

Ref:	Report Date 5-11-1998	Club: VSA	Hours: 1	Name of Cave / Feature: Pearce Cave.	Visit Date: 5-11-1998	Cave No: 3SW-2
Names in Party (<u>Author</u> , <u>Leader</u>): <u>Ken Grimes</u> , <u>Reto Zollinger</u> .					If no number, tick reason New Cave [] Unidentified Old Cave []	
Purpose and result of visit: <i>Photographing & collecting additional info on Sand Speleothems (mainly in 3SW-3, q.v.). Fixing minor details of map.</i>					Area Name: SW (Loch Ard Gorge)	
Comments/recommendations (if any): 1: Parks Vic need to install porta-loos on top - <u>urgently</u> ; people have been shitting in the cave! I hope no-one has been drinking from the small stream that flows out of the cave entrance. 2: There is a c70mm dia rotary drill hole in the roof, and continued at least 1m into floor. This is towards back of cave on left-hand (west) side. How long has this been there?, and why?? 3: Not all the cave pearls (pisoliths) described by Baker & Frostick (1951) have been removed, but the few we saw were rounded-angular things rather than nice spheres. There were some small (1-2mm dia) "proto-pisoliths" in one place. 4: There are a few small sand speleothems visible under the cemented sand shelf on the west side as you go in - not obvious. 5: Damage = Some graffiti, some rubbish (more than last trip), and the above-mentioned shit and toilet paper. Breakage and abrasion of floor and walls by human traffic (especially in entrance section). Sand is being tracked over most of the flowstone floors of the rear section. Drill hole (see above). 6: Genesis = essentially a karst cave (stream outflow), but modified by wave erosion (and sand deposition) during the peak of the post-glacial transgression. 7: Map is now finished (see back hereof)						
Description: The cave is 80m long and typically has about 2m of headroom (apart from one duck halfway in) - see map herewith. There is some daylight right to the end, but the back chamber is hard to see in without a torch. The front chamber, has a lot of green algae, and the walls and floor are badly degraded by visitor traffic. The floor is rubble and sand. There is a shelf of cemented sand along the west wall - and extends out into the centre towards the back of this section. The stream flows mainly on the east side. The back gets less visitation (is darker) but has some breakage, graffiti, and the flowstone floor has a coating of sand - apart from where it has been washed off by the drips. This rear chamber is well decorated. There are lots of short straw type stalactites here, covering most of the flat roof. All less than 10cm; I thought this might indicate breakage, but Baker (1942) also refers to them as short.. The floor is flowstone with drip pits, small pools and scattered broad stalagmites and columns. Some localised stals, & the flowstones or drip pools below them, show strong red colourations (iron oxide?). Plenty of active drips, and some continuous trickles, from roof. The stream rises from beneath a flowstone "false floor" against the east wall at the back. Some columns and flowstone areas sit about 0.5m above the present floor; the underlying sand has been eroded out (in places cemented patches of this remain).						
Topo Sheet:		Scale:	Best Grid co-ords:		Parish/Hundred:	Allotment:
How to get there: <i>Loch Ard Gorge is a major tourist site on Great Ocean Road. Cave is on east side of gorge (around a point from the stairs).</i>					Equipment: <i>Standard horizontal.</i>	

Tick the boxes for selected headings, then write about each in sequence, using the correct numbers and headings.

4 Cave type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	24 Hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	38 Air temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geol. Strata names	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Rock type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25 Difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>	39 Humidity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dip & Strike	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Other entr numbers	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Degree explored	<input type="checkbox"/>	40 Moisture level	<input type="checkbox"/>	Main stream flow	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Total entrns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27 Prospects	<input type="checkbox"/>	41 Discoverer & date	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inflow & Outflow points	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Entr type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28 Owner category	<input type="checkbox"/>	42 Extension discov.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water composition	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29 Present Cave Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	44 Contents	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gases	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Decoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	30 Present surface use	<input type="checkbox"/>	45 Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	Likely archeol. Site?	<input type="checkbox"/>
11,12 Length & method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	31 Damage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	46 Important for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age of archeol. material	<input type="checkbox"/>
13-14 Vert Range/method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	32 Management class	<input type="checkbox"/>	47 References	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age of paleontol. Material	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Largest chamber	<input type="checkbox"/>	33 Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entr Doline size	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peak tourist count / day	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	34 Permission from	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yearly tourist count	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Horizontal Extent	<input type="checkbox"/>	35 % mapped	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No. Of levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation rating	<input type="checkbox"/>
18,19 Latitude & Longitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	36 Widest Map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accidents	<input type="checkbox"/>	Best area map	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Entr elevation	<input type="checkbox"/>	37 Entrance Marker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rescue comments	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 bearings & distances	<input type="checkbox"/>

