

Dogleg Cave, Wee Jasper Gating Project (2009)

The Wee Jasper area has a number of caves. The best known recreational caves are on public land administered by a Trust of the NSW Lands Department. For years there were ideas of protecting Dogleg Cave from damage to the biota and the decoration. After discussions with the Trust rather than put gates on the entrances and initiate a permit system it was decided that the decorated chambers and biota (stygofauna) could be protected with a gate in the Sand Trap. The Sand Trap as its name implies is a passage which floods and it fills with sand which blocks entry to the cave beyond.

Canberra Speleological Society pressed the NSW Speleological Council to support the installation of a gate within the cave to protect the passages beyond the Sand Trap. Once approval of the Trust was obtained CSS members, In particular, Dirk Stoffels designed the gate and constructed it so that it could be transported, assembled and installed in the Sand Trap. The gate was installed in 2009 with members of CSS and a number of other NSW clubs. A sign on the gate provides information as to why the gate was installed.

The Karst Conservation Fund provided funds for the materials and expenses incurred for this project.

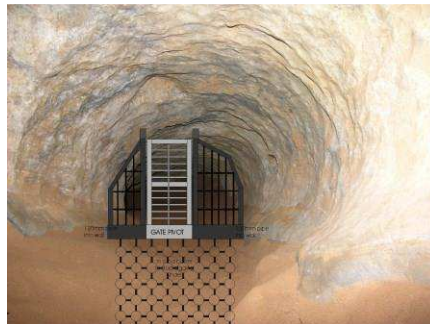


Photo 1. Gate design for Sand Trap (D Soffels)



Photo 2. Transporting gate through tunnel to Sand Trap (J Sydney)

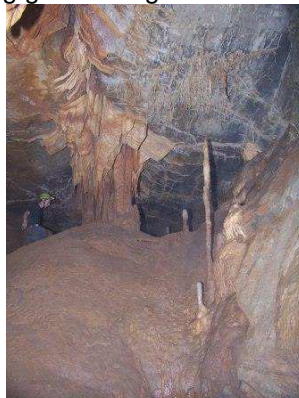


Photo 3. Decoration in chamber beyond the Sand Trap (J Sydney)