

JENOLAN CAVES

BLUE LAKE LOOP
700m - 30mins circuit - EASY

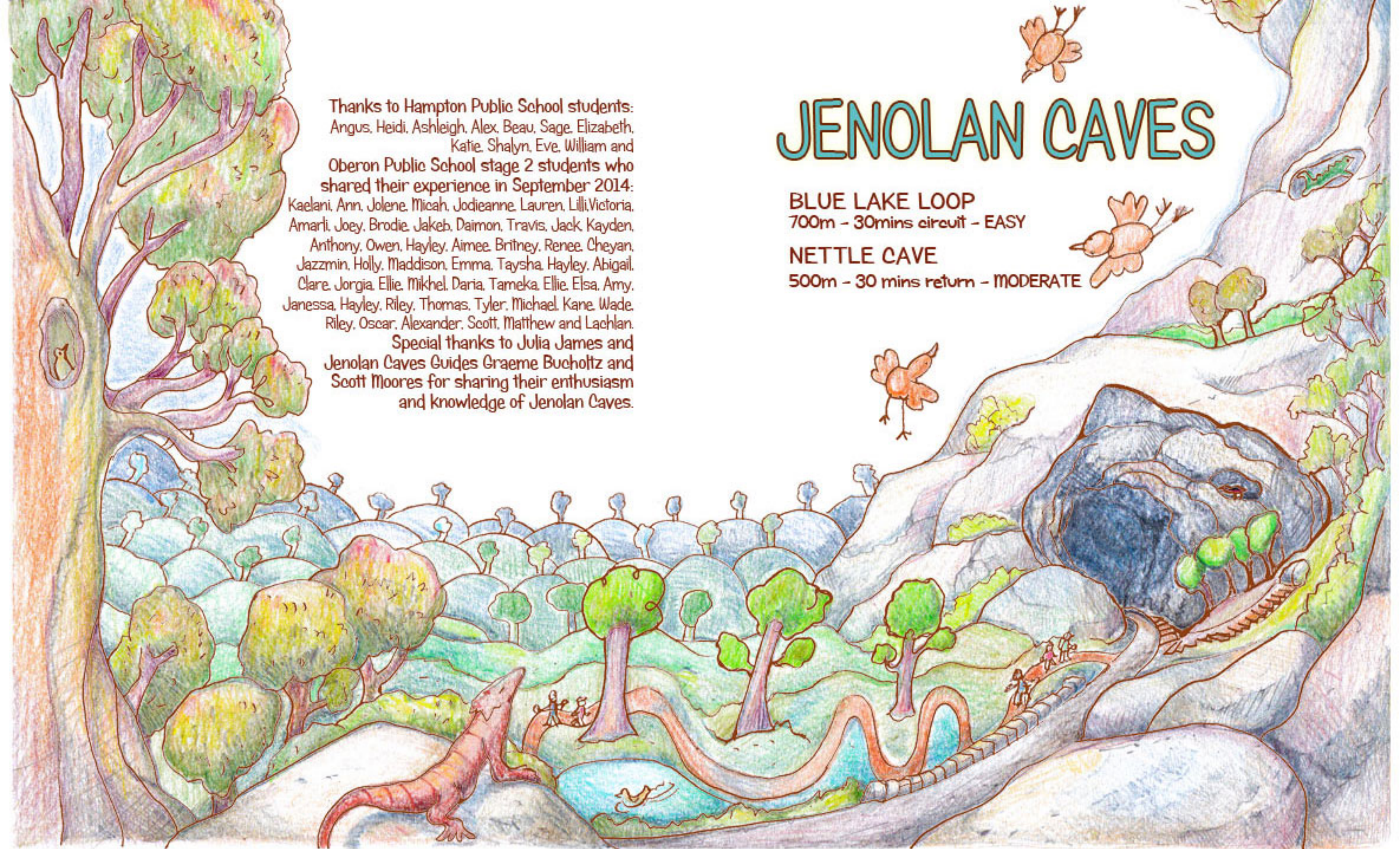
NETTLE CAVE
500m - 30 mins return - MODERATE

