.22 Dec.1909] 12A.5 (blue back)

"The Mirror"/Alexandra Cave/Naracoorte V

"The Mirror"/Alexandra Cave/Naracoorte V (Water in pool is tinted blue) [ms. 16 Apr.1911?]

This card has the Semco imprint as an overprint of 'L. & H. Publishing Co., Sydney'.

12A.9 Reddan Grotto/Naracoorte Caves/S.A. (blue back)

F Ornate art deco design with small inset pictures

Greetings from Naracoorte H

Black background with pink & green roses design ; 6 insets, including 'The Shower', 'The Mirror'. and 'Opening to Third Chamber'.

KANNENBERG SERIES

Ph & Pu Kannenberg, Mt. Gambier

Pr in Mount Gambier

F Full-frame view with superimposed title, generally printed in blue and deeply impressed; note old spelling of 'Naracoorte'. Divided back printed in red.

First Chamber, Old Cave, Narracoorte H

Entrance Second Chamber, Old Cave, Narracoorte H

Third Chamber, Old Cave, Narracoorte H

Where Petrified Blackfellow was found/ Old Cave, Naracoorte H

Reddan Grotto, Victoria Cave, Narracoorte V

Laurie's Grotto, Victoria Cave, Naracoorte H

Amber Grotto, Victoria Cave, Narracoorte

The Candles, Victoria Cave, Naracoorte V

Fairy Dell Grotto, Victoria Cave, Naracoorte H

Ladies Wardrobe, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte H .

The Mirror, Alexandra Cave, Narracoorte V [pm.2 Jan.1928]
 The Shower, Alexandra Cave, Narracoorte V
 Zoo Department, Alexandra Cave, Narracoorte V (Title in white printed on negative.)
 F Title in upper R.H., back in black
 Laurie's Grotto, Victoria Cave, Naracoorte H
 F On Kodak paper
 Third Opening, Old Cave, Naracoorte H K-D
 First Chamber, Old Cave, Naracoorte H K-C
 "Shower," Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V K-D

ROSE SERIES

Pu Rose Stereograph Co., Armadale

F Standard Rose Format ; we have used the Rose serial number below, but note the exceptional cards without number.

P9335 The Mirror, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. V R4,R5
 P9336 The Shower, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H R4
 P9336 The Shower, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. H [ms.5 Jan.1948] R9
 P9338 View at the caves, Narracoorte, S.A. H
 (Photographic facsimile only; depicts fences built by Leitch)
 P9339 Looking into the Old Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. H *
 P9340 The Old Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. H R4, R5
 P9341 The Column, Old Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. V *
 P9342 In the Old Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. H *
 P9343 The Old Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. H [pm.2 Sep 1938] R4,R5
 Laurie's Grotto, Victoria Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. H R4
 Reddan Grotto, Victoria Cave, Naracoorte, S.A. R4
 View in the Alexandra Cave, Narracoorte, S.A. V R4
 Mystery Formation. Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte., S.A. H R4

F Cards produced for Hewitt's News Agency and with their imprint.

11 The Mirror, in Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V [ms.1953] R9
 11 The Mirror, in Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V Blank

HEWITT'S NEWS AGENCY

Pu & Pr It seems clear from comparison with other souvenirs that the negatives used are from Valentines, and hence produced by them for Hewitt's.

F Real photo with narrow margins all round; Hewitt imprint and title both superimposed in italic caps; card serial number incorporated in our number below; back is blank.

38 Second Chamber,/Big Cave,/Naracoorte, S.A. H
 (This card has the penciled signatures of a tour group on the back)
 39 The Shower/Alexandra Cave/Naracoorte, S.A. V

W.H. COOPER SERIES

Ph, Pu & Pr W.H. Cooper, Royal Arcade, Melbourne

F Full-frame real photo in sepia.

