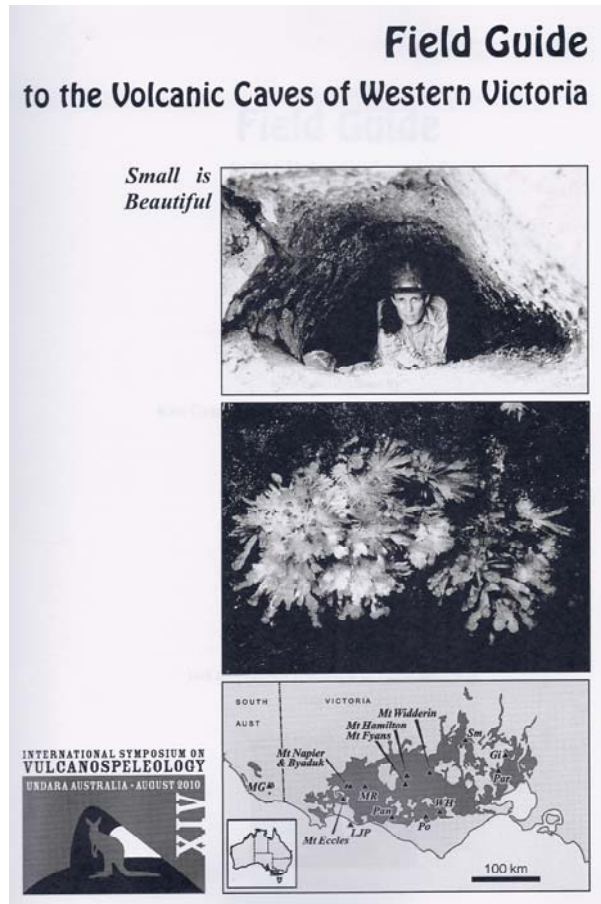


## BOOK REVIEWS

**FIELD GUIDE to the Volcanic Caves of Western Victoria.** Published for the 14th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology. August 21010. 40 pages, black & white. Edited by Ken Grimes. **Reviewed by Kent Henderson.**



This wonderful publication was prepared by Ken Grimes, with contributions from Elery Hamilton-Smith and Susan White, for the field trip of the Western Victorian volcanics, held immediately prior to the 14th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology at the Undara Lava Tubes in Queensland (12 to 17 August).

**Moles Creek Caves Interpretation Manual** – Mole Creek Karst National Park & Conservation Area. June 2009. Justin Simons – for the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Tasmania. 34 pages A4 – full colour. **Reviewed by Kent Henderson.**



Modified rimstone pools in Marakoopa Cave, Mole Creek

The Field Guide is in five sections. The Introduction largely covers volcanic features that attendees will view en route from Melbourne to Western Victoria.

The second section describes the Western District Volcanic Region – its surface landforms, lava flows, drainage modifications and provides an overview of its lava caves areas and their volcanoes.

Section Three, authored by Elery Hamilton-Smith and Ken Grimes, is entitled 'The Background Stories', and provides a history of the area from both an Aboriginal and European perspective, and details cave exploration to date.

Section Four, by Ken Grimes deals with 'The Genesis of the Volcanic Caves – Large and Small' and over nine pages very succinctly tells one everything you need to know on the topic. The fifth and final section is of Cave Descriptions, accompanied by copious maps and images.

I must say, aside from the wonderful text, a great feature of this Field Guide is its photographs and most particularly its maps and diagrams. Ken Grimes is a master of the craft –all the map work is truly superb. The booklet finishes with a comprehensive three pages of references.

I could not image a better Field Guide being written on the area than this one. It is a must for anybody interested in the area. Very limited copies were printed – basically only for attendees.

However, I understand a PDF, on CD Rom, is available from Ken Grimes, at a nominal cost. Email inquires to: <ken.grimes@bigpond.com>

I came across this booklet for the first time at the recent Cave Guides Conference in Wellington. It is a quite extraordinary document. While I can see the value of such a document at any show cave location – in terms of passing on the 'corporate knowledge' of guides-past at least, putting out an extensive full colour booklet seems to me to be a little bit over the top.

I have more than some idea what such a full colour book would cost to produce – we are not talking cheap – and to be even remotely cost effective the print run must run into several hundred copies.

