

# WONDERS of the MARGARET RIVER REGION

Reviewed by Andy Spate

Published by the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association (AMRTA). Paperback, 42 pages + covers, 'landscape' format, text unattributed, photography by Lindsay Hatcher with additional photography from David Wilcox, Lloyd Robinson and Leighton De Barros. Price \$10 (\$8 with a cave or lighthouse ticket).

This nice little booklet deals with the four attractions operated by AMRTA on the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge. There is also a page dealing with the biodiversity of southwest Western Australian and another on the marine diversity of the region. The four AMRTA attractions are, of course, the three caves – Mammoth, Lake and Jewel – and the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse which illuminates both the Southern and Indian Oceans with its essential warning to mariners.

The caves are developed within the very young (by geological standards) Tamala Limestone which here is thought to be around one million years old. These limestones consist of fragments of corals and shells blown from the sea floor at times of low sea level during

glacial periods to accumulate as huge carbonate sand dunes. As the dunes hardened to form limestone, caves started to develop – hence the term 'syngenetic karst' – caves and rocks were forming at the same time!

Mammoth, Lake and Jewel Caves are spectacularly different as this booklet makes out. All are well- worth a visit as the booklet demonstrates. The text deals with the history, features, environment and development of the caves. The booklet is profusely illustrated with images from Lindsay and others – unfortunately the image captions do not identify the photographer. The images range from fantastic to a little ordinary. I wish I had an image as good as the *Zygomaturus* jaw bone!

The booklet emphasizes the fine work of AMRTA and several grant organisations in environmentally works at the AMRTA sites.

