



Australian Speleological Federation Inc.

ABN: 15 169 918 964



2010 Annual Report

December 2010
(Adopted 22nd April 2011)

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Front Cover Photograph

Wi24 Bride Cave, Witchcliffe area SW of Margaret River, which was an old tourist cave. The cave was named in honour of Deborah Bussell when, in 1905, she married Winthrop Hackett.¹

Photograph by Ross Anderson September 2010

1. Information from the Margaret River Vista Web site at
<http://www.margaretrivervista.com/caves-of-witchcliffe.html>

Executive Members

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| President | Stan Flavel |
| Senior Vice President | Jodie Rutledge |
| Vice President | Nicholas White |
| Vice President | Joe Sydney |
| Vice President | Phil Maynard |
| Treasurer | Grace Matts |
| Executive Secretary | Deb Hunter |
| General Secretary | Bob Kershaw |
| Membership Secretary | Colin Tyrrell |

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Non-executive Vice President | John Dunkley |
| Non-executive Vice President | Winfried Wiess |

President's Report

Presented by the President, Stan Flavel,
Chillagoe 2011

It has been both challenging and rewarding to preside over the Federation in this past year. With my own changes in circumstance and life direction and being overseas for a large part of the year it was a time of introspection and directed thinking as to the nature of the forces and pressures shaping and driving the Federation. The one step back meant that I can see the next 10 steps forward a lot clearer.

ASF is in a very strong position in a number of key areas that demonstrate clearly the level of expertise and the commitment of all of its members. Many of the stumbling blocks of the past have become less significant as voluminous and passionate talking is replaced by strategic planning and the attainment of goals. I see this as a positive and realistic direction and sustainable.

I think we as a Federation are becoming more tolerant of one another as well as expecting a high standard of service and cooperation. I see that we are getting much better at supplying what is being asked for and pruning out excesses.

I believe the members of the Executive have worked hard to make appropriate and sometimes hard decisions on behalf of members but always within the guidelines as determined by Council.

I see that reports from Commissions and Special Interest Groups demonstrate that the ASF is working.

I see a financial stability in the Federation that is the result of strategy and forward planning that has the capacity to accelerate and enable

a wide range of activities never dreamed about in previous periods. Money is available if projects requiring funding are enabled and advanced until they themselves are able to contribute back to funds or more importantly to promote Speleology in Australia.

As a Federation we represent all. It is most rewarding to see that all are contributing in a many different ways with thousands of voluntary hours producing information.

Highlights of 2011:

- An increase of approximately 20% in membership over the previous year
- An increased and steady output of publications and documentation to members
- Recognition of the roll of ASF in areas of management and conservation as well as mentoring in areas of training and cave rescue
- The demonstrated ability of members to initiate and participate with cave managers in the clean-up and restoration of caves post major catastrophic flooding
- Ongoing development and completion of Codes of Practice drafts
- Developing an Insurance policy that is more comprehensive including for training
- Progressing and developing the groundwork to a unified approach to collect store and disseminate a wide range of Karst Data
- Planning and delivering another Conference
- The winning of a grant from ESRI for GIS licences
- Helictite: has appeared after a break
- The planning and development of a Western Australian Speleological Council
- ASF is considering a bid for UIS International Conference in 2017. The decision to place a bid for this large International event will be made in 2013 and sits on the back of two previously unsuccessful bids by ASF for Australia over 15 years ago.

Australian Cave divers have again made the headlines in being part of Hollywood down under Sanctum and in being reports of cavers lost to the wet darkness.

Special Acknowledgments

The 2010 Executive demonstrated the highest level of competence and direction with many areas of ASF being scrutinised and updated was the most productive I have ever known and although everyone did a wonderful job, all would agree that Bob Kershaw has directed in compiling and publishing of ASF Caving Standards, Administrative Handbook and other significant documents as long awaited improvements.

I thank Nick White who has added so much valuable insight, colour and wisdom to so many aspects of our directions and decision making over so many years and is stepping down from Executive to focus on the Conservation issues we face and manage. And to Jodie Rutledge, a special mention, who has driven us forward with so much energy and focus in the recent years in conservation and in mentoring and giving back guidance in matters financial and insurance to meet membership needs.

The realization is that Standards are never finished with output of more documents requiring new drafts and changes to reflect improvements and shift in application from year to year

The website has been recognised as needing an upgrade and flexibility. Our KID and OzKarst databases are being developed for wider and more effective use.

Cave numbers are increasing. We are still finding the spaces below. We need to keep increasing the number of those willing to explore the beckoning darkness.

In Caving

Stan Flavel

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer: Grace Matts

This report was presented and accepted at the Council meeting.

The ASF Karst Conservation Fund

Report by: John Dunkley

Nick White (in the Conservation Commission report) has summarised the outcomes from the Timor Caves case so these will not be detailed here, other than to note that the Timor Caves Appeal conducted through the Karst Conservation Fund raised \$16,297.06, an outstanding tribute to the generosity of Australian cavers, and the KCF supplemented this with \$5,000 from its own funds. This grant was administered by ASF and has now been fully accounted for and acquitted. Several people needed a rest after this rather stressful and time-consuming case, and no specific fund-raising occurred in 2010. However there will as usual be a fund-raising event at the ASF Conference in April. An earlier grant for gating a cave at Wee Jasper was also acquitted.

The Minister approved a change of name to the Karst Conservation Fund in August 2010. ASF instituted a broad-based Grants Scheme designed to overlap and supplement the Karst Conservation Fund, which is restricted to environmental and conservation objectives. In 2011 the ASF Grants Commission and the KCF Directors intend to discuss a streamlined process for managing the various grants, including administration, advice, publicity and determination of grants.

Peter Berrill, John Dunkley, Grace Matts, Nicholas White

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

for the KCF Directors: Peter Berrill, Maria Comino, Tony Culberg, Kevin Kiernan, John Dunkley

Conservation Commission Reports

National

Convener: Nicholas White

Timor Karst, NSW Quarry Objection in NSW Land and Environment Court

The appeal against the issue of a quarry licence by the Upper Hunter Valley to Stoneco Pty Ltd on the Timor limestone was conducted by Newcastle Hunter Valley Speleological Society. ASF and the now named Karst Conservation Fund supported the appeal. The NSW

Environment Defenders Office advised our barristers Patrick Larkin and Chris Norton before the court.

