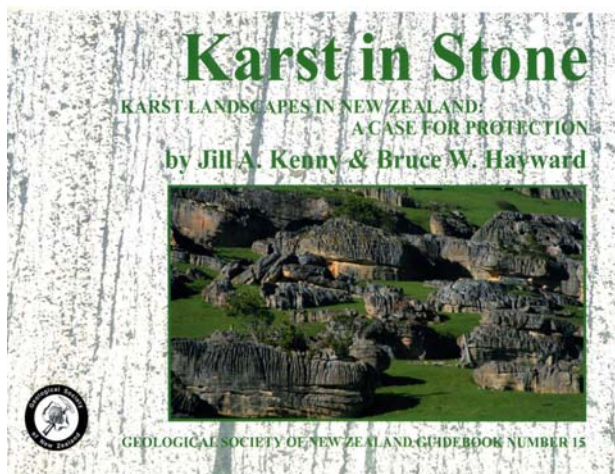
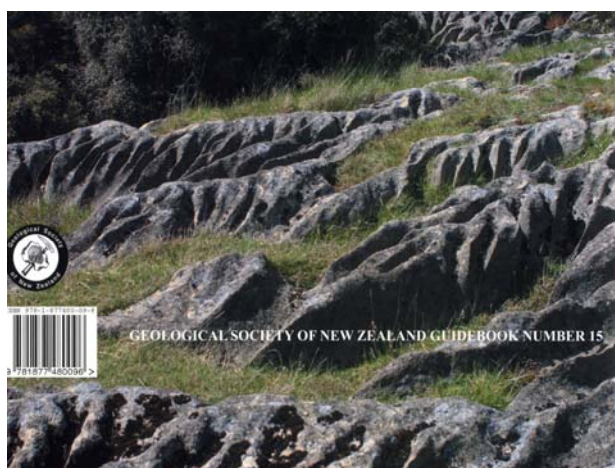


BOOK REVIEWS

Jill A Kenny & Bruce W Hayward. ***Karst in Stone – Karst landscapes in New Zealand: a Case for Protection.*** Geological Society of New Zealand Guidebook No 15 (2009). 40 pp. Full colour. ISBN: 979-1-877480-09-6. Price: \$NZ12.00. **Reviewed by Mary Trayes.**



The front cover (above) and the Back Cover (below).



In 2008 Jill Kenny and Bruce Hayward of the New Zealand Geological Society (NZGS) asked a variety of land managers, earth scientists and cavers for nominations of caves and karst of international, national and regional significance for their review of the NZGS Geopreservation Inventory.

In their review NZGS sought to include more of New Zealand's karst areas as well as any significant caves found since the previous listing was compiled by Trevor Worthy in 1989. Nominations had to be made according to a set of criteria including points about geological, aesthetic, educational and historic values, and be approved by a panel of NZGS members before acceptance and listing in the revised Geopreservation Inventory.

The 2009 publication of 'Karst in Stone,' is the New Zealand Geological Society's 15th Guidebook which contains the now updated inventory, is the outcome of a busy two years work by many people (see acknowledgments at the end of booklet) plus the authors.

The guidebook is beautifully presented in landscape format (bit smaller than A4) with many photographs. A clear set of aims is set out inside the front cover while the title page photograph of a working limestone quarry clearly depicts the risk to nearby karst and sets the tone for what is to follow. The excellent preface has been written by world renowned karst expert, Professor Paul Williams and this is followed by a clear introduction by the authors giving background to the publication.

The remainder of the guidebook is taken up with sections about:

- How Karst Forms
- Karsting Around – karst distribution in NZ
- Karst of Thousands – karst landform features in NZ
- Recognising the values of karst in NZ
- Karst Away – threats to karst features
- Karst Your Mind Back – history of earth science conservation in NZ
- Karst Your Vote – how you can help

Following the above there is an appendix listing the current karst-related sites (including caves) in the NZGS Geopreservation Inventory with a ranking of their importance (A, B or C) and vulnerability (1 to 5), glossary of terms, reference list and an index, all within 40 odd pages.

Publication was followed by a drive to get the guidebook 'out there' and as of April 2010 it has already been sent to many different groups, especially those involved in land management such as the Department of Conservation, Conservation Boards and Regional and District Councils in an endeavour to spread the word about how special our karst landscapes. Notices have also been posted on a number of websites such as <nzcavers@yahoo.com> and there has been a very favourable response from cavers regarding the publication.

Some comments from me, as both a contributor to the review and a reader of the guidebook, are as follows. The guidebook sets out to both educate and act as a tool which can be referred to in the resource consent application process which must be worked through in New Zealand when development such as building, road-making, mining or quarrying is planned.

The first aim is achieved very well but for the second there is insufficient information for council planners and consultants who process resource consent applications. The appendix listings only have a site name, general location and letter/number for significance/vulnerability. This is a 'heads-up' but insufficient detail for those who process resource consent applications for such

things as quarrying, alluvial (open cast) goldmining, gravel extraction, timber harvesting or roadmaking.