Thanks to Hampton Public School students:
Angus, Heidi, Ashleigh, Alex, Beau, Sage, Elizabeth,
Katie, Shalyn, Eve, William and

Oberon Public School stage 2 students who
shared their experience in September 2014:

Kaelani, Ann, Jolene, Micah, Jodieanne, Lauren, Lilli, Victoria,
Amarli, Joey, Brodie, Jakeb, Daimon, Travis, Jack, Kayden,
Anthony, Owen, Hayley, Aimee, Britney, Renee, Cheyan,
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Clare, Jorgia, Ellie, Mikhel, Daria, Tameka, Ellie, Elsa, Army,
Janessa, Hayley, Riley, Thomas, Tyler, Michael, Kane, Wade,
Riley, Oscar, Alexander, Scott, Matthew and Lachlan.

Special thanks to Julia James and
Jenolan Caves Guides Graeme Bucholtz and
Scott Moores for sharing their enthusiasm
and knowledge of Jenolan Caves.





BLUE LAKE LOOP • 700 m • easy grade • 30 mins circuit
NETTLE CAVE • 500 m • medium grade • 30 mins return

WHAT TO BRING IN YOUR BACKPACK

- a bottle of water
- plenty of snacks
- a raincoat
- warm clothes in winter
- small plastic bag for rubbish
- small torch
- camera
- pencils for drawing
- wear a hat, sunscreen and enclosed walking shoes
- a small first aid kit could be useful

CARING FOR THE CAVES

Enjoy the unique and inspiring Jenolan Caves and help to protect them by not touching the stone or crystal. don't take food or drink into the caves. stay on the paths and don't throw objects.

BUSH TRACKER SAFETY

Safe Bush Trackers are prepared and

- know your track and take your map
- ask permission from an adult and let them know where you are walking and when you return
- don't go near cliff edges and stay behind safety fences.

MINIMAL IMPACT BUSH TRACKING

means you try to do no damage at all to the environment so that someone following you could not tell you had been there.

Take nothing but photos, leave nothing behind:

- always keep to the track & tread softly & quietly
- don't pick the flowers or plants in the bush
- be gentle and careful if you touch things (don't touch snakes and spiders!)
- carry your rubbish out with you
- Bush Trackers walk in small groups (4-15 people)

Jenolan Caves Guides and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Rangers guided Stage 2 school kids aged 8-10 years old from Hampton and Oberon Public Schools and encouraged them to share their experience through words, poems, drawings and photos. PerformingDesign used these to create the map and guide to encourage other kids and families to safely enjoy the bush. The Bush Trackers project helps create a child friendly community in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon region and grew from support of the Stronger Families Alliance (www.strongerfamilies.co). Bush Trackers is coordinated by Jacqueline Reid with the assistance of Lucy McGarry and help from teachers, parents and kids! For more information and tips go to: www.bushtrackers.com.au; www.jenolancaves.org.au; www.wildwalks.com or www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

stalagmites growing from the ground - stalactites hanging from the ceiling - Stromatolites - living green rock

JENOLAN CAVES - BLUE LAKE LOOP - 700m, 30mins circuit, easy and NETTLE CAVE - 500m, 30mins return, moderate

Start at the magnificent Grand Arch and enjoy the Blue Lake Loop to your right and up to your left, the Nettle Cave Self-guided Tour (you receive a complimentary admission and free handsets when you purchase a guided 'show' cave tour). Download the free Jenolan Caves app before your visit to learn more about the Devil's Coach House and Nettle Caves.