There were site visits and several hearing days to discuss the effects a mine would have.

As a result of our arguments the proponents were issued a licence subject to a number of conditions. The most important finding was:

“The court found it **likely** that small interconnected voids and fissures would exist in the limestone to be quarried and that there was a sufficient enough possibility that these voids would contain biota, therefore activating the *precautionary principal*.”

The court found that a pre-blasting assessment protocol and an ongoing monitoring protocol be established. Provisions were made in the determination for assessment should quarry blasting reveal a cave with provisions to assess the significance of the cave to avoid further damage.

The quarry site did contain an endangered ecological community (EEC). This was the White Box EEC but the small size of quarry operations would not place the EEC in danger of extinction.

The proponents were required to modify the plans to protect the squirrel glider habitat on the site.

There were a number of local amenity issues such as road and bridge upgrading required before operations could commence.

Conclusions

This appeal was lost but the findings established some very important principles. These were that cave and karst aquifer faunas are valuable per se and have a right to protection. The conditions to monitor and report on this fauna were a significant imposition on the company.

It may be that this quarry will not now be developed as a result of the NHVSS appeal but also the fact that proposals to develop the Bickham Coal Mine were separately refused by the NSW Government in May 2010 to protect the horse breeding industry and water in the Upper Hunter Valley. Although the Timor limestone from the quarry would have a number of uses, the most probable was treatment of acid mine drainage from the Bickham Coal Mine.

This was a large and expensive appeal but with contributions from ASF, its members and the Karst Conservation Fund we were able to support the expenses for karst hydrology; of having cave biota described; support the field work and evidence of expert witnesses for the fauna and White Box Endangered Ecological Community as well as making donations towards the actual legal costs and fees. It is a credit that ASF can find the resources and support to mount such an objection.

Action Underway: ASF is now taking steps to further describe the faunal communities of the Timor caves and karst aquifers with a view to having them listed under State and Federal legislation.

Nullarbor Plain

A proposal to declare a large portion of the South Australian Nullarbor Plain a Wilderness Zone was objected to. No result is yet available.

Caves Australia - Conversation on Conservation

A number of topics were presented in this column of Caves Australia. Except for one they were written by me. I am open to other authors to use this column to beat their own cave conservation issues, beefs etc.

Cave Conservancies CA 179
Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range World Heritage Nomination CA 180
Timor Appeal Update Jodie Rutledge CA 181
Nullarbor Wilderness CA 182

Minimal Impact Caving Code 2010

This is an important Code which provides guidance as to how to cave with minimum impact. A number of cave management agencies require caving groups to adhere to its provisions when caving their areas. The Code is mentioned in numerous Management Plans as the standard for caving.

A revised version of this Code was approved by the ASF Council. This revision of the Code was coordinated by Deb Hunter.

Science Minimal Impact Code 2010

After two years of development and discussion this Code was approved by the ASF Council.

It was developed to provide guidance for managers and owners as to the sort of conduct scientists should adhere to. It also requires proper and adequate planning of work so that sampling is consistent with the need to have a statistically valid sample size.

Western Australia Conservation Commission Report

Jay Anderson and Rob Susac

Cave and Karst Conservation and Management Issues in WA.

We can report that it has been another busy year. Many issues again revolve around developmental impacts on karst. It is great to see many cavers are involved in small in-cave projects – mostly involving repairs, track marking and rehabilitation works.

The last report mentioned a site proposed for limestone works (extraction, batching and block cutting) north of Perth (Nowergup Lot 1, 2350 Wanneroo Road). Speleological efforts continued to support the residents of Nowergup Valley in their protests against a limestone quarry (local protest rally and council meeting attendances plus various petition signings). Unfortunately on the 7th of February 2011 the City of Wanneroo Council back-flipped on its previous decisions & decided to approve the quarry and concrete batching plant; granting it a 10 year lease.

Yanchep cave cleaning project - The Crystal Cave cleaning team!
Photograph by Rob Susac



Conservation projects included attendance at Yanchep National Park where a two night clean-up of Crystal Cave occurred - including lampenflora cleaning, dust, dirt and rubbish removal and electric cable concealment. Several members have been involved regularly in other conservation efforts within the park; most notably consistent watertable monitoring and hydrological research in the karst surrounds of Loch McNess. Several requests have been made in relation to information and environmental values of caves in the north of Perth area – thanks to those cavers who have volunteered their time in this regard. We have also been able to collaborate with the City of Wanneroo in relation to further development of karst policy.

In the South-West there has been an ongoing project regarding some continued track marking in Blackboy Hollow Cave (MR2). This cave has also benefited from cleaning efforts coordinated by various WASG members over a period of several years. There was a cave gate rehab project at two restricted access caves (Bobs Hollow and Arumvale Cave) gates after the DEC were unable to commit workers to the jobs at that time. Thanks to speleo “welders” and also to resources donated by Vertical Services along with WASG volunteers assisting *in situ*. Another project involved a puzzle of repairing the destroyed shawl from Golgotha Cave with searching and retrieval assistance from members. Unfortunately the desecration was found to be too thorough and there were many missing pieces, so the broken pieces were again returned to the cave (see the photograph on the last page of this Annual Report)

More recently, cavers were involved in a project that mapped and documented caves in the Mandurah area – this is in relation to a proposed housing development. This project has involved cooperation with land owners and developers so that the cave areas can be preserved and protected by adequate buffers against the pressures of urbanisation. Local concerns & environmental issues were addressed at a residents’ meeting where Rob Susac, Ross & Jay Anderson spoke about karst, the issues of development and biodiversity to an unsurpassed turnout of over 140 people. Additionally a separate address was made to the City of Mandurah’s Environmental Advisory Committee regarding relevant karst issues. Some issues are yet to be resolved as the developer has denied speleologists request to sample for subterranean fauna. However, we are still

liaising with the developer and are optimistic of positive outcomes.

In February 2011, the public comment/submissions period closed for feedback in relation to the management plan for the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park (one of the state's most significant karst areas). Several ASF members reviewed the thorough document. Having been involved in consultation and advice for a significant period of time, we were pleased with the outcome and had little comments against the final Management Plan.