4: **Type** = Limestone cave + sea cave

5: **Rock** = Porous marine calcarenite (Port Campbell Limestone)

7: **Tot Entrs** = 1

8: **Entr Type** = Cave type, perennial outflow.

9: **Dev** = Simple horizontal passage with outflow stream.

10: **Decs** = some good decs, minor unusual decs.

11: **Length** = 80m, paced.

13: **Vert** = 6m, est after visit.

29: **CUse** = "Self-guided" wild cave.

31: **Dmg** = some marking, breakage; a little rubbish

33: **Prot.** = Easy public access.

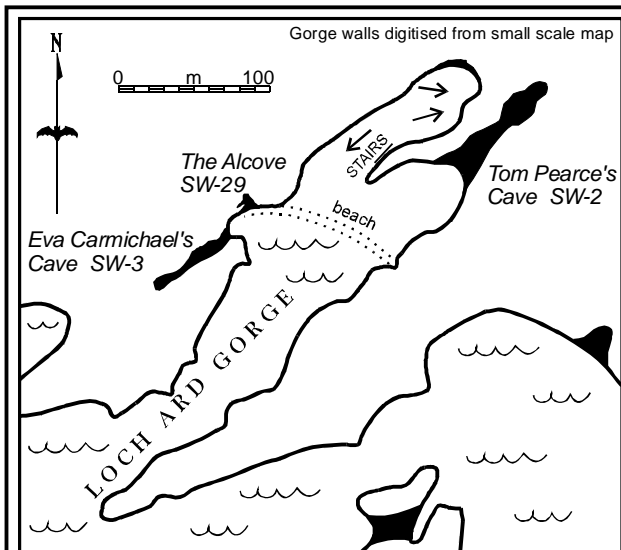
35: **%Map** = 100%

36: **Map** = 3SW2.VSA351, copy herewith.

46: **Sig** = Geomorphology, recreation, history.

47: **Ref** = BAKER, G., 1942: Sand Stalagmites. *Journal of Geology*. 50 (6), 662-667.

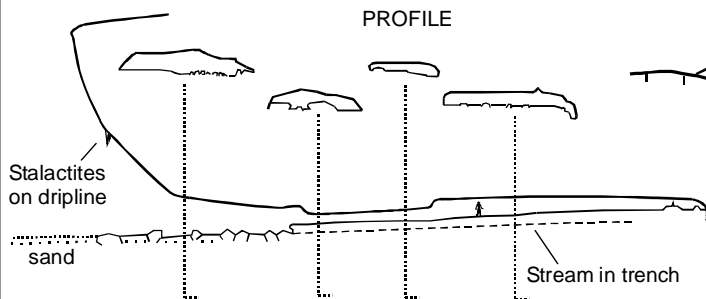
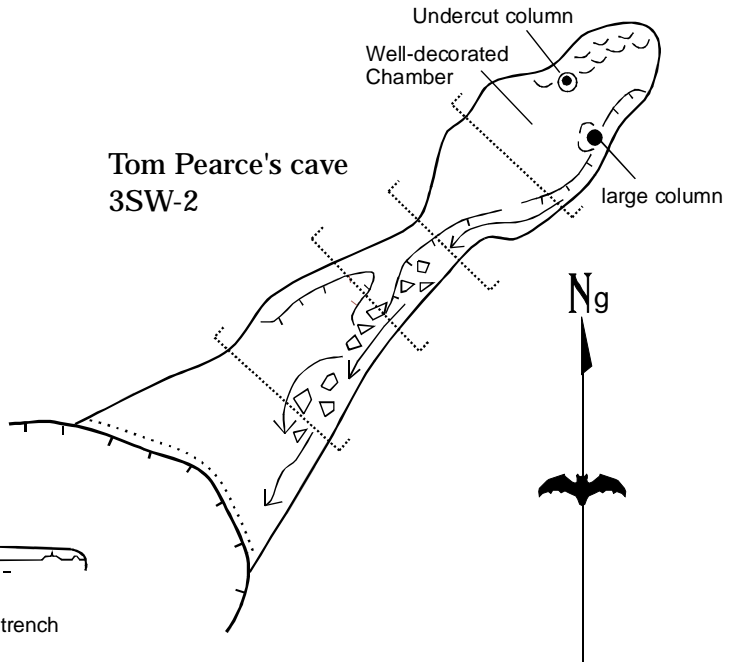
BAKER, G., & FROSTICK, A.C., 1951: Pisoliths, ooliths and calcareous growths in limestone caves at Port Campbell, Victoria. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*. 21, 85-104.



Pearce Cave, 3SW-2 Loch Ard Gorge

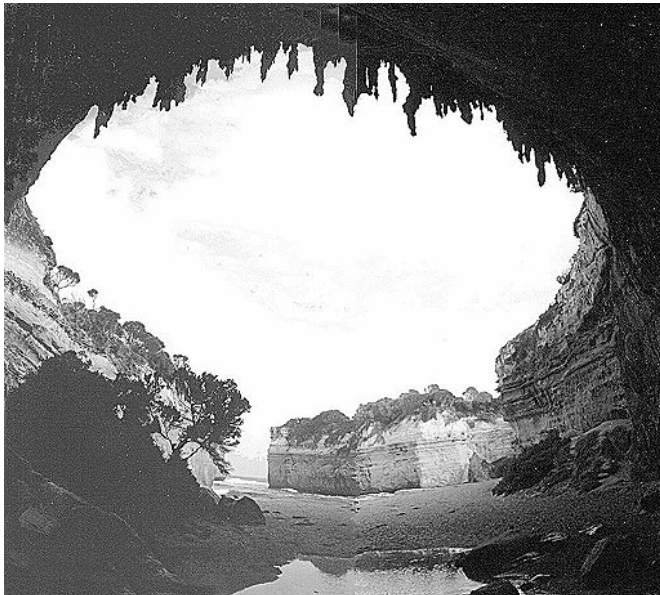
0 m 50

Compass & Pace survey
by KG & JL Grimes, 2-12-1995



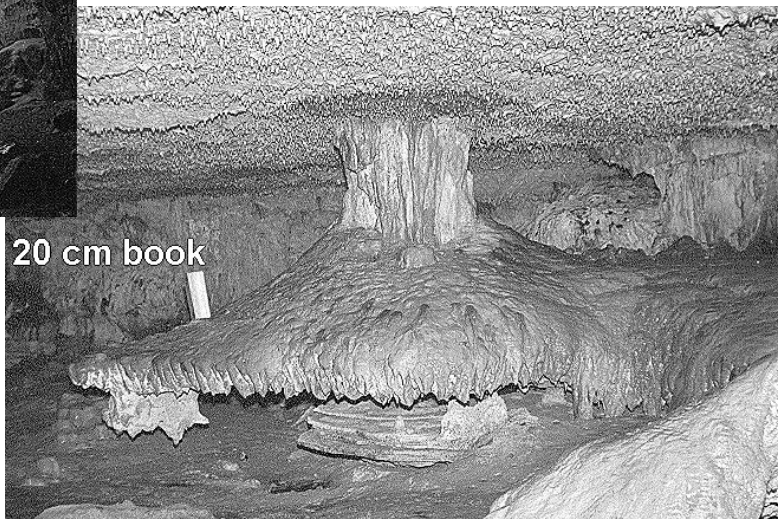
3SW2.VSA351

KGG 2-1999



Entrance to Pearce Cave (wide-angle view).
Note stalactites hanging from drip-line.

20 cm book



Decorations in back of cave.
A column and flowstone has been undermined by removal of soft sand substrate. A central area of cemented sand remains.
Note numerous short stalactites on ceiling.