The first question I have is who is going to use it? Obviously, the guides at Mole Creek Caves. Now we are not talking hundreds of people here, not even close. Even if it was distributed to the few other cave/karst guides/rangers in Tasmania,

there must still be large cupboards somewhere full of these manuals, surely. I'd guess attendees at the ACKMA Conference at Ulverstone next May would be a 'odds-on' to get one in their conference satchel! Maybe it is for on-sale to the general public? An Interpretation Manual? Yes, well...

Leaving aside the point of why one would publish it, and in very expensive full colour, let's consider its contents...

The aim of the manual is set out in its Introduction:

*This manual presents an introduction to the caves and karst of the Mole Creek area, with emphasis on the tourist caves, Marakoopa Cave and King Solomons Cave. It provides a basic knowledge of the caves' scientific origins, ecology and history and may be used as a aid for interpreting the caves and enhancing a visitor's experience.*

Well, yes...! The Manual first deals with Cave Geomorphology, under the headings *Karst Geology, Limestone Formation, Geochemistry of Solution, Enlargement of Cave Passages and Geochemistry of deposition*. Each section is succinct and useful.

The next section deals with the various common speleothems and discusses how each is created. A brief section on Atmospheric Conditions with Caves follows, then an extensive listing, with descriptions, of over ten types of cave fauna found at Mole Creek. All useful stuff.

Further sections deal with Cave Deposits, Other Karst Features, and Threats to the Cave Environment.

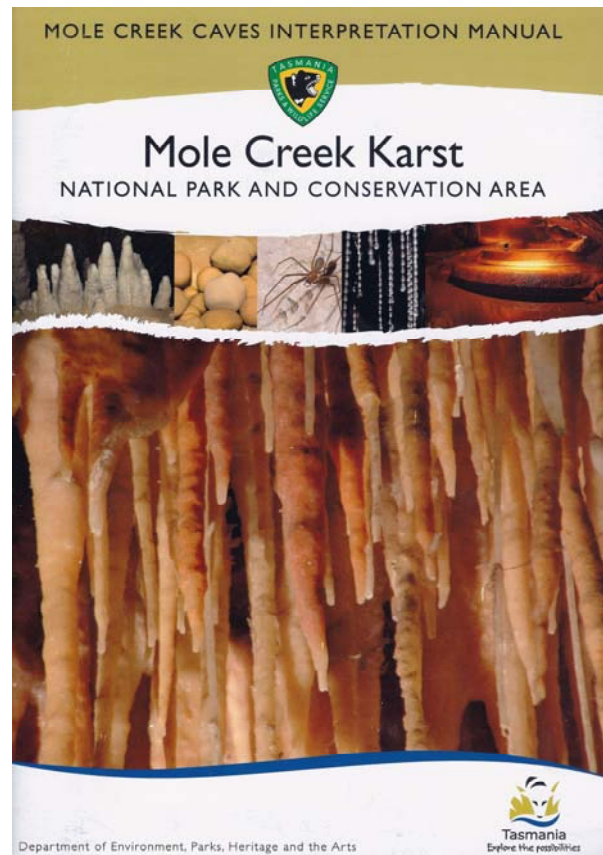
There are sections specifically on the two show caves, the History of cave tourism in Mole Creek and Tours and Interpretation. This latter section deals with *Past tourism practices, Current tourism practices, Interpretation, and Thematic commentary*. The manual ends with two pages of references.

The manual was researched and compiled by Justin Simons of the University of Tasmania, with

historical information sourced from Chester Shaw and Nic Haygarth, with further information and support from Mole Creek Caves Manager, Paul Flood – who also took all the photos in the booklet (of which there are many).

The verdict? It is a very good basic introduction to guiding, and obviously largely site-specific. Any new Mole Creek cave guide reading this manual will have the basic background information for his role.

In short this manual does, in a straightforward yet quite comprehensive way, achieve what it is designed to do, in my view – the fact that a full colour production seems to me to be way over the top, not withstanding.



## MY RECENT READING

– Elery Hamilton-Smith

ACKMA members are aware that as a professional scholar, I read an immense amount of theoretical and other professional literature. Here is a brief summary of several papers which each contain ideas that may prove very important in cave management practice.