The ASF received a letter in March, from the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) in relation to the proposed Learmonth Limestone Quarry at Cape Range – a project that the ASF formally objected to, and that resulted in legal action. Over the last 10 years, the quarry proponents were asked to provide further information on subterranean fauna – which did not occur. Thus, the proponent failed to comply with a requirement of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, within the required timeframe. The EPA therefore terminated the assessment of the proposal, which means that any subsequent plans to proceed with the planned limestone quarry will need the proponent to begin the environmental assessment process again.

We continue to receive a number of requests for consultation and advice relating to karst issues around the state and will continue to provide support as required and as appropriate. It is also understood that several new caves have been identified in karst north of Perth. We look forward to receiving further information from those involved in relation to the speleological values and guidelines regarding minimising human impacts to sensitive sites. Looking to the future, the establishment of the State Speleological Council of WA is a great opportunity for the 4 clubs in WA to collaborate further on cave and karst management projects.

Karst Conservancies

Karstcare

Co-ordinator: David Wools-Cobb

Speleological Council Reports

NSW Speleological Council

President: Denis Marsh

The NSWSC has met twice during the past year and the executive liaise regularly by email. Additional communications are disseminated to NSW and ACT club contacts via email using a NSWSC caves.org.au eGroup. All meeting minutes and reports are posted on the Yahoo ASF Members web site. Following is a brief outline of matters which the NSW state liaison Council has been actively involved with over the past year.

DECCW (NSW) Cave Access Policy

Following extensive consultation between NSWSC and DECCW NSW, the new formal Cave Access Policy was signed off by the NSW Parks and Wildlife Directors Group, and came into effect on 15 September 2010, covering all karst areas on the DECCW estate. Karst area managers around NSW have received briefings by the Karst and Geodiversity Unit (KGU) to explain the new Policy and the spirit of intent of the various clauses to ensure consistency in application and to avoid misinterpretation. As a result of lobbying by Chris Norton and me, ASF clubs will be exempt from fees for permits so long as a trip report is submitted. A generic trip report form which can be submitted electronically has been developed to assist with this. The policy does not necessarily mean that permits will be required in all areas as there is flexibility built into the policy to allow some discretion for karst area managers. Permits can, in some areas simply be by way of signage.

Kosciuszko Speleological Reference Group (KSRG)

In accordance with the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management, a karst management advisory committee was established with caver representation. In line with the terms of reference for this group, six candidates were submitted by NSWSC for consideration for the three speleological representatives. I can advise the three successful candidates are Peter Bauer, John Brush and Denis Marsh. The first meeting of the committee was held on 23/24 November 2010 at Yarrangobilly. There has been some resistance at upper DECCW bureaucratic levels against these advisory committees and it will be important to make this reference group a success and a model for any future opportunities for similar committees in

other karst areas. Dave Darlington has been appointed as the new Regional Manager, Southern Ranges Region and is the chairperson for this committee.

Karst Management Advisory Committee (KMAC) - ASF's Nominee

The current term of this ministerial appointed committee is due to expire in 2011 and ASF was required to advise if we wish Chris Norton to continue as ASF's nominee or nominate alternatives. Following consultation with Chris, the NSWSC and ASF Executive advised the Deputy Director General our intention for Chris to continue in this role for a further term.

Cave Diving Seminar

The KGU in association with the NSWSC has convened a one day cave diving seminar in March 2011 to enable an open forum to exchange information/ideas on aspects and issues related to cave diving. It will be run by the KGU and involve cave diver representatives and interested karst managers.

Cave Surveying Course

Hills Speleological Club and Highland Caving Group jointly developed and conducted a cave surveying course for representatives from interested NSW and ACT clubs in November 2010. From all reports this was well received and a great success.



Cavers practicing their newly acquired surveying skills Photo by Joe Sydney

NSW Caver Training Course

Joe Sydney is co-ordinating the development of a caver training package for use by NSW clubs. A committee has been set up, made up of representatives from the various clubs in NSW and ACT. It is envisaged that the package will pull together existing information from ASF, various clubs and external training organisations to build an in-house manual for training cavers and leaders for ASF members in NSW. Whilst it cannot be an accredited course (ASF is not a Registered Training Organisation) it has the potential of setting a consistent standard for caver and trip leader training across NSW and ACT clubs.

2013 ASF Biennial Conference

A small committee has been established to make preliminary plans for holding the 2013 ASF Biennial Conference in NSW in 2013. The committee has met twice and it is envisaged that an announcement will be forthcoming at the Chillagoe conference.

Wee Jasper Caves Book Launch

A successful launch of the new Wee Jasper Caves Book (published by ASF) was held at Carey's Cave, Wee Jasper on 21st August, 2010. The launch was well attended, including by many ASF members.

Tasmanian Speleological Liaison Council



Tasmanian cavers completing their exercise. Photograph by Brigida Van Nynanten

Speleological Council of Western Australia

Copied from the Membership Commission report:
'The Western Australian clubs and the Executive of the ASF are working toward a Constitution for the Speleological Council of WA.'

Other Commission Reports

Administration

Convener: vacant.

The 2010 version of the ASF Handbook has been distributed to clubs as a pdf version. Many policies have been updated and the 2010 version includes the updated Codes, Guidelines and other administrative matters.

Australian Cave Rescue (ACRC)

Convener: Ross Anderson

2010 Achievements:

- Two Australian cavers attended the NZ Sarex held at Summit Thomo, just outside Nelson on the South Island.
- Australian cavers attended a NZ cave rescue management seminar
- A weekend seminar presented to Tasmanian cavers and the identification of rescue equipment that would be vital to an efficient rescue
- Cave rescue exercise in WA
- Cave Rescue Orientation Program (CROP) presented in South Australia
- ASF Executive approval of funding for rescue equipment and travel support to enable the presentation of cave rescue training to cavers around the country.
- Set up of State, National and Regional ASF caver and Emergency Service contact and callout system. Development of a nationally standardised in-cave communication system.

2011 future planning:

- National caver skills registry for cave rescue.
- National club equipment registry of cave rescue equipment.
- Cave Rescue Orientation Programs (CROP) being presented in:
 - Tasmania
 - Queensland
 - Western Australia.

