

**ISCA**  
7<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Jenolan  
Australia

2014

# JENOLAN 2014 7th Congress of ISCA

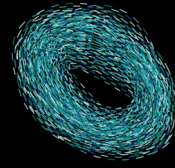


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**Newsletter #4  
September 2014**



jenolan caves



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN—BOOK NOW!**

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- \* Australia was the second country in the world to give women the vote (New Zealand was the first).
- \* Prime Minister Harold Holt went for a swim at Cheviot Beach in December 1967 and was never seen again. This event became known as 'the swim that needed no towel'.
- \* Australian Bob Hawke entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 1954 for drinking 2.5 pints of beer in 11 seconds. He became Prime Minister in 1983, holding office for 8 years!

Greetings to all members of ISCA from Jenolan Caves, NSW Australia, venue of the **7th Congress** and to the fourth Congress Newsletter.

The time is passing with crazy speed now and we are only **8 weeks** away from the official opening of the 7th Congress.

I am pleased to report that we continue to receive a steady stream of bookings from all over the world. It will be an amazing week at Jenolan Caves!

I strongly encourage any ISCA member who has not already done so to complete a Registration Form now and to email this as soon as possible. The form is available for download from both the official website [www.i-s-c-a.com](http://www.i-s-c-a.com) or the **7th Congress website** [www.jenolan2014.com](http://www.jenolan2014.com)

Accommodation is filling up quickly now as well. All **Classic Rooms** in Caves House are fully booked, and only a limited number of en-suite rooms remain in the Mountain Lodge.



Jenolan's 'River Cave', lit with Weidmuller LEDs

**Book NOW** to avoid any disappointment.

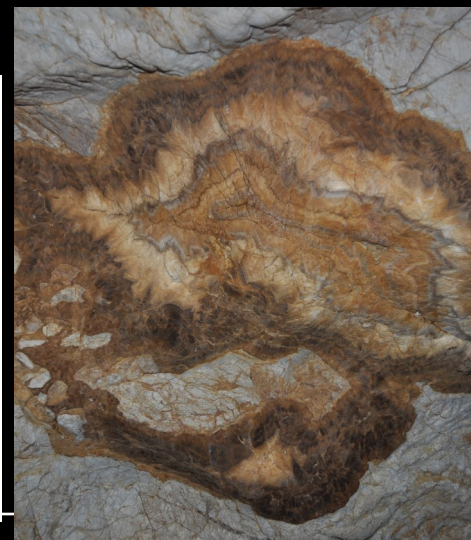
If any ISCA members has any questions I urge you to contact us and ask—please do not be shy! We have been providing many delegates with general information about travel to Australia and options for extended touring whilst here. Emails to the Congress Convener [dan.cove@jenolancaves.org.au](mailto:dan.cove@jenolancaves.org.au) will be answered as soon as possible.

I must also advise all delegates or any who are still considering attending that the **pre-Congress activities program is now closed for further bookings as we have reached capacity for all activities!**

## World's Oldest Caves?

There is a great deal that we still do not fully understand at Jenolan Caves. One of the still unsolved questions is just how ancient the cave system is. Work undertaken over the past 2 decades involving the dating of clays within the caves has shown that there were caves forming at Jenolan well over 300 million years ago, perhaps much earlier. The dating results are amongst the oldest ever achieved for any cave.

New caves are still being discovered, and scientific work continues to shed new light on the many mysteries of the Jenolan Cave system.



# PRE CONGRESS ACTIVITIES—FULLY BOOKED

We have had a terrific amount of interest in the 3 day Pre-Congress Sydney highlights tour. At this stage I must advise anyone who is still planning their trip that the official Pre-Congress activities program is now **COMPLETELY FULL**. We are sadly unable to take any additional bookings for the tour.

Any attendees who have not booked, please feel free to contact the Congress organizing committee for recommendations

for activities and contact information in Sydney.

