



Jenolan Caves Summer Lecture Series

Free talks (and associated activities) presented by Jenolan staff on particular areas of interest concerning the Natural and Cultural heritage and environment of Jenolan Caves. Learn something new and fascinating, from someone who really knows what they are talking about!

Time: 6.00pm - 7.45pm

Location: Kanangra Boyd Room, Jenolan Caves House

Dates: Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings through January 2010.

Cost: *FREE. Tea & Coffee will be provided.*

Specific Activities

SATURDAY JANUARY 2

Topic: Geology of Jenolan Caves

Speaker: Ted Matthews

Overview: Ted, a guide at Jenolan since the 1960s and a former science teacher, will discuss the 430 Million year story of how an ancient marine reef system became one of the most spectacular cave systems in the world. Includes a walk through the 'Binooomea Cut' and, time allowing, the first section of the *Temple of Baal*.

TUESDAY JANUARY 5

Topic: The Platypus

Speaker: Dr Anne Musser

Overview: Anne, a Jenolan guide, also works with the Australian Museum and is one of the world's foremost experts on the amazing Platypus. Anne will lead a walk around the *Blue Lake*, home to several elusive platypuses, and speak on the evolution, habits and habitat of this rare Australian emblem.

THURSDAY JANUARY 7

Topic: Music and Concerts at Jenolan Caves

Speaker: Domino Houlbrook-Cove

Overview: Music has been an important aspect of the cultural heritage of Jenolan since the 1860s, when the first concerts were held in the Grand Arch. Today the amazing acoustics of the caves continues to attract performers from all over the world. Domino, now Jenolan's Manager of Corporate & Leisure Sales, was previously a guide. Trained as an Opera Singer, she was known as Jenolan's "Singing Guide", and will explore the interesting history of music in the caves. Includes a walk through the Grand Arch and Devil's Coach-House.

SATURDAY JANUARY 9

Topic: Photography at Jenolan; 1870s to Today

Speaker: Rob Whyte

Overview: The arrival of tourists to Jenolan Caves in the 19th Century coincided with the development of photography, and many great pioneers in this field were drawn to Jenolan to experiment with this new art form. From these early days to the digital age, Jenolan has been captured by generations of professional and amateur photographers. Rob, a Jenolan Guide and member of the Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society, will share his fascination with the story of photography and his own passion as a cave photographer.

TUESDAY JANUARY 12

Topic: Paranormal Jenolan; Ghosts & Orbs

Speaker: Cory Camilleri

Overview: Many staff and visitors have reported unexplained events over the years at Jenolan. Today, a 'Ghost Tour' is offered, and interest in the mysterious and unexplained is high. Cory, a Guide for many years, has researched the paranormal phenomena at Jenolan extensively. She will discuss ghostly happenings within the caves and Caves House, as well as looking at the mysterious 'orbs' often captured in photographs underground.

THURSDAY JANUARY 14

Topic: Birds of the Jenolan Area

Speaker: Ian Eddison

Overview: The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve is home to a diverse array of native birdlife. Ian, a long serving Guide, has spent many years compiling a complete species list for the Jenolan area, and has devoted a great deal of time to tracking down rare bird species of the Reserve. Ian will lead a walk, looking to observe some of these species, and discuss the variety of birdlife

SATURDAY JANUARY 16

Topic: Jenolan's Colourful Characters

Speaker: Gordon Mills

Overview: The personalities at Jenolan Caves over the years have been as fascinating as the caves themselves. Gordon, a Jenolan Guide and trained actor, has brought several of Jenolan's colourful characters to life on historical tours. He will discuss the personalities and eccentricities of the men and women who explored the caves and dedicated their lives to promoting and protecting what they discovered and loved.

TUESDAY JANUARY 19

Topic: The Dangerous World of Cave Diving

Speaker: Michael Collins

Overview: SCUBA diving through caves is one of the most dangerous activities that it is possible to undertake. Exploration is always continuing at Jenolan, and this exploration increasingly involves diving through narrow water filled caverns. Michael is a guide and also a caver with the Sydney University Speleological Society, with extensive experience in exploring underwater caves. He will share his experiences in this area, and discuss the possibilities for further exploration and discovery at Jenolan in the future.

THURSDAY JANUARY 21

Topic: Flora of the Jenolan Area

Speaker: Ian Eddison

Overview: The Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve is a part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, listed as such for its diversity of Eucalypt species. Many rare native plants have been found on the Reserve, including by Ian – a long serving Guide and naturalist. Ian will lead a walk to discover some of Jenolan's botanical treasures, and discuss the great natural diversity above the caves, and the impact that European settlement has had on the area.

SATURDAY JANUARY 23

Topic: Fossils and Bones

Speakers: Ted Matthews & Dr Anne Musser

Overview: Many ancient life forms have been preserved within caves all over the world. Ted and Anne will look at the great array of ancient life displayed at Jenolan, from the Silurian fossils to Megafauna remains discovered recently. The session will also look at how scientists can reconstruct animals from a single piece of a skeleton.

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

Topic: The Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby

Speaker: Dr Anne Musser

Overview: One of the most beautiful and elusive animals found at Jenolan is the highly endangered Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby. Once found in abundance in the Grand Arch and main visitor area, these small macropods were driven to the brink of extinction. Anne will discuss both the history of the Rock Wallaby, as well as the causes for their endangered status.