- SRT training (first stages of Vertical rescue training) being presented in:
 - Western Australia
 - South Australia
- Construction and distribution of nationally standardised in-cave communication system to all states.
- Purchase of initial response and cave rescue equipment for cave areas deemed to have a high risk of incident.

During 2010 the ACRC Executive applied to the ASF Executive to have funding provided for the provision of equipment and training to regional groups that may in the event of a rescue be called upon to play a role. This funding is available to clubs on a dollar for dollar basis and may be utilised to purchase equipment such as stretchers, communications equipment or even first aid equipment. Training is offered to any group of ASF cavers anywhere in Australia, we need to have a group of about 15 cavers willing to participate, and once a certain level of program has been presented in a State they may be presented by local ACRC representatives. So give Ross or Joe a call or email, and let us get you some gear and training.



SA ACRC CROP participants wrapping patient during a stretcher exercise. Photograph Richard Harris

Awards

Convener: Lloyd Robison



On the award front, the scene has been unusually quiet prior to an approaching conference. Has this been due to the call for nominations being via email instead of the

formal letters of past conferences?

On this occasion two were received, with one of the two in process prior to the call.

The selection panel does have a number of carry-overs from previous conferences to also take into consideration when determining the 'gongs'.

Apart from some inscription costs on the existing stock of blanks, I can see no extra costs.

The number to be inscribed will depend on how many Stan and his team select.

Bibliography

Convener: Greg Middleton (25 November 2009) PO Box 269, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7006
Phone: 03 6223 1400
<ozspeleo@iinet.net.au>

Cave Diving

Conveners: Tim Payne and Peter Kraehenbuehl

Cave & Karst Numbering

Convener: Peter Dykes

Codes and Guidelines

The convener position for this position is currently vacant.

The ASF Cave Safety Guidelines have undergone substantial revision over the last few years ready for final approval by the next Council meeting, although there is still a great deal of input being made for the final version.

The revised Minimal Impact Conservation Code was accepted by the Council meeting in January 2010 as was the new Minimum Impact Code for Scientific Investigation in Caves and Karst devised by Nicholas White.

Grants

Convener: Fiona Beckwith



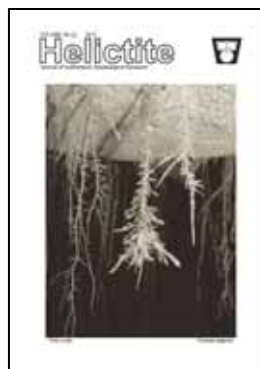
The Grants Commission was established in 2009 to manage the ASF Grants Scheme with Fiona Beckwith as Chair, and two planning meetings were held in Melbourne.

After seeking advice from speleological and other organisations in Australia and overseas, the Executive decided to align a variety of grants with the wide-ranging Constitutional objectives of ASF so that all members could have an opportunity to apply.

It then took longer than expected to finalise criteria and procedures for managing the Scheme, but we were able to launch it in September 2010. Since then there have been two announcements in Caves Australia (182 and 183), and two electronic reminders on the ASF list. As this report is written before the closing date of 31st March for the initial round, funded projects are yet to be determined. Some applications have been received and we plan to make an announcement at the ASF Conference in April. A second round of grants may be conducted later in 2011.

Helictite

Convener: Sue White



The Helictite Commission continues to be run in tandem with the Publications Commission. When ASF received Helictite from the Speleological Research Council (SRC) it was agreed to form a separate commission to enhance the chances of continuation of the

journal. The Commission currently consists of Susan White (Chair and joint editor), Ken Grimes (Editor), Stefan Eberhard (Editor), Grace Matts (ASF Treasurer), Glenn Baddeley (Business Manager) and John Dunkley. The ASF President is an ex officio member.

The good news is that the Volume 40(2) issue is produced. Volume 41 is earmarked as a Gregory Karst issue with invited papers. This will be a double issue and work has begun and some papers have been sent out for refereeing. Papers have been invited. We also have some other more general papers which need

refereeing. The submitted paper situation is much better.

The Business Manager has updated the Helictite web site to state that hard-copy sets and back issues are no longer available, and this service will be replaced by PDFs on the web site or PDFs mailed by disk. PDFs of the main articles from Volume 36 onwards are downloadable from the website. There are no complete sets of hard copies to sell although limited numbers of back copies are available. We have written off all hard copies prior to Volume 36 in the stocktake. Limited numbers of back issues for the past few volumes are available from Susan White. Financially we are healthy.

Scanning of back issues has continued and we intend to have these available on CD as PDF and as we move towards digital publishing downloadable from the website. This will also relate to having material on the Karst Information Portal, an international system for digital dissemination of karst material which was outlined in the 2009 annual report. The Commission needs to work this through carefully.

Further discussion regarding digital publishing of Helictite has occurred and Ken Grimes has developed a discussion paper on the matter. This is being discussed currently. If interested please contact Ken Grimes.

The problems of Helictite continue to relate to the time available, but the changes in the expectations of academic publishing limits the articles available. This is compounded with the refereeing process, as many ASF members do not appear to understand refereeing and editing processes.

I would like to thank those who have put time into Helictite in the past year, especially Ken Grimes, Glenn Baddeley and John Dunkley and the reviewers of papers.

Insurance

Convener: David Chitty

OVERVIEW

We have again negotiated better Insurance conditions and charges via our Broker for the 2011 insurance year – our PI policy was extended to the executives of clubs that participate in the Insurance Scheme in 2010 and the PL policy is inclusive of Training and

SRT practice as well as caving and caving related activities.

MATRIX

We are in the process of obtaining a clear understanding of what activities our Clubs conduct and how many members are involved by having clubs complete the activity matrix that the Broker and Insurer use for their assessment of our cover need

This will allow a more accurate activity profile for the ASF to be provided to the Insurer

ADVENTURE ACTIVITY STANDARDS

Our Broker and Insurer require that we comply with the Victorian Adventure Activity Standards when conducting **DEPENDENT** group activities regardless of which state or country the Cave Activity is conducted in.

This AAS was based on the ASF guidelines and had VSA members on the writing team. The AAS was also one of the First AAS to be developed in Australia.