For those who have booked, start looking forward to an amazing three days visiting the world



famous Sydney harbor including cruising the harbor itself, visiting the Museum, Opera House and Zoo and taking in the amazing views from the Sydney Tower and the very top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge!!!

# THE HISTORY OF JENOLAN CAVES HOUSE

The first accommodation was constructed in the remote Jenolan valley in the late 1860s as a response to growing visitor numbers. By the end of the 19th Century Jenolan had become the most popular tourist destination in NSW and there was a great demand for high quality accommodation on site. The present hotel was designed in 1896 by the Government architect with construction underway by 1898.

The hotel was planned as a “retreat for the wealthy” with only “persons of quality” to be made welcome! Further growth in tourism led to more extensions with the final section, the Grand Dining Room, completed in 1927.

Today Jenolan Caves House retains all the character and style of the original plan and continues to welcome “persons of quality”. It is one of only 2 hotels remaining in Australia to feature a traditional

‘Grand Dining Room’ and one of the great icons of NSW tourism.



# Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

The official Congress Excursion on Wednesday November 5th will explore the beautiful **Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area**, travelling to Katoomba—an hour from Jenolan—and visiting ‘Scenic World’, the Cultural Centre with lunch at the historic [Carrington Hotel](#).

The Greater Blue Mountains Area was inscribed on the World



Heritage list in 2000 as an outstanding example of ongoing ecological and biological processes, in particular the diversity of eucalyptus species.

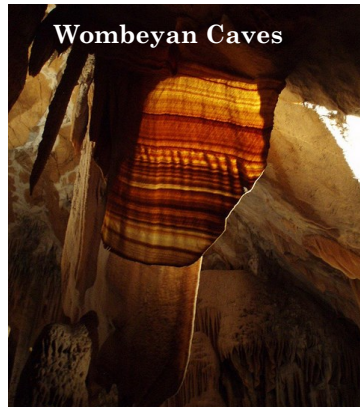


# POST CONGRESS FIELD TRIP

There are only a few remaining places on the post-Congress Field trip. This trip will travel from Jenolan to the great southern city of Melbourne via the significant **Wombeyan Caves** (a tourist cave system in marble caves), **Yarrangobilly Caves** in the amazing Snowy Mountains area of southern NSW and **Buchan Caves** in Victoria. The tour will also detour to take in the Australian National Capital of **Canberra**.

This trip, being largely organized by ISCA member and Australian

cave expert Andy Spate, will depart from Jenolan Caves on the morning of Sunday November 9th and will reach **Melbourne** on the afternoon of Thursday 13th.



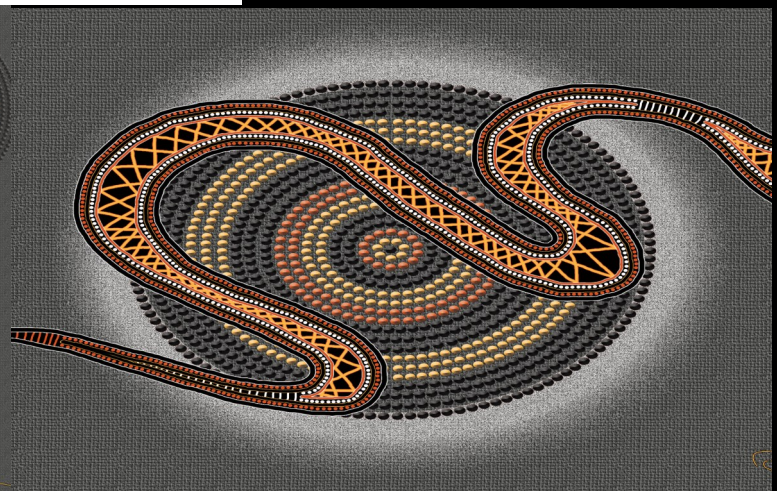
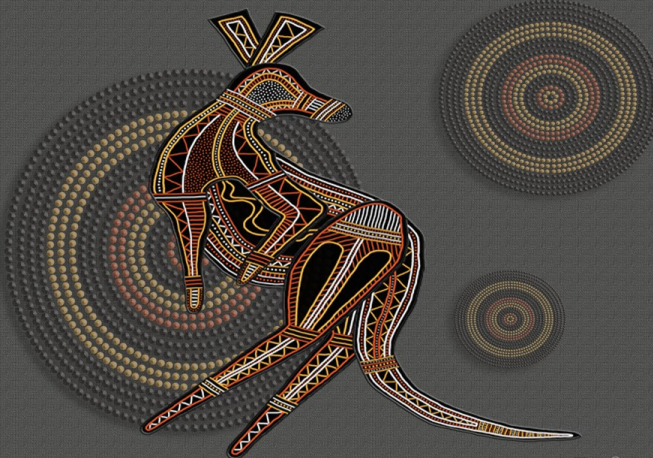
## Paper Presentations—A Full Program!

