

CAVES

No. 173

March 2007

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The Journal of the Australian Speleological Federation

AUSTRALIA

A black and white photograph of four people, likely cavers, standing on wooden steps. They are all wearing helmets and safety harnesses. The person on the far left is wearing sunglasses and a dark jacket. The person next to them is also wearing sunglasses and a dark jacket. The person in the center is wearing a white jumpsuit. The person on the far right is wearing a dark jacket. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

ASF

*Celebrating 50 years
of Federation!*

2007 ASF Conference Report

50 Years of ASF History

Five Generations of Cavers

Conference Poster Winner

ASF Awards

Edie Smith Award winners

Basil Ralston talks Barralong

SUSS and ASF — the First Meetings

Coming Events

In particular, this list will cover events of special interest to cavers and others seriously interested in caves and karst. This list is just that: if you are interested in any listed events, contact Elery Hamilton-Smith for further details on: [REDACTED] or Nicholas White, (Chair of the International Commission) on [REDACTED]. If you plan to visit North America or Europe, we can probably also provide details for some of the local-regional meetings that take place there.

2008:

- May USGS Karst Interest Group Workshop, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA
- May 2-4 SUSS 60th Birthday celebrations, Jenolan Caves, NSW
- May 10 NSWSC Meeting, Bungonia Caves, NSW
- May 16-18 ACKMA Annual General Meeting, Capricorn Caves and the Mt Etna Caves National Park, Queensland
<http://www.ackma.org/members/AGMWeekend2008.pdf>
- June 7-11 Karst Waters Institute conference, Karst from recent to reservoirs, Rapid City South Dakota; for details visit the KWI website www.karstwaters.org
- June 12-16 Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, The Bahamas 14th Geology of The Bahamas Conference
- August Inaugural Global GeoTourism Conference, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle WA
- August 23-30 VERCORS 2008 - European speleological gathering, including IVth European Speleological Congress, Lans-en-Vercors, Isère, France
- September 1-5 XIIIth International Symposium on Volcanospeleology, Jeju Island, Korea
- September 21-26 19th International Symposium on Subterranean Biology, Western Australian Museum, Fremantle WA
- September 22-26 11th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and Karst, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

2009 and beyond

- January 27th ASF Conference Gippsland Victoria
- May ACKMA Conference, Margaret River, Western Australia
<http://www.ackma.org/conf2009/2009Flier.pdf>
- July 7-12 ANZ IAG International Association of Geomorphologists Conference, Melbourne
- July 19-26 International Congress of Speleology, Texas, USA



SUSS is 60!

2nd - 4th May, 2008

You are invited to a celebration of all things SUSS. Come and celebrate our birthday in style at Jenolan Caves with a weekend of caves, fine food and wine, caves, talks, caves, walks, caves, displays, caves, yarns, caves, old cavers and caves! Stay at historic Caves House, soak up the atmosphere, and celebrate at the formal dinner on Saturday night, 3/5/2008. Visit wild caves, visit the show caves, or take it easy on the balcony. <http://ee.usyd.edu.au/suss>, PO Box 35 Holme Building Sydney University 2006

Details, details.....

Who do I contact for bookings?

We've arranged accommodation packages with Caves House

I can't wait!

Neither can we.

The following packages are per room per night twin share (2 night stay):

Cost per extra adult - \$30, extra child \$20

PHOTO: Sydney Morning Herald



Caves House (pictured)

- Classic 2 room Suite \$265
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- Grand Classic Superior \$200
- Grand Classic \$165
- Classic \$145
- Traditional (shared facilities) \$85

Mountain Lodge

- Studio Unit \$120
- Interconnecting 2 Room Unit \$205

The Cottage

- 3 bedroom cottage unit \$270

The Gate House per person \$30

Jenolan Cabins \$150

Weekend Meal Package \$150 per person

- Welcome supper Friday evening
- Pre-dinner drinks with cocktail snacks
- Saturday dinner with beverages
- Breakfast Saturday and Sunday

Contact Caves House for bookings - make sure you let them know you are with SUSS.

Phone 1300 76 33 11, press 1

Holme Building Sydney University 2006

SUSS contact: Keir Vaughan-Taylor [REDACTED]

CAVES AUSTRALIA

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Change of address. Notify us immediately of any address changes to ensure your delivery of *Caves Australia*.

As no issues of *Caves Australia* were able to be published in 2007, the publication dates will include the actual dates the issue is produced.

ASF Executive 2008

President: Stan Flavel

Vice Presidents: Jay Anderson

Chris Bradley

Joe Sydney

Nicholas White

Treasurer: Grace Matts

Executive Secretary: Evelyn Taylor

General Secretary: Winfried Weiss

Membership: Jodie Rutledge

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COVER: ASF's glamour girls prior to competing in the Speleosports. L to R Jessica Wools-Cobb, Serena Benjamin, Jay Anderson and Cathie Plowman.

Cover photo by Steve Buntton

Layout and production: Summerleas Print

HELP SUPPORT ASF

The Federation is run solely by subscription to ASF. Your donation or bequest will assist our work in lobbying to save karst, ensure continued scientific projects and more. To make a contribution or receive an information pack, contact The Secretary or visit www.caves.org.au



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ANDREW BAKER

President's Report

In 2007, two of our members attended a search and rescue exercise in New Zealand (with fellow cavers and agencies having cave rescue responsibility). We look forward to hearing from Joe Sydney (NSW Cave Rescue Squad and IUS - South Pacific) and Ross Anderson (ASF Cave Rescue Commission Convenor).

It's great to see the Australian and New Zealand speleological societies working together on cave rescue. If your club or State is involved in any regular cave rescue exercises, please let the executive know.

We have members interested in being involved in training to assist you!

Some members have mentioned to me that they are concerned about the operation of the ASF. It's great to have members wanting to be involved in the running of their national caving organisation. As the ASF is operated by volunteers, in people's personal time, sometimes it may be difficult to meet deadlines or to ensure complete efficiency like you may expect from paid professionals. Many people who put their hand up to help with ASF matters are already heavily involved with their own caving club or at the State level—and thus are doubly busy.

The ASF executive is a committee of nine people elected by the Annual Council meeting. For the last few years we have been endeavouring to meet twice a year. This is working well and gives us valuable time together where discussion, documentation and progress on the administration of ASF can occur.

As you may have seen from the minutes of the 2007 Council Meeting, there were many issues raised and discussed by ASF members. The ASF executive

has a number of actions and tasks that are being progressed. In addition, there are a number of small committees working on special projects.

Several members are working hard at progressing the "Conservation Book"—a book summarising and outlining key cave and karst campaigns in Australia's history. Areas covered include issues such as the Mt Etna campaign, Sellicks Hill, Ida Bay-Benders Quarry and Cape Range.

There are a number of authors contributing to the chapters being compiled while other members are involved in progressing the ASF Environment/Gift Fund and the donation of land in Queensland.

There is also a special committee that is investigating building ASF organisational identity and funds through means of publishing and merchandising.

Another group will be involved in the development of a comprehensive documentation commission - this involves the Karst Index Database (KID) and the documentation of karst features in Australia.

As you can see, there's so much happening and that's not counting the caving!!

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours in caving
Jay



Inside ACKMA March 2008

- A Colossus Retires
- Reflections of the Nature of Guiding
- Rawhiti Cave, South Island, New Zealand
- Something New for Cave Guides
- Australian Rainfall Records Research
- A Brief History of the Cave Guides Gabfest
- Karst & the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database



For more information about ACKMA, please visit:

www.ackma.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Issue 173 is a compilation of 50 years of Australian Speleology history and highlights from the XXVIth ASF Conference held in January 2007.

Contributions for Issue 174 have now closed and we are receiving articles and reviews for Issues 175 and 176 now.

Future issues of *Caves Australia* will see the reintroduction of 'Down Under All Over' a dedicated column on the events and issues affecting individual clubs and the inaugural column 'Conversation on Conservation'.

I hope that you will enjoy sharing your experiences with us.

Regards
Ed.

WANTED ARTICLES FOR CAVES AUSTRALIA!

Whether caving, cave diving or a general exploration, *Caves Australia* readers are interested in YOUR story. It is only with YOUR contribution that we can produce a quality magazine for all to enjoy.

For writing and style guidelines, contact the Editor or Production Manager for further information.

CAVES, CRATERS and CRITTERS: 26th Biennial ASF Conference

Celebrating 50 years of the Australian Speleological Federation



Susan White

The 26th ASF conference was held in Mount Gambier, SA, from 6th to 12th January 2007. Over 150 people registered for the conference; this is the largest registration for an ASF conference ever, overtaking the Nibicon record from 1972. The Conference organising committee, co-ordinated by Marie Choi, is to be congratulated for running such a smooth conference to celebrate 50 years of ASF and organised speleology in Australia.

The conference was well organised by CEGSA at the Mt Gambier Racecourse Function Centre; the accommodation system worked, the lunches and morning and afternoon teas were delicious, the papers interesting and the entertainment fun. It was opened by the Mayor of Mount Gambier, Steve Perryman, and the ASF President, Jay Anderson. As it was a celebration of 50 years of ASF, it was fitting that Elery Hamilton-Smith AM gave the opening keynote address 'Australian Caving: the past 50 years'. This was a very insightful talk on the early days of ASF and its successes since then.

The historical aspect of this conference meant that four people who had attended the first ASF conference were able to attend. Also the current



First Conference attendees: (left to right) Bob Sexton, Chris Warner, Elery Hamilton-Smith, Graham Chinner.

president of IUS, Andy Eavis, showed some interesting films, including the Planet Earth Caves, and his 3D slide show and several previous ASF presidents attended. As well, everyone who attended the conference received a copy of the ASF 50th year publication, *Down Under All Over: 50 Years of Australian Speleology*.

Some of the highlights of the week were:

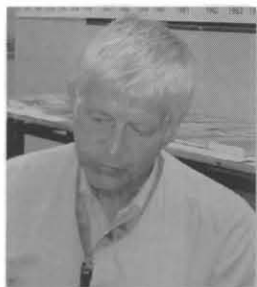
- Andy Eavis' (president of IUS) 3D slideshow of caving in various parts of the world.
- Elery's keynote address: Australian Caving: the past 50 years
- Peter Horne on the history of cave diving; an insight into some of the more unusual aspects of cave diving.
- The conservation forum organised by Nicholas White and the Conservation Commission.
- The day at Naracoorte, despite the heat. Thanks to Steve Bourne and the Naracoorte World Heritage Area staff.
- Wild caving trips and tours to diving and other sites of interest.
- Speleo Quiz and Trivia night
- The Art Show and associated workshops, especially the limestone-carving workshop. This is a particularly local aspect of limestone art!
- Geoff Aslin's latex imprints of the cave wall art in the South East.
- The Speleosports.
- The Caveman's Dinner and the Auction.
- Photographic competition.
- The ASF Timeline.
- The excellent conference wine (as well as the T-shirts, bags and cups!)

Then there was a wide range of papers, which were of a uniformly excellent standard.

The club representatives all survived the business aspects of the conference. Many people find the Council meeting boring but an organisation that can run on one major meeting a year is pretty efficient. The Council meeting was in two sections as usual and

Caves, Craters and Critters

The masses viewing the 3-D show. A truly amazing experience



Current President of IUS, Andy Eavis



Grace Matts receiving the Edie Smith Award

two new clubs were admitted: CASM and Mole Creek CC. The details of the meeting should have been reported to your clubs by the club delegates.

The competitive aspects of the conference included the prussiking and SRT competitions and the Speleosports. WA seemed to have the ultra fit cavers this time: Ross Anderson won the Ascending competition in 1.42 min and the SRT course competition in 2.46 min. The WA team comprising Darren Brooks, Ian Collette, Paul Devine, and Ross Anderson were the Speleosports champions in 10.08 min.

VSA was the successful winner of the club history poster. The poster is reproduced in the centre pages of this issue. A great deal of fun was had by all in these competitions.

I don't have the details of the photo competition except that Garry Smith was the overall winner. The photos were extremely good and the subjects varied.

The dinner was held on the last night and was a joyous affair: good food, plenty to drink and entertaining – including several people in fancy dress.

The auction raised quite a lot of money for the ASF Environmental Gift Fund. We were fortunate to have been donated a number of books including some

out-of-print editions of cave and karst books and pamphlets.

The dinner saw the launching of a new series of awards, the Awards of Distinction. The inaugural Jeff Butt Award of Distinction for Exploration was awarded to Paul Hosie for his outstanding cave diving exploration work.

Jeff Butt's outstanding contributions to exploration were written up in *Caves Australia*, No. 162. We were all very pleased to welcome Jeff's parents and other members of his family to the dinner. Jeff's widow, Sarah Boyle, presented Paul with the award.

The details of the awards are in Lloyd Robinson's article in this issue of *Caves Australia* so are not detailed here. The recipients of the Edie Smith Award (Grace Matts and Ian Household), and the Certificate of Merit (Paul Devine, John Cugley, Megan Pryke and Dave Woods) deserve congratulations. John Dunkley was made a Fellow of ASF for outstanding services to ASF.

Associated with the conference were self-guided local wild caving trips, tours of the local sinkhole (cenote) sites and snorkelling. These were led by CEGSA members and participants found that they were a great break from meetings and paper sessions!



ASF presidents present at the conference.

Back Row L-R: Ken Lance, Warren Peck, John Dunkley, Elery Hamilton-Smith AM, Nicholas White. Seated L-R: Lloyd Robinson, Jay Anderson, Miles Pierce

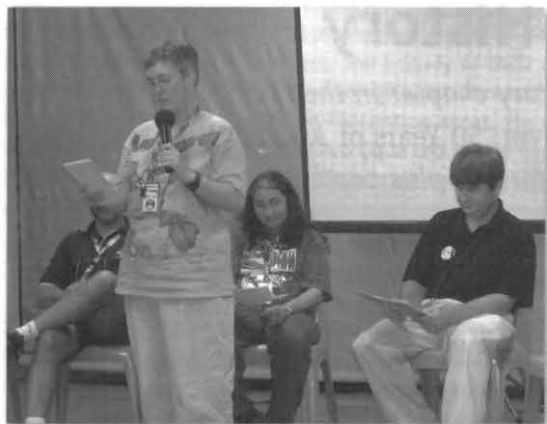


Sarah Boyle and Paul Hosie, inaugural winner of the Jeff Butt Award of Distinction for Exploration.



Speleosports

Caves, Craters and Critters

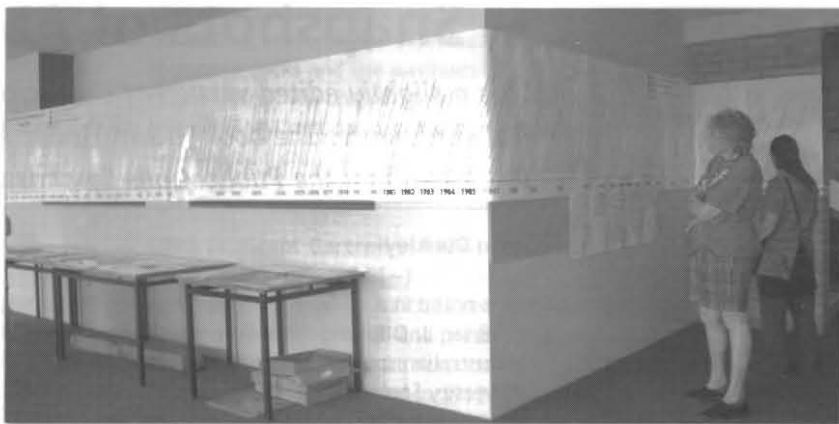


Conservation forum panel: Jill Rowling (SUSS), Steve Bunton (STC), Yvonne Ingeme (VSA), Glenn Baddeley (VSA)

Both pre and post the conference several trips were organised to Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula (Sellicks Hill area), western Victoria lava caves, Avenue Range, Limestone Coast, Naracoorte and Penola areas. Perhaps some articles on the areas could be submitted for publication in *Caves Australia*.

The conference team consisted of:

Marie Choi:	Conference Co-ordinator
Kevin Mott:	Regional Co-ordinator
June MacLucas:	Speleo Art Show
Steve Bourne:	Naracoorte Field Day Organiser
Damian Grindley:	Wines, Pre & Post Trips, Promotion
Chris Gibbons:	Treasurer, lunch and other catering
Tim Moulds:	Abstracts, Proceedings, Timetables
Richard Harris:	Photo Comp, Cave Diving
Stan Flavel:	Adelaide Resources, Speleo Sports
Ken Grimes:	Field Guide Author
Adam Branford:	Mt Gambier resources
Tim Payne:	SRT Comp Organiser
Athol Jackson:	Photo Judge, Quiz Night Master, Resources
George MacLucas:	1956 Attendees Host



The timeline created by Grace Matts.

Thanks to everyone who provided information to help her produce this interesting timeline

Photographic Competition Judges:

Athol Jackson: CEGSA

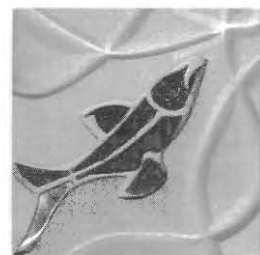
Keith Seidel: Australian Photographic Society Judge

Barbara Styles: Eastern Suburbs Camera Club

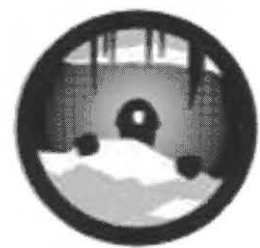
The conference received sponsorship from The City of Mount Gambier, Grant District Council, Limestone Coast Tourism, Department of Environment & Heritage, and the Scout Outdoor Centre sponsored the SRT competition and the Speleosports. Thanks to the sponsors who, by their donations, kept the costs down. CEGSA and ASF both put effort into the conference but CEGSA provided the real people power to make it work.

A very successful celebration of 50 years of organised speleology in Australia.

See you all in January 2009 at Karst Away in Sale, Victoria.



Limestone carving



Photos by Grace Matts and Joan Crabb



Help Save Australian Caves & Karst

A gift to the ASF Environmental Fund is an investment in Australia's future.

Karst and caves, clean alluvial water, fertile soil, beautiful vistas, rich forests, abundant plants and wildlife, and most importantly our true "common wealth". Conserving our natural beauty whether under or above ground is our priority.

With your donation to the Fund our participating projects can continue their good work in protecting karst. You will join a group of caring people who are working for a brighter future for everyone.

Make a donation to the ASF Environmental Fund for Karst now and help keep our karst a great place for all to enjoy!

Helictite



Vol 39 (2) 2006 OUT NOW!

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Proceedings of Limestone Coast 2004

Editorial – Ken Grimes

Syngenetic Karst in Australia: a review

Seasonal Karst Lake Cerknica (Slovenia): 2000

Years of Man Versus Nature

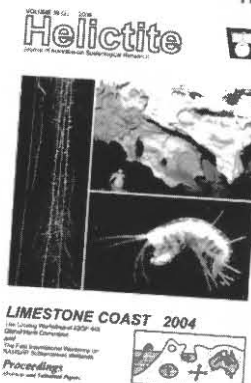
Environmental Reconstruction of Karst using a Honeysuckle species widely used in Traditional Chinese Medicine

Thinking about Karst and World Heritage

Abstracts from the "Limestone Coast 2004" conference

Papers from other karst journals from around the world

For more info about Helictite, visit: www.caves.org.au/helictite



Vision in the Dark — Snapshots of ASF History

This a slightly edited version of the introductory chapter in the book produced for the last conference. The book, Down Under All Over: 50 Years of Australian Speleology is available from the Publications Commission for \$12 plus postage.

John Dunkley

As noted in a circular from our founding President, Brian J. O'Brien, discussions on a Federation of Australian speleologists began within Sydney University Speleological Society in 1953, only seven years after our first speleological group, the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, was formed. Letters from the Sydney societies to other Australian groups in 1954 met with overall approval but indicated some of the difficulties, presaging also some of the great debates to follow. But eventually it all came together in Adelaide in December 1956.

At the opening of that inaugural Conference, Elery Hamilton-Smith expressed the hope that the federation 'would help the Australian societies to build up a standard of caving that would be one of the highest in the world'. There have certainly been some truly remarkable successes: *Helictite* is one of only 5 or 6 peer-refereed cave science journals in the world, *Caves Australia* has reached a world standard of quality and content, we organised the world's first conferences on Cave Management. Numerous management agencies use our conservation and minimum impact codes.

By any standards (only one fatality in 50 years and very few serious accidents) our safety record is a tribute to cavers' willingness to abide by sensible ASF guidelines and to our success in publicising those codes and guidelines to other cave users. For nearly a decade now, ASF has had more members in proportion to our population than the highly regarded National Speleological Society in the USA, and is certainly more representative than our equivalent in the UK. What other country has a distributed electronic database covering 8–10,000 of its caves? And what other major national cave organisation in the world publishes its own full Conference Proceedings?

So, how did we get there? Well, things started well. The inaugural Conference was a huge success, with field trips to Kangaroo Island and particularly to the Nullarbor setting precedents for the many multi-disciplinary expeditions that followed. Indeed, the discoveries in Koonalda Cave led to a revolution in Australian archaeology and the foundation of rock art research here.

The real difficulty was translating vision and idealism into action and achievement. An initial membership capitation fee of 2/- (20¢) was risibly inadequate to finance the Federation's objectives, and clubs found difficulty agreeing on what those objectives should be anyway. Enthusiasm waned somewhat over the next few years as distance and cost made their tyranny felt. Complaints about lack of ASF performance were not uncommon, yet from the very outset a few clubs placed priority on building their own strength, often at a cost to ASF's

growth, or threatened withdrawal if their objectives differed. As with the larger Australian polity, from time to time the greater good was lost in interstate rivalries and centralist debates.

Some early effort was put into publicity, at considerable cost in time and money. A pioneering series of articles appeared in *Walkabout*, then Australia's leading geographical magazine. The first ASF non-serial publication, *Caving in Australia* somewhat over-reached itself financially, aiming to reach out to the public as well as to cavers, and to present Australian speleology to an overseas audience at the second International Congress of Speleology in 1958.

Overall, the first decade or more was rocky: lengthy argument and debate about constitutions and what role ASF should play, some club and interstate rivalry, and the first (but by no means the last) 'them-and-us' moves to restrict membership to well-established groups. In the 1950s scientists had high social status and an initial emphasis on cave science (highlighted in the first newsletter, for example) helped establish our credentials but was not always well received by the essentially recreational cavers who actually paid the capitation fees. A research journal was mooted as early as 1960, but when an offer was made in 1962 to actually produce one, the chance was missed in arguments of an internal organisational nature, and 38 years passed before ASF finally acquired ownership of *Helictite*. Ten years and six Conferences passed before the first Proceedings were published.

Conservation and Management

But gradually a national consensus arose on key issues. A Conservation Commission was established in 1962 and from then on conservation occupied a great deal of effort. A new post-war generation moving through the education system produced a vast increase in tertiary qualified members. Social change beginning in the late 1960s throughout the western world underpinned environmental campaigns in Australia as younger people in particular questioned the emphasis on unrestrained development. Dams, mining and quarrying, irrigation schemes, roads, vegetation clearance and logging all impacted on caves and karst in one area or another, and such calls to arms often precipitated action to explore threatened areas whose public tenure had apparently been safe for 60 to 100 years and whose appeal had previously been to the emotions. ASF, for example, organised a multi-society exploration of Church Creek (NSW), and member clubs hastened to document such areas as Texas, Mt Etna and Bungonia, producing a stream of articles for their own and the ASF Newsletter. 'Save Colong' was one of the first in the great bumper sticker phenomenon.

Yet in most cases legislative protection was weak

and archaic, with initially indifferent public opinion still firmly entrenched in a post-war development ethos. As a result, governments and company directors unaccustomed to having their actions and inactions questioned by citizens and shareholders found themselves on the back foot as changes in social attitudes and beliefs forced the pace on legislative and judicial reform. This was an age of activism — public consultation was a socialist plot. Support snowballed as cavers organised public open days, abseiled down the face of buildings where shareholder meetings were in progress, or bought single shares so they could stack meetings and ask awkward questions. There were no Ministers for the Environment in any Australian government, no Environmental Defenders Offices, no Environmental Protection Authorities.

Dinosaur governments surviving for many years in Queensland and Tasmania meant that Ministers for Mines, Resources, Development and Big Things retained power even when environment did become an issue, and activism continued in those states well into the 1980s — the Franklin Dam and Mt Etna cases, for example, eventually being settled in the High Court.

ASF ran some campaigns in its own name, some used our name to assist their credentials, others ran independently but with support from ASF. Over time precedents were established when ASF and members obtained standing before Mining Wardens Courts, brought cases to State Supreme Courts and eventually stood in the High Court of Australia in Canberra (where one of the Justices was a former member). Politicians and feature writers who attacked organisations like ours for what they claimed were our selfish motivations ate their words — and some cave managers today do not realise that there may have been nothing for them to manage but for the efforts of cavers.

As activism waned, we developed expertise and a national reputation for environmental advocacy, both by lobbying bureaucrats and politicians and through management consultancies. A Sydney newspaper once described us as a non-green conservation organisation, and this duality with recreational interests possibly aided our cause and public image with management agencies.

In 1973 we organised the world's first Cave Management Conference and shortly afterwards a National Heritage Commission grant established a foundation for managing the diversity of Australia's caves and karst, moving us away from merely protecting stalactites. The legendary Karst Index project was seeded by a similar grant, taking only a decade or so to compile and more grants followed. As the only experts in the field, ASF undertook studies for a variety of agencies of the Nullarbor, Jenolan, Cutta Cutta, Naracoorte, Tantanoole, Yallingup, Christmas Island and the NSW Central West, while a steady stream of submissions flowed to the decision-makers. Kitted out with boiler suit, bash hat and boots, the Minister for Lands was dragged through one of our grottiest and least appealing caves, a bat maternity site in eastern Victoria, to emphasise that they too need protecting. For several years the erstwhile Minister in NSW was a former member, introducing some innovative karst protection legislation.

Caving

Techniques improved: home-made ladders were used in the early days and helmets made from Woolworths pudding basins were rumoured if not actually sighted. Carbide lights were abandoned long ago as inimical to cave conservation. Australian practitioners were world leaders in the diffusion of single rope techniques and associated safety measures, accelerating the exploration of the numerous deep, wet caves of Tasmania, New Zealand and eventually the world's deepest overseas.

Even quite small member clubs achieved remarkable results in cave area documentation and publishing, and new caves continue to be discovered even in well known areas. New cavers continue to be introduced to their local caves through commercial operations, ASF caving clubs, scout and church groups.

At various times, but showing a welcome resurgence recently, has been exploration in remote areas. On the Nullarbor, the legendary aerial explorations by Captain Thomson in the 1930s have been replicated as parts of the Nullarbor are being gridded for caves using microlight aircraft, resulting in some remarkable fossil discoveries. As well as world class dives under the Nullarbor, cave divers systematically extended our knowledge of Junee resurgence, caves near Camooweal and Kununurra, and otherwise well explored haunts such as Jenolan and Wellington. And as recently as 1990 who had ever heard of the Ning Bings, Pungalina or Bullita (where our longest cave has now reached 110 km)?

Corporate Governance

Membership grew steadily in the 1970s fuelled by conservation issues and free university education, remaining steady through the 1980s. In the 1990s we dealt with the new phenomenon of politically-driven panic programs (*'Let's be seen to do something about it'*) such as accreditation for outdoor activity leadership, liability insurance, risk management and increased accountability for incorporated associations.

ASF's reputation became recognised by securing representation on Jenolan Caves Trust and the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia, where we were the only effective national representative body and succeeded in heading off the excesses of the push for accreditation. We received an award for organisational excellence in the provision and administration of outdoor recreation.

Until 1990 a major impediment to our functioning was that the Executive was constituted in a purely managerial role, with all significant decision-making in the hands of a Council meeting only once a year. While greatly aiding consensus in a more leisurely age, this entrenched a culture predicated on primarily recreational clubs as the only groups and individuals with a serious interest in caves and karst. First raised in 1960, individual membership took nearly 25 years to be achieved and debate recurs, while there is still no entirely satisfactory mechanism for involving groups and individuals with primarily non speleological aims but with caves as one of their interests.

Nevertheless the Constitution was amended to move with the times, significantly in 1970 to establish permanent working commissions, in 1983 to register

Vision in the Dark – Snapshots of ASF history

ASF as an incorporated association in the ACT, in 1990 to modernise corporate governance and give greater flexibility to the Executive and in 2000 for registration as an Environmental Organisation.

Renewal

In the last decade a timely synergy emerged in ASF administration. *Helictite* and the Speleological Research Council's assets were acquired, *Australian Caver* was revamped into *Caves Australia*, insurance was surmounted, Annual Reports and electronic bulletins instituted, Council Meetings streamlined and we saw a new electronic cave data base implemented; ASF registered as an Environmental Organisation and a tax-deductible environmental gift fund was established.

The growth of e-mail, the internet, cheap long-distance telephone calls, and electronic member lists vastly improved communication. The Executive met by conference call and e-mail, and recently funds have covered face-to-face meetings as travelling costs fell in real terms. As a result, although meeting agendas are heavier than ever, major issues are addressed more swiftly and productively by the Executive and Council meetings seldom lead to significant dissension.

Retrospect

When judging the march of an organisation founded half a century ago, we need to recall prevailing social conditions. In 1956 the real standard of living in Australia, while among the highest in world, was only about one-third as high as now and as recently as 1970 real incomes were only half those in 2006. Most cavers were young, few could afford cars, most roads to caves were partly dirt (even the Hume Highway had only just been completely tar-sealed) and hitchhiking was much safer and more common than today. Trains tended not to go near cave areas (although as recently as our 1988 Conference one member arrived on the wonderful but now sadly defunct rattler from Cairns to Chillagoe). When in 1964 ASF met in Western Australia for the first time, nearly 1,000 km of the Eyre Highway across the Nullarbor was unsealed and nobody could afford the air fare; now our President crosses the continent for a weekend meeting. Sealing of the Perth-Darwin road was finished only in 1986. Communication was a major problem: postage was cheap and subsidised, but long distance telephone calls were ferociously expensive. And raising awareness of conservation issues like Mt Etna or South-west Tasmania was difficult when only a tiny proportion of the membership could visit or identify with such remote places.

Prospect

Challenges abound this century. The age of exploration is certainly not over, there is still significant unexplored karst, especially in northern Australia, not all of it remote by today's standards but requiring well-organised expeditions. That may be one of the problems: longer, more stressful and less secure working hours with less unstructured leisure time reduce the ability of some clubs to focus on long-term projects, even those close to home, although there are commendable exceptions. Some clubs, and to an extent ASF, suffer from gentrification and maybe gerontocracy, but the university clubs who traditionally inject new talent are struggling because of withdrawal of government support. Although close to owning our own caves, ASF needs to grasp fully the potential or the implications of being an Environmental Organisation and could improve provision for certain peripheral interest groups such as cave divers, cave and karst conservancies, or even inactive, fossil cavers!

Closure of wild caves to other than commercial users has been largely averted but growth of commercial adventure tours continues. Perversely, as real incomes rise, the lure of profits, careers and consultancies may be creating a gulf between adventure operators, academics and managers on the one hand and the more altruistic cavers on the other. For example, greater career pressure on university staff to publish in overseas journals impacts on *Helictite*, and academics find less time for the public teaching role that was once one of their duties. While encouraging greater professionalism, growth of a cave management bureaucracy and career structure may have widened the gap between primarily recreational cavers and managers who in some cases have little or no cave background. Some — there should be more — have provided much in-kind assistance fully compensating for the value of resource inventories, maps, informal wild cave management advice and other outcomes. A few — there should not be any — have been slow to acknowledge the value of speleological work, occasionally imposing permit fees while expecting cave maps to be lodged at no cost.

Finally, a mention of those who also toiled. We should celebrate our volunteers and there isn't space in this review to thank all those who made those 50 years possible. Some are listed in the Appendices but there will still be many unacknowledged. Among other quiet achievers who made it all possible are, for example, those who organised the Biennial Conferences and field trips, and those in member clubs who quietly ensured that throughout and despite our ups and downs, their club retained support for the ideal of a national organisation.

Fifth Generation (to be) Caver and Conservation

Peter Berrill

Our code of ethics encourages us '*not to blow our trumpet*'. However, when you are aging and have been ill and look back on your caving past, at all the expeditions and reports, the good trips and the bad ones, the things you used to do and now can't; the things you used to do and now wouldn't, because they were just too damn dangerous; the trips that built camaraderie and the lifelong conservation struggle to save a karst area and along comes your first grandson and at the age of two and a half years you take him into a cave and by his actions there is no doubt that he will be a caver, (*grandad will make sure of that*), it is only then that you realise the importance of what you been doing all these decades.

You have been saving a delicate and important part of the environment for future generations. I have only just realised this when I took my first grandson into Johannsens Cave, because previously, I had been too busy with the conservation struggle. So to hell with the code of ethics — the other weekend I took my first grandson, Onyx Berrill, caving in Johannsens Cave on Limestone Ridge, Central Queensland. Onyx will be a fifth generation caver to cave in this area. I think that is somewhat special and maybe a first. Is there anybody else in Australia who has five generations of cavers? The only ones I can think of are the Kerseys/Pearces.

Onyx's great great grandfather was a German immigrant who settled in this area and took his son Keith Drochmann caving at Johannsens Cave and into all other caves in the area. Keith Drochmann, now deceased three years, was my father in-law who was a member of CQSS and the treasurer for many years. He introduced me to caving when I was 15 years of age and it was his generation that taught us our caving skills and instilled into us our conservation values. Myself and my CQSS mates have gone on to defend Mt. Etna. Our stubborn and none compromising stand has now lead to an unprecedented partnership between rivals that has seen ASF register an Environmental Gift Fund that will be financially independent to enable it to preserve and defend the karst environments of Australia.

It is only cavers who will defend the caves and karst of Australia and sometimes we do need to '*blow our own trumpets*' to do this. And I'm not ashamed to do so.

SPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

BULLETIN BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE SPELEOLOGIQUE

The 2005 issue of Speleological Abstracts, published by the International Union of Speleology's Commission on Bibliography, should be available shortly.

The previous edition, a combined 2003-04 issue, was published by IUS in July 2005. It contains 6,475 abstracts of articles about the world's caves and karst, 680 of them relating to Australia and/or New Zealand.

This double issue is available in hard copy or searchable CD, each costing 50 CHF (Swiss Francs) - currently A\$50 + 32 CHF (\$A32) postage for the hard copy or 2 CHF for the CD. Hard copy + CD are 90 CHF including postage.

A 17 year CD-ROM (1988-2004) containing 77,000 abstracts is available for 220 CHF.

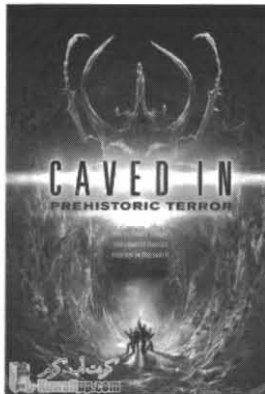
Orders can be placed through the web at: www.isska.ch/bbs
Or to: E. Shield, Village Farm, Mill Lane, Great Thirkleby, North Yorkshire, YO7 2AT, UK - in which case the cost is £23 (= A\$50) including postage (save A\$32).

CAVED IN - Film Review

DVD. Rated MA15+ 93mins produced 2005

Stars: Colm Meaney, Christopher Atkins

By Dave Wools-Cobb Northern Caverneers Inc.



As the jacket states: An extreme adventure tour group headed by a "deep caving expert" descends into a 2000 ft abandoned salt mine that was mysteriously closed down 50 years earlier after an unexplained disaster trapped all but one of the miners (even though you see several other miners escape IN FRONT of this sole survivor). During the descent they reveal to the hero (that being the deep caving expert, of course) that what the trip is really about, is to re-discover a chamber full of emeralds.

From start to finish, the whole story and even the cave/mine and special effects are a complete joke. The whole group descend in normal clothes, no helmets and tiny day packs, but of course huge laser guns to blast any rocks away. To make it easier to film the power is still connected after 50 years, so all the lights and winding gear of the descending platform still work. That's pretty fortunate, as the leader is the only one with a hand torch and one short rope. The mine/cave is about as unrealistic as it would be possible to make for a studio set; in one scene the wall actually shakes when one of the guys bumps against it!

Oh, I forgot to mention, the party has the obligatory classically beautiful girl, who doesn't fall in love with our hero, as his wife and daughter are having their own problems on the surface. Throw in a son, who has been trained in caving by his Dad, but still decides to descend from another entrance all by himself, plus a fight between two of the bad guys quite early resulting in the death of one... I'm not sure why that had to be written into the story. This mine has huge ravines, wooden walkways around enormous drops and a rope/wooden bridge.

To ensure the lovers of environmental beauty are satisfied, now and again members of the party say things like "wow, gee, etc." when they enter various "chambers", but the viewer doesn't actually see what is impressing them. Of course, so far this just sounds like the typical adventure type trip, so why not add in hundreds of man-size black beetles, who just love to feed on humans... after making a gory mess of them, like using their pincers to chop off arms, heads, or squeeze completely through a body? Good stuff! Some of these hungry beasties get out to the surface and attempt to feed on our hero's family, but a pump-action shotgun with unlimited cartridges fends them off.

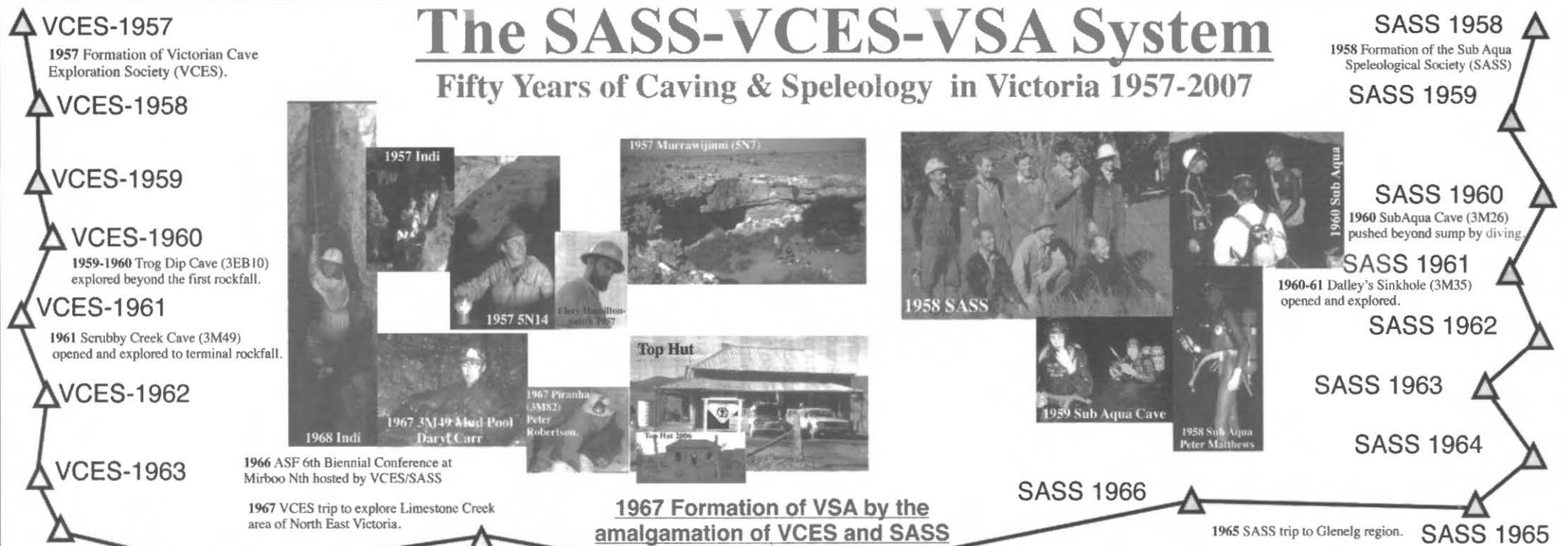
Naturally, the group do find the chamber full of emerald, all nicely lit up and the greedy big bad guy collects a bag full just before becoming beetle food. Our hero finds his son, but the poor kid has to do a self-rescue whilst Dad just yells "you can do it" continually. A few more deaths of bad guys and our hero manages to kill the Queen Beetle, drawing all extraneous beetles back into the mine just before he blows them all up, rescuing the spunky chick, his son and himself, and emerging into the arms of his wife and daughter who've survived their own ordeal.

In summary, probably the crappiest movie I've ever watched, although it is funny to see what a terrible job they made doing it. Clearly no caver was used as a consultant; I don't think the budget would have stretched that far.

Rating 0.5/10, because it's fun picking the flaws and having a laugh over them.

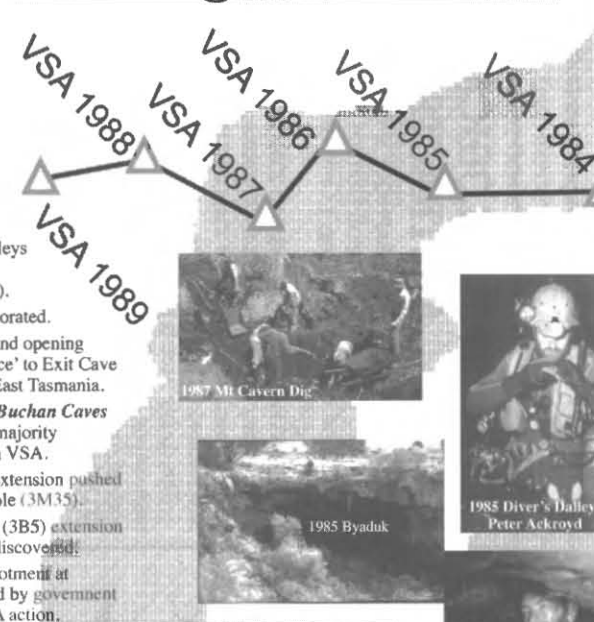
The SASS-VCES-VSA System

Fifty Years of Caving & Speleology in Victoria 1957-2007



The Eighties Series

1985 Diver's Dalleys discovered (3M35 Extension).
1986 VSA Incorporated.
1974 Discovery and opening of 'Valley Entrance' to Exit Cave (7 Ib120) South East Tasmania.
1987 Friends of Buchan Caves established with majority membership from VSA.
1987 Lightning Extension pushed in Dalleys Sinkhole (3M35).
1987 Fairy Cave (3B5) extension Galadriel's Gift discovered.
1989 Potholes allotment at Murrindal acquired by government as a result of VSA action.



VSA 1969
1969 Start of systematic exploration of the Lower Glenelg

VSA 1970
1970 Exploration of Mitta Mitta Limestones

VSA 1968

VSA 1967
1968 Major trip by VSA to Indi NSW
1968 First issue of **NARCON**



VSA 1971
1971 Homeleigh purchased by Rimstone Cooperative

VSA 1972

VSA 1973

VSA 1974

VSA 1975

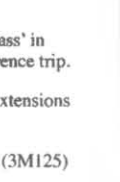
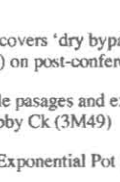
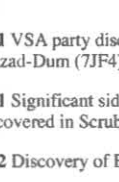
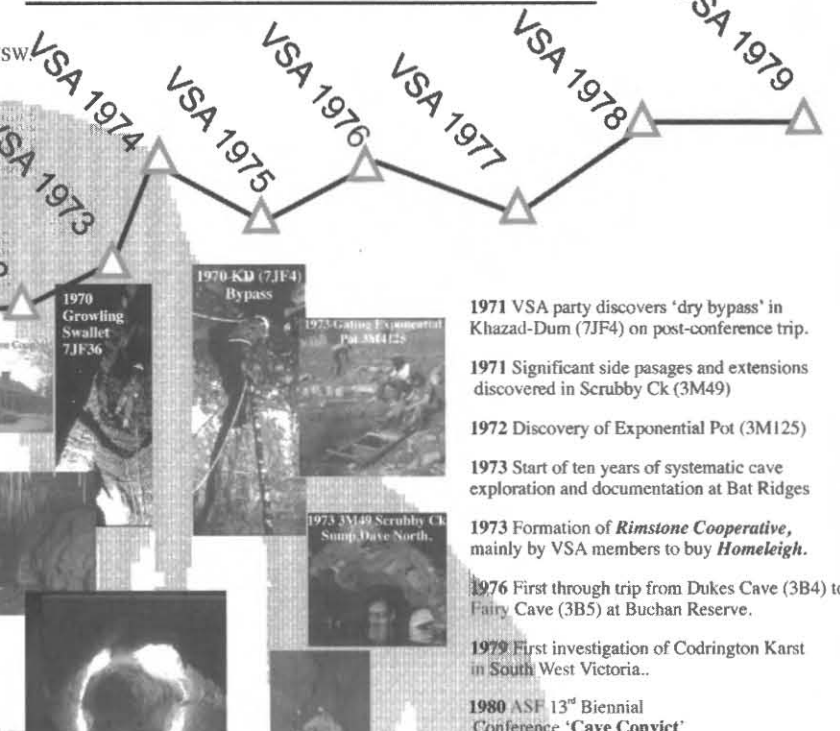
VSA 1976

VSA 1977

VSA 1978

VSA 1979

The Seventies Series



1971 VSA party discovers 'dry bypass' in Khazad-Dum (7JF4) on post-conference trip.

1971 Significant side passages and extensions discovered in Scrubby Ck (3M49)

1972 Discovery of Exponential Pot (3M125)

1973 Start of ten years of systematic cave exploration and documentation at Bat Ridges

1973 Formation of **Rimstone Cooperative**, mainly by VSA members to buy **Homeleigh**.

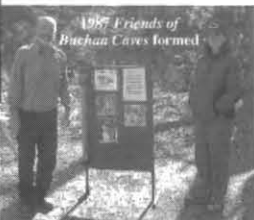
1976 First through trip from Dukes Cave (3B4) to Fairy Cave (3B5) at Buchan Reserve.

1979 First investigation of Codrington Karst in South West Victoria.

1980 ASF 13th Biennial Conference 'Cave Convict'



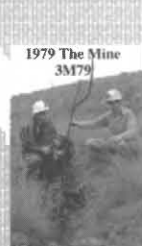
1983 Scrubby Ck (3M149)
Sump. Lou Williams



1987 Friends of
Buchan Caves formed



1988 Growing Swallet
7IF36



1979 The Mine
3M79



1976 Dukes Cave rock fall
penetrated to Federal Cave.

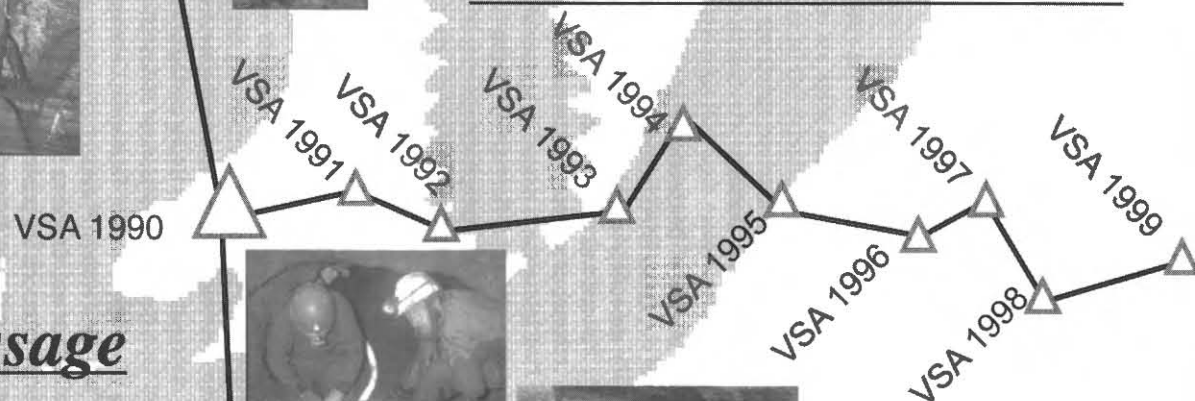


1978 Growing
Swallet 7IF36



1972 Surveying Lower Glenelg N.P.

The Nineties Extension



1990 Dalley's Sump pumping



1995 VSA Coastal Caves Project.



1998 Viceroy Streamway SINZ

1991 Mandelbrot Cave (3M308)
Discovered, explored and recorded.

1994 Start of systematic documentation of
Victoria's Marine Caves.

1995 ASF 20th Biennial Conference
'Vulcon' Hosted by VSA
in Hamilton Vic.

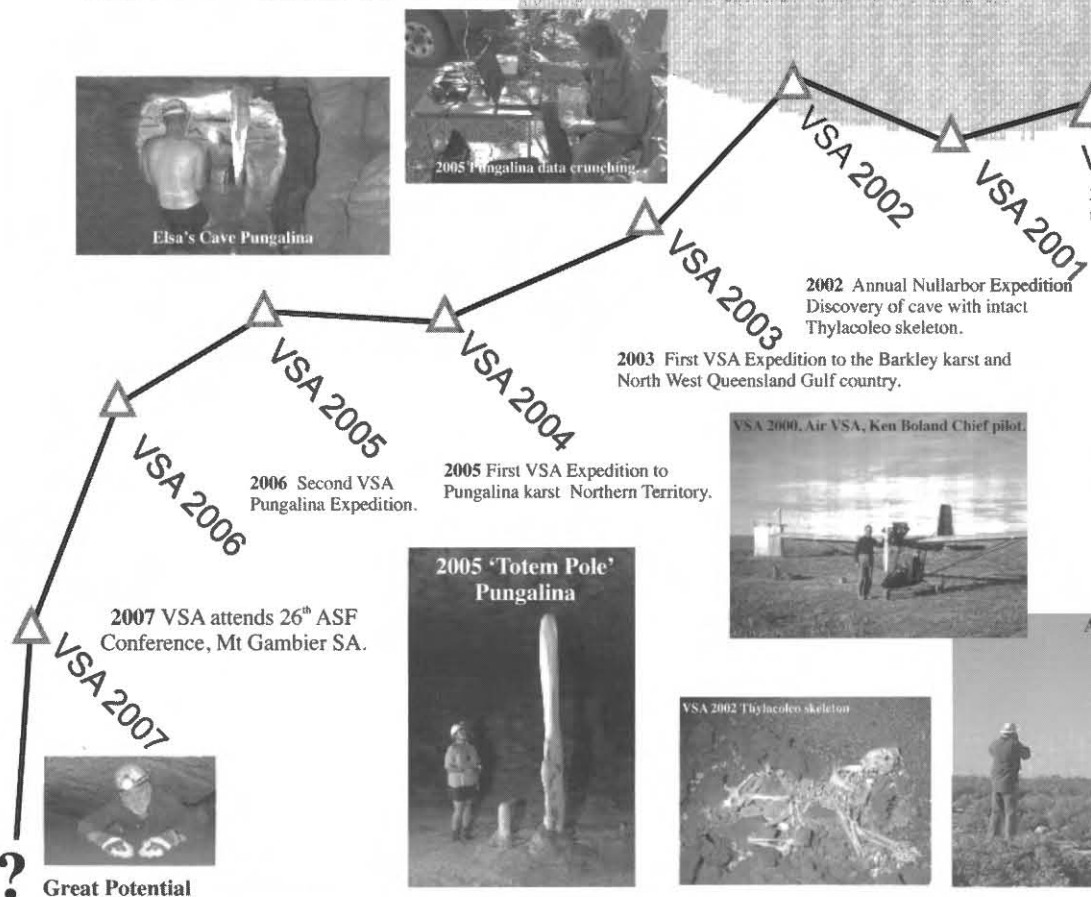
1997-98 Start of VSA Annual
Nullarbor Expeditions.

1998-99 Making of the
Scrubby Creek movie.

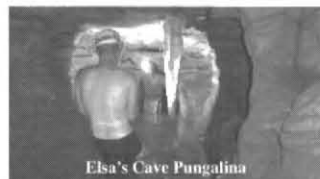
1998 First of three VSA expeditions
to Mt Owen karst in New Zealand.
Viceroy Shaft pushed to beyond 500m depth.

1999 *Down to Earth*
convention held in Buchan.

The Double Millennium Passage



2005 Pungalina data crunching



Elsa's Cave Pungalina

2002 Annual Nullarbor Expedition
Discovery of cave with intact
Thylacoleo skeleton.

2003 First VSA Expedition to the Barkley karst and
North West Queensland Gulf country.



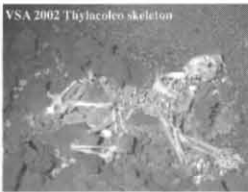
VSA 2000, Air VSA, Ken Boland Chief pilot.

NARGUN
The National Association of Rock Geologists
and Cavers of New Zealand

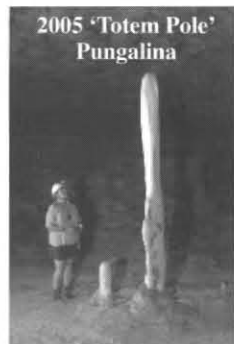


2003 Barkley Karst

Air VSA in bound.



VSA 2002 Thylacoleo skeleton



2005 'Totem Pole'
Pungalina

2006 Second VSA
Pungalina Expedition.

2005 First VSA Expedition to
Pungalina karst Northern Territory.

2007 VSA attends 26th ASF
Conference, Mt Gambier SA.



Great Potential

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Victorian Speleological Association

Cartographic Department

Drawn by:
Alex Kariko

Checked by:
Miles Pierce

Historical Survey of the
Evolution of VSA

Sheet Number
VSA-200611

Date Drawn
2006 Dec.

Recipients of ASF Awards

Lloyd Robinson, Convenor of the Awards Commission

Several 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. Awards are usually announced biennially at Conferences.

The ASF 50th year publication, *Down Under All Over: 50 Years of Australian Speleology*, included a list of awardees for the various ASF Awards. As often happens with these some inaccuracies have crept into the list and this is an up to date and more accurate list. The 2007 awards are included. Recipients' titles are omitted with the exception of Order of Australia Awards.

The 2007 Awards included in the tables below are:

Fellow of ASF (Life Membership)

John R. Dunkley for outstanding services to ASF as Council Member, Executive Member, and President and for the work he has done for the Environmental Fund.

Edie Smith Award

Grace Matts for extended service to the NSW Cave Rescue Squad and outstanding service to ASF in financial matters. Grace was also awarded the NSW Emergency Services Medal in this year's Australia Day Awards.

Ian Houshold for innovative karst conservation and management, and fostering karst research.

Jeff Butt Award of Distinction for Exploration

The inaugural Jeff Butt Award of Distinction for Exploration was awarded to Paul Hosie for his outstanding cave diving exploration work.

Certificate of Merit

Paul Devine for his outstanding exploration and documentation work on the Nullarbor, especially the recent work in conjunction with the Western Australian Museum on the megafauna fossil sites.

John Cugley for exploration and documentation of caves in the Ningbing Ranges and rendering assistance to visiting speleologists.

Megan Pryke for her efforts with NSW Speleo Council and running the same, for a number of years.

Dave Woods for exploration and documentation of caves in the Ningbing Ranges and rendering assistance to visiting speleologists.

List of recipients of Awards January 2007

Fellow of ASF (Life Membership)

Elery Hamilton-Smith AM	December 1974
Peter G. Matthews	January 1985
Andrew P. Spate	January 1987
Nicholas J. White	January 1991
Lloyd N. Robinson	January 1995
Patrick Larkin	April 1997
Peter Berrill	January 2003
John R. Dunkley	January 2007

Award of Distinction

Established to recognise those who have made an especially notable contribution to speleology. This award was modified to have awards for particular areas of speleology. The Award of Distinction for Exploration is named in honour of Jeff Butt.

Doreen & Norman Pershouse	January 1993
William Humphreys	April 1997
Nopparat Naksthit	April 1997
John Spies	April 1997
John & Glenda Wylie	January 2005

Jeff Butt Award of Distinction for Exploration

Paul Hosie	January 2007
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Edie Smith Award

Awarded for outstanding service to Australian speleology over a long period of time. Edie Smith was a distinguished pioneer of Australian speleology, a life member of Tasmanian Caverneering Club and the first woman President of an Australian speleological society, Canberra Speleological Society. Abbreviated citations are published in *Caves Australia*.

Aola M. Richards	1972
Edward A. Lane	1972
Joseph N. Jennings	1974
Elery Hamilton-Smith AM	1976
Benjamin Nurse	1978
John R. Dunkley	1980
Vince Kinnear	1983
Kevin Kiernan	1983
Albert Goede	January 1985
Barry Loveday	January 1987
Julia M. James	December 1988
John Bonwick	January 1993
Ernst Holland	January 1993
Brian Finlayson	January 1995
Grant Gartrell	January 1995
Rod Wells	January 1993
Robert Armstrong L. Osborne	April 1997
Neil Anderson	April 1997
Henry Shannon	January 1999
Norman Poulter OAM	January 1999
Lennox (Lex) Bastian OAM	January 2003
Rauleigh Webb	January 2003
Arthur Clarke	January 2005
Alan Warild	January 2005
Grace Matts	January 2007
Ian Houshold	January 2007

ASF Awards

Cavers who have become members of the Order of Australia

Awarded by the Governor-General of Australia for achievement or for meritorious service; the following members of ASF have been recognised for services related to speleology:

Don Matts OAM	1993
Anne Atkinson OAM	1997
Norman Poulter OAM	1999
Elery Hamilton-Smith AM	2001
Lex Bastion OAM	January 2003
Kenneth A. Norton	January 2006

Certificate of Merit

Awarded to ASF members for valuable service to speleology above normal involvement. Often given for seeing through particular projects.

1983

Bruce Dunhill
Ross Ellis
Dr Julia James
Ian Lewis
Neil Montgomery
Lloyd Robinson
Ray Rowney
C. Henry Shannon
Roy Skinner
Andrew Spate
John Taylor

1984

John Bonwick
R. Michael Bourke
Col Carter
Adrian Davey
Stefan Eberhard
Rolan Eberhard
Greg Middleton
Barry Moore
Alan Warild
Ian D. Wood

1985

Ken Grimes
Andrew Pavey
Les Pearson
Tom Robinson
Cathie & David Rothery
Dr John Watson
Robert Woolhouse
Members of VSA

1987

Ron Allum
Ewalt Crabb
Grace & Don Matts
Stuart Nicholas

1988

Miles Pierce
Graham Pilkington
Paul Wilson
Members of CQSS

1991

Lex Bastian
Alan Cummins
Jackie & David Lowry
Arthur Clarke
Kevin Mott
Norman Poulter
Trevor Wailes
Rauleigh Webb

1995

Fred Aslin
John Brush
Craig Hardy
Ken Keck
Max Meth
Lloyd Mill

1997

Peter Ackroyd
Peter Bell
Chris Dunne
Bruce Howlett
Neville Michie
Keith Tritton
Wayne Tyson
David Martin
John Toop
Keir Vaughan-Taylor

2001

Peter Dykes
Mick Godwin
Denis Marsh

2003

Julie & Peter Bauer
Ken Boland
Darren Brooks
Daryl Carr
Peter Horne
Athol Jackson
Tom Porritt
Susan White

2005

Stephen Blanden
Louise Coleborn
Rob Foulds
Penny Jansen
John Kersey
Bob Kershaw

2007

Paul Devine
Megan Pryke
John Cugley
Dave Woods

Summary of Edie Smith Award Recipients

Compiled by Norman Poulter OAM — updated 2007

August 2007 represents the 40th anniversary of the death of Edith Margaret Smith after a long battle with cancer. In 1968, ASF established the Edie Smith Award "to perpetuate the memory of Edie Smith and give recognition to those who have made an outstanding contribution to Australian speleology". A biography of Edie was published (Poulter and Goede, 2001) in the proceedings of the 23rd ASF Conference in 2001 with a slightly abridged version appearing in *Australian Caver* #154 the same year.

The summaries below reflect the recipients at the time of their record, while any title listed may have been upgraded to show their current status.

1972 Dr. Aola M. Richards

Awarded for her work in the study of glow-worms in New Zealand caves and as co-founder and co-editor of Australia's first speleologically-based scientific journal, *Helictite*. Dr. Richards also researched and wrote "An ecological study of the cavernicolous fauna of the Nullarbor Plain South Australia" (*J. Zoology*, London 1971).

(Adapted from ASF Newsletter #59 and elsewhere)

1972 Edward A. Lane

Received his award for being a leader of many early cave exploration expeditions, a speleo-author and co-founder and co-editor of Australia's first speleologically-based scientific journal, *Helictite*.

(Adapted from ASF Newsletter #59)

1974 Professor Joseph Newell Jennings (1916-84)

A speleologist prior to arriving in Australia from England in 1952, Joe was one of the founders of Canberra Speleological Society (1954) and ASF (1956). He became the second ASF president (1958-60). The volume of his writings gives his contributions to speleology; books, reviews and substantive popular articles on karst account for about half of his 200 scholarly publications. His book *Karst* (1971) and its successor *Karst Geomorphology* (1985) are still pertinent club and academic library reference works. Joe's studies ranged all over Australia and the world. Over the years, his wise council guided many academic and non-academic speleologists to greater achievements. He was regarded overseas as a symbol of Australian speleological excellence.

(Condensed from ASF Newsletter #72, 102, 105 and *Karst Geomorphology* (1986))

1976 Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith AM (1929—)

(Fellow of the ASF 1974)

Originally a member of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) and foundation secretary of ASF, he later moved to Victoria where he initiated the amalgamation of Victorian Cave Exploration Society and Sub Aqua Speleological Society into the Victorian Speleological Association. He helped instigate many important early Australian caving expeditions to the Nullarbor, New Guinea, New Caledonia and the systematic exploration of many other areas in eastern Australia. Elery's major contributions to speleological research have been in systematic exploration and documentation; especially cave biology where his interests include the collection and descriptions of invertebrates particularly beetles and studies of cave dwelling bats. His publications on cave biology are extensive and in particular it is his interpretations of the significance of cave biota and the encouragement of others, which has contributed to the high international standing, which Australian speleological research enjoys.

1978 Benjamin Nurse

A half-line announcement in *ASF Newsletter* #83 belies Ben's contribution to speleology. A long time president of the Sydney Speleological Society, Ben has been the driving force of SSS since its inception in 1954. He was one of two signatories to the letter that led to the formation of the ASF in 1956 of which SSS was a foundation member. Ben played a leading role in the conservation campaigns working to save the Colong and Bungonia Caves, bringing both areas into the public arena, despite some opposition, to help protect the regions. He was part of the SSS team that produced the Bungonia Caves book, a mammoth but comprehensive undertaking designed to assist the "KEEP BUNGONIA GORGEOUS" campaign.

(Adapted from *Australian Caver* #152 and elsewhere)

1980 John R. Dunkley (1943—)

(Fellow of the ASF 2007)

John's award was recognition for his extensive speleo-writings, administrative work within ASF and participation in several early expeditions, particularly to the Nullarbor Plain. He has written numerous articles on historical, economic and conservation aspects of caves. He co-edited *Caves of the Nullarbor* (1967) and edited *The Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan* (1971). As a driving force behind the SRC, he has participated in and contributed to the production of several other publications. He has visited many cavernous regions of Australia and overseas but his main interests remain Jenolan, Wombeyan and the Nullarbor Plain.

(Compiled from ASF Newsletter #71, *Caves of the Nullarbor* and elsewhere)

1983 Vince Kinnear (1930–2000)

Vince became interested in caves shortly after he and his late wife arrived in Chillagoe in 1959 to run the post office and telephone exchange. He commenced the exploration and restoration of Royal Arch and Donna Caves. A result of this work was his appointment as honorary ranger of the then unmanned National Parks of the region. This was later converted to a permanent position. Vince established contact with other speleologists throughout Australia and assisted their exploration of the Chillagoe area. He presided over the inaugural meeting of the Chillagoe Caving Club in 1973.

(Condensed from *Australian Caver* #98)

1983 Dr. Kevin Kiernan (1952—)

A geomorphologist by training, Kevin's award acknowledges his multitude of general and technical papers on Tasmanian karst. He has worked tirelessly for the conservation of karst and other important regions, firstly as an individual, then secretary of the Lake Pedder Action Committee and finally in 1976, as the founding director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. During 1976-81, he rediscovered the 20,000-year-old Aboriginal sites in caves on the Franklin River that contributed to the region being protected within the Wild Rivers National Park.

(Compiled from *Lake Pedder* and elsewhere)

1985 Dr. Albert Goede (1935—)

Awarded for services to cave exploration and scientific studies of caves. He was involved in the exploration of many Tasmanian caves and karst areas. His scientific interests included the collection of cave fauna from Tasmanian caves and a study of their geographical distribution. He also initiated hydrological studies and water tracing in the Ida Bay and Junee-Florentine areas. His examination of a bone deposit in Beginners Luck Cave led to the discovery that Aborigines had lived in the Florentine Valley under ice-age conditions some 21,000 years ago.

1987 Barry Loveday (1945—)

Awarded for dedicated service and leadership, over many years to the cause of high-quality cave surveying projects in Western Australia. This was largely a family affair that is still continuing. Not content with just producing detailed cave maps, Barry undertook an even more ambitious project, that of area surveys, a series of scaled topographic sheets (of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge in the first instance) stretching several metres, superimposed over cave outlines which indicate possible trends and extensions. His work has also inspired another generation of cave surveyors.

(Adapted from Australian Caver #118 and elsewhere)

1988 Dr. Julia M. James

(Certificate of Merit 1983)

Julia descended on the Australian caving scene from England in 1965. She received her award for distinguished contributions to the standing of Australian speleology, within Australia and overseas, in both sporting and scientific fields. Among her numerous achievements, she was one of the pioneers of vertical caving and cave chemistry, has led or co-led major caving expeditions to New Zealand, Mexico, Australia and the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea. She has also produced a succession of first-class publications and inspired numerous fellow cavers and colleagues. [She was President of the International Union of Speleology (IUS) 1997 - 2001.]

(Adapted from ASF Newsletter #71, Australian Caver #119 and elsewhere)

1993 John Bonwick

(Certificate of Merit 1984)

John has made a continuing contribution to speleology over a long period of time. He has been involved in many leadership roles, introducing potential cavers to the best and highest standards of caving leadership and practice; has acted as a moderating influence, (described as a "ballast") on the NSW caving scene and pioneered the photo-tagging of cave entrances. He is also known for the commercial development of electron ladders during the 1960s.

(Adapted from Australian Caver #133 and elsewhere)

1993 Ernst Holland (1938—)

Ernie is one of the most creative and innovative cave managers of Australia. He has been a driving force in vastly improving caver/management relationships at Jenolan and other areas, much more than most cavers realise. Ernie played a major role in the formation of the Australian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA), was its foundation president and as such, worked strongly for good relations with ASF. As a caver, Ernie was involved in discoveries at Jenolan and in the NSW sandstones.

(Condensed from Australian Caver #133)

1995 Dr. Brian Finlayson (1945—)

The award was made in recognition for his work in Australian karst research, pivotal role in encouraging and supporting karst

investigation by others and in linking professional research with club-based speleology. Brian was a member of the University of Queensland Speleological Society in the 1960s and VSA since 1979. His leading research has included the study of underground streams in granite rocks and the synthesis of the geomorphology of the Buchan karst. His commitment to promoting the exchange of ideas in speleology includes organisation and participation in several karst workshops.

(Condensed from Australian Caver #138)

1995 Dr. Grant Gartrell (1942—)

Dr. Rod Wells (1941—)

This joint award specifically recognised their roles in the discovery, interpretation and preservation of what is now known as the Victoria Fossil Cave at Naracoorte, South Australia. The Fossil Chamber was first entered in 1969. Grant and Rod recognised the potential value and significance of the site and were active over many years to ensure its protection and proper management. The site has since proved to be one of the most significant accumulations of Pleistocene sub-fossils in the world and was given World Heritage status in 1994.

Rod has continued to lead and co-ordinate research on the fossil deposit and has been widely recognised as making a major contribution to our understanding of the Pleistocene period in Australia while Grant has continued his passion for exploration and discovery of new caves. Grant also played a leading role in the exploration Sellicks Hill quarry cave and efforts to preserve it.

(Condensed from Australian Caver #138)

1997 Dr. Robert Armstrong Osborne (1954—)

The award was made in recognition of his contribution to Australian karst research, especially the evolution of NSW cave systems and in particular, the Jenolan System. Recognition is also given for his assistance given on numerous occasions to cavers involved in conservation campaigns.

1997 Neil Anderson -

Neil began his caving career in the early 1960s although it was only after he and his wife Carol moved to Canberra that his activities expanded. He has been involved in exploring areas such as Wee Jasper, Coolemen Plain, Yarangobilly, Wyandbene and Bungonia as well as further a field in Tasmania, Northern Territory, New Zealand and Thailand. His negotiating skills established sound relationships with Northern Territory land managers. A past president of CSS, amongst other committee positions, Neil is perhaps best known for his long-term role of CSS Equipment Officer and co-host of weekly get-togethers lasting nearly 20 years that contributed greatly to club cohesion.

(Condensed from Australian Caver #149)

1999 Henry Shannon (1940—)

(Certificate of Merit 1982)

A scholar of matters to do with speleology practically since the start of his caving career with the Sydney University Speleological Society in 1959 and continuing with the University of Queensland Speleological Society from 1963 and still going with the Northern Caverneers (Tasmania) since 1981. He has made contributions in documentation, exploration, mapping, hydrology and conservation efforts in all Australian states, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, but most particularly, he is one of those who bled over the conservation battles of Texas Caves, Bracwell and Mt. Etna, writing up much of the earth science components that supported the conservation cases.

Summary of Edie Smith Award Recipients

1999 Norman Poulter OAM (Certificate of Merit 1993)

The award was made in recognition for his long-standing contribution to research, conservation, restoration and management of caves and karst in Western Australia. His photographic skills have contributed to permanent displays in three museums, illustrated books, magazines, promotional and educational literature as well as public talks on cave conservation. He raised awareness of cave fauna in all cave systems and the need to protect them. An advocate of track marking, he manufactures low-cost track marking materials for distribution throughout Australia.

(Condensed from presentation addresses and elsewhere)

2003 Lennox (Lex) Bastian OAM (1937—) (Certificate of Merit 1991)

Aged 12, Lex began his illustrious caving career pedalling his bicycle on 112 km round "day" trips to Yanchep National Park, a major karst area just north of Perth. The exploration and documentation of the Yanchep/Wanneroo region has dominated his life ever since. Graduating as a geologist, he founded the Western Australian Speleological Group in 1958 and has written numerous papers on hydrology, geomorphology and speleogenesis of the karst areas of S-W Western Australia. Still an active member of WASG (inc.), centring mainly on Yanchep, he is a much sought after adviser to government, institutions, local authorities, land owners and cavers as well as being a popular geological speaker and conservation activist.

(Condensed from Australian Caver #158 and pers. comm.)

2003 Rauleigh Webb (1954—) (Certificate of Merit 1993)

Rauleigh began caving in 1976 and has always had the interests of caves at heart, often in complete disregard of what other people thought of his actions or opinions. He became involved in the management of both WASG and ASF, serving in various positions, some long term. His development of the Minimal Impact Caving Code, adopted by ASF has received world-wide recognition. He was an inaugural member of the (WA) Environmental Protection Authority's Cave Working Group (now defunct) and its successor, the (now) Department of Environment and Conservation Cave Management Advisory Committee. In more recent times, he was the principle organiser behind the successful court case opposing limestone mining near Cape Range (WA).

(Condensed from Australian Caver #158 and pers. comm.)

2005 Arthur Clarke (1946—) (Certificate of Merit 1993)

Arthur began caving during the 1960s with UQSS and VSA and in the ensuing 40 odd years has gained a world-wide reputation in biospeleological research. His other attributes include exploration, surveying, meticulous documentation, publications and photography. He was a founding member of the Tasmanian Cave Research Group and inaugural President of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers. Former Vice-President of ASF and Executive Member of ACKMA. A veteran of international expeditions to China and Madagascar, he is a recognised authority on some obscure cave biota. Arthur played a major role towards heritage listing for Exit Cave and subsequent closing of nearby Benders Quarry and later opposition to exploration licences at Mt Cripps.

(Condensed from Caves Australia #166/167)

2005 Alan Warild (Certificate of Merit 1984)

Internationally renowned for his deep, vertical caving expertise and technical innovations, Alan began his caving career in the shallower climes of Wee Jasper and Bungonia (NSW) in the 1960s before honing his vertical skills in Tasmania in 1975 and joining expeditions to New Zealand in 1976. His interests expanded to Mexico in 1977 and Papua-New Guinea in 1978. As his proficiency as a vertical caver spread, (including solo), he found places on expeditions to karst regions in remote and obscure regions such as Patagonia, Georgia and Slovenia. He pioneered and developed a number of techniques for deep caving, including those for solo caving. He is the author of the book *Vertical* (1988), still considered the world's "bible" of vertical caving.

(Condensed from Caves Australia #166/167)

2007 Grace Matts (Certificate of Merit 1987)

Grace has been affiliated with Sydney Speleological Society for more than 40 years and a long term member of the Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society. Grace was, in conjunction with her late husband (Don Matts OAM), a foundation member of the NSW Cave Rescue Squad, which contributed to them being awarded a joint Certificate of Merit by ASF in 1987. She has made significant contributions to the administration of ASF and has been an outstanding treasurer since 2000 at a time when the Federation was expanding its financial base. Volunteering for many projects and fund raisers, her involvement with the Timeline and 50th Anniversary publications at the 26th ASF Conference are more recent examples of undertakings in which Grace has been involved.

(Compiled from award presentation notes)

2007 Ian Houshold (1961—)

Graduating from the University of Melbourne with a first class honours degree in geography on the relationship of the stream terraces and caves of Limestone Creek in NE Victoria, Ian has continued his interest in karst at Yarrangobilly (NSW) and following his move to Tasmania. Tasmania provided the opportunity to enthusiastically promote his innovative conservation methods to caves and karst, which involved the rehabilitation of Benders Quarry, important in maintaining the integrity of the Exit Cave system, drafting and implementing management plans and permit systems to sites such as Kubla Khan. His research work continues towards a better understanding of karst in Tasmania as well as Karst Science Officer within ACKMA.

"Basil talks Barralong"

Interview with Basil Ralston by John Dunkley, 2006

Introduction

Barralong Cave is the most southerly part of the 23 km long Jenolan Tourist Cave system, superbly decorated and containing an active river draining several square kilometres of Camp Creek valley up to 3 km south of the Grand Arch. Discovered by some guides in 1964 and surveyed by SUSS in 1972, the cave has been steadily extended primarily by SUSS divers in the years since, so that the whole river system upstream from Blue Lake to the furthest part of Barralong is now known.

Following a report by Keir Vaughan-Taylor on diving in Barralong Cave (see *Caves Australia* no.164 for article and map), a letter arrived from one of the original explorers of this cave [see box?]. Now 86, long retired and living in Rutherford in the Hunter Valley, Basil Ralston was a guide and active explorer at Jenolan more than 40 years ago. He produced the first map of Barralong Cave and has kindly donated this to the ASF Archives.

Born at Maitland in 1920, Basil is an archetypal, multi-talented knock-about Australian from the old school, having spent much of his life in the coalfields and industrial belt of the lower Hunter Valley, living through the accidents, gas fires, strikes and lockouts, depression and war. Over the years his numerous jobs included being a moulder in a steel factory (making the bogie wheels for the 38 class steam locomotives), a travelling salesman for Marcus Clark, collecting ambulance subscriptions around Boorowa and between Brantston and Tarro, being an ambulance officer, a surgical dresser, then enrolled as a Nurse's Aide at Katoomba, did two years at Whyalla, Boddington and Queen Victoria (on Kings Tableland) Hospitals, eventually organizing proper recognition of Enrolled Nurses in NSW. Always an active and adventurous soul, he was a keen bushwalker, rugby player, cycle racer and was involved with the Maitland Speedway. Over the years he lived in Weston, Rutherford, Adamstown, Merewether, Gateshead, Shortland, Lorn, Hinton, Boorowa, Katoomba and Whyalla. In the 1960s he helped found Newcastle Technical College Caving Club and went on trips with them and with Kempsey speleos. Now 86, he lives in Rutherford.

And, of course, he was a guide and caver at Jenolan Caves, taking part in the initial exploration and producing the first survey of Barralong Cave in 1964...

How did you first become interested in caving?

Timor was the first area I visited, and Belfry Cave the first cave. That was in 1960; I remember the area with the CO₂ sign, there's a lot of silt in there now. I had lived most of my life up the Hunter; I was already 40 and hadn't seen Jenolan or even the Blue Mountains. A few years later I thought it was time to see the Blue Mountains so I drove up there, slept in the car and went on to Jenolan the next day. I saw two caves and thought, "Hey, this'll do me." About the same time there was an advertisement for a guide and I applied. Tom Willoughby got it that time, but I kept my eye open and the next time one came up I got it.

So, when did you first come to Jenolan and start caving there?

I started as a guide in 1964 - February I think. I was only there for fourteen months and left in 1965. My wife didn't like it and my daughter couldn't get a job so we moved on. But I did a lot while I was there and I'll never forget it. There are what I call "moments of eternity", certain moments or events in your life that live in your memory forever. That's the way I remember things like Barralong Cave and my time at Jenolan generally. I caved a fair bit off the track - for example, there was a hole off the Jubilee Cave with a bit of a steel cover over it - I got half way down before giving it away (*Basil was unlucky - this is a route to the underground river marked on a turn-of-the-twentieth-century map, relocated from below by some other guides in the 1960s, then forgotten until again relocated in the late 1970s - JD*). Off the Orient Cave I tried to confirm Wiburd's original route of discovery and small tunnels between the Grand Column and White Temple where I found an old pipe.

I came back a few times later for a bit of caving. In your letter you mentioned our trip to Red Cave 30 years ago - well, I have a photo of Ron Newbould doing some very difficult climbing at the top of the upper chamber. And remember you and I did that map of Red Cave in the early 1970s. Further into that cave I don't think many people had been up into the Shipwreck Cavern or into Paradise since around 1905 or so. Shipwreck contains the initials "RIB 1893". I talked to Bailey's daughter years ago. Bailey was the only one who worked for both Jeremiah Wilson and Voss Wiburd but he never got proper credit - maybe that's why he was doing a bit of solo caving. I found out from his death certificate that his real name was Robert Ervin Bailey - that's Ervin with an 'E' - it's also on his gravestone in St Matthews Church in Windsor. I relocated Wilsons Third Cavern, also off the Red Cave. In another passage off the Jubilee (*Wilson's Last Cavern - JD*) I found an old newspaper and a rolled up wad of paper that might have been toilet paper, from Jeremiah Wilson's explorations. And I went into quite a few of the other wild caves up McKeowns Valley. Just last year Jenny Whitby brought me down from Newcastle and we went into the Baal, but that's probably the last time as I can't see well any more.

What about the discovery of Barralong?

I was fortunate enough to be there when some new, young and enthusiastic people had joined the guiding team and in our spare time we started poking around. The key people at the time were Ron Newbould and John Culley. John later became Senior Guide. First of all, around the Grand Arch and then in the Lucas Cave. Late in May 1964 we started looking around the Red and White Temples at the far southern end of River Cave. Bill Mark had been doing some exploration around there and his name was smoked on the ceiling in what we later called Markys Cavern. Ron saw a hole on one side and spent a lot of time freeing some rocks to get in. I've often

INTERVIEW

ALAN PRYKE

"Basil talks Barralong"

wondered whether this very rock had been placed there by Voss Wiburd 60 years earlier, maybe one of those caves he is supposed to have discovered and then blocked up.

They pushed some way down a crawl and up a climb — there were a couple more trips before they broke through to what is now Barralong Cave at a higher level. I wasn't actually on the breakthrough trips but did go in a week or two later to continue exploration and on several later trips including when John Norris took the first photographs. On about the fourth or fifth trip they took the Senior Guide Frank Harman along. There had been a fair bit of water near Markys so Ron climbed higher through a really awkward squeeze, found an upper level passage and eventually by-passed the water. Only a few people have ever been up there — I saw you had it on your map though so I guess you've been there. We had to make another trip to show Frank (Harman) the cave, we started at 9 in the morning and didn't get back until about midnight.

All these trips started some time after work, about 7pm and it was often 3 or 4am when we returned. One time we left at 7pm and didn't get back until 8am and most started work again after a quick shower and clean-up! Eventually we told the manager of Caves House, Mr Onorato. He promised support but it was quite some time before the Tourist Bureau supplied even basic essentials like helmets and lights. Those were the days when the shots were called by the Caves House Manager and the Guides were all but ignored.

How did you do the surveying for the Barralong Cave map?

It was made with a boy scout compass, some string to line up the compass and a rusty metal tape. On those early trips we used candles for lighting and sighting, would you believe! I started on 9 July, 1964, five weeks after the initial discovery, and continued in August.

On the trip of 21 August 1964 we couldn't get any new candles and had to rely on a few stubs from other guides. No torch batteries were available either so we took some used sets. At the Chocolate Flowstone we ran out of candles, the torches failed, and we couldn't see to read the compass. We gave it away there and my survey never reached the river crossing about 30 metres further on. In fact there was no more surveying until you came along about ten years later (*Actually on 23/4/1972 — JD*). I copied my survey on to Oliver Trickett's map of the southern caves to show where it went.

Where did the name Barralong come from?

Well, I did a bit of research and came up with the Aboriginal

name "Barralong", meaning a meeting of two rivers. The Tourist Bureau took exception to this spelling and insisted it should be called Barellan Cave. It took another eight or ten years before they were persuaded to change it back to Barralong, with the help of the local Member of Parliament, Alderman Coates. Even then they were rather nasty about it, saying that the name had been changed from Barellan to Barralong when that's what we had called it all along. However, the Tourist Bureau did want some photographs and a month or so after the discovery John Norris went in with Ron (Newbould) and John (Culley) to take some official photographs that appeared in newspapers and magazines (the *Women's Weekly*, I think). The Director, Frank Gaven, came up to Jenolan to congratulate Frank Harman on the discoveries. Frank told him to go and talk to those who had really made the discoveries.

The history of exploration is well documented in Ron Newbould's diaries which were published by Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society about ten years later.

How about other cave areas?

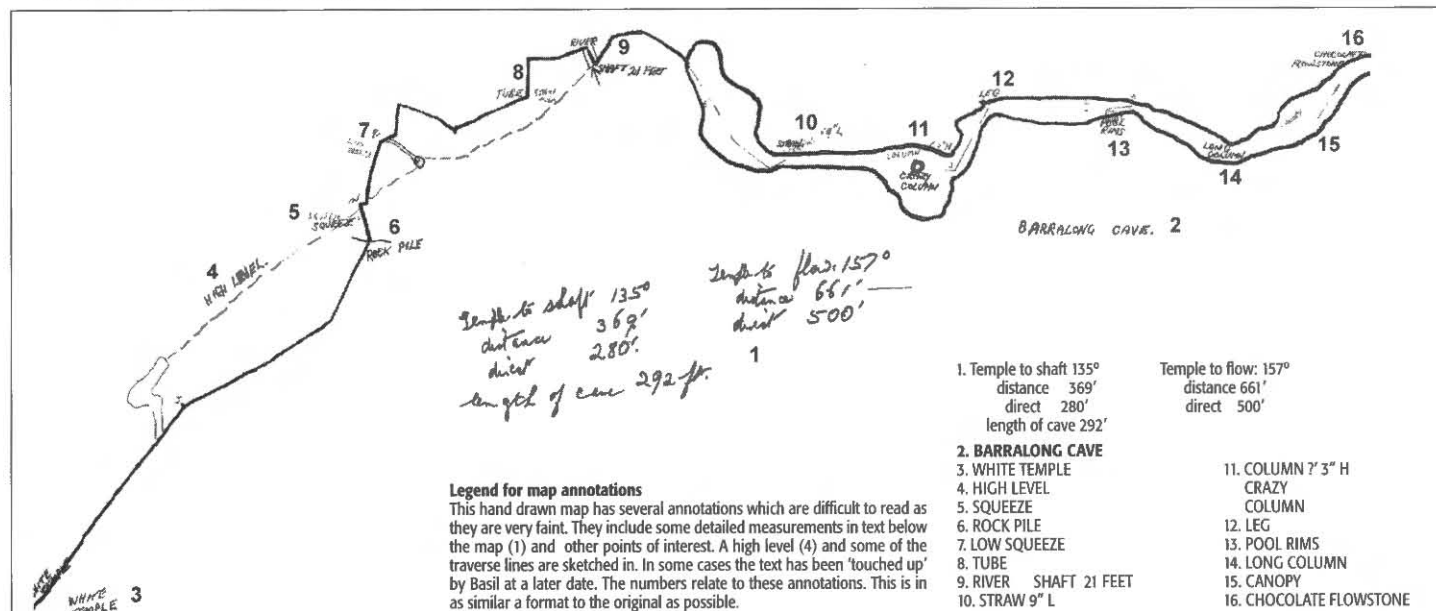
I did a fair bit of solo caving in the 1960s and wrote some magazine articles on it. I went to the caves near Kempsey with the Kempsey Speleos, to Wee Jasper with Newcastle Tech. College cavers and to Yarrangobilly, Abercrombie, Wombeyan and Colong. I also went to the cave off the road near Ashford in northern New South Wales.

So you've written quite a lot over the years?

Oh yes, I did write quite a few magazine articles about caving in the 1960s. But the main thing I wrote was *The Men of Jenolan*. It was published in 1990 by Three Sisters Press who changed the name to *Jenolan: The Golden Ages of Caving* which I guess helped sell more books — about 4,000 of them in fact. We thought they had all been sold but a stock of them was found in Caves House recently and you can buy it at the shop where they jacked the price up to \$19.95. There may be a new edition of the Golden Ages book, maybe when the old ones have all gone. I've added a chapter about guiding.

There were a couple of other things: two short stories and I've written some poetry. While I lived in Katoomba I wrote *Seven Roads Down*, about the steep descent to the valley beyond Mount Victoria that started with Cox in 1815.

Then there was *My Ten Years in Weston*; a copy of that is in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.



Annotated version of the Barralong map. The survey was done using compass and metal tape, 1964 by Basil Ralston. Scanned by John Dunkley; enhanced in Adobe Photoshop by Susan White. Some of the original notes are indistinct, hence the annotations.

The Beginning of ASF

The beginning of ASF is described in John Dunkley's article, Vision in the dark - Snapshots of ASF history (see page 8). Both of these documents give an insight into those first meetings. They are reprinted here so that all ASF members can briefly experience the flavour of those first meetings.

Minutes of proceedings at the First Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation, hold at Parnanga S.A. 26th.-28th. Dec.1956.

Please note that these minutes are a brief précis of actual proceedings. It is not economically possible nor is it necessary to circulate the total record. However, this is held in Federation files, and is therefore available to any member society for inspection.

The principle followed in making this précis has been to put down all motions but to exclude the discussion on these unless this was of special significance.

Opening.

The meeting was declared open by the president of the host society - the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia - Mr. Elery Hamilton-Smith. He welcomed all delegates, and expressed the hope that this federation would help the Australian Societies to build up a standard of caving that would be one of the highest in the world.

Those Present.

The 49 people present at the official opening represented 14 speleological societies from all states of Australia, viz,

Canberra Speleological Society.
Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
Cooranbong Speleological Society
Cooma Cave Club.
Hunter Valley Caving Club
Jenolan Speleological Society.
Mt. Isa Speleological Society,
Newcastle Tech. & Univ. College Speleological Society.
Orange Speleological Society.
Sydney Speleological Society.
Sydney University Speleological Society.
Tasmanian Caverneering Club.
Victorian Cave Exploration Society.
West Australian Caving Group.

Nomination of Chairman.

Mr. Brian J.O'Brien was nom. B.Nurse.

Sec. J.McGilchrist as chairman of conference.

No other nominations, so Mr. O'Brien was declared chairman and immediately took the chair.

General Business.

The spokesman of the various societies were introduced to the meeting and gave a brief account of their society, followed by general questioning from the meeting.

Motion : That the federation should extend a welcome to the new societies and offer to help them wherever possible.

Moved F.Brown.

Sec. L.Bishop.

Motion carried by acclamation.

Draft Constitution.

A draft constitution had been prepared by SUSS and SSS after consultation with all societies since 1954.

Motion : That the meeting should accept this draft constitution as a basis for discussion.

Moved. F.Brown.

Sec. A.Hunt. Carried.

The chairman pointed out at this juncture that only spokesmen or proxies were entitled to vote and that each society was only entitled to one vote.

Motion : That Clause 1 should read "The organization shall be known as the Australian Speleological Federation".

Moved B.Nurse.

Sec. E.Hamilton-Smith.

Some discussion followed regarding the use of the wider term Australasian, But this was not favoured by the meeting.

BEGINNINGS

JOE SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION.

Minutes of the first meeting of committee of the Australian Speleological Federation, held at Parnanga, S.A. on 28th. Dec. 1956.

Present :	B.J.O'Brien.	President.
	E.Hamilton-Smith.	Secretary.
	B.S. Nurse.	Treasurer.
	R.Anderson.	Librarian.
	J.Jennings.	Canberra Spel. Soc.
	A.L.Hill.	C.E.G. (S.A.)
	F.Brown	Tas. Caverneering Club.
	C.Wallace.	Jenolan Spel. Soc..
	R. Lane.	S.S.S.
	R.Bailey.	Vic. Cave Expl. Soc.
	D.Cartwright.	W.A. Cave Group.
	A.Hunt.	SUSS.
	J.McGilchrist.	Newcastle also proxy for Hunter Valley Club.

This meeting took the form of a discussion to lay down initial policy for the guidance of the executive and to plan the year's programme. Formal motion and voting was not therefore adopted unless it proved not possible to reach unanimous agreement upon any point.

Secretarial Records. The secretary to use own discretion in setting up filing and record system. Minutes to be roneoed for circulation and a copy kept in special file.

Letterhead. It was agreed that a simple Letterhead should be prepared. Procurement of this to be in the hands of S.S.S. as soon as design decided upon and funds available.

Finance. Very long discussion took place on initial financing of the Federation. It was decided an initial fund would be necessary quite apart from that forthcoming from first subscriptions. The means of raising this was discussed and the suggestion that each society should contribute a sum on the basis of 2/- per head of total membership was put to the vote for decision. This was passed, with F.Brown dissenting.

Conduct of Conference. Each society acting as host to an annual conference shall submit to the secretary a report on the conduct of conference and associated activities. This shall be in duplicate, and one copy shall be added to a file which shall pass in turn to the next host society.

Contact with other bodies. The secretary to circulate notice of the formation of the federation to overseas speleological societies and to interested scientific bodies.

Sub-Committees. That subcommittees be set up as below :

Cave Safety - convenor Des Lyons. To enquire into the question of safety in caving, the use and content of safety codes and other relevant matters.

Cave terminology - convener Joe Jennings. To enquire into the definition of terms in use in Australian Speleology.

Each of these to report back to the Federation committee with recommendations towards the formulation of National policy and standards.

Current Scientific Research. The secretary to be responsible for the co-ordination of current research projects in Australian Speleology.

Publication. It was felt desirable that the Federation should produce a high standard speleological publication, but that this was not economically possible at the moment. The report on the Nullarbor expedition to be compiled by the secretary, and the secretary and A.Hill to report to the next full committee meeting on possible avenues of publication for this report.

Information Bureau. The Librarian is to compile an index to all available data on Australian Caves and speleology. He is not to collect actual copies of references or publications at this stage.

Sydney University Speleological Society,

Box 36, The Union,
University of Sydney,
SYDNEY.
26th August, 1956.

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, the Inaugural Meeting of the Australian Speleological Federation will be held on 27th - 28th December, 1956, near Adelaide. The Cave Exploration Group (S.A.) has booked the National Fitness Council camp at Parnanga for the occasion, and the Group will arrange meals and all facilities, as set out in the application forms you will have received by now. However, the amount of organisation involved in this catering and in the subsequent Mullabor and Kangaroo Island Expeditions has led the C.E.G. to request S.U.S.S. to be primarily responsible for the actual programme of the Meeting.

Accordingly, I wish to put before you the following provisional programme, for your consideration and suggestions, and for communication to those of your members who will attend the Meeting.

After lunch on 27th December, the Meeting will be declared open, each Society will give a brief (10 minutes) account of its activities and plans, and each delegate will have approximately 5 minutes to answer questions about his Society. The aim of this series of reports is to give all those attending the Meeting a general idea of the state of affairs in Australian speleology, to let them know "who's who", and so on.

Afternoon tea will be served, and then a South Australian geologist will give a talk on "Cave Terminology", and discussion will follow. On the night of the 27th a Symposium on "Cheap Caving" will be held. This is intended to cover more topics than its title might suggest, and to provide an opportunity for general dissemination of ideas. However, its theme will be centred on its title, and it is anticipated that many valuable notions will be aired by those present.

The morning session of the 28th will be taken up with a talk by one of the C.E.G. members on "Limestone and Lack of It", and associated discussion. Then in the afternoon will come discussion and voting on the Constitution, using the broad outline of the Draft Constitution which you have already received, and leading to a final Constitution before the evening session. The latter will consist of the formal inauguration of the Federation with a distinguished guest speaker, preceded by a Caveman's Dinner, and followed, it is hoped, by a brief talk and a showing of slides on "World Caving."

The morning session of the 28th will be taken up with a talk by one of the C.E.G. members on "Limestone and Lack of It", and associated discussion. Then in the afternoon will come discussion and voting on the Constitution, using the broad outline of the Draft Constitution which you have already received, and

It is hoped that, in the near future, each Society will elect a Delegate to represent it and vote for it at the Meeting. Although most discussion will be general and open to all, on those matters which require a decision by vote, each Society shall have a single vote and this must be registered by an official delegate or proxy. It is apparent that an early election of a delegate where possible would be a good thing, and I would appreciate your forwarding to me the names and addresses of your principal and secondary delegates as soon as they are decided, so that copies of our future correspondence may also be sent directly to them. A further very important matter is whether your delegate will be empowered to act in your name, or whether his final decision to join the Federation must be subject to the ratification of your Society. I would ask that you give this matter your consideration as soon as possible, bearing in mind that former case would give the Federation a much stronger basis at its creation, and I would be grateful if you can communicate your decision to me when it is made.

It seems desirable that each person attending the Meeting should have a prior publication giving abstracts of the various reports and talks. If you can arrange that an abstract of the report on your Society be sent to me in the near future this would facilitate matters

The interest shown already in the Federation by various overseas groups and individuals has served as a reminder that we have an international standard to attain and surpass in Adelaide and afterwards. This, I feel sure, can be done only with your help and support. Accordingly, I shall look forward to your sending me any comments, criticisms or suggestions which you feel may contribute to a more successful Meeting and a stronger Federation.

Yours sincerely,

Brian J.O'Brien.

(President.)

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- Wide range of brands and products



MYO XP
(L371,E83P)

- High Powered, single LED headlamp with a focused beam.
- 3 lighting levels.
- Boost mode gives 50% more light for 20 seconds.
- Wide angle lens for flood beam lighting
- Range 45m, boost mode 65m
- Light duration up to 170 hours
- ASF member discount including GST

\$105.50

10% discount
with ASF
Member Card*



Duobelt LED14
(L368,E76P)

- Waterproof to 5m
- Batteries - 4 C size
- 14 LED has 3 lighting levels
- Optimal - 20m range, duration 260 hours
- Maximal - 23m range, duration 260 hours
- Economic - 10m range, duration 280 hours
- QH main beam - 100m range, duration 11.5 hours
- 14 LED automatically switches to economic setting to conserve power
- ASF member discount including GST

\$179.50

Services include:

- Rope access and rigging specialists
- Internal and external training center
- Access, rigging and rescue systems
- Ascending & descending rig design



VERTEX Vent

(H754,H11R or W)

- This helmet offers head protection for work and recreational use
- Close the vents for caving & canyoning, open the vents for climbing or when you require ventilation.
- New single action adjustment
- Can fit hearing and eye protection to it
- New improved head lamp clips for added security
- ASF member discount including GST

\$112.50

* ASF member discounts do not apply to already discounted products or the specials as advertised above. Special offer is valid till 30 June 2005 or while stocks last.

Blue Water, Beal, Bonwick, CMI, Gibbs, HB, Kong, Maillon Rapide, Omega, Petzl, Spelean, SRT, Wild Stuff

DUO Range of Headlamps

The DUO range of headlamps provide economical waterproof* hybrid lighting.

DUO LED



The DUO LED comes in two models with either 5 or 8 LEDs, giving a very white close proximity light and a long burn time, alongside a halogen bulb for long range light (up to 100m).

The 8 LED model has three switchable lighting levels and a long duration survival light function. Uses 4AA batteries in a battery pack carried on the head.

DUOBELT LED

The DUOBELT LEDs are 6V headlamps with dual light source. Available with 5, 8 or 14 LEDs and a halogen bulb for long range light (up to 100m).

The 8 and 14 LED models have three switchable lighting levels and a long duration survival light function. Includes 4 x C Cell batteries in a rigid, belt mountable pack.



*Waterproof to 5m using IP X8 standard.

These lights are NOT intended for diving!

Petzl products are exclusively distributed by:
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hands free
lighting



www.petzl.com

Photo: Réseau de Bufo Fret, in the French Pyrenees. © Christophe Levillain