

## Around the show caves

### An update on the new Visitor Experience Centre at Wellington Caves, NSW

#### Ian Eddison reports

Construction of the Wellington Caves' Visitor Experience Centre has had an impact on the day to day operations of the site with unscheduled cuts to phones, internet, power and water. Like any site with heritage infrastructure, the services were not where they were expected to be and although care was taken, several disruptions have occurred. The staff adapted and responded to each challenge and minimal disruption occurred to the public.

The first slab of concrete was laid on 3 May 2019. This was a week and a half before Wellington staff descended on Naracoorte in South Australia for the Guides' School and ACKMA 2019 AGM.

On the 28 May, the first uprights and beams were being placed. Despite some disruptions to the day to day operations while getting the new services in the ground, the project is on track and should be open late in 2019.

The Visitor Experience Centre will fulfil a multitude of purposes including the initial enquiry area and cave tour ticket sales as well as caravan park check-ins, a small café, souvenir shop and a Megafauna display (some 10 x 11m in size). All other offices and amenities will be under the one roof and a laboratory and fossil store are also included.

Wellington Caves anticipates being able to showcase the new Visitor Experience Centre with its surrounding landscaping at the time we host the Cave Guides' School and ACKMA AGM in May 2021.

**The first frame elements of the new Visitor Centre are up!**



## Jenolan Caves

In his presentation for the 2020 ACKMA Conference, Scott Melton also gave some news concerning a second major upgrade funding announcement made for facilities at the Jenolan Reserve. The only proper way to explain it is to show it as Scott presented it to the AGM!

## Some great Jenolan news...!!!



(L to R) Member for Bathurst Paul Toole, Jenolan Caves General Manager Jodie Anderson and NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro.

In February 2019, Jenolan Caves received the exciting news that a \$10.4 million funding commitment to the refurbishment of the historic Jenolan Caves House had been made by the New South Wales Government.

This news was delivered by the member for Bathurst Paul Toole and Deputy Premier John Barilaro. This follows an \$8.5 million grant made in April 2018 for improvements to the visitor precinct as well as improvements to the existing walking tracks and new boardwalks & remedial works around the Blue Lake precinct.