You could get copies of these papers, probably on either digital copying or inter-library loan from any good library. If you have problems with this, I can probably get a digital copy to you. to get

Kevin T. Leicht, Tony Walter, Ivan Sainsaulieu & Scott Davies July 2009. **New Public Management and New Professionalism across Nations and Contexts**. *Current Sociology*, 57(4): 581–605.

This paper describes and analyses a major problem in current public administration. On one hand, the system is expected to perform and meet its goals with efficiency and effectiveness but on another, there is an equally pressing demand for accountability.

At least most 'European' style democracies all too rarely recognise the essential contradiction which this duality demands, and few governments act to resolve the problem.

A sad example is provided by the recent Victorian bushfires when the CFA managers spent an excessive amount of time working out who would be responsible for what and how it would all meet the needs for accountability.



This meant that fire warnings were too late and fire crews were often not despatched to an outbreak until it was too late. Their everyday examples may not have such a disastrous impact, but they lessen effectiveness and greatly increase costs to the taxpayer.

Raelin, Joe. 2009. **Seeking Conceptual Clarity in the Action Modalities.** *Action Learning: Research and Practice*, 6 (1): 17-24.

This lays out a conceptual process for education which aims to improve the quality of action. The process can be applied to anything from post-graduate students to nature interpretation to the General Public.

It is a wonderful antidote to our governmental policies which make the big mistake of much education – they believe education is only about transmitting information and totally ignore the really central issues of developing wisdom and personal involvement. Few writers on education have so much of value to say in so few words as Joe does.

Fletcher, R. 2010. **The Emperor's New Adventure: Public Secrecy and the Paradox of Adventure Tourism.** *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 39(1): 6-33.

So, how do you deal with the anomalies which are inevitably present in adventure tourism? Much of the so-called adventure tourism which we offer to cave visitors is much like any other cave tourism but without electric lighting! How can we best balance genuine challenge and adventure on one hand and public safety on the other?

And, perhaps most importantly, can the guide retain his or her honesty and integrity when leading adventure tours?

Fletcher has not written a recipe book but rather given us some ingredients and some questions about how to blend them all together. In my opinion, it is a very valuable book indeed.



Elery Hamilton Smith (left) with Chester Shaw, at a far-distant ACKMA Conference...

## COMING EVENTS

This list will simply list events of special interest to cave managers and cavers. If you are interested in any listed events, contact Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith for further details at <elery@alphalink.com.au>.

2010: Sept 28-29, & Sept 30-Oct 1	Small Cities Conference. Sustainability of Small Country Towns, LaTrobe University, Bendigo
2010: Oct 20-24	ISCA Congress, Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia
2010: Oct 31-Nov 3	Geological Society of America, Denver, USA
2010: Oct 31 – Nov 4	National Groundwater Conference: Challenge of Sustainable Management, Canberra
2010: Nov 5-6	Applied Geography in Theory & Practice, University of Zagreb, Croatia
2010: Nov 16-20	International Conference on Speleology: Development and Interaction of sciences. Naberezhnye Chelny, Russia
2010: Nov 18-19	National Indigenous Conference and Dialogue, University of NSW, Sydney
2010: Dec 6	Biodiversity and Human-Environment Relations, Macquarie University, Sydney
<b>Looking Ahead:</b>	
2011: Jan 1-10	Asian Trans-disciplinary Karst Conference, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
2011: Jan 10-14	12th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes, St. Louis, USA
2011: Jan 11-15	IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Sciences, Whakatane, NZ
2011: Apr 17-22	Australian Speleological Federation Conference, Chillagoe, Queensland
2011: April	Central American Congress of Speleology, Coban, Guatemala
<b>2011: May 8-13</b>	<b>19th ACKMA Conference, Ulverstone, Tasmania</b>
2011: Jul 18-22	NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs, Colorado
<b>2012: May</b>	<b>ACKMA Annual General Meeting.</b> Venue & dates – to be advised.
2012: June 25-29	NSS Convention, Greenbrier Valley, West Virginia
2012: Sept 6-15	World Conservation Conference, Jeju Island, S. Korea
<b>2013: May</b>	<b>20th ACKMA Conference, Waitomo Caves, NZ</b>

