

ANDYSEZ 56

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR CAVE GUIDES (AND OTHERS)

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At the Guide Workshop at Capricorn Caverns recently I met a bevy of cave people all enthusiastic to learn more so I decided to amplify an earlier ANDYSEZ.

First and foremost — I will endeavour to answer your questions or send you off in the right directions to sources who might know better. I also have an 'Introduction to Speleology' document for various Australian cave areas – much out of date but still useful – that I can make available.

Second – the 'members only' area of the ACKMA website (<http://www.ackma.org>) where there are about 50 "ANDYSEZ" columns that deal with the things you get asked about. Such as 'how do helictites form' or what are the 'ages of speleothems'. One of those ANDYSEZs (number 52) deals with information sources but after the wonderful Capricorn Caverns cave guide workshop in May I thought I might update things – maybe broadening the scope. ANDYSEZ 52 contains more detail about the various books mentioned here – except the more recent *Speleothem Science* – details of this below.

To see all the ANDYSEZ columns:

Log into <http://www.ackma.org>. Then login to MEMBERS ONLY. Once in there look for the black bar above the blue you will see PROCEEDINGS – click there and you will see a green menu with ANDYSEZ listed – click there and the rest is yours!

Going back to the ACKMA website – you can now search the conference proceedings and such of the Journal articles that are there as well as much as much else. If you have problems contact Rauleigh Webb at webmaster@ackma.org – but try to resolve any problems yourselves so as not to overload our great IT guru.

Moving right along ... I believe that every Australasian cave guide (and manager) should have day-to-day access to at least these three books:

- *Beneath the Surface*
- *Caves: Processes, Development and Management*
- *Cave Minerals of the World*

see ANDYSEZ 52 for details

The first book is completely Australia related whilst the second travels more broadly but was written by an Australian and has many examples from this country.

Maybe these should be on your front counter or in your education area as well ...

- *Cave Geology*
- *Karst Hydrology and Geomorphology*
- *Cave Conservation and Restoration*

see ANDYSEZ 52 for details

Why am I not providing details here? I want you to be using the ACKMA website resource. It is your site! Accessible if you are an ACKMA member or through your organisation's membership.

Cave Conservation and Restoration is a very hands-on book covering a multitude of subjects based on many years of practical experience. It was published by the National Speleological Society (of the USA). I strongly recommend this book to each cave workplace also.

Speleothem Science: From Process to Past Environments: by Ian Fairchild and Andy Baker, is a much more recent book (2012) and contains a wealth of information – although heavy going in places. The publisher's blurb states:

Speleothems (mineral deposits that formed in caves) are currently giving us some of the most exciting insights into environments and climates during the Pleistocene ice ages and the subsequent Holocene rise of civilizations. The book applies system science to Quaternary environments in a new and rigorous way and gives holistic explanations of the relations between the properties of speleothems and the climatic and cave setting in which they are found. It is designed as the ideal companion to someone embarking on speleothem research and, since the underlying science is very broad, it will also be invaluable to a wide variety of others.

Students and professional scientists interested in carbonate rocks, karst hydrogeology, climatology, aqueous geochemistry, carbonate geochemistry and the calibration of climatic proxies will find up-to-date reviews of these topics here. The book will also be valuable to Quaternary scientists who, up to now, have lacked a thorough overview of these important archives.

There is a more thorough review in an earlier edition of the Journal (No. 87 June 2012) The publisher's list price is \$130 and \$104.99 as an E-book. I got my copy at a much better price from a British firm bookdepository.com – although checking now I find it is more expensive there now at W 110,424 (I am writing this in Korea so that is Korean currency – the won = about \$127).

If you visit <http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&bcsId=7193&itemId=1405196203> you can download the figures associated with each chapter as MS PowerPoint files – very well worth a look! You can also view the tables for each chapter as pdf files – perhaps much less useful.

Obviously there is an immense range of websites. Some are:

- International Show Caves Association: <http://www.i-s-c-a.org>
- National Speleological Society: <http://www.caves.org>
- Show Caves of the World: <http://www.showcaves.com>
- International Union of Speleology: <http://www.uis-speleo.org>
- Australian Speleological Federation (including access to the Journal Helictite); <http://www.caves.org.au>
- Slovenian Karst Research Institute publishes a free, multidisciplinary e-journal at: <http://ojs.zrc-sazu.si/carsologica>
- Andy: <http://www.karstmanagement.com>

And a zillion others. A google search on 'cave related websites' reveals 825,000 sites – enough for a couple of rainy afternoons!

I hope all of this helps you build your information base to underpin your presentations – but there was so much else conveyed and discussed at Capricorn Caverns – thanks to Cathie, John and David – but much more to the guides and others who participated in those wonderful days. Information is only part of the guiding experience!