

AUSTRALIAN CAVER No. 152



Australian Speleological Federation Inc.

**MEMBERS HANDBOOK 2000**

## **The Australian Speleological Federation Inc.**

Australian Speleological Federation Inc. is the national organisation of people who are interested in any matters to do with caves and caving. The wide range of members' interests includes: vigorous advocacy of conservation and management; exploration and documentation of cave discoveries; development of a national database on cave resources; cave research, especially biology and geology; developing new techniques and equipment; preparation of cave management plans; cave rescue; & cave diving. The Federation's members, officers & affiliated clubs organise exploration, recreational and scientific trips to caves throughout Australia and overseas.

The Federation runs an insurance scheme and negotiates access to caves for members, establishes standards for cave conservation and cave surveying, publishes a journal of scientific research, maintains an extensive library, prepares literature abstracts relating to Australian speleology, and represents Australia with the International Union of Speleology.

The Federation's membership of more than 1,100 comprises mainly members of clubs (the latter being referred to as 'Corporate Members' because they appoint delegates to the Council which governs the Federation). Club members thus join ASF as an outcome of the club's membership. There are also a number of individual members of the Federation who belong to ASF directly without participation in any local club e.g. cave managers

### **Aims**

Currently being reviewed to reflect changes in ASF's functioning, the aims of the Federation as embodied in its constitution are:

*To safeguard the karst heritage of Australia.*

*To foster speleology in all its aspects.*

*To bring together persons interested in caves and karst and the attainment of the Federation's aims.*

*To represent, at all levels, persons interested in caves and karst in Australia.*

### **Address**

The Federation's address is:

**Australian Speleological Federation Inc.**

**P.O. Box 388**

**Broadway NSW 2007 Australia**

All officers can be contacted through this address. However, where possible, and to expedite correspondence, officers and member clubs should be contacted through the addresses listed on the centre pages of this handbook.

Information on the Federation can also be found on the Internet at:

**[www.caves.org.au](http://www.caves.org.au)**

This permanent site is expected to be completed in the second half of 2000. Until then, information may be obtained from:



**Australian Caver No. 152  
August 2000**

**Editor:**  
**Geoff Crossley**

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**All contributions are welcome**

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The views expressed in *Australian Caver* are not necessarily those of the Editor or of ASF.

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See page 12 for addresses of individuals listed in this Handbook. This issue was compiled by Angus Macoun from contributions from Heather Jefferies, Keven Cocks, Peter Matthews & Ken Grimes (sorry if we missed some). Final editing by John Dunkley. Please note our new editor from issue 153 (see above).

## INTRODUCTION

Every few years we produce a special issue of Australian Caver with details on ASF itself. Because many of the on-going activities of ASF do not change greatly from year to year, this issue should retain currency for a few years. *Address list of individuals is on p. 14.* The intention is that this will be updated more regularly.

## HOW DID A.S.F. START?

It all started with a trip to Yarrangobilly by Brian O'Brien and Fred Stewart of the Sydney University Speleological Society in December 1953. Their trip report, in somewhat laconic style, says, *"We explored in the Western Deep Creek Cave for about half an hour, and intended to be in the Eastern Cave for a similar time, but here an untoward incident occurred, which forced us to postpone the remainder of the trip".*

In short, as they were leaving the cave, Fred went back to camp, but Brian stayed behind to just have a look at another section of the cave, became lost, and ran out of light. *One thing led to another....*

This incident brought to light the fact that there were a number of informal groups going caving. In turn, this led to discussions about co-operation. Sometime in 1954 a letter signed by both Brian O'Brien as President of Sydney University Speleological Society (SUSS) and Ben Nurse as President of Sydney Speleological Society (SSS) was sent off to caving groups in Cooma, Canberra, Hobart, Mt Isa, Orange and Adelaide.

The late Alan Hill persuaded Cave Exploration Group South Australia (CEGSA) to host an inaugural conference in Adelaide in 1956. Held at Parnanga National Fitness Council Camp, it was a truly mammoth undertaking, involving attendance from every state and by several international wanderers, a Nullarbor expedition of 62 people and a Kelly Hill expedition of some 20 people. All of this took place in a world where virtually all cavers were poor and few owned a car; hitchhiking to caving areas was common, those cars that were owned went on grossly overcrowded journeys and often broke down; after all, some of them were over 30 years old!

Attendance at the inaugural conference was probably something like 130 people. The founding member clubs, about twelve in number, saw mutual advantage in having a collective organisation to promote areas of common interest and provide a national voice for Australian Speleology. A federal structure was decided upon, a draft constitution was shaped, the Nullarbor expedition was phenomenally successful, and the Federation was under way with considerable enthusiasm.

### ASF Conference Locations & Host Societies

Year	Place	Name	Host				
1 1956	Adelaide		CEGSA	13 1980	Melbourne	<i>CaveConvict</i>	VSA
2 1958	Hobart		TCC	14 1983	Adelaide	<i>Speleovision</i>	CEGSA
3 1960	Canberra		CSS	15 1985	Hobart		TCC, SCS
4 1962	Kempsey		KSS	16 1987	Sydney	<i>Speleotech</i>	NSWSC
5 1964	Margaret R		WASG	17 1989	Tinaroo	<i>Tropicon</i>	CCC
6 1966	Mirboo Nth		VCES	18 1991	Margaret R.	<i>Cave Leeuwin</i>	WASG, SRGWA
7 1968	Goolwa		CEGSA	19 1993	Launceston	<i>TasTrog</i>	NC
8 1970	Hobart		TCC, SCS	20 1995	Hamilton	<i>Vulcon</i>	VSA
9 1972	Sydney	<i>Nibicon</i>	SUSS, UNSWSS	21 1997	Quorn		CEGSA
10 1974	Brisbane	<i>Decavecon</i>	UQSS	22 1999	Rockhampton		CQSS
11 1976	Canberra	<i>Caveconact</i>	CSS, NUCC	23 2001	Bathurst	<i>Cave Odyssey</i>	NSWSC
12 1978	Perth	<i>Waccon</i>	WASG	24 2003	WA		

### Our Past Presidents

1956-58	Dr Brian J O'Brienx	1966-70	Roly Webb	1986-92	Lloyd Robinson
1959	Dr Joe Jennings	1971-74	Elery Hamilton-Smith	1993-94	Miles Pierce
1960	Elery Hamilton-Smith	1975-78	Nick White	1995-97	Brendan Ferrari
1961	Warren A Peck	1979-82	Ken Lance	1997 >	Peter Berrill
1963-65	Elery Hamilton-Smith	1983-85	John Dunkley		

# HOW IS ASF ORGANISED?

ASF is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act of the Australian Capital Territory, since 1984.  
Public Officer: Peter Nicholson

## ASF Council, Executive, Commissions and Committees

As a federation of autonomous clubs and societies, the ASF is fundamentally different from national bodies such as the National Speleological Society (NSS) in the USA, or the New Zealand Speleological Society (NZSS). Government of the Federation's activities is by the Council made up of councillors from the corporate member clubs and societies. The number of councillors from each organisation is proportionate to the amount of membership fees paid by them. The Council meets annually.

Operation of the Federation is by a nine member Executive empowered to act on behalf of the council to carry out the business of the Federation in line with its stated aims. Most of the ongoing work of the Federation is performed by Commissions and Committees. The former are normally long term activities whereas the committees carry out shorter term assignments and are then disbanded. A full list of Commissions is set out below.