This AAS is being reviewed in 2011 and ASF input is being requested

CAVE RELATED ACTIVITIES

Currently (and previously) our PL insurance applies to caving and Cave related activities

These include:

- Horizontal and Vertical Caving
- Cave Diving
- All activities conducted within caves
- Hiking to caves and camping in Karst areas
- Surface walks and searches in Cave and Karst areas
- Abseil – Ladder and SRT training at any location
- Meetings, Seminars and normal social activities

We are **not** currently covered for other adventure activities such as Canyoning, rock climbing, bushwalking, canoeing etc

The completion of the activity matrix by all clubs will allow a clearer understanding of what activities we conduct and what might require extended PL cover

CODES AND GUIDELINES

The revision of the Codes and Guidelines will assist our Broker in ensuring that we have appropriate cover and concise Safety and Environmental procedures reduce the risk of

litigation or Insurance claims so will keep our premiums affordable

We would need to develop Codes or Guidelines for any new activities that we might consider adding to our PL insurance (such as Canyoning)

The development of a National Adventure Activity Standard by the ASF (working with one or more of the State AAS bodies) is recommended as we now have a range of such documents being developed independently around Australia while ASF clubs are required by our insurer to comply with the Victorian AAS

CONCLUSION

Our Broker and Insurer can provide cover for whatever activities and issues we require – but may of course need to increase the premium where the risk is increased

International Relations

Convener: Nicholas White

ASF hosted the Vulcanospeleology Conference in August 2010 at Undara, Queensland with a Pre-Conference Field Trip to the Volcanic Province of Western Victoria. The Pre-Conference trip in Victoria was organised by Ken Grimes and Susan White with VSA



providing additional leaders on the trip. Participants then went to Cairns and were joined by the balance of participants. Greg Middleton organised the Conference. It was extremely successful. It was reported on in Caves Australia and proceedings have been produced by Greg Middleton.

The next international congress will be in Brno, Czech Republic, from 21-28 July with field trips before and after the congress. www.speleo2013.com for more information.

Jim Crockett of MSS has been exploring whether ASF should proceed with a bid for ASF to bid for hosting the UIS Congress scheduled for 2017. A presentation will be available at the Chillicon Conference.

Recommendation for Council Meeting

“That ASF continue with the feasibility study of whether it should bid to host the IUS Congress in 2017.”

Library

Convener: Cathy Brown

The Library & Archives were considerably improved in 2010. Thanks to John Dunkley's liaison work, Bruce Welch commenced scanning all ASF Conference Proceedings, Colin Tyrrell borrowed numerous, mainly scarce, management & other reports for scanning (now complete), & arrangements were made by him to complete scanning of all Helictite issues along with vintage ASF Newsletter & Australian Cavers. The whole project should be completed shortly. This will significantly improve our ability to make electronic library loans. It also enabled us to dispose of a large depository of 'spare' old hard-copy newsletters and free up much-needed shelf space. Thanks to Jodie & Michael Rutledge for much of the heavy lifting for this. A couple of clubs supplied scanned copies of their newsletters as well, notably STC, & as a matter of policy we have produced hard copies where these were missing and for newsletters arriving electronically, as well as storing the electronic versions.

The growing problem of storing the ASF collection, first highlighted 5 or 6 years ago, was solved for the next 5 to 10 years when Joe Sydney sourced some useful heavy shelving, organised its disassembly & masterminded its reconstruction in Canberra on a very hot January day. Considerable reorganisation is still in progress but this enables us to properly house the extensive archives donated by UQSS, CCV and other clubs, along with archival records of ASF itself. Many thanks go to the Dunkleys for continuing to store most of the collection.

The accessions list has been updated but the first port of call for bibliographic information on Australian (& overseas) caves in the last 20 years or so is the IUS Bibliography Commission's excellent series. Greg Middleton is Australia's representative on this Commission and can advise how to obtain copies for members' own use. ASF has copies of these (some on CD, some in hard copy), and the Librarian can search these and earlier international bibliographies dating back to 1968.

Many thanks to those who assisted in the scanning project & in erecting new shelving in January: those named above, plus John Dunkley, Bob Dunn, Alan Jackson, & especially those who drove from Sydney (Joe, Bruce Waddington, Lindsay Matheson) & Wollongong (Bob Kershaw) on a very hot day.

Membership

Convener: Colin Tyrrell

Membership

Membership has increased during 2010, with currently 1019 individual members spanning 27 corporate member clubs and 6 Individual members outside the club framework.

There is one new Associate and one Complimentary Associate (ACKMA), however, several existing Associates have not renewed and this may be related to renewal notices not being sent. This will be investigated during 2011.

Membership Database

2010 saw some interesting issues arise regarding the use of the Membership Database. The primary use is for ASF to record members. AS such it acts as a vehicle for communications (to club contacts (asf-admins), to individuals (all-comms)).



The email lists operating through the membership database is used for all official ASF correspondence. This will continue to work well, as long as those receiving the emails continue to pass on the correspondence to their club committees. Members can be nominated by their club database administrator to receive these emails and it is recommended that more than one person in each club be nominated to receive them.

It is also the distribution list of Caves Australia, which comes as part of ASF membership.

A secondary use is to validate if a person is an ASF member and covered by insurance.

The main issue to arise this year is that some clubs have been slow in updating their member records.

The impact is twofold: firstly, one club had no members listed when asked to validate participants for a caving rip (they had paid their fees to the treasurer).

Secondly, another club was slow in updating its members such that it appears that most of that clubs members missed receiving a copy of Caves Australia.

Clubs should update membership data as members pay their fees.

It should be noted that it is not the responsibility of either the ASF Treasurer or Membership Secretary to update members on the database for clubs. If, as a club, you are experiencing problems updating members please ask for help from the Membership Secretary

Speleological Councils

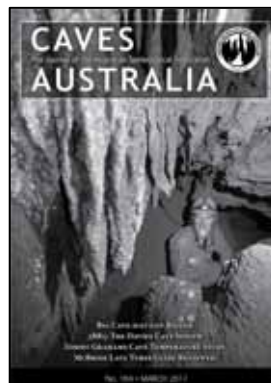
The Western Australian clubs and the Executive of the ASF are working toward a Constitution for a Speleological Council of WA.

