


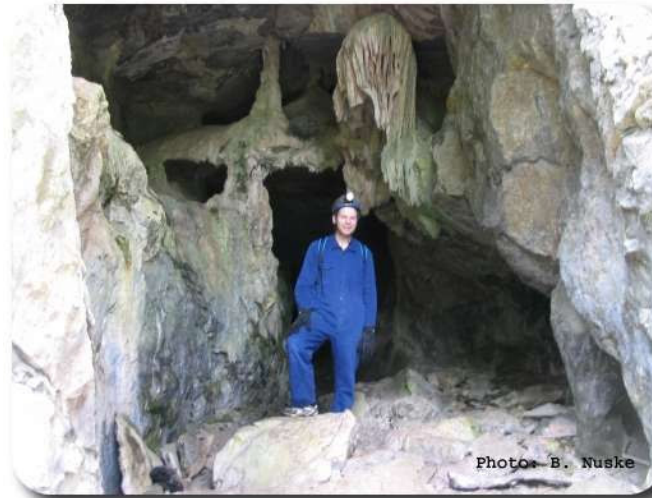


Caves and the Future

The Association is firmly committed to ensuring that not only the present generation, but also future generations can enjoy and study further the caves of Victoria.

Towards this end, members attempt to:

-  Maintain good relations with land owners and cave management authorities.
-  Take particular care when in caves to disturbance of the cave environment and to avoid damaging cave decoration.
-  Act as a source of information when government or corporate bodies consider actions which may affect caves.



Caving in Victoria
with the
Victorian Speleological Association Inc.

Contact Details

Victorian Speleological Association Inc. (VSA)

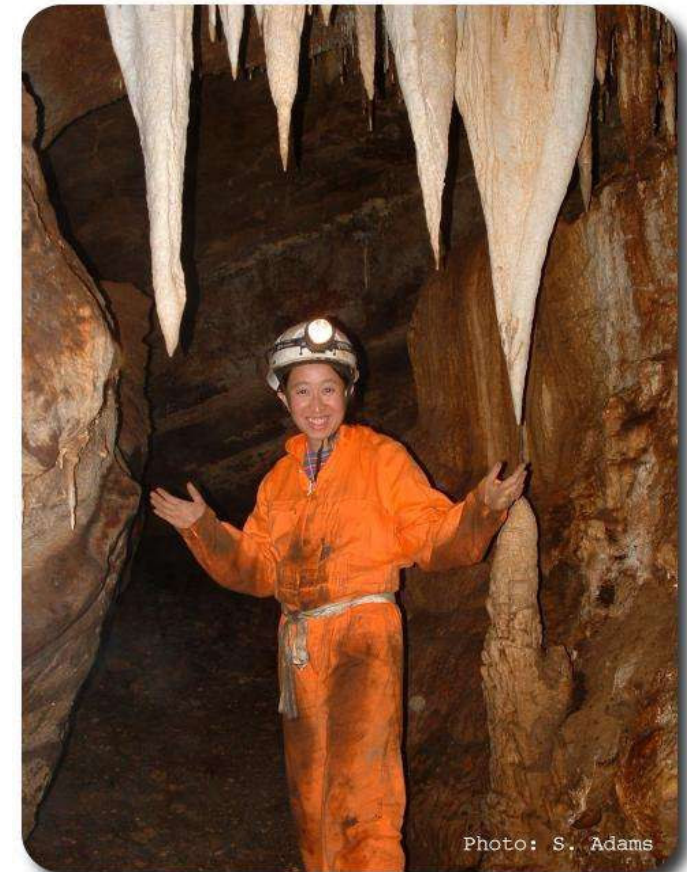
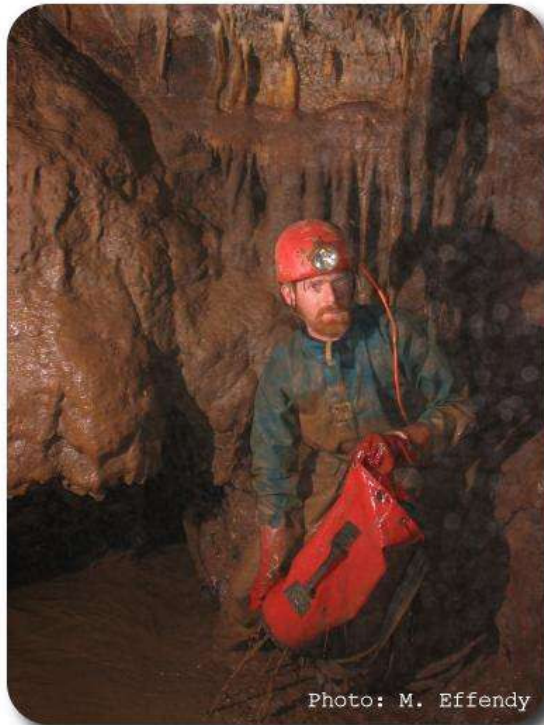
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Caving in Victoria