The NZGS website is listed with other publishing information on the inside of the front cover but a direct website link at the top of the Appendix about where to find full information for each listing would have made been much more useful for those wanting to use the guidebook a work tool. For those wanting to know more about the NZGS Geopreservation Inventory there is cross link under Publications on the NZGS website or go direct to Bruce Hayward's website at:
<<http://www.geomarine.org.nz/NZGI/other/publications.htm>>.

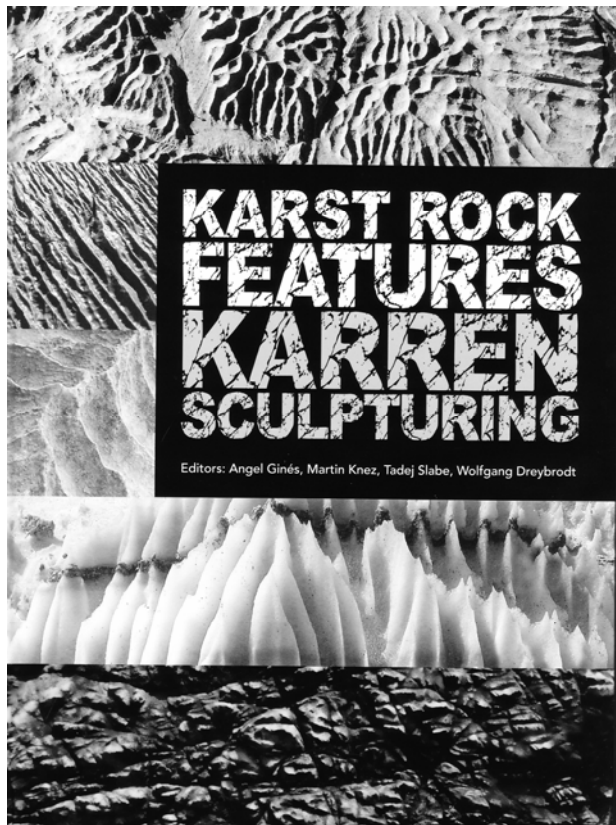
Note that the 1989 edition (i.e. for old listings) of the Cave & Karst Geopreservation Inventory, which has full information for each site, is now out of print, although many land managers and councils do have them. For full information about new listings

as per the 2008-09 review, you will need to contact the authors.

The guidebook has one 'typo' in the Appendix listings for West Coast where 'Cave Terrace' should be 'Cape Terrace' and the reference throughout the guidebook to Westland should more correctly read 'West Coast' (the Heaphy, Oparara and Paparoa karst and caves all being in Buller District, not Westland). However for most readers these points will not detract from the overall presentation and I quite the word play of 'karst' being used for 'cast' throughout as it doesn't detract from the key messages.

If you don't already have a copy of this excellent guidebook, see: <<http://www.gsnz.org.nz/karst-stone-karst-landscapes-zealand-case-protection-p-231.html>> or email Jill Kenny at: <jill.kenny@xtra.co.nz> or write to the authors: C/- 49 Swainston Road, St Johns, Auckland 1072, New Zealand.

Gines, A., M. Knez, T. Slabe, W. Dreybrodt (Eds.) ***Karst Rock Features: Karren Sculpturing***. Ljubljana: ZRC Publishing. 561 pp. ISBN 978-961-254-161-3. Price: 58 Euros. **Reviewed by Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith.**



The surface sculpture of karst has rarely been given the attention it deserves. It often provides beautiful and striking landscapes and at the same time is a valuable tool to the geo-historians. There are many descriptions in the literature describing specific areas, but little in the way of overall studies of this phenomenon. So, this heavyweight (in all senses of the word) text fills a real gap in the reference literature.

It commences with papers outlining general principles in the field of study, the first of which (by Gines) is a historical review which includes a systematic classification of karst landforms. This provides a great baseline for comparisons between the great diversity of landforms which have evolved on karst. These are followed by a series of chapters, each of which describes one category of karst landforms in reasonable depth.

The second half of the volume is devoted to twenty-two case studies of specific locations or categories of locations. Most of these show how well the initial chapters provide a framework for conceptual analysis of the sites. Australian readers will be particularly delighted by Ken Grimes' descriptions of both tropical karst and syngenetic karst in Australia.

A large number of excellent photographs and valuable diagrams are included and provide a great accompaniment to the well conceptualized and clearly expressed texts. Together, this means that most readers will find the book easy to understand.

Thus, it can serve two different audiences. Scholars seeking to enhance their understanding of the karstification process and the resulting karst landforms will find it both informs and challenges them. But I also see a great value to guides and others responsible for introducing karst sites to the general public. Surface landscapes are all too often simply ignored in favor of a focus on the "pretties", yet they are also attractive in themselves and deepen our understanding of the underground.

I congratulate the editors and authors for having produced such an attractive and informative volume.