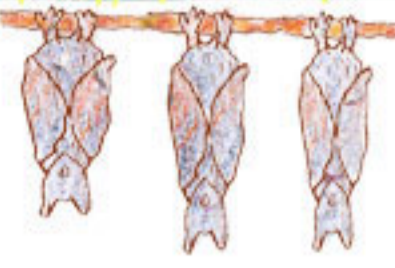
These caves are home to a variety of bats and Sooty Owls have roosted here for 18,000 years! You will also see a prehistoric creature - one of the very first living things to have evolved on earth that gave rise to oxygen, the sub-aerial stromatolites. These enormous 'craybacks' contain colonies of live blue-green algae, interacting with the crystal. The largest of these may be over 100,000 years old!

Follow the Blue Lake Loop path and marvel at the amazing colour of the lake, formed by the calcite particles scattering sunlight. Wait patiently and quietly and you might be lucky to see the platypus who live here, or a lyrebird. Be careful not to touch the stinging nettles! The path leads you beyond the Lake wall and down some stairs. Then, a bridge leads you across the Jenolan River and back, along the other side of the lake, under De Burghs Bridge (can you see the new stalactites forming under the bridge?) and return to the Grand Arch.

fantastic enjoyable day - we had



we did see a baby lyrebird and an adult we had lunch by the blue lake



bats are hiding - water dripping - birds are flying - owls are waiting for us to go

Look can you find these plants?



I see the limestone of the caves - the smell of nature - I can feel the bark of the tree - I can hear the birds talking - fresh air - in at Jenolan Caves



Write words that describe what you see, hear or feel (adjectives)

ducks swimming - river flowing - eggs - platypus swimming - frogs croaking - winds blowing - birds are flying - owls are waiting for us to go

I saw a platypus and a baby lyrebird - plucky feathers - a duck came to shore for food

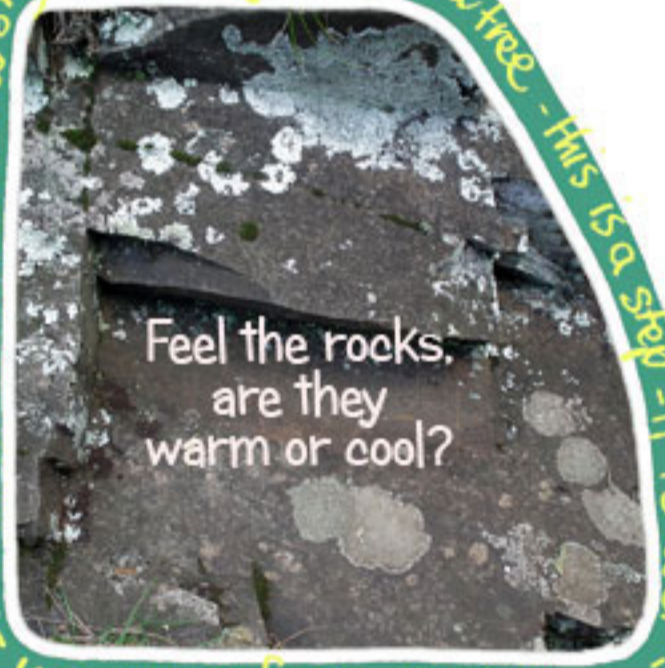
Listen how many different bird calls can you hear?

spiders - webs dangling overhead - Can you guess who lives here?

I can touch the leaves - I can smell the air - I can hear the birds - Look If you are quiet & look carefully you might see some creatures.

Find these and tick the box

Feel the rocks, are they warm or cool?



This is the ground that someone found - this is the sky with a fly - this is a tree - this is a stag - it is wet

Touch bark, water, leaves, moss, rocks
Things not to touch snake, fungi, spiders, insects, stalagmites, stalactites, stromatolites or Stinging Nettle



platypus swims in the lake - water dragon - covering the long path - watch out for the Stinging Nettle - don't touch it - birds fly overhead - squishy moss - soft - tree bark rough - don't touch the rock in the caves - bats are squeaking - steep stairs to climb - water drips on us - trees sway from side to side



bats are hiding - water dripping - birds are waiting for us to go