## Membership

There are three types of membership:

1. **Corporate Members** are clubs and Societies whose primary activity is caving and speleology. Corporate members are also required to subscribe to the Federation's aims and constitution and to demonstrate an established record of responsible activity. There are currently thirty-two corporate member clubs and societies from all Australian states and territories.
2. **Provisional Members** are those clubs and societies eligible for Corporate Membership but which for various reasons have not yet been admitted as Corporate Members.
3. **Individual members** are defined as the members of corporate and provisional member societies. Other interested persons may also apply for individual membership. This latter provision was created particularly to accommodate persons with a strong interest or involvement in Australian caves and karst but who, for professional or other reasons were not members of a member society. In August 2000 we had 1,151 individual members.

## Associates

Organisations which support the objectives of the Federation may become Associates if they are not otherwise eligible for membership. They include scouting groups, management, outdoor and similar groups. Associates are not regarded as members, their own members are not members of ASF and they are not covered by the insurance scheme unless they have joined in one of the three ways above. Representatives of Associates are welcome to participate in ASF activities and to attend Council Meetings as observers.

## List of member clubs

Details of member clubs are included in the centre insert. If necessary, updates may be obtained from the ASF Secretary, along with a full address list of office bearers and current Commissions, Committees etc.

## State Speleological Councils

In states where the number of member clubs warrants it (currently NSW & South Australia), the Federation has chartered State Speleological Councils to deal with issues concerning that state. Each Council meets on a relatively informal basis usually twice a year, often in a cave area to combine business with recreation, and to facilitate attendance by cave managers.



# HOW DO WE OPERATE?

## Meetings and Conferences

Meetings of the ASF Council are held annually, each alternate one being in conjunction with a Biennial Conference.

Since the inaugural conference in Adelaide in 1956 ASF has held biennial conferences at which cavers and speleologists from Australia and further afield can meet for 4 or 5 days, share experiences and hear papers on subjects ranging across the full spectrum of interests. The conferences typically include formal presentations of papers and workshop sessions together with both organised and informal socialising, presentations, discussions, photographic and other competitions, 'SpeleoSports', an art show and the announcement of awards of excellence. Conferences are hosted and organised by individual member clubs or groups of clubs. Pre and post conference trips to local caves and karst areas are offered. "Speleosports" is a popular event for cavers to test their skill over a simulated cave obstacle course.

The next Conference will be in Bathurst NSW, beginning 28/12/2000 ( )

## Public Fund

ASF has established a Public Fund as required for registration with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment as an Environmental Organisation. Following approval from relevant State and Federal Government Ministers, anticipated in early 2001, this will enable a tax-deduction to be claimed for gifts of money or goods made to projects associated with the protection of Australia's cave and karst heritage.

Current trustees are Anne Atkinson, Peter Berrill, Maria Comino, Tony Culberg and John Dunkley

## Publications

### ***Helictite, the Journal of Australasian Cave Studies***

*Helictite* is a high-quality, refereed journal of cave research, founded in 1962 by Ted Lane & Aola M Richards who published it for several years. From 1975 it was published by the Speleological Research Council, which in 2000 transferred ownership to the Australian Speleological Federation Inc. It includes papers on scientific aspects of speleology and reports of work in progress, but also welcomes comprehensive descriptions of caves and cave areas. Its scope includes Australia, New Zealand, South-East Asia and the Pacific region. Back issues are available. Enquiries regarding subscriptions should be directed to the Editors at ( ) See advert on back cover.

Editors: Sue White & Ken Grimes  
Manager: Glenn Baddeley

### ***Australian Caver***

Contains articles on expeditions, new cave discoveries, techniques, conservation activities & news relating to ASF and its activities, published 4 times a year (nominally in February, May, July & November) and circulated to all individual members, member clubs and Associates.

Editor: Geoff Crossley Publisher / Manager: Angus Macoun

### ***Speleo E-Bulletin***

An informal e-mail bulletin containing news & administrative notices about ASF & other forthcoming activities. Published as needed about 4 times a year and circulated electronically to member clubs for distribution to members.

Editor: Angus Macoun

### ***Annual Report***

Issued to Member Clubs and Associate organisations once a year, containing reports of all Commissions and Committees and the Treasurer. Incorporated in this is the President's Annual Report which is usually published separately in the next available issue of *Australian Caver*.

Editor: ASF Secretary

### ***Special Interest Group Bulletins***

From time to time newsletters or bulletins are published on specific topics, usually by ASF Commissions and Committees, and notably in connection with conservation issues.

# OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

## Cave Conservation and Management

The Sydney Morning Herald once characterised ASF as a "non-green conservation organisation". We have played a major role in some of the most significant conservation disputes conducted in Australia, in an endeavour both to preserve caves for future generations, and to raise public consciousness of the importance of this resource for recreational, scientific and other purposes. Members have been involved in numerous campaigns in Colong, Bungonia, Texas, Precipitous Bluff, Mt Etna & Yessabah. In the last decade the Federation played a particularly high profile in the closure of Benders Quarry which impacted adversely on Exit Cave, Tasmania; in attempts to preserve Sellicks Hill Cave from quarrying, near Adelaide; in helping secure Mt Etna Caves as a National Park; and currently in moves to restrict mining on Cape Range in Western Australia and Mt Cripps in Tasmania.

Enquiries: State Conservation Coordinators (see in address list)

As well, ASF has played a leading role in management planning for caves and karst areas, significant examples being our consultant role on the future of Jenolan Caves, and planning for the Nullarbor Region. A high profile and expertise has enabled us to gain representation on management bodies (see below).

As part of its conservation mission the Federation has developed a Code of Ethics and a Minimal Impact Caving Code (see at end of Handbook) which are used by government authorities and private landowners as the accepted standard of practice to be observed by all persons using caves under their care. ASF has waived copyright on these codes and encourages their widest possible circulation.

## Documentation of Cave and Karst Resources

After conservation, this is probably our major activity, involving a large number of societies and individual members. ASF maintains a database of over 10,000 cave and karst features throughout Australia. The number of these has grown immensely in the last 35 years. In 1968 we published *Speleo Handbook* which listed just over 1,700 features. By the time its successor, *Australian Karst Index* was published in 1985, there were 6,600 known features. During those years the number of recorded features on the Nullarbor Plain increased from 150 to over 1,600. In NSW, the number of known karst areas increased from 82 to maybe 400, and the number of caves from 690 to about 3,000. In Tasmania the number of areas containing caves has increased from 21 to 123. In 1968 187 caves were known in Tasmania, of which 17 were at Junee Florentine. By 2000 the number at Junee-Florentine alone had reached 638. In the NT, well over 120km of cave has been surveyed in a karst area not even recorded as late as 1985.

Improved documentation has spurred further discoveries, vastly strengthened the argument for sound conservation and management practices, and greatly assisted scientific investigations, for example on the Nullarbor. Even small caves have produced evidence of significance to geologists, biologists, archaeologists and mineralogists.

A Working Group is currently exploring new fields to add to the database, and appropriate software to facilitate its use. Further details on ASF's role in documentation can be seen under Commissions, below.

## ASF Representatives on Management Authorities & Government Bodies

The strong involvement of ASF in management and conservation issues around the country, along with the specialist expertise of individual members has enabled speleologists to gain influential positions on a number of key management bodies. These include:

Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust  
Jenolan Caves Scientific Advisory Committee  
Jenolan Caves Caving Advisory Committee  
Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of N.S.W.  
W.A. Cave Management Advisory Committee  
Wellington Caves Advisory Panel  
Bungonia Recreational Advisory Group

Patrick Larkin  
Mike Lake  
Terry Coleborn  
Chris Norton  
Norm Poulter, Perry Raison  
Keir Vaughan-Taylor & Greg Wilkins  
Jill Rowling

## Insurance

The Federation carries \$2,000,000 insurance against liability arising out of the actions of the Federation itself and members engaged in Federation business, including the Council, Executive, Commissions and Committees. ASF offers public liability insurance of \$10,000,000 to Corporate Members at competitive rates which protects the club and its own committees, members and visitors, and also landowners on whose property club trips are organised. ASF also offers product liability insurance of \$10,000,000 against liability arising out of any product of the Federation such as Safety Guidelines and Training Courses. This insurance is valid worldwide except for a small number of exempt countries.