Publications

Convener: Sue White

The Publications Commission is run in tandem with Helictite but is a much more complex commission as it involves Caves Australia, ESpeleo, the website and a myriad of other publications.

The commission currently comprises Susan White (Chair), John Dunkley, Grace Matts (ASF Treasurer), Colin Tyrrell (Webmaster), Greg Middleton, Alan Jackson (CA Production), and Ian Curtis (CA Editor). The ASF President is an ex officio member and others are co-opted for specific tasks as required. I wish to thank everyone on the commission for their hard work this year as well as their (often nameless) assistants. We have achieved a lot this year and the Publications area of ASF continues to be a major part of our public relations.



Caves Australia

The problems previously besetting CA have been resolved and we are now (more or less) up to date and roughly on time. The CA team is to be congratulated. Now we are up to date, the large 48 page issues

will no longer be needed and members can expect 24 - 32 pages; dependent on people writing for CA.

The regular columns continue to be a success. The initiatives for colour are successful. We continue to need articles for publishing. Don't complain if you have not written anything! Interestingly there seem to be very few classic cave areas in Australia.

Digital publishing continues to be explored and eventually we will move towards this, however there are some complex issues involved and it is not without cost. The commission still is interested in your comments.

We are having a "no returns policy" and therefore clubs need to make sure their members' addresses are kept up to date in the membership database. Returns of CA cost us money.

Ian Curtis (OSS) has taken on being editor after Brooke Grant resigned last year. The Tasmanian production team is to be congratulated for its success in decreasing the back-log and for the high quality of the magazine. Thanks to those who do the proof reading and the writers of article which are very dominated by a limited number of clubs.

Website

The webmaster, Colin Tyrrell, continues to upgrade aspects of the website. In particular the aim is to get all the menus as the same version, which will require reloading the entire site. Also all old (no longer used) files that are cluttering up various directories on the server will be removed.



The site still appears stable and reliable except for the outage in January 2010 (related to with the server) and Colin continues to fix up those little errors and omissions that always seem to appear. Additions and updates are uploaded as requested, usually within 48 hours of receipt.

The site usage statistics show a slight increase from 2009 with 3833 (3503 in 2009) visits made to the site between January & December 2010.

Some information on ASF activities, which I had been requesting for some time, has been produced and is now on the site, but more is needed. Material submitted has a very quick up load and the small "bugs" and link breakages are fixed as soon as they are reported. Please remember that it is not the webmaster's job to produce material.

A problem this year was that we have had to change service providers. This resulted in some down time but thanks to Mike Lake and David Connard we were able to get things running again relatively quickly.

I would like to remind clubs that material is vetted for potential defamatory material and this includes links to other sites including ASF member clubs.

We continue to increase the information on the site so that it becomes very much an integral part of getting information about speleology in Australia.

ESpeleo

ESpeleo is an excellent method of communication but has only been used once this year, as we have no editor. It remains an ad hoc rather than regular communication to members, but it can be used to contact members directly relatively easily. Anyone interested in taking on the job of editor please contact the Commission Chair.

Other publications

ASF has a number of other publications. Some of these are material we received from the SRC. The highlight of publishing this year was the production of the new Wee Jasper book, launched in August. Thanks to Bruce Welch and John Dunkley and all their helpers for getting this done. The Jenolan book continues to sell well. The commission is looking at other options as well.

The Conservation Book is still collecting material for the case study section. Although we have significant amounts of material there are still some major omissions and we continue to work on this.

The Commission has undertaken to publish The NSW atlas project which is well into editing phase and considerable progress has been made. Nevertheless editing takes time and this is extended when we all do this as volunteers.

There are several other ideas for publishing projects that have been suggested but these ideas need to wait until we complete those we have currently undertaken.

Copyright

ASF is very generous about copyright as our aim is to get material, e.g. codes, out to people to use. However as we hold copyright, some educational institutions have paid educational copyright to use material and we have received \$1550 for such use. Although we do not demand payment when it comes as part of a centrally collected system we can always use it. ASF is a member of CAL (Copyright Agency Ltd).

Conclusion

Overall the Commission has worked hard this year but there is always more to do. I particularly thank everyone who has helped keep things moving.

Safety, Leadership and Risk Management

Convener: Caroline Forest

The draft version "ASF Safety Guidelines" has been in circulation creating much correspondence. One of the issues raised was the concern over the removal of the "naked Flame Test" to determine if CO₂ is causing physiological responses in cavers.

I am the convener and as such my duty was to report the findings of the Commission. The Commission consisted of me. I have asked members to join the Commission, or indicate if they had an opinion. People preferred to wait until a draft was prepared to make comment or contribution.

Whilst this is a process with merit it produces a reactive response rather than a creative document. The guidelines must be a living document; however it is in the light of the Australian Caving situation and not individual experiences that they must be applied.

I report to the ASF as my annual report that I have little in the way of hard data to support any of the Commission's suggestions. The draft is based on my experience as a caver with members of Special Casualty Access Team (SCAT) Ambulance NSW, 12 years in the ambulance service, 5 years as a Paramedic, 10 years as an instructor for abseil rescue and a Degree in Health Science as well as an instructor for remote and occupational First Aid.

I am a professional rope worker (twin rope and Arborist), have studied the existing literature on the subject of CO₂ and other safety issues, and have listened to personal experiences.

The ASF Safety Guidelines will be used by many cavers from all over Australia and are cited by other agencies. As such they must be applicable to any (and all) caves in Australia. The Naked Flame Test is suitable for caves with known CO₂ problems. It cannot be assumed that this knowledge is common. There are situations where the dependence on this test could be dangerous to life. Separate guidelines concerning CO₂ can be created and would be very useful for experienced cavers where there is knowledge of its possible existence. Caving in CO₂ atmosphere is more dangerous than cave diving. At least cave diving you are sure there is no air and take precautions.

I would like to propose a research grant to investigate the effects of CO₂ on cavers in real situations with the required ethics approval and medical safety checks in place. I also wish to examine the actual distribution of CO₂ in known caves and consolidate existing literature on the subject.



Photo by Dr. M Brainwood

A paper from study so far by the convener will be presented for review and a presentation for the Annual Conference is being created.

