Australian Caves Without Roofs

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While "caves without roofs" have only recently been recognised in parts of Europe, they have been recognised in Australia since the 1870s. Some of Australia's most significant Cainozoic vertebrate fossil deposits at Wellington and Wombeyan in New South Wales and at Riversliegh in Queensland occur in, or are closely related to, unroofed caves. Ongoing palaeontological work in the World Heritage Fossil Site at Riversleigh, karst documentation in northern New South Wales, karst mapping using differential GPS at Wellington and recent reconnaissance fieldwork has shown that these features are more common than was previously thought. Caves without roofs offer an opportunity for new insights into the development of Australia's ancient landscapes.