



Naracoorte Lucindale Council

# Naracoorte Caves Trail

STOP 7

Long before World Heritage listing, the Naracoorte Caves was a forest reserve.

In 1876, a 2,000 hectare parcel of land surrounding the caves was proclaimed a forest reserve.

Ten years later, driven by concerns about vandalism in the caves, the Woods and Forests Department created a 20-hectare reserve to protect the caves. Daniel Battams was appointed as caretaker to manage the reserve and conduct guided cave tours for visitors. In 1887 he was succeeded by William Reddan, who became famous for his discoveries of new caves which he developed as tourist attractions.

Pine plantation near Blanche Cave, 1931.  
Source: History Trust SA.



*Reddan cleared part of the reserve in preparation for a pine plantation. Nearly 20,000 trees were planted in 1890/91 and the first were harvested in 1920. A timber mill was in operation at the caves for many years until it was later re-located to Mount Burr.*

*Today, forestry is an important industry for the Limestone Coast. In addition to plantation timber, Forestry SA manages several important caves and native forest reserves in the region.*



Fully loaded lorry leaving the Cave Range Forest Reserve in 1931.  
Source: History Trust SA.

