

SPOKEN WORD – DOCUMENTARY

AUSTRALIA – TASMANIA

SW-DOC-AU1 Australia 2000

THIS WORKING LIFE *

HIDDEN CAVES *

Spoken Word – Tourism – Folklore – History – Choral & Instrumental

Mus. Comp. & Arr: Teresa Beck-Swindale

Nar: Teresa **BECK-SWINDALE & others**

Locals: Barbara **CAMPBELL**

Heath **CAMPBELL**

Prod: Teresa Beck-Swindale

Prod. Co: Sheard

Rec. Co: The Shed, Lodder Road; Don

Rec. Eng: (in the field) Ben Turnbull & (in studio) Ian Read & Tony Bird

Liner Notes: (8-page foldout sheet)

Time: (Tk 6) 6:50 & (Tk 8) 6:00

CD: HIDDEN CAVE – COMMON GROUND

Label: Gunns Plains 2000 (Tks – 6 & 8)



Teresa BECK-SWINDALE

Photo by Anne Heazlewood



Notes: An entire album devoted to the folklore of the Gunns Plains Valley and the recollections of the older people of the area where this fabulous show cave is located, right in the midlands of northern Tasmania. All is accompanied with music specially composed and arranged by Teresa Beck-Swindale. A truly unusual and moving document.

On the third track, “Lifeblood of the Valley,” there is a lot of back and forth banter and commentary about ranching and small farming in the Gunns Plains Valley. For someone from other English-speaking countries the Australian accents here are a joy to hear, but sometimes difficult to understand.

THIS WORKING LIFE – This section begins with a short 24-second intro with piano and choral backing, The Caves Voices, in the cave. Followed by memories from various farmers in the valley who talk about the sorghum crops and camping for up to 3 months with the cows.

Part 2: *Machinery Soundscape* – In this second part (at 3:41) the narrator says – “Uncle (?) ran the tourist caves at Gunns Caves for 30 years.” Barbara Campbell, the wife of the cave owner & manager, tells us – “....I’d take the tourists... ‘cause I had the boys an’ the cows to milk. I couldn’t decide: kids, caves or cows....” Barbara continues (at 4:15 – this time she was recorded in the cave) – “We used to get down in the caves every Sunday when we were kids. We used to turn on the lights, wait ‘til everybody’d gone in ‘an when they got down there we’d turn the lights off.... My husband’s grandfather [Bill Woodhouse in 1906] found the caves... chased this possum...”

Heath Campbell continues (also recorded in the cave where his voice resonates) to tell about “building bridges around the cave.” Barbara comes back, her voice drowned by rushing cave waters. Heath goes on to talk about the floods in the cave – “...an’ when the water backed away an’ the bridges were gone...” Then (at 6:08) we hear sounds of footsteps in the cave and Heath returns with a short farewell comment, followed by sounds of receding footsteps in the cave.

The narrator’s last remarks about the goats were not recorded in the cave.

HIDDEN CAVES: Part 1: *Caves Music I & II* – This first section has guitar, soprano sax, and bass providing the music while Heath and Barbara Campbell take turns talking about the caves and the cave formations (these comments were probably recorded in the cave). This is interrupted (at 2:18) for a short narrative interlude – “... couldn’t see the woods for the trees.” Then (at 2:25) the track returns to the music and Heath’s comments. Keyboard and harp play the bridge.

Part 2: *Where Have They Gone* – We hear sounds of water in the cave (at 3:27) followed by almost 20 seconds of silence. Then the music (windchimes at 3:49) and vibes, viola, & bass is joined by a singer and backing voices. The music continues and plays behind a woman (at 4:34) who delivers isolated words in quick succession and short phrases.

Part 3: *Treetops Rise through Morning Mist* – The Caves Voices close this track.

See also under Music Recorded in Natural Caves – Australia – Tasmania.

Ref: Gunns Plains Caves, Home Site, [gunnsplainscave](#)

Gunns Plains Caves, Info, [Wikipedia](#)

Gunns Plains Caves, Tasmania for Everyone, [tasmaniaforeveryone](#)

Plowman, Cathie 2013, Donation of this CD

Plowman, Cathie 2013, eMails dated 20 Oct. & 30 Oct. 2013

Rose, Danny 2000, Cave Acoustic Has Audience, *The Saturday Mercury*, 19 Aug. 2000, Hobart, Tasmania

Teresa Beck-Swindale, Homepage, [teresabeckswindale](#)

caveinspiredmusic.com