Naracoorte Caves, S.A. V (superimposed title in script)

Naracoorte Caves H (This card is simply a copy of one of the Tourist Bureau series)

J.B.S. SERIES

Pu J.B. Siddall (See Watts 1986)

F Full-frame collotype in sepia; imprint on back; title in large italic caps..

Entrance, Naracoorte Caves H

The Garden, Naracoorte Caves H

G. W. DAVIDGE SERIES

Ph, Pu & Pr G.W. Davidge

F Real photo prints, some of which have a rubber-stamped imprint on back. Generally with

narrow white margin. Others are identifiable by comparison with Davidge's souvenir book

"Naracoorte Caves and Town", produced in 1924 for the Back to Naracoorte celebrations of

that year. The contemporary press reports of the celebrations refer to Davidge selling photographs of the caves, and also taking photographs of visitors within the caves.

[Entrance into Old Cave] V	K-D(G)
[Entrance into Old Cave] V	K-D
[Canna Garden, Old Cave] H	K-D(9)
[Second Chamber, Old Cave] V	K-D
[Second Chamber, Old Cave; man seated in mid-picture] V (Sepia)	K-D
[Second Chamber, Old Cave; man seated in mid-picture] V	Empire
[Looking back in second chamber]	K-D(G)
[Giant Pillar (Old Cave)] V	K-D
[Giant Pillar (Old Cave)] V (no Margin)	K-D
[Old Cave?] H	K-D(9)
[Old Cave?] H	K-D(9)
[Old Cave?] H	K-D(9)
[Fairy Grotto (Victoria Cave)] H	K-D
[The Shower, (Alexandra Cave)] V	K-B
[The Shawls (Alexandra Cave)] V	K-B
[The Shawls (Alexandra Cave)] V	K-D
[Pipe Organ / Wedding Cake (Alexandra Cave)] H	K-D(9)
[Pipe Organ / Wedding Cake (Alexandra Cave)] H	K-B
[Pipe Organ / Wedding Cave (Alexandra Cave)] V	K-D
[Alexandra Cave)] H	K-B
[Mirror (Alexandra Cave)] V	K-D
[Lady's Wardrobe (Alexandra Cave)] V	K-B

[Blanche Cave] H K-D(G)
(view shows a lady standing in the middle of picture and back has hand-written name "Laura")

MARCHANT POSTCARDS Publishers, Gawler

P1215 "The Mirror", Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte, S.A.

P1216 "The Shower", Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte, S.A.

LEO J. GURRY SERIES

Ph G.W. Davidge, Naracoorte was responsible for at least most of these as they also appear in his

souvenir booklet published of 1924.

Pu Leo J. Gurry, chemist, Naracoorte

Pr In England

F Coloured print with narrow white margin all round; title in roman caps in lower margin.

The series were printed as a booklet with tear-out cards.

Booklet with all six cards

A view of Naracoorte (town) H

Canna Garden, Old Cave, Naracoorte H

Fern Grotto, Old Cave, Naracoorte H

Stalactites, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte H

The Shower, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V

The Shower, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V (Sepia print) [pm. 20 Dec.1929]

The Mirror, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V (Sepia print)

CARDS UNIDENTIFIED TO PHOTOGRAPHER OR PUBLISHER

F Full-frame view in rich brown without title

(untitled - shows "third chamber" of Blanche Cave) H [pm.9 Jan.1907]

F Colour print with white margin and superimposed title in red. Six-point star in stamp area.

Old Cave, Naracoorte H

Pr in Germany

F Cards have a distinctive appearance; title is superimposed in white italic caps; cards are each

numbered in the stamp box and we use these numbers below. Divided back printed in red.

(Many of the cards in our possession have the words 'Made in Germany' obliterated with a

heavy ink line. This was a common expression of the anti-German sentiment which prevailed in

Australia during World War I

We also have this series of cards in two colours - one set in sepia; the other in greenish black.

Note also that although most cards are full-frame views, two (# 46608,46609) have a simple

printed frame enclosing the picture.

