

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT WOMBEYAN CAVES

- Michael Chalker

The centenary of the first European sighting of Junction Cave and the official opening of the Junction Cave redevelopment was celebrated on Saturday 18 October 1997. The opening ceremony was scheduled to be performed by the NSW Minister of the Environment, Hon. Pam Allen, but she was unavoidable detained. The Chairman of the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, Mr. Warwick Bennett, officiated in her absence.

One hundred and twenty invited guests attended the function. Mr. Bennet welcomed them to his *favorite* cave system with great enthusiasm, and went on to express his delight in the excellent

refurbishment that had been undertaken, and congratulated all concerned.

Guests were treated to a never-to-be-forgotten bagpipe rendition and the superb soprano voice of Jenolan Caves guide Domino Coster from high up in Victoria Arch. A barbecue luncheon on the lawns of the Cave Reserve was followed by tours of Junction Cave, and a most enjoyable day was had by all. A large number of ACKMA members were in attendance including Ernst Holland, Steve Reilly, Mia Thurgate, Andy Lawrence, Pat Larkin, Dave Gillieson, Barry Richard, Andy Spate and Nick White, amongst others.