Enquiries: Alan Jevons (Convenor, Insurance Commission)

## Training and Instruction

The Federation played a leading role in the formative years of NORLD (National Outdoor Recreation Leadership Development), and is represented on the peak national bodies relating to outdoor recreation and leadership through state divisions of ORCA (Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia). ASF developed national caving standards which are the accepted industry norm throughout the country. In turn, each member club is responsible for conducting its own training and instructional programs. The ASF training program on CD is freely available to members provided they safeguard the Federation's copyright in the materials. ASF has also developed a Cave Safety Training Program (through the CLAG group in Tasmania). The program and accompanying videos are available from the Library for loan to member clubs.

## International Union of Speleology (IUS)

ASF is the Australian representative on the International Union of Speleology, a body of like-minded cave enthusiasts - recreational cavers, scientists, conservationists and managers - from 50 countries world-wide, and information, advice and introductions can be arranged for members wishing either to conduct an overseas expedition, or just wishing to visit a few caves during an overseas trip. The current President of IUS is Dr Julia James, a distinguished member of ASF from Sydney, and several other members occupy senior roles in IUS Commissions, notably Peter Matthews who chairs the Informatics Commission.:

President, IUS:	Julia James	Informatics:	Peter Matthews
Cave Mineralogy:	Jill Rowling	Cave Rescue:	Grace Matts (Vice-President)
Show Caves:	Ernst Holland (co-President)	Longest & Deepest Caves:	Al Warild

IUS holds an International Congress of Speleology every 4 years at which Australians have been particularly well represented. The next will be held in July 2001 in Brasilia, Brazil ([www.speleobrazil2001.org.br](http://www.speleobrazil2001.org.br)).

## ASF-supported organisations and events

### NSW Cave Rescue Squad & Cave Rescue Victoria

Organised autonomously primarily by our members, these groups assist with emergencies in caves, liaise with Police and other rescue organisations in their states, & conduct training programs for member clubs.

Contacts: Joe Sydney (NSW) Mark Somers (Vic) (see also Cave Rescue Commission, below)

### Karst Research Seminars

Informal seminars are held every two years or so to report on research work in progress on caves and karst. Venues to date have been in Buchan, Naracoorte, Wombeyan, Mole Creek & Wellington. Abstracts are usually published in *Helictite* and authors are encouraged to publish their papers later in either *Helictite* or another appropriate journal.

### TrogUp

An eclectic combination of fund-raising, SpeleoSports, Cavers Dinner, social gathering and fun and games under the auspices of the NSW Speleological Council, organised every year (usually September or October), or sometimes not at all, depending on the energy and motivation of whichever club is silly enough to offer.

Contact: David Bennett

### OzCavers

An unmoderated website for informal discussion of cave-related issues and news, OzCavers is *not* associated with the ASF. To subscribe or for further information contact Rauleigh Webb at [REDACTED]



## ASF Awards

Three tiers of awards are given by the ASF in recognition of the contributions and achievements of speleologists to ASF itself, to the reputation of Australian speleology generally, or to a particular club or special interest. Recipients range from scientists and cave managers to recreational cavers and to those who have devoted years of their life to cave conservation. The first consists of the Edie Smith Award and the Fellowship of the Federation. The second tier is the Certificate of Merit and the third consists of the Award of Distinction and ad-hoc Special Awards. Awards are usually announced biennially at Conferences.

The Fellowship of ASF is given for outstanding service over a long period of time, to the Federation.

The Edie Smith Award was established in memory of Edie Smith, a distinguished pioneer of Australian Speleology, a life member of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and the first women president of an Australian speleological society, Canberra Speleological Society. The award is given for outstanding service over a long period of time, to Australian speleology.

The Award of Distinction was established in 1993 to recognise those who have made a notable contribution to speleology outside the normal parameters.

Lloyd Robinson corrections in red

### Fellows of the Australian Speleological Federation

1974	Elery Hamilton-Smith	1987	Andrew Spate	1995	
1985	Peter Matthews	1991	Nicholas White	1993	Lloyd Robinson
				1997	Patrick Larkin

### Edie Smith Award

1972	Ted Lane	1983	Vince Kinnear	1995	Dr Brian Finlayson
	Dr Aola M Richards	1985	Dr Albert Goede		Grant Gartrell
1974	Dr Joe Jennings	1987	Barry Loveday		Dr Rod Wells
1976	Elery Hamilton-Smith	1988	Dr Julia m James	1997	Dr Armstrong Osborne
1978	Ben Nurse	1993	Ernst Holland		Neil Anderson
1980	John Dunkley		John Bonwick	1999	C Henry Shannon
1981	Dr Kevin Kieman				Norm Poulter

### Certificate of Merit

1983	Neil Montgomery	1985	Ken Grimes	1993	Arthur Clarke
	C Henry Shannon		Dr John Watson		Trevor Wailes
	John Taylor		Tom Robinson		Rauleigh Webb
	Ian Lewis		Les Pearson		Kevin Mott
	Andrew Spate		Cathie & David Rothery	1995	Fred Aslin
	Ross Ellis		Andrew Pavey		John Brush
	Julia James		Members of VSA		Craig Hardy
	Lloyd Robinson	1987	Evalt Crabb		Lloyd Mill
	Roy Skinner		Ron Allum		Max Meth
	Bruce Dunhill		Stuart Nicholson		Ken Keck
1984	R Michael Bourke		Grace & Don Matts	1997	Bruce Howlett
	Col Carter	1988	Graham Pilkington		Neville Michie
	Stfean Eberhard		Paul Wilson		Peter Bell
	Rolan Eberhard		Members of CQSS		Keith Tritton
	Adrian Davey	1991	Miles Pierce		Peter Ackroyd
	Greg Middleton		Jackie & David Lowry		Wayne Tyson
	Barry Moore		Lex Bastian	1999	Chris Dunne
	Alan Warild		Alan Cummins		John Toop
1985	Bob Woolhouse	1993	Norm Poulter		David Martin
					Keir V. Taylor

### Award of Distinction

1994-3	Doreen & Norm Pershouse	1997	Nopparat Naksathit	1997	John Spies
					Bill Humphries

### Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Three ASF Members have received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) from the Governor-General, for services related to speleology:

198	Don Matts	1997	Anne Atkinson	1999	Norm Poulter
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## Commissions of the Federation

Each Commission operates informally under a Convenor. Some are quite small, others like Conservation, Documentation & Bibliography have active members in all states. If you have a specific interest or can contribute, feel free to contact the Convenor.

### Administration

Maintains an up to date Administrative handbook containing the constitution of the ASF, the terms of reference for the Executive, the Commissions, policy statements of the ASF and guideline documents for the Preparation of Conservation Submissions to Government agencies, pro forma meeting agendas etc. Designed to save reinventing the wheel, it was last published 1997 in printed & floppy disk format; one copy is made available to each member society, executive member and convenor of commissions & committees.

Convenor: Chris Dunne

### Awards

Administers the ASF Awards scheme. Nominations are usually invited in the middle of the year preceding each Conference and considered by members of the Commission made up of former ASF Presidents.

Convenor: Lloyd Robinson

### Bibliography

Compiles indexes &/or abstracts of all published information on Australian caves and cooperates with the same commission of the International Union of Speleology.

Convenor: Greg Middleton

### Cave and Karst Management

Gathers information on recent cave and karst management practices, liaises with management authorities and encourages speleologists to cooperate with land management agencies in improving cave and karst management in Australia. In the past it held numerous Cave and Karst Management Conferences, and it was from these that the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association was formed.

Convenor: John Dunkley

### Cave Diving

Maintains ASF Cave Diving Code of Conduct and Cave Diving competences, negotiates with land agencies for access to dive sites, maintains liaison with related organisations e.g. CDAA

Convenor: Peter Kraehenbuehl

### Cave Rescue

Fosters liaison with clubs and with emergency services with respect to search & rescue practice & protocol, ensures rescue practices minimise impact on caves.

Convenor: Grace Matts

Contacts: NSW: Joe Sydney Vic: Mark Somers Tas: Jeff Butt Qld: Mick Moylan

### Cave Safety

Promotes safe caving practices including promulgation of safety information and caving practice guidelines, gathers data on caving accidents and by dissemination of the information seeks to make others wiser and hopefully aware of similar incidents. Liaison is maintained with safety officers within the individual clubs. The commission is responsible for the development of the ASF's Caving Safety Guidelines and the Convenor also is also a member of the Cave Rescue Commission.

Convenor: Mike Lake

### Cave Leadership Standards

Develops and promotes ASF Caving Leadership Scheme on a national basis both within ASF and to other interested bodies, and works with the National Outdoor Recreational Leadership Development scheme (NORLD) in developing a competency based training scheme for the National Training Board. The Commission has produced a CD containing the Caving Leadership Scheme which is available to member societies provided they safeguard the copyright held by ASF.

Convenor: Alan Jevons

### Codes and Guidelines

Maintains a register of ASF Codes and Guidelines and ensures that they are reviewed regularly.

Convenor: Evalt Crabb

(Commissions continued on p. 13)

# Australian Speleological Federation Inc.

## Executive, Member Societies & Officers Address List ASF Executive 2000

**President**  
Peter Berrill

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Senior Vice-President**  
John Dunkley

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Secretary**  
Keven Cocks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Treasurer**  
Grace Matts  
176 William Street

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Membership Secretary**  
Phil Lardner

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Executive Secretary**  
Arthur Clarke

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Vice President**  
Wayne Tyson

[REDACTED]  
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**Vice President**  
Chris Riley

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Vice-President**  
Joe Sydney

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Non-Executive Officers:

**Vice-President**  
(Non-Executive)  
Peter Dykes

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Peter Nicholson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### State Speleological Councils

**New South Wales Speleological Council**  
President: Chris Norton [REDACTED]

*Corporate Member clubs: for Year 2000 please  
send an electronic copy of membership list to*

**South Australian Speleological Council**  
President: Grahame Pilkington [REDACTED]

*both Chris Riley & Phil Lardner, & a printed  
(hard) copy to Grace Matts, Treasurer.*

## Corporate Members

### Australian Capital Territory (02)

#### Canberra Speleological Society Inc. (CSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Canberra Troglodytes (CT)

[REDACTED]

#### National University Caving Club (NUCC)

[REDACTED]

### New South Wales (02)

#### Baptist Caving Association (BCA)

[REDACTED]

#### Metropolitan Speleological Society Inc. (MSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Blue Mountains Speleological Club (BMSC)

[REDACTED]

#### Newcastle & Hunter Valley Speleological Society

[REDACTED]

#### Central West Caving Group (CWCG)

[REDACTED]

#### Orange Speleological Society (OSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Endeavour Caving and Recreational Club Inc.

[REDACTED]

#### RAN Caving Association (RANCA)

[REDACTED]

#### Highland Caving Group (HCG)

[REDACTED]

#### Rover Speleological Society of NSW (RSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Hills Speleology Club Ltd. (HSC)

[REDACTED]

#### Sydney University Speleological Society (SUSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Illawarra Speleological Society Inc. (ISS)

[REDACTED]

#### University of NSW Speleological Society (UNSWSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Kempsey Speleo Society (KSS)

[REDACTED]

#### University of Technology Sydney Speleological Society (UTSSS)

[REDACTED]

#### Macquarie University Caving Group (MUCG)

[REDACTED]

## **Northern Territory (08)**

### **Top End Speleological Society (TESS)**

[REDACTED]

## **Queensland (07)**

### **Central Queensland Speleological Society Inc.**

[REDACTED]

### **Chillagoe Caving Club (CCC)**

[REDACTED]

## **South Australia (08)**

### **Cave Exploration Group South Australia Inc.**

[REDACTED]

### **Cavex Incorporated (CAVEX)**

[REDACTED]

### **Flinders University Speleological Society (FUSS)**

[REDACTED]

## **Tasmania (03)**

### **Northern Caverneers Inc. (NC)**

[REDACTED]

### **Southern Tasmanian Caverneers (STC)**

[REDACTED]

## **Victoria (03)**

### **Caving Club of Victoria (CCV)**

[REDACTED]

### **Victorian Speleological Association Inc. (VSA)**

[REDACTED]

## **Western Australia (08)**

### **Speleological Research Group of Western Australia**

[REDACTED]

### **Western Australian Speleological Group Inc. (WASG)**

[REDACTED]

## **Provisional Members**

### **Savage River Caving Club**

[REDACTED]

### **Mole Creek Caving Club**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **Associate Organisations (non-members)**

### **Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association (ACKMA)**

### **Cave Diving Association of Australia (CDAA)**

### **Lilydale District Caving Team**

### **NSW Cave Rescue Squad (NSWCRS)**

### **Scouting Association of NSW**

### **Scouts Australia ACT Branch**

### **Shoalhaven Rock Activities Club**



## Australian Speleological Federation Inc. - Contacts Address List 2000

Home telephone numbers unless otherwise noted. State STD code omitted to save space – remember to add proper state code if dialling from a different region: ACT, NSW – 02 Tas, Vic – 03 Qld – 07 NT, SA, WA – 08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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## Conservation

The preservation of caves and karst is the foremost aim of the Federation. Our Conservation Commission is charged with this task of monitoring conservation issues and assisting individual societies or state groups with conservation action. It is by far our most active Commission. The Federation brings a national perspective and imperative to local conservation issues and can facilitate marshalling of specialist and other resources to contribute a campaign. Notable cave and karst preservation conflicts in which the Federation has played an important part include Colong, Bungonia & Yessabah (NSW), Mt. Etna (Qld), Franklin River, Marble Hill/Exit Cave & Mt Cripps (Tas), Sellicks Hill (SA), and Cape Range (WA). At the time of writing ASF was involved in Mining Wardens Court hearings in Perth (re a proposed mining lease at Cape Range, WA) and in Hobart (about a similar lease at Mt Cripps). In view of the workload and geographic spread, this Commission has a number of convenors with briefs for particular states or regions.

The Commission also acts as a clearing house for conservation information and undertakes survey of protective legislation in all states and territories to enable the ASF to have a comprehensive view of the legal status of the nation's caves and karst.

Convenors: Keir Vaughan-Taylor (NSW), Peter Berrill (Qld), Arthur Clarke (Tas), Rauleigh Webb (WA)

## Documentation – Software Working Group

The former Documentation Commission's role was to promote and facilitate the collection and use of data on Australia's caves and karst features. Led by Peter Matthews for over 30 years, its major achievements were the publication of *SpeleoHandbook* (1968) and the *Australian Karst Index* (1985), and preparation of specifications for a large range of database fields in cooperation with the International Union of Speleology. The existing database allows for storing and cross-referencing a wide variety of data on caves & karst features, areas, maps, references, people, and organisations.

Following decisions of the ASF Executive and Council in 1999 and 2000, the former Commission's future structure and function are being re-examined. In the meantime a Working Group is determining what fields should be added to the existing database and is preparing specifications for a new generation of database software. Publication of future cave lists etc. is planned to be in a series of consistent volumes on a state by state basis in co-operation with the respective state.

The Working Group consists of Convenor, State Karst Index Coordinators, and individuals with special expertise.

Convenor: John Dunkley

### The State Karst Index Co-ordinators:

NSW: Peter Dykes

NT: Bruce Swain

Qld: Mick Godwin

SA: Steve Milner

Tas: Arthur Clarke

Vic: Peter Matthews

WA: Rauleigh Webb

Other members:

Glenn Baddeley, Jill Rowling, Mike Lake, Craig Hardy

## Helictite

Edits and publishes *Helictite*, the Journal of Australasian Speleological Research (see p. 4, & back cover)

Editors: Sue White & Ken Grimes

Manager: Glenn Baddeley

## International Relations

Maintains liaison with the International Union of Speleology, encourages participation by ASF members in activities of the IUS, and arranges delegates to represent Australia at meetings of the IUS. A number of ASF members are active participants in IUS activities (see under International Union of Speleology, above)

Convenor: Jill Rowling

## Journal

The Journal Commission edits, manages & publishes *Australian Caver* four times per year.

Editor: Geoff Crossley

Manager

Angus Macoun

## Library

Housed centrally in Canberra, the ASF Library contains one of the largest collections of speleological literature in the country, including a copy of virtually every issue of Australian speleological serials for more than 50 years. There are also extensive runs of the main journals from overseas, a large collection of materials and reports relating to cave conservation and management (much of it unpublished), possibly the world's largest collection of materials relating to Thailand and Burma, and much more. It is an expectation of membership that clubs deposit a copy of their serial newsletters with the ASF Library; other donations over time have greatly enhanced the Library's holdings and are always welcome. The Librarian is always happy to help you find material and will photocopy articles for members at nominal or no cost.

Librarian:

Cathy Brown

Enquiries about specific items:

John Dunkley

## Publications

Arranges editing, printing & distribution of miscellaneous ASF publications as required.

Manager:

Angus Macoun

## Survey and Mapping Standards

Coordinates systematic integration of cave surveys; compiles and disseminates surveying and mapping data and information. All members are encouraged to adhere to the ASF Survey and Map Standards, which cover such aspects as measuring units, map scales, sheet sizes, survey datum, standard symbols, survey grades & essential map information. The standards are reviewed regularly to take into account changing practice here and overseas and details are published in *Australian Caver*, along with evaluations and news of current developments, especially in computer-aided mapping and data handling.

Convenor:

Ken Grimes

## Cave Areas

ASF's data base records over 10,000 caves in Australia, the vast majority being formed in limestone or dolomite or in their metamorphic variety, marble. There are also some lava caves formed in volcanic rocks as they cool, principally in western Victoria and north Queensland, many coastal sea caves and a few in other host rocks. Many cave areas are quite close to main centres of population centres of the south-east and south-west corners of Australia, where most clubs and members are located. However some of the most challenging are located in remote rainforests of Tasmania, in the semi-arid and humid sub-tropics of northern Australia, and beneath the Nullarbor Plain; major expeditions to these areas are organised on a regular basis.

In addition to any management requirements, members visiting caves in other states should as a matter of courtesy make a point of contacting and liaising with the local clubs. New discoveries and significant observations should likewise be conveyed to the club responsible for documentation of that area.

## Hut accommodation for members

### Abercrombie (NSW)

No cavers huts. Cavers camp for free if they are doing a project, right on the karst. Caving arrangements same as Jenolan. Camping for non-project people (ie just about everybody) is at normal commercial rates. Plenty of accommodation at commercial rates in on-site vans, a 6 bed house with kitchen living room and laundry, BBQs and the usual camping facilities expected of a normal commercial caravan park.

Contact: Senior Guide, Abercrombie Caves NSW via Trunkey Creek.

### Buchan (Vic)

*"Homeleigh"*

A self-catered guest-house in the township of Buchan (last house on the left heading north out of Buchan), owned and operated by Rimstone Co-operative Limited.

Accommodates about 50 in single, double and bunk-rooms. Mattresses and beds provided, but no linen or pillows. Full kitchen, dining, lounge and shared bathroom facilities.

Rates: \$14 single, \$25 family; less for shareholding members.

Buchan also has a back-packers lodge, motel, hotel, cabins.

Contacts:

### Chillagoe (Qld)

*Chillagoe Caving Club Clubhouse*

Cathedral St Chillagoe (opposite Chillagoe State School) in the Chillagoe township. (a few minutes walk from pubs)

Caves 5-20 minute drive from Clubhouse. Camping style accommodation

Facilities: Fully equipped kitchen (stove/oven, microwave, fridge/freezer, variety of utensils), toilet & shower, dining area, under cover BBQ area

Cost: Currently \$3 /night for cavers & children, non-caving adults \$8/night

Equipment for Hire: caving lights & helmets (\$5/day), & ladders (\$5/day)

Bookings:

### Cliefden (NSW)

*Shearers quarters*

Location: "Boonderoo" via Mandurama.

Facilities: Sleeping - 10 Bunks with mattresses, kitchen (electric range, microwave, 2 fridges, sink plus assorted cooking & eating utensils), bathroom (electric hot water service, 2 showers, 1 septic toilet & 2 wash tubs), lounge area (4 lounges, table, 4 kitchen chairs, fan and open fire place), tank water. No garbage service, take all garbage with you.

Access : Approved permit holders (ASF organisations only ). Cost: Booking fee \$20 plus \$3 per person per night.

Contact:

Denis Marsh, Orange Speleological Society,

**Jenolan (NSW)****Cavers Cottage**

Owned by the Caves Reserve Trust, the Cavers Cottage is leased to & run by the Jenolan Cottage Association. It is available for use by speleological societies who have a speleological permit for Jenolan. Obtaining the permit and getting use of the cottage are two separate things that clubs have to do. The permits are organised through the Caves Reserve Trust, and the Cottage is booked through John Bonwick. As the Trust does not contact John about permits for the year, clubs have to ask him specifically for the use of the cottage. There are two different charge rates, depending on whether the club is a "subscribing" or "casual" user of the cottage. A "subscribing" club pays \$100 up front, then is charged \$25 per weekend plus \$10 for every extra day. This fee is taken out of the \$100 until it gets below \$100, in which case they pay another \$100 and so on. This basis is more attractive to frequent users. A "casual" club pays \$35 per weekend plus \$10 for every extra day. This is more attractive to occasional users of the cottage. The rates are the same irrespective of how many people turn up for the trip. All users are to keep the cottage clean and tidy, vacuum it, remove their own rubbish, etc. There are no cleaners who come around afterwards, just the next club. The fibro cottage has a garage for sleeping, charging batteries etc. The bedroom has been known to sleep 6 on the floor and 6 can fit in the living room. There are mattresses. There is a kitchen with refrigerator, microwave oven, stovetops, sink, hot water. It's all electric and has a wood fired heater in the living room. The bathroom has a bath, shower and toilet. There are no beds as such and it can get very cosy as it was originally designed as a single person's house.

Contact: [REDACTED]

The key can be picked up from John (after prior arrangement) usually on the Friday night and returned on the Sunday night (with the money).

**Margaret River (WA)****SRGWA HUT**

At this point in time our hut is under question and we are negotiating with CALM about a new site. Our current hut has no facilities, it's simply a lockable building with a solid fuel heater for winter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

**WASG HUT**

Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mole Creek (Tas)**

The hut at Mole Creek is not really for general use and as such is for use of NC or by invitation from NC.

Contact: [REDACTED]

**Wombeyan (NSW)**

No cavers huts as such. Cavers camp for free (normally \$12 per night). No sport caving allowed as such; all caving is to be project-based with reports submitted at the end of the weekend. Requests for sport caving are usually directed to the full commercial rate adventure tours. Camping for non-project people (ie just about everybody) is at normal commercial rates. Plenty of accommodation at full commercial rates in on-site vans, a 5 bed house with kitchen & microwave, a large bunkhouse with no kitchen or WC, a large camp kitchen, a large camp dining room, BBQs and the usual camping facilities expected of a normal commercial caravan park. Gear can be hired if you are going on a full commercial rate adventure tour. All accommodation is right on the karst. Hand washing can be done under taps. Laundry is for paying campers and is off-limits to dirty overalls.

Contact: Senior Guide, Wombeyan Caves NSW. Ph. 48-43-5976; email: [REDACTED]

**Yarrangobilly (NSW)****Cotterills Cottage**

Location: In Old Yarrangobilly Village, south side of Snowy Mountains Hwy, just above Yarrangobilly River. The hut is not specifically for cavers - users may find themselves sharing it with road work gangs etc. There is no charge for its use. Access is controlled by NPWS, which allows cavers with a speleo permit to use the house while they are in the area - provided the house is not already being used by another caving group, or by park workers - it is also sometimes used by NPWS as temporary accommodation for park workers. Keys are available from the NPWS Guides office which is 8km away near the show caves. The park is rather spread out - it is usual to drive closer to the caves followed by a short walk or long hike. There are very few facilities at the Guides office either: no petrol and not even a kiosk. If you apply for a caving permit you also need to apply for the use of the hut and you need to enquire as to whether you will be sharing the hut. Best to bring a tent just in case. Water may be available in the hut if the pipes haven't frozen over; otherwise fetch some from the Yarrangobilly River which flows nearby.

Facilities: Kitchen table & bench seat, sink for washing up. BYO cooking facilities (dilapidated wood stove is generally considered unusable now). Running spring water in the kitchen (except when it is turned off in winter & the pipe freezes & bursts); outdoor pit toilet; indoor bathtub; various wooden floored rooms, but no other furniture or facilities. Inside fireplace in room adjacent to kitchen. DO NOT use boarded up fireplaces in other rooms because the chimney for these ends inside the roof i.e. you will burn the cottage down if you use these fireplaces.

Contact: [REDACTED] Manager, Yarrangobilly Caves, Tel: (02) 6454 9597 (w)

## Landmarks in Organisation & Conservation

- 1946 Australia's first speleological society, Tasmanian Cavermeering Club formed in Hobart
- 1948 Sydney University Speleological Society formed (first mainland society)
- 1953 Search & rescue at Yarrangobilly provides impetus for a national speleological body
- 1954 Sydney Speleological Society & Canberra Speleological Society formed
- 1956 Australian Speleological Federation founded, first national Conference held in Adelaide.
- 1962 *Helictite* journal established
- 1964 *Bat Research News* - joint venture of ASF & CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research (later subsumed by separate society)
- 1967 Colong Campaign against mining eventually leads to preservation of caves
- 1968 *ASF Speleo Handbook* published
- 1970 *Australian Speleo Abstracts* initiated
- 1974 ASF receives national heritage grant, leading to a national cave documentation system
- 1971-75 'Save Bungonia' campaign, *Bungonia Caves* book published
- 1973 ASF hosts inaugural Australasian Conference on Cave Management, Jenolan
- 1983 High Court decision saves Franklin River (Tas) from inundation, aboriginal sites preserved
- 1984 ASF incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory
- 1985 *Australian Karst Index* published
- 1987 Establishment of Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association
- 1987 ASF contracted to advise on future management of Jenolan Caves
- 1988 High Court of Australia returns Mt Etna Caves issue to the Supreme Court of Queensland
- 1990s ASF plays a leading role in the development of NORLD & ORCA
- 1991 ASF contracted to organise survey of Exit Cave, Tasmania
- 1990s ASF representation on Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust enshrined in legislation
- Victoria Fossil Cave (SA) receives World Heritage Listing
- Federal Government imposes ban on quarrying impacting on Exit Cave (Tas)
- Sellicks Hill Cave dispute goes to SA Supreme Court
- Special Issue of *Australian Geographic* devoted to caves
- 1995 Australian team conducts cave & karst management training courses, Thailand
- 1996 21st Biennial Conference celebrates 40 years of ASF, Quorn (SA)
- 1997 Australian teams advise on cave development of Gua Tempurung, Malaysia
- 1998 ASF membership reaches 1,000
- 1998 ASF NSWSC clubs complete fencing and revegetation of karst outcrops at Cliefden (NSW)
- 1999 Mt Etna National Park extended to incorporate Cammoo Caves, end of 37-year campaign
- 2000 ASF NSWSC clubs document karst and caves in central west of NSW, using NHT grant
- 2000 ASF takes mining lease applications at Cape Range (WA) & Mt Cripps (Tas) to Mining Wardens Courts
- 2000 ASF invited to participate in international seminar on guidelines for mining cavernous limestone areas
- 2001 Fencing & revegetation work at Stuart Town

## Landmarks in Cave Exploration and Documentation

### New South Wales

- 1946 Descent of Drum Cave, Bungonia, by winch
- 1953 Discovery of Chevalier Cave, Jenolan, using scaling poles, pioneer diving in Imperial Cave
- 1957 Divers link River Cave with Junction Cave, Wombeyan
- 1950s Exploration & surveying of Wee Jasper Caves
- 1960/61 Exploration of B31, Bungonia
- 1962 Black Range & New Year Caves, Coolemon
- 1962 Wiburds Lake Cave, Jenolan
- 1965 Exploration at Moparrabab, Macleay River
- 1965/66 Survey of Tuglow Cave
- 1967 Busting of The Efflux, Bungonia'
- 1969 Beginning of thorough documentation of Abercrombie Caves
- 1970/71 Surveying of Mammoth Cave Jenolan & publication of the "yellow book"
- 1971/5 Exploration & documentation of sea caves on south coast
- 1974/5 Filming of 'Crystal Kingdom' movie
- 1974 Cave Rescue Group formed
- 1976 Discovery of new karst area at Deua
- 1980/90s Survey of Jenolan Tourist Cave system
- 1990s Linking of Spider Cave with Jenolan Tourist Caves
- 1990s Advanced cave diving at Jenolan & Wellington Caves
- 1998 *Tuglow Caves* book
- 1999 NHT grant to document karst & karst vegetation in Mudgee / Macquarie region, central west NSW

### Northern Territory

- 1961/2 Exploration in Fenton area, 11 caves located at Douglas River
- 1980s Exploration & documentation in Katherine region
- 1991-2000 Expeditions to Gregory National Park explore & survey the 2 longest caves in Australia



### **Queensland**

- 1950s Early exploration of caves at Camooweal
- 1960s Explorations at Texas & Viator before Glen Lyon dam floods caves
- 1965 Campaign against mining at Mt Etna begins
- 1966 First major expedition to Chillagoe
- 1971 Publication of *Mt Etna Caves* book
- 1972 Exploration of Fanning River Caves
- 1975 Expedition by light aircraft to locate caves near Camooweal
- 1990s Expeditions to Mitchell-Palmer in search of caves and ghost bats

### **South Australia**

- 1950s Exploration of Nullarbor using light aircraft
- 1957 ASF Expeditions Surveys Koonalda & other Nullarbor caves
- 1969 Discovery of fossil deposits, Victoria Fossil Cave
- 1970s Documentation of south-east region
- 1990s Documentation of Nullarbor region passes 1,600 sites

### **Tasmania**

- 1947 discovery of Growling Swallet, rediscovery of Croesus Cave
- 1947 First speleological exploration of Mystery Creek Cave & Exit Cave
- 1948 Exploration of Kubla Khan Cave
- 1958 Discovery of river passages in Kubla Khan
- 1959 ASF Conference groundbreaking survey of Honeycomb Cave, Mole Ck
- 1959 Cutting of access track to Exit cave
- 1967 Reconnaissance of Mt Anne, another mile in Exit Cave
- 1970 Tassy Pot 240m, deepest cave in Australia
- 1971 Conference Concourse, Exit Cave
- 1971 Australia's longest pitch, 103m in Kellers Cellar, Mt Anne
- 1973 Precipitous Bluff expedition by amphibian aircraft
- 1976 Khazad Dum - Dwarrowdelf 322m, Australia's deepest cave
- 1970s-80 'Rubber ducky' expeditions explore caves along Franklin River
- 1984 *Vertical Caves of Tasmania* book
- 1990s Exploration & documentation of Mt Cripps karst and caves
- 2000 Caves documented in June-Florentine area reaches 638

### **Victoria**

- 1961 Scrubby Creek & Trogs Wallow, Buchan
- 1961 Dalleys Sinkhole, Buchan
- 1968 Extensions to Trog Dip
- 1973 Discovery of Exponential Pot; Exploration & documentation of Bats Ridges

### **Western Australia**

- 1958 Rediscovery & exploration of Easter Cave
- 1958 Discovery of Jewel Cave
- 1964/67 Discovery, exploration & survey of Mulla Mullang Cave
- 1976 Survey of Easter Cave
- 1987 Beginning of major documentation and research at Cape Range
- 1979-84 Successive world record cave dives extend Cocklebidy Cave to over 6km
- 1990-7 Search for new entrances on Nullarbor using motorised hang gliders & trikes
- 1991 Old Homestead Cave becomes longest cave in Australia (23km)
- 1993 Cape Range biospeleological survey
- 1993 Establishment of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge Permit System
- 1994 Expedition to new karst areas of the East Pilbara region
- 1996 Exploration of new karst areas in Wanneroo

### **Australian Expeditions Overseas**

- 1963 Australian biospeleological expedition to New Caledonia & New Hebrides
- 1973 Expedition to West Papua, Indonesia
- 1978 Atea Kananda & Mamo Kananda, Muller Ranges, New Guinea
- 1980s-90s Expeditions in search of deep caves in Mexico
- 1981 Exploration of St Pauls Cave, Philippines
- 1993 Expedition to Szechuan, China
- 1990s Reconnaissance trips to Laos
- 1985-97 7 expeditions to Thailand explore longest caves in mainland SE Asia
- 1988 Australians lead world's first expedition in search of caves in Burma
- 1994 *The Caves of Thailand* book published
- 1990s Expeditions to Java & Vietnam
- Expeditions to Seram & Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Expeditions to China
- Documentation of caves of Mauritius

# **ASF CODE OF ETHICS AND CONSERVATION**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Recognising their primary aim of protecting the caves and karst of Australasia, cavers will actively promote cave conservation and sound management practices through example, education, advice and training.

1.2 This code establishes a minimum standard of caving practice.

1.3 Higher standards may be required by management authorities for particular caves or karst regions, in which case those standards shall be adhered to.

## **2. TOWARD LANDOWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES**

2.1 Landowners, tourist guides and any person representing a management authority will be treated with courtesy and respect.

2.2 All caving parties must have specific or tacit approval from the landowner and/or management authority before entering any property or reserve, must follow only agreed routes and must not visit forbidden areas.

2.3 The prevailing procedures regarding gates on properties and reserves will be followed, and care taken to cause no damage to stock, crops, equipment or landscape features. In short, leave as found.

2.4 All parties will be as self-sufficient as possible and will not presume on the goodwill of landowners and/or management authorities for water, supplies or assistance.

2.5 Where the cave entrance has been blocked by the landowner and/or management authority, it will be re-blocked after use, or, with the landowner and/or management authority's permission, more appropriate protection installed unless the landowner and/or management authority otherwise instructs.

2.6 No gate will be installed at or in a cave unless approved by the landowner and/or management authority and arrangements are made for key security. Any gate must have an accompanying sign giving reasons for gating and access conditions unless the landowner and/or management authority otherwise instructs.

2.7 No cave excavation, including the use of explosives, will be undertaken without the permission of the landowner and/or management authority and the society committee, and only after an assessment of the environmental effect.

## **3. TOWARD CAVES**

3.1 Camping will not occur in a cave, unless absolutely necessary to achieve a specific speleological or conservation objective.

3.2 Caving activity must be conducted in a manner responsible to the cave environment, taking particular care to avoid damage to speleothems, sediments, biota and other natural phenomena. The maximum size of any party should be limited to that which provides the best quality of experience or achieves specific aims.

3.3 Cave entrances and passages should not be excavated/enlarged, including the use of explosives, water levels in sumps should not be modified, and stream flows should not be diverted, until all possible effects are assessed and the appropriate permission gained. Any modification must be the minimum required.

3.4 Established marked routes must be used; single tracks should be followed and care taken to avoid needless deposition of mud. Mud-throwing or modelling is unacceptable.

(cont.)

- 3.5 All human introduced wastes must be removed from the cave and disposed of properly.
- 3.6 Cavers will not smoke in any cave.
- 3.7 Caves must not be disfigured by unnecessary markings (including 'direction arrows'). Entrance tags and survey marks should be small and inconspicuous.
- 3.8 Disturbance should not be caused to any biotic community. No disturbance should be caused to maternity or over-wintering roasts of bats. Collection of specimens will be kept to the minimum required for study purposes only.
- 3.9 The technique, agent and justification for air or water flow-tracing experiments should be chosen to minimise environmental impact and must be approved by the relevant authorities and the society committee.
- 3.10 Explosives should not be used inside a cave or at the entrance unless absolutely necessary, and then only with the permission of the landowner and/or management authority and the society committee, and only after an assessment of the environmental impact.
- 4. GENERAL**
- 4.1 Recognised codes for minimum impact camping will be observed with particular emphasis on complete removal of rubbish and, wherever possible, avoidance of camping on karst catchment areas.
- 4.2 Reports on speleological work and caving activities are to be honest and accurate, avoiding sensationalism or exaggeration.
- 4.3 Any published work must acknowledge other people's contributions to the work, either as clubs or individuals, published work or personal communication.
- 4.4 Consideration should be given before publishing an article disclosing a cave's location, as to its intended audience, the wishes of the landowner and/or management authority, and the subsequent effect on the cave.
- 4.5 When visiting an area frequented by another society, the club or party will co-operate fully with that society.
- 4.6 Disputes will be conducted in a restrained and responsible manner.

## **MINIMAL IMPACT CAVING CODE**

***THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS CODE - SURVEYORS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, SCIENTISTS, EXPLORERS etc. ARE ALL SUBJECT TO THIS CODE.***

### **Introduction**

The need for a Minimal Impact Caving Code (MICC) has evolved over many years as cavers have realised the impact that they have on caves. That impact is so diverse and varied that it has become necessary to devise a caving code that ensures that cavers are aware of the measures that are necessary to reduce their impact on caves.

To those of you who have just become Australian Speleological Federation (Inc) (ASF) members it is important that you understand that a MICC is necessary because cavers are one of the major sources of damage to caves. Read the MICC carefully and apply it to all of your caving - it will not completely stop cavers damaging caves but it will certainly reduce their impact on the cave environment. This MICC was devised by cavers FOR CAVES - please assist the Caves of Australia by using these simple MIC techniques. (cont.)

**This MICC should be used in conjunction with the ASF Code of Ethics.**

This code is divided into two sections. One relating to the exploration of a newly discovered cave or section of cave and the other relating to general cave visitation.

The following practices may fall into both sections and may be modified depending on the type of cave being visited. It should be stated that we are discussing here a code which will ensure that cavers have a minimal impact on the cave they are visiting. In many instances the practices may not apply as the impact that cavers have, may be minuscule, compared to the impact of flooding of the entire cave, for example. These practices are generally intended to apply in caves where cavers are likely to have a detrimental impact on the cave purely by entering the cave.

In-cave marking refers to the use of a variety of materials to define tracks, routes and barricades in a cave. These measures should be taken to protect sensitive areas, confine caver foot damage, make cavers aware that a sensitive (it may be an unobvious cave animals' territory) area exists.

**General Cave Visitation**

1. Remember EVERY caving trip has an impact. Is this trip into this cave necessary? If it is just for recreation, is there another cave that is less vulnerable to damage that can be visited? Make this assessment depending on the purpose of your visit, the size and experience of the proposed party, and IF THE TRIP IS LIKELY to damage the cave.
2. Where possible the party leader should have visited the cave previously and hence should be aware of sensitive features of the cave, the best anchor points, and generally reduce the need for unnecessary exploration.
3. Cave slowly. You will see and enjoy more, and there will be less chance of damage to the cave and to yourself. This especially applies when you are tired and exiting a cave.
4. If there are beginners on a trip, make sure that they are close to an experienced caver, so that the experienced caver can help them when required, e.g. in difficult sections. Ensure that the party caves at the pace of the slowest caver.
5. Keep your party size small - 4 is a good party size.
6. Cave as a team - help each other through the cave. Don't split up unless impact is reduced by doing so.
7. Constantly watch your head placement AND that of your party members. Let them know before they are likely to do any damage.
8. Keep caving packs as small as possible or don't use them in sensitive caves or extensions.
9. Ensure that party members don't wander about the cave unnecessarily.
10. Stay on all marked or obvious paths. If no paths are marked or none is obvious define ONE!
11. Learn to recognise cave deposits or features that may be damaged by walking or crawling on them.

**Examples are:-**

Drip Holes	Stream sediments	Palco soils	Soil cones	Cave Pearls (oolites)
Crusts	Cave fauna	Flowstone	Asphodolites	"Coffee & Cream"
Bone material	potential archaeological sites		tree roots	

12. Take care in the placement of hands and feet throughout a cave. (cont.)

13. Wash your caving overalls and boots regularly so that the spread of bacteria and fungi are minimised.
14. If a site is obviously being degraded examine the site carefully to determine if an alternative route is possible. Any alternative route **MUST** not cause the same or greater degradation than the currently used route. If an alternative is available suggest the alternative route to the appropriate management authority and report the degradation.
15. Carry in-cave marking materials while caving and restore any missing markers. Tape off sensitive areas you believe are being damaged and report the damage to the appropriate management authority.
16. If it is necessary to walk on flowstone in a cave remove any muddied boots and or clothing before proceeding **OR DON'T PROCEED!** Sometimes it is better to assess the situation and return at a later date with the appropriate equipment.
17. Treat the cave biota with respect, watch out for them, and avoid damaging them and their "traps", webs, etc. Also avoid directly lighting cave biota if possible.
18. If bone material is found on existing or proposed tracks it should be moved off the track to a safer location if at all possible. Collection should only be undertaken with appropriate permission.
19. If you eat food in a cave, ensure that small food fragments are not dropped as this may impact the cave biota. One way is to carry a plastic bag to eat over and catch the food fragments. This can then be folded up and removed from the cave.
20. Ensure that all foreign matter is removed from caves. This includes human waste. If long trips are to be made into a cave ensure that containers for the removal of liquid and solid waste are included on the trip inventory.
21. When rigging caves with artificial anchors, e.g. traces, tapes, rope etc, ensure that minimal damage occurs to the anchor site by protecting the site. For example protect frequently used anchors, e.g. trees, with carpet, packs, cloth, etc. Bolts should only be used where natural anchors are inappropriate.

## 22. **CAVE SOFTLY!**

### **New Cave or Extension Explorations**

1. The existing microbiology of the new cave, both fungi, bacteria, and a world of protozoa, will almost certainly be irreversibly contaminated on the first trip into the cave! If you consider cave microbiology has not been investigated in the area of this new cave, if cave microbiologists are available, then please consider including them on initial explorations so that they may collect uncontaminated samples.
2. **Do not enter the new area if you do not have the equipment required to undertake the minimal activities. Surveying equipment and in-cave markers.**
3. The minimal activity should be in-cave marking and surveying. Not purely exploration.
4. Ensure that all alternative routes are examined, by completing the cave survey, prior to crossing sensitive areas. It may not be necessary to enter some areas as they can be by-passed.
5. Having determined that a sensitive area is to be crossed it should **ALWAYS** be marked. Reduce future damage by defining a distinct, minimal width track.
6. Discuss in-cave marking within the party and ensure that all ideas are evaluated before marking is undertaken.
7. **CAVE SOFTLY!**



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Correspondence: Susan White, 123 Manningham St, Parkville, Vic 3052

Coming soon in *Helictite*: the Jenolan Show Caves survey – new maps of the Jenolan system based on extensive resurveys, including colour fold-out maps. The abstracts of the Wellington Karst Workshop February 2000 will be published in Volume 37.

### Publications for Sale

Back issues of *Australian Caver* & *ASF Newsletter* - contact Lucinda Coates for prices & availability  
*Australian Karst Index 1985* – currently out of print

ASF is examining how to make publications more easily available to members. Meanwhile, the following publications associated with ASF & the former Speleological Research Council Inc. are available from John Dunkley (see address list p. 14). Make cheques payable to Australian Speleological Federation Inc. All net proceeds from sale of these items go to ASF, so support a good cause.

**Wee Jasper Caves**      \$10-50 incl. p&p      **The Caves of Thailand**      \$20 incl. p&p

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Coming soon: **Reports on caves & karst in the Mudgee / Macquarie region, NSW**

### Forthcoming Events

October 15 NSW Speleological Council meeting, Bankstown

Contact: Chris Norton

November 5 Community workshop & rehabilitation site inspection, Stuart Town, NSW (for landholders of karst and cave areas)

Contact: Peter Dykes

November 6-9 Limestone: Quarrying & Conservation, a Cooperative Workshop Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, NSW

Contact: [REDACTED]

December 28 to January 2: 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference of ASF, Bathurst, NSW contact Jodie Rutledge

April 29 – 5 May Cave Management Conference, Wombeyan NSW: [REDACTED]

July 2001 International Congress of Speleology, Brasilia, Brazil. ([www.speleobrazil2001.org.br](http://www.speleobrazil2001.org.br))