46598 "Looking back" Old Cave Naracoorte H [ms.9 May 1914]

46599 "Victoria" Cave Naracoorte H

46600 "Old Cave" Naracoorte H

46601 "Victoria Cave" Naracoorte H [pm.3 Nov.1913]

46602 (not known to us)

46603 "The Shark" Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V

46604 "Frances Grotto" Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte H

46605 "The Shower" Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V

46606 "The Mirror" Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V [ms.11 June 1913]

.46607 "Alexandra Cave" Naracoorte V

46608 "The Mirror" Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V

(Note this is framed view) [ms. 7 Mar.1913; the message is of interest as it states ". . . there

is no photographer in Naracoorte at present."]

46609 "The Shower" Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V

(Note this is framed view)

F 9 Dark prints, most of which appear to mimic the Tourist Bureau series.

All are un-titled, have no imprint. On K-D paper

May well be personal cards.

PERSONAL CARDS

What would otherwise be a delightful personal photograph of a tour party in the Big Cave is marred by double exposure!

K-A

Family posed in front of their car, with a note on the back, 'Taken Narracoorte Caves Jan 1st. 1920.'

Entry to Third Chamber, Old Cave

RP-2

Three Friends standing in sinkhole

The next two may be elsewhere on the Limestone Coast, but included here for convenience

A Lucky Snap by HDS (man and boy dropping rock into water

Looking into arched entrance with many ferns

K-C

POST WWII CARDS

MURRAY VIEWS

Pu & Pr Murray Views, Q.

F B&W prints with numbered title in lower margin
10 Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte, S.A.

F Full color card with deckle edge
Naracoorte, S.A. Cave Scene

PITT CARD SERIES

Pu & Pr Pitt

F B& W Prints with no and title in lower margin
P1215 The Mirror, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V
P1216 The Shower, Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte V

F Full colour Card
SE14 Naracoorte / Fossil Cave H

SOUVENIRS AUSTRALIA SERIES

Pu & Pr Souvenirs Australia / also has Pitt logo

F Full-frame B&W
The Mirror: Alexandra Cave V
The Shower: Alexandra Cave V

F Full colour card
SE14 Fossil Cave
SE16 Blanche Cave H
SE39 Mirror Cave V

ROSE POSTCARDS

Pu & Pr Rose Stereographs, Glen Waverley
F Full colour card with ornate title on front
Blanche Cave/ Naracoorte Caves, S.A. H

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (S.A.)

Full colour cards, title on back

- 1 Straw Columns H
- 1 Straw Columns H b(overprinted 'Greetings from Naracoorte')
- 2 Fossil Dig, Victoria Fossil Cave H
- 6 Mirror Scene, Alexandra Cave H [pm. 1983]
- 12 Dozing Ram, Blanche Cave H

14 The Devil's Pit, Blanche Cave H
18 Shower Pool, Alexandra Cave H

HERITAGE REPRODUCTIONS (Hamilton-Smith)

Package of facsimile reproductions
Tourist Bureau (Wheat Yield) H
Tourist Bureau (Wine) H
Tourist Bureau (Area of S. Aust.) H
Taylor's Collotype (Entrance to third chamber)n H
Taylor's Collotype (Albert Edward) H
Taylor's Collotype (Albert Edward) H [pm. 14 Sep 1986]
Kannenberg (The Shower) V
and enclosing packet

OVERSIZE CARDS (in album)

KEN HOPPEN
[Bent-wing Bats] Naracoorte Caves H

ROSE STEREOGRAPH CO
[Entry to WHA with Diprotodon} H

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Blanche Cave V
Victoria Fossil Cave H
Wet Cave V

WORLD HERITAGE AREA
Ph Steve Bourne
Pr HansenPrint, Naracoorte

Mirror Pool, Alexandra Cave V
Victoria Fossil Cave V
Straws, Alexandra Cave H
Blanche Cave H
Alexandra Cave H
Entrance (with fossil sculptures) H