

A peaceful interlude among the function-crowded days of the Royal Tour, was vouchsafed to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on their visit to the limestone caves at Waitomo. These are situated in the north west of New Zealand's North Island..... and they are among the most fascinating of all the Dominion's natural places of interest. The Aranui cave is said to have been discovered by a Maori, while chasing a wild pig. The profusion of stalagmites and stalactites, shows how the origin of the caves goes back through numberless centuries.

The ~~dead~~ silence of these cool and sombre grottoes, ~~formed a striking contrast~~, a hundred feet below the surface of the earth, *formed a striking contrast* to the blazing sunshine of the bush-country above them.... and the streets of the cities filled with cheering crowds.