I am delighted to report that we have a full program of speakers with a fine range of abstracts received. The hard working evaluation committee of Andy Spate, Dr Julia James, Steve Bourne and Arrigo Cigna have done a magnificent job of organizing this, and grouping the speakers into themes.

I am confident that the final

program of speakers will provide engaging and thought provoking sessions while all remaining true to the central theme of the Congress and to show cave management in general.

There are still opportunities for delegates to present **POSTERS** at the Congress. Please contact [Andy Spate](#) to discuss.



Artworks created for the *Healing Waters* tour. Aboriginal cultural heritage at Jenolan Caves by local Indigenous artist Tom Brown.

# Jenolan 2014

**ISCA Organising Committee**  
4655 Jenolan Caves Road  
Jenolan Caves 2790  
NSW AUSTRALIA

Phone: 61 2 6359 3926  
Mobile/Cell: +61 458 201 724  
Fax: +61 2 6359 3307  
Skype: dan.cove  
E-mail: dan.cove@jenolancaves.org.au

The first ISCA Congress to be held in the Southern Hemisphere...

The perfect opportunity to visit Australia...

Furthering Show Cave Management in an exciting venue in a spirit of friendship and collaboration...

We look forward to welcoming the world to **JENOLAN 2014!**

**QUESTIONS?? Please write to us...**

explore marvel stay...

[www.jenolan2014.com](http://www.jenolan2014.com)

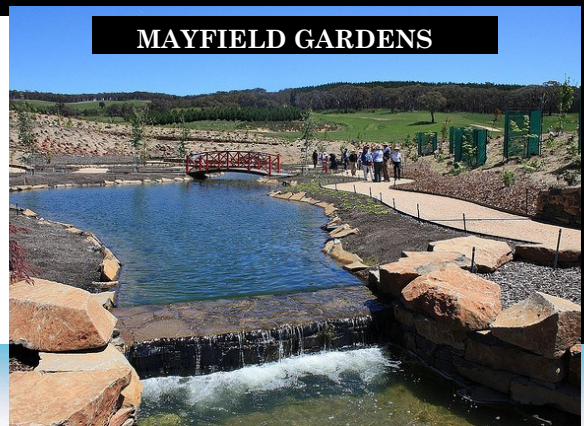


## FIELD TRIPS DURING THE CONGRESS

There will be many options available to Congress attendees during the week. In addition to the major field trip on the Wednesday, there will be a series of options from which delegates may select. These include visiting the amazing **Kanangra Walls**, a massive sandstone escarpment only 30 minutes from Jenolan. Also located close by is the beautiful **Mayfield Gardens**—one of the great cold climate gardens of the world.

More local options will include **caving trips** into the Mammoth, Elder and Aladdin Caves at Jenolan. All used as commercial caving trips, these diverse areas feature spectacular crystal and sporting caving challenges. They also offer a most interesting case study of adventure caving as a complimentary commercial activity to conventional show caves.

All activities will be explained and offered throughout the week with delegates able to select their preferred options.



**MAYFIELD GARDENS**



**Kanangra Walls—30 minutes from Jenolan Caves**