

Ref:	Report Date 16-2-1999	Club: VSA	Hours: 1	Name of Cave / Feature: The Alcove.	Visit Date: 5-11-1998	Cave No: 3SW-29
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 [] Can't tell which: []	
Purpose and result of visit: <i>Photographing & collecting additional info on Sand Speleothems, Checking sketch map.</i>					Area Name: SW (Loch Ard Gorge)	
					Type of feature (if not Cave):	
Comments/recommendations (if any): <i>Excellent examples of sand speleothems; including pendant forms hanging from roof, and platy "stalagmites" on rocks near entrance. As the entrance is hidden behind rubble, the best protection for this cave is probably to just do nothing that will draw attention of visitors to the gorge to its existence. A report on the Sand Speleothems is in preparation for publication in Helictite later this year. The ones at Loch Ard Gorge were first described by Baker (1942), but he did not enter this cave.</i>						
Description: <i>The cave is a small low-roofed chamber at the base of the cliff. - see map herewith. There is semi-daylight right to the end. The entrance is concealed behind a rubble pile. The significance of this cave lies in the sand speleothems which are the best examples in the region - possibly the best in Australia as these things are rare at a world-wide scale. Sand speleothems are formed by the partial cementation of a loose sand fill within the cave, followed by the erosion of the surrounding uncemented sand. Examples occur in all three of the caves in Loch Ard Gorge (see reports on SW-2 and SW-3, and Baker, 1942), but these are the best by far. The types seen here are bulbous "stalactite" forms hanging from the roof (see photo) and also a few platy "stalagmites" sitting on the rubble blocks near the entrance.</i>						
Topo Sheet: <i>Prinetown 7520</i>		Scale: 1:100,000	Best Grid co-ords: <i>680000mE, 5720200mN</i>		Parish/Hundred:	Allotment:
How to get there: <i>Loch Ard Gorge is a major tourist site on Great Ocean Road. Cave is on west side of gorge on way to SW-3 and is only accessible at mid to low tide (and in calm weather).</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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	40 Moisture level	<input type="checkbox"/>	Main stream flow	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Total entr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27 Prospects	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	42 Extension discov.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water composition	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29 Present Cave Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	44 Contents	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gases	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Decoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	30 Present surface use	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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, dry.

9: **Dev** = Simple low chamber.

10: **Decs** = some excellent unusual decs.

11: **Length** = 15m, +/- 5m, estimated from map.

13: **Vert** = 2m, +/- 1m, est after visit.

24: **Haz** = waves and tides outside.

26: **Deg expl** = cursorily explored, some unexplored leads.

27: **Prospects** = difficult (tight) leads, further leads unlikely.

28: **Owner** = Govt.

30: **SUse** = National Park

31: **Dmg** = none

35: **%Map** = 80% mapped

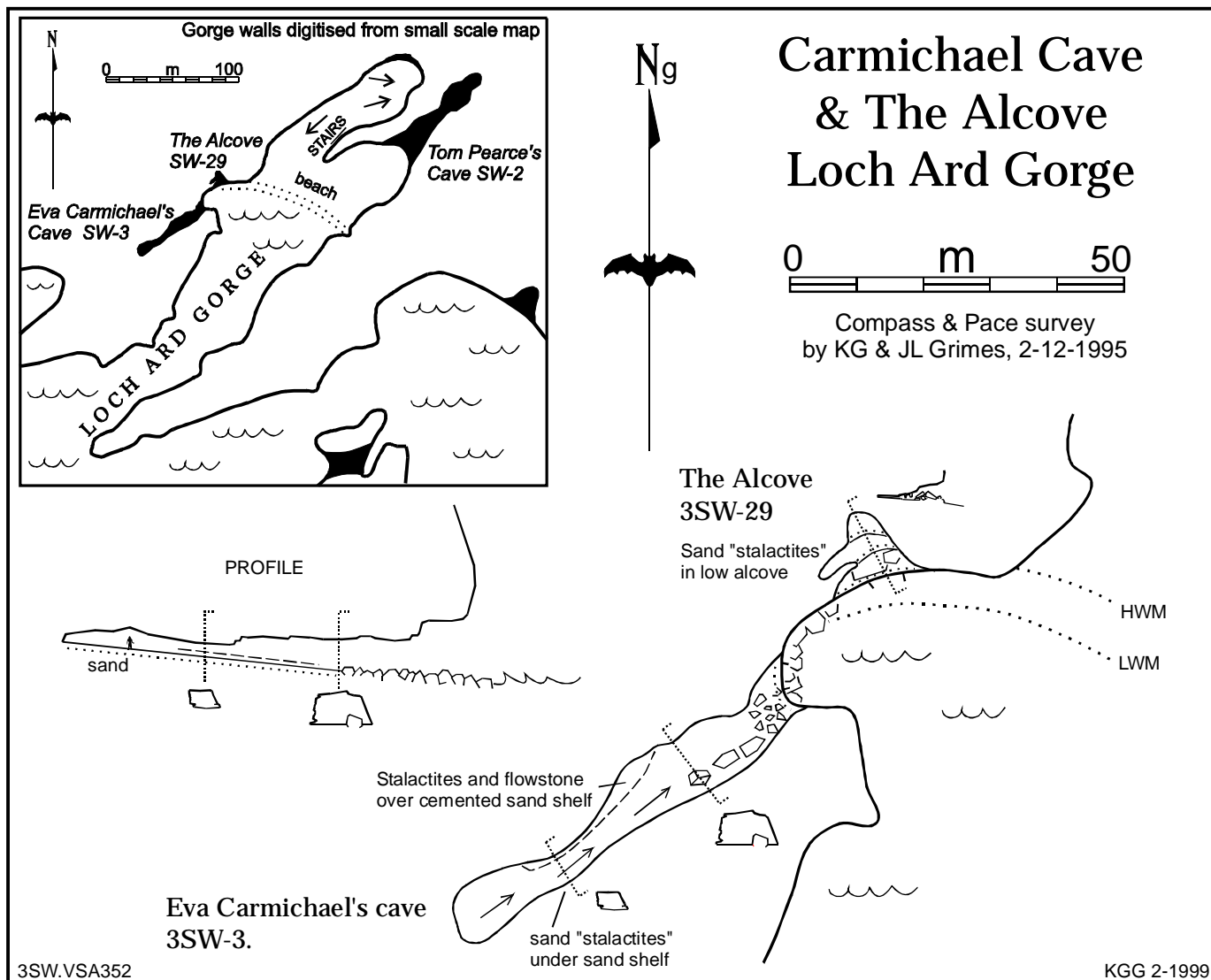
36: **Map** = 3SW.VSA352, on back of this sheet.

37: **Tag** = Entrance unmarked.

46: **Sig** = geology (unusual sand speleothems)

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

GRIMES, KG, in press: Sand Speleothems: an Australian example. *Helictite*, **36**, (in press).



Sand "stalactites" in The Alcove.
Scale bar is 10cm.

