



Country (NIKAS)	NIKAS springs	Coordinates / Nearby City	Spring discharge (Q in l/s,min/av/max) / tapped or not	Criteria* order / Main justification * / H-historic, A-aesthetic, S-scientific, E-Economic, Ec-ecologic	Data collected by
Australia 	1. Blue Waterhole	-35.624905, 148.684163 Z = 1600 m asl New South Wales Talbingo and Yarrangobilly Goodradigbee River	200/1100/5600 Not tapped	<i>S, A, Ec, H, E</i> Best documented and one of the most beautiful karst springs in Australia. It is also largest karst spring in mainland Eastern Highlands of Australia. The two resurgences issuing from Silurian Cooleman Limestone (Wenlock-Pridoli), surrounded by volcanics and granites. One resurgence has pressurised springs, while second flows from a small cave at the foot of a limestone cliff. The limestone gorges, waterfalls, dry valleys, springs, stream sinks, more than one hundred caves and open limestone plains pockmarked with sinkholes make Cooleman Plain one of the most beautiful karst areas in Australia. In 1944, much of Cooleman Plain was declared a State Park, then became a National Park in 1969. The karst springs provide habitat for a variety of fauna, including several undescribed species of aquatic troglobites (stygofauna), as well as platypus and water rats. The surrounding karst area is important for the survival of threatened and endangered fauna. The high plains of this karst area were occupied by the Walgalu indigenous people for at least 20,000 years. By 1850, pastoralists of European origin were grazing thousands of stock on Cooleman Plain during the summer months.	Garry K. Smith, John Webb

NIKAS - Blue Waterhole





View downstream from the Blue Waterhole. Photo Garry K Smith



View across the Blue Waterhole. One of the resurgences is in the bottom of the waterhole. Photo Garry K Smith



View looking down Cooleman Gorge below the Blue Waterhole. Photo Garry K. Smith