Victoria contains over 800 known caves which may be broadly grouped as limestone caves, volcanic caves and marine caves. Although not large by world standards, Victorian caves often exhibit beautiful decoration, contain unusual geological features and provide a habitat for cave dwelling bats and other fauna. They also provide a source of recreation and research for members of the Victorian Speleological Association Inc. (VSA).

The VSA was formed as an amalgamation between the Victorian Cave Exploration Society and the Sub Aqua Speleological Society in 1967.

The main aims of the Association are:

-  To explore, map and record caves in Victoria and elsewhere.
-  To represent Victorian cavers.
-  To foster the conservation of caves so that future generations may also enjoy them.
-  To organize recreational trips into caves so that everyone has the chance to experience what is underneath the surface.

The VSA is a corporate member of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc. (ASF) which is part of the International Union of Speleology. As a member, VSA must adhere to the ASF code of ethics, risk management and cave safety standards. More information about these and other standards as well as other information relating to ASF can be found at <http://www.caves.org.au>.

Membership of the VSA

The VSA currently has 5 types of membership; Introductory Members, Associate Members, Full Members, Life Members and Foundation Members. Prospective members are encouraged to take up an Introductory Membership which will allow them to explore their personal interests over a 3 month period. The Introductory Membership is offered at an attractive discount which includes insurance as well as a monthly newsletter, the quarterly VSA magazine (Nargun) and the quarterly ASF magazine (Caves Australia).

Recognised recreation groups are also encouraged to join VSA as they can become official affiliated groups of the VSA and participate in co-organised activities.

Further information can be found on the VSA website at <http://home.pacific.net.au/~vsa> or by contacting the VSA directly via email on vsa@pacific.net.au.

Meetings

The VSA meets at 8.00pm on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and June) at St. Francis Church in Melbourne. This is a good time to discuss upcoming trips (amongst other topics) and express any interests or thoughts you may have.

Each meeting also has at least one presentation either by a club member or an invited guest. These presentations may cover past trips with a short slide show, current scientific work done in the fields of palaeontology and/or geology or anything else cave related.

Caving Trips

Club trips are conducted throughout the year, typically with at least one trip per month. Trips are usually conducted within Victoria spanning limestone, volcanic or sea cliff areas. In addition to this, each year there is often at least one major expedition undertaken by interested members that will have those exploring caves in remote areas around Australia as well as trips to large cave systems overseas. Expeditions that have occurred in the past include trips to the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.



Though there are a number of publicly accessible caves throughout Victoria catering for all ages and ability, caving is not typically an easy stroll through an underground passage. It may and usually does involve getting extremely dirty as you crawl and squeeze your way through tight passages, swim through underground river systems, abseil or ladder down large cave shafts or aid/free climb to the top of an aven. Your efforts are often rewarded with the sight of fantastically shaped passages and cave decoration such as stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, rimstone pools, shawls and flowstone. Not to mention the thrill and excitement of possibly discovering a new cave or exploring a passage where nobody has been before!