The ASF guidelines must be based on fact not opinion.

Survey and Mapping Standards

Convener: Alan Warild

Special Interest Groups

ASF Cave Diving Group

ASF Judbarra* - Gregory Karst Research Special Interest Group

Liaison person: Mark Sefton (Chair)

*Name recently changed from Jutbarra to Judbarra

Annual Report to the Australian Speleological Federation – October 2010.

Members of the Judbarra-Gregory Karst Research Special Interest Group of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc. (Gregory SIG) conducted their annual expedition from the 2nd to the 16th July 2010. Continuing from last year, surveying efforts in the Bullita Cave System were aimed at filling in existing gaps in the current survey and continuing a series of carefully mapped and checked traverses throughout the system which are intended to form a 'backbone' on which the rest of the survey can be built. We expect this process to obviate the need for constant redrawing of multiple sections of the map to accommodate additional data.

Survey data acquired during the previous expedition (2009) and processed during the year has allowed many anomalies in the map of the northernmost part of the system to be corrected. The group also continued exploration and surveying in two other karst areas in the Gregory National Park. In the first of these, a new and substantial cave was entered, connected, by surveying, to a smaller known cave and is close to connecting to a second cave of several kilometres length. There are numerous leads remaining in these caves and further connections and expansions seem assured. A separate team explored and mapped almost six km of new cave in a more remote part of the park where many more caves remain unexplored. The Group and its predecessors have now mapped more than 200 km of cave passages in the park.

The Fifth AGM of the Gregory SIG was conducted at Bullita on the 7th July 2010. At the meeting, Mark Sefton and Bob Kershaw were re-

-elected as Chairman and Mapping Coordinator of the Group, respectively, while Deborah Hunter was re-elected as Secretary and John Dunkley, John Redpath and Bruce Swain were re-elected as Committee members. Peter Freeman and Dorothy Robinson were also elected to the Committee.



Fungi in Bullita Cave System, approx 25cm wide. Photo by Bob Kershaw

The AGM noted that the name of the Park was to be changed to the 'Judbarra National Park' in five years time (pronounced Jute-bra) but to minimise confusion, it would be known as the Judbarra-Gregory National Park for the next five years. Accordingly, the meeting voted to change the name of the SIG to the Judbarra-Gregory Karst Research Special Interest Group of the ASF.

The turnover of senior management in charge of the park has continued further but a good relationship between the Group and the Park management remains.

Papers on the caves and karst of the Gregory National Park have been prepared for publication in *Helictite*.

The next expedition by the Group is planned for July 2011.

Committee Reports

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Committee

Established in January 2008.

Chair: Peter Dykes

No report received.

Conference Committee (Karstaway 2009)

Chair: Margaret James

Documentation

Chair: Nicholas White

No report received to date

Website and Karst Index Database

Mike Lake

In January 2011 we moved our web site (www.caves.org.au) to another hosting provider. The change was made with no downtime for either the web site or the membership database. The KID was down for a few days until I had enough time to set it up again and reload the data. No data was lost in the move.

This move was required as we were informed in December 2010 that the server our site was hosted on would be retired at the end of January and that we could move to one of their newer servers but at a much higher cost. Ultraserve were now supporting higher end customers and we didn't fit. This didn't leave us much time to find a new provider and at a cost we could afford.

We had been on a virtual server at \$44/month with Ultraserve (physically located at a data centre in Circular Quay) for over a decade. This provided us with root access so we could install whatever software we wished, so we could run the KID and the Membership database, create subdomains of caves.org.au, and have access to the web access logs. There were also no extra charges for bandwidth used. The actual real server was hosting just one other organisation, the Royal Society of NSW, so the speed of our server was excellent with no contention for memory or CPU. We needed another virtual server.

My preference was for an Australian company, with hosting here in Australia, so that we could phone a person here for support. Hosting overseas is cheaper but if you get into problems support is via email only and it may take a few days to be answered. I had moved the Royal Society of NSW moved to Anchor, as they no longer needed a virtual server, but Anchor's hosting plans for virtual servers would have cost us about \$80/month for a very minimal machine. I looked at other Australian providers

and all were similar. A virtual server here with root access was just too expensive.

I knew of Linode hosting (www.linode.com) and have colleagues that use it with no problems. It would cost us US\$12/month for a setup just perfect for our current needs and expandable at any time. If we need more CPU, disk space or RAM we login to a web based interface and make the changes which are provided immediately.

In January I setup our Linode server, installed and configured most of what we needed and copied over the web site, Dave Connard setup the membership Database, the mail server and DNS. We had a complete working setup running a week before the old server was to be shutdown. During that time Dave progressively set the DNS record time-to-live down to a few hours so when we moved servers there would be minimal disruptions. I had bought the KID offline and started it up again a few days after the move. The entire move went smoothly and the Linode server has been excellent.

What we can now do for Clubs?

Does your club want a <http://YourClub.caves.org.au> address?

The ASF can provide your club a subdomain. For instance Helictite is at <http://helictite.caves.org.au>, and SUSS has recently moved to <http://suss.caves.org.au>. You can upload your own pages and also have a private password protected section. No backups would be done; you would need to maintain your own backup of your website. If you wish you could also just have a single page there with a brief summary of your club and a link to your existing website.

Karst Index Database

This has lagged behind a bit. The main production KID is up and running after the move but I have not yet re-installed the second test KID which is used for updaters to practice on. I have a number of small bugs and issues to resolve for Victorian users. My plan last year to integrate Google Maps into the site is still planned; I just have to get some time to do this.

Acknowledgements

The move of the ASF website to the new server was faultless thanks to the expertise of David Connard, who runs the membership database and who understands a lot more than I do on many aspects of DNS entries and mail server setup. Thanks to Dave during the move.

