

WELLINGTON'S PHOSPHATE MINE OFFICIALLY OPENED

- David Hearn

Although Wellington Caves' Phosphate Mine has been "open for business" since late April 1996, on Friday, 15 November it became "official". In the presence of 140 guests, the NSW Minister for Mineral Resources, Hon. Bob Martin MP, unveiled a plaque commemorating the restoration project's completion.

The Minister spoke of the historical links between caves and the Dept. of Mines and extended his congratulations to Wellington Council's Mayor, Campbell Gregory, on the successful completion of the project. Among the guests were ACKMA

President, Mike Chalker; Executive members Andy Spate and Ernst Holland and Ernst's wife Elaine; Jenolan Caves Manager Andrew Fletcher; Cave Reserve Trust General Manager Ted Reedy; and Jenolan staff Barry Richard and John Callaghan.

Since its opening, visitation to the Phosphate Mine (which includes the Bone Cave making a through tour) has been quite pleasing, although not outstanding at this stage. Many visitors to the Caves are not aware of the mine tour, but with more promotion I expect this problem will ease.