

Jenolan Caves Engineering Works

location Jenolan Caves, New South Wales.
owner Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**
location On a rock next to the start of the track on the right bank of the Jenolan River, adjacent to the limestone arch bridge.

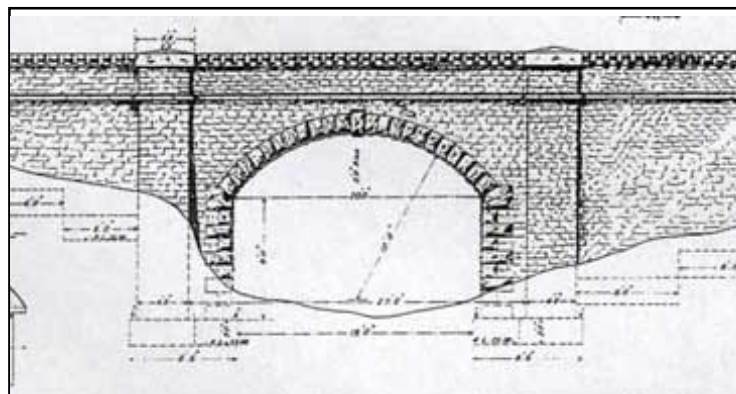
The engineering at Jenolan is not spectacular, but is interesting historically and has heritage value. It is a microcosm of what engineers provide to make communities safe, healthy and pleasant places to live and work. Plans of the works were signed by eminent Public Works engineers de Burgh, Wade and Dare.

plaque text

Jenolan Caves Engineering Works

Engineering has played a major part in establishing Jenolan Caves as a significant tourist destination. Designed by Public Works Department engineers, the first road access was completed in 1879, the first water supply dam c.1897 and the first sewers c.1898. Within the caves, paths, stairs, ladders, fences and bridges were built by guides. Electric lighting in the caves was at the forefront of technology in 1889. Collectively the works are essential for easy access, the safety of visitors and protection of the environment.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust 1996.



E M de Burgh (1863-1929)

De Burgh was an expert bridge and dam engineer. He designed the limestone arch bridge over the Jenolan River and was involved in either the design or supervision of many major dams in NSW. He signed many of the plans for water supply and sewerage at Jenolan.



E C Cracknell (1831-1893)

In 1880, Cracknell illuminated the Margherita Cave at Jenolan with electric lights using lead-zinc batteries. This has been claimed as the first time in the world caves had been lit by electricity.

Cracknell was appointed New South Wales Superintendent of Telegraphs in 1861. By 1893 the colony had 22000 miles of telegraph lines and 600 stations and Cracknell had been responsible for the high standard of the equipment.