

A CAVE WAR HORSE RETIRES

- Michael Chalker

Monday 24 April 2000 saw the end of an era for the staff of Wombeyan Caves. On this day, Caves Guide Frank Fleming, after thirty years of outstanding service (from 1970 – 2000!) and on completion of his 3.30pm Wollondilly Cave tour, hung up his trusty torch for the last time.

In Frank's thirty years of guiding he has been an outstanding exponent of the profession. His dedication to providing an enjoyable and educational experience to tens of thousands of visitors to Wombeyan over three decades, combined with his total commitment to the resource, his fellow workmates and his employer has been greatly admired.

A Retirement Dinner was held in the Taralga Hotel on Friday 5 May, attended by thirty-five of

Frank's cave friends stretching back many years. The ACKMA Committee was represented by Andy Spate, Ernst Holland and myself, and the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust by General Manager, Andrew Fletcher. Naturally, there were several speeches extolling Frank's many virtues, and many reminiscences. To top off a wonderful occasion, Frank was presented with a framed drawing of "Lot's Wife and Cockatoo" (a key feature in Wollondilly Cave), with a photo of Frank inset in the background.

We all acknowledge Frank for his dedication to caves and karst over a great many years, and I am certain all ACKMA members will join with me in wishing him a happy retirement.