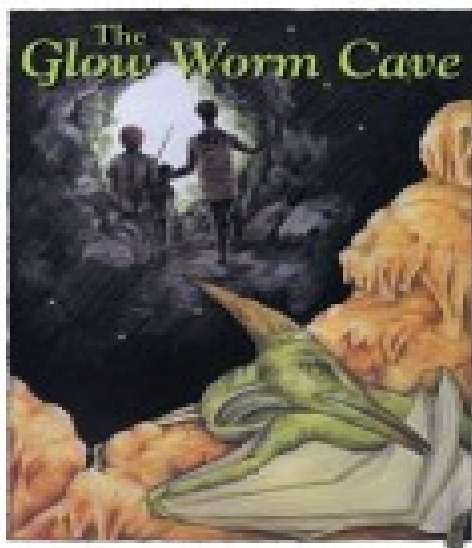


BOOK REVIEW

Anne Morgan, illustrated by Belinda Kurczok. **The Glow Worm Cave.** Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra. 1999. 31 pp. ISBN: 0855 753 439. \$22.95 incl. GST. **Reviewed by Andy Spate.**



Written by Anne Morgan
Illustrated by Belinda Kurczok

This children's book that I stumbled across by chance, tells the story of a mythical cave utilized by Aboriginal people, glow worms, bats and "The Sleepers" who appear to be elements of Australian mammalian megafauna and dinosaurs. Dinosaurs and bats are not well known in Tasmanian caves ... It presents a very strong conservation message.

The book is strongly influenced by the Bender's Quarry/Exit Cave saga and tells the story of the cave, its inhabitants and dreamtime stories, a limestone quarry upon which a local village depends, protestors and a (male) government minister who saves the cave. To quote the author's biographical note:

While on the Franklin River blockade in 1983, Anne met a group of Aboriginal men, women and children who invited her to join their expedition to Kutikina Cave. Even though this cave contained evidence of human habitation

dating back more than 15,000 years, [actually more than 25,000 if my memory serves me correctly] it was on the brink of inundation by the Gordon below Franklin hydro-electric power scheme. A few years later, southern Tasmania's spectacular Exit and Entrance Cave [properly Mystery Creek Cave] was also under threat, this time from the blasting of a nearby limestone quarry. In both cases, action by concerned citizens was a major factor influencing the political decisions to protect the caves.

Anne wrote The Glow Worm Cave twelve years after her visit to Kutikina, drawing on this experience and on the Exit/Entrance Cave story. She was also influenced by her experience as a teacher working with Aboriginal people on remote settlements in the Northern Territory and later as a post-graduate researcher and education officer in Tasmania.

About two-thirds of almost all pages in the A4-sized book have a full-colour illustration. The cave and most animal pictures well-done – although the flying dinosaurs are of unusual morphology. One illustration is recognisably Bender's Quarry although I don't remember the quarrymen wearing beards when Ian Household and I worked there! The book would appear to be directed at an 8-12 year old group – although I am guessing here. It can be ordered from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra and might make an appropriate Christmas stocking filler.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A substantial number of book reviews for the ACKMA Journal are on hand, but are not included in this edition due to space constraints. They will appear in the next (March 2011) edition.

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>.

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: Mar 14-18	George Wright Society Conference on Parks. Protected Areas and Cultural sites, New Orleans, Louisiana.
2011: Apr 17-22	Australian Speleological Federation Conference, Chillagoe, Queensland
2011: May 8-13	19th ACKMA Conference, Ulverstone, Tasmania
2011: Jul 18-22	NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs, Colorado
2012: May	ACKMA Annual General Meeting. 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
2012: November	ISCA Conference – Greece and Turkey
2013: May	20th ACKMA Conference, Waitomo Caves, NZ
2013: 21-28 July	International Congress of Speleology, Brno, Czech Republic
2014: November	7th ISCA Congress, Jenolan Caves, NSW