Contact List

Corporate Members

**Australian Capital Territory
Canberra Speleological Society Inc.**
PO Box 156
Curtin ACT 2605

**New South Wales
Blue Mountains Speleological Club**
PO Box 37
Glenbrook NSW 2773

**Cavers & Adventurers of the Snowy
Mountains**
253 Kitchener Rd
Stafford Heights Qld 4053

Central West Caving Group
605 Jaunter Rd
Jaunter NSW 2787

Highland Caving Group
PO Box 54
Georges Hall NSW 2194

Hills Speleology Club Ltd.
3 Heights Place
Hornsby Heights NSW 2077

Illawarra Speleological Society Inc.
PO Box 94
Unanderra NSW 2526

**Queensland
Chillagoe Caving Club Inc.**
PO Box 92
Cairns Qld 4870

**South Australia
Cave Exploration Group South Australia Inc.**
PO Box 144
Rundle Mall
SA 5000

National University Caving Club
c/o ANU Sport & Recreation Association
ANU Building 19,
North Road
Acton, ACT 0200

Kempsey Speleological Society
20 Home St
Hat Head NSW 2440

Metropolitan Speleological Society
PO Box 178
Thornleigh NSW 2120

**Newcastle & Hunter Valley Speleological
Society Inc.**
PO Box 15
Broadmeadow NSW 2292

Orange Speleological Society
PO Box 752
Orange NSW 2800

Rover Speleological Society of NSW
c/o 22/102 Crimea Road
Marsfield NSW 2122

Sydney University Speleological Society
Box 35, Holme Building
Sydney University NSW 2006

**University of Technology Sydney
Speleological Society**
c/o The Union, PO Box 123
Broadway NSW 2007

Central Queensland Speleological Society
c/- Peter Berrill
PO Box 6343
Rockhampton Qld 4702

Flinders University Speleological Society
Alan Mitchell Sports Centre
Flinders One
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100
Adelaide SA 5001

Tasmania

Mole Creek Caving Club Inc

PO Box 209
Mole Creek TAS 7304

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.

PO Box 416
Sandy Bay TAS 7006

Northern Caverneers Inc.

PO Box 315
Launceston TAS 7250

Victoria

Victorian Speleological Association Inc.

GPO Box 5425CC
Melbourne Vic 3001

Western Australia

Cavers Leeuwin Inc

PO Box 1561
Margaret River WA 6285

Western Australian Speleological Group Inc.

PO Box 67
Nedlands WA 6009

Speleological Research Group of Western Australia

PO Box 1611
East Victoria Park WA 6981

Cave Exploration Group of Western Australia

PO Box 1821
Wangara DC WA 6947

Provisional Members

Victorian Limestone Caving Team

c/o 39 Esdale St
Blackburn VIC 3130

Associates

Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association

PO Box 36, Carlton South, Vic 3053

Scouts Australia (ACT Branch)

22 Lance Hill Ave, Dunlop ACT 2615

Karst Geodiversity Unit (NSW, DECCW)

Level 2, 203-209 Russell St, Bathurst NSW 2795

UNE Mountaineering Club

C/- Sports, The University of New England,
Armidale, NSW 2351

NSW Cave Rescue Squad

PO Box 122, Bankstown, NSW 2200

Victorian Scout Caving Team

PO Box 2277 Mt Waverley VIC 3149

Special Interest Groups

ASF Cave Diving Group

ASF Judbarra-Gregory Karst Research Group

Karst Conservancies

KarstWatch (Mole Creek)



Cave cleaning SW WA. Photo by Rob Susac



© Peter Bell

The project co-ordinated by Ian Collette - the Golgotha Shawl Jigsaw puzzle and photo of original formation on the left

“Their future is in our hands”

Appendices

These reports were not presented at the Council meeting and therefore not adopted but are for member information.

Appendix 1 WA State Karst Coordinator -
Report to the Speleological Council of Western
Australia for 2010/2011
by Rauleigh Webb

Major achievements this year

Scanning of Physical Maps.

During 2010 the majority of the physical cave maps (327) held by WASG were scanned, thanks to the efforts of Greg Thomas, who scanned the majority of these maps. Unfortunately it was not possible to scan the maps in the order that was clearly more efficient, one map draw at a time, as requests for scanned maps forced us to scan all maps by two surveyors FIRST. This resulted in considerable lost time as physical maps had to be checked out and then checked back into the library.

There are still 104 maps to scan and they are distributed across every draw in the map cabinet making the task more time consuming. A further 628 Cape Range electronic maps are to be migrated to the new database structure. Significant code was required to allow this migration to occur. This code is almost complete with only some minor testing to be completed and then all Cape Range maps will be catalogued.

Another 74 Christmas Island electronic maps will be migrated into the new database structure as well, once the above code is complete.

Secure WA KID

Also during the year a more secure WA KID database was devised. V1.33R of the WA KID has been created with requires a username and password to access the database. Without a valid username and password the data in the database cannot be accessed. The database is also more secure with the program and data separated into two distinct data stores. This version of the WA KID still requires further security to be added before it is deployed. However the amount of time required to perform this additional work is not extensive.

Additions to the Database

Further additions have been made to WA KID database. Additional fields have been added to Cave Map table to allow maps with multiple sheets to be added to the database.

Area Coordinators

The Kimberley Napier range database was updated with data consolidated from all older versions of the database as well as from the old Speleobase database. Ross Anderson also provided a significant photographic library for the Napier range database. These will be imported into the database once the map scanning data imports are complete. The Yanchep and Wanneroo database was also updated with more information and additional cave sketches by the area coordinator, Bert De Waele and other WASG members during the year. This updated version has been lodged with the State Karst Recorder. Once all of the Yanchep and Wanneroo maps have been scanned they will also be added to this database.

The Cape Range area continues to be the most documented area in the state with over 700 electronic cave maps, over 2000 images from caves, over 5000 trip reports and over 830 caves documented. Darren Brooks provided the latest update of the database during the year.

State Database

All available data is currently being collated so that an updated WA KID can be created and distributed to all participating clubs. Many thanks to those cavers that have contributed data to the database.

Appendix 2 ASF Cave and Karst Numbering Commission Report

Edited for the 2010 Annual Report

Peter Dykes
Convenor

In April 2010 Graham Pilkington and I gave a presentation to the ASF Executive of OzKarst along with submissions on funding and administration. While the presentation and submissions were favourably received I am unable to report that anything concrete has resulted. The following is a brief summary of where the Commission is at present and issues that need resolving.

State Cave and Karst Numbering Coordinators:

In September 2009 following direction from the ASF Council meeting in Sale I circulