



ASF Inc Grants Commission

ASF Inc (ASF) has instituted a range of grants to support worthwhile speleological projects. These notes provide an outline of each grant type, some of which may be partly funded by ASF's Karst Conservation Fund (KCF). Where possible, applications for grants will be publicised in Caves Australia and in electronic media normally received by all ASF members.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Unless otherwise mentioned, all applicants, who may normally include provisional and corporate member clubs, must be financial members of ASF at the time of application. Exceptions may be made where appropriate for conservation and environmental grants, and for some conference grants.

HOW TO GET STARTED?

For further details and general enquiries about the grants, you can in the first instance e-mail asf.caves.grants@gmail.com. If you have a good proposal, discuss it first with land owners, other clubs and speleologists.

There is a generic application and make sure that it doesn't exceed 2-3 pages, and ensure you include an outline of the proposal, a statement of the significance of the project (particularly within the broader context of speleology), a brief statements of capability based on experience, proposed project time lines, and (for individuals) a short curriculum vitae with your signature and date. Applications, when called, should be sent to who will forward it to the Commission. See the procedure page on the website.

IN-KIND AND PARTNER SUPPORT

ASF encourages all members to work in close cooperation with landowners, managers and other speleologists in the project area.

In general, applications will require an indication of at least some in-kind support from the proponent club or individual member. Applications may also include support from other sources.

SELECTION

The Grants Commission will seek advice from one or more referees able to comment on each proposal. All applications will be considered by a selection committee whose decision will be final.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO PROVIDE IN RETURN?

In addition to any other expectations for individual grants, all recipients are expected to provide a final report including a statement of moneys expended. Acknowledgment of ASF support must be included in reports and other publicity. A report for Caves Australia is required to be sent to the editor of Caves Australia.

GRANT DETAILS

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To encourage projects consistent with the environmental objectives of ASF as set out in the Constitution ss. 2 a) and 2 b). The amount is at the discretion of the Commission.

Eligibility criteria, applications and selection

Any individual or organisation (including non-members) is eligible for a grant under this heading but the purpose must demonstrably advance the above Constitutional objectives, and preference will be given to ASF members.

Applications may be made at any time.

These grants will normally be administered by the management committee of the Commission.

Expectations

All recipients are expected to provide a final report including a statement of moneys expended and an article suitable for Caves Australia, along with any other requirements which will be discussed with proponents at the time.

EDUCATION AND ADVICE GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

Development of educational programs relating to caves, karst and their conservation e.g. information booklets and pamphlets for students, land owners, presentations to primary and secondary school students, scout and guide groups (but not training). Grant amount is \$250.

Eligibility criteria, applications and selection

Normally corporate member clubs and their members are eligible, and karst conservancies partnered with ASF are encouraged, but in exceptional cases others (including non-members) will be considered.

Expectations

A written final report including copies of any printed or electronic material prepared, and a project report for Caves Australia, with acknowledgment to ASF.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To encourage and share original research on caves and karst, normally within Australia, in any field relevant to speleology, cave and karst conservation and management, including but not limited to natural sciences (e.g. cave biology, geology), social sciences and humanities (e.g. cave history and conservation). It may include work in progress. One or two grants per year totalling \$500-750.

Eligibility, criteria, applications and selection

Not restricted to academics or scientists. Projects involving original research by any ASF member or member club will be considered, including (but not restricted to) that done as part of the requirements for acquiring a formal qualification, or as part of post-doctoral studies.

Special encouragement is given to projects that will involve and/or inform other ASF members. Applications will be called for, in ASF electronic media. When funds permit, a further round will be advertised.

Expectations

The grant may be used for any purpose connected to the project, including equipment, travel costs, publication expenses etc. Recipients are expected to submit one or more of the following: a suitable review article or paper at an appropriate level to Caves Australia, a submitted or presented paper to the following ASF conference, a paper to a peer-refereed journal (preferably Helictite), or at least an abstract for Helictite. In all cases a written final report including copies of publications emanating from the project is required. Proposals associated with acquisition of formal tertiary qualifications (including from post-doctoral students) will in addition require a standard preliminary research plan and a copy (electronic or hard) of the final thesis. Publications and theses must include acknowledgment of ASF funding.

Where the project fits the requirements, further funding may be available from the Karst Conservation Fund.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

1. To encourage attendance at and active participation in ASF conferences by new ASF members
2. To attract valuable conference presentations relevant to speleology by persons who may not otherwise be able to attend the conference.

More than one grant may be made for each conference totalling between \$1000-\$2000.

Eligibility, criteria, applications and selection

New members must be of not more than five years standing, and have not attended any previous ASF conference. In exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to members of long-standing who have not attended a conference for 20 years and who have an active contribution to offer to the conference.

The conference organising committee will publicise these grants generally about six months before the Conference, and through normal ASF electronic media received by all members. The organisers may in addition approach prospective presenters and contributors. Subject to these general guidelines, administration will (at their discretion) be by the conference organising committee, which will determine the amount of each grant and may at their discretion supplement the Grant.

ASF grant with a small amount from the conference registration budget.

Expectations

The grant provides for whole or part re-mission of conference registration fees and travel costs etc., and personal attendance is required. An appropriate presentation is required from those funded because of their ability to provide a valuable contribution, and is encouraged from others where possible.

EXPLORATION GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To support ASF members in undertaking expeditions concentrating on original exploration (including surveying), covering travel, equipment and other expenses (except food). While preference will be given to expeditions within Australia, foreign expeditions organised by ASF corporate members may be considered. One grant not exceeding \$500.

Eligibility, criteria, applications and selection

Any individual or corporate member club is eligible, and the grant may be used for any purpose associated with the expedition, but not food. In all cases (including foreign expeditions), a clear indication is required of liaison with landowners, managers and/or speleologists in the area to be visited.

Expectations

A copy of all reports and publications deriving from the expedition (which must acknowledge support from ASF) and an article for Caves Australia and/or Helictite.

CLUB MARKETING/PROMOTIONAL GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To support ASF Corporate clubs to promote and market their club in their geographic area. Clubs in the same area may band together to market both clubs and spend the grant on more promotional activities. One grant per club on a \$ by \$ basis of expenditure up to \$250 per club. So if two clubs band together and spend \$1000 on promotional activities then each club will receive \$250 after the receipts are sent to the ASF Treasurer. If a single club spends \$500 then they are entitled to a \$250 grant.

Eligibility Criteria, applications and approval

Each Corporate member is eligible and the grant may be used to promote their club by expending monies in promotional areas such as newspaper or web advertising and other items such as: brochures, banners and frames, flyers, promotional cards, magnetic signs etc. Clubs use the applicant process as outlined in the how 'do you apply' section below. All material **MUST include** the words: *(club name) is a member of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc* and **the ASF logo** in the promotional product to the same size of the club logo. A draft design of the promotion should accompany the application.

Expectations

A brief report for Caves Australia is expected with accompanying photos of the promotional material.

WHEN AND HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Applications for the categories are able to be applied for at any time.

See the **Grant Application procedure** on the ASF website at <https://www.caves.org.au/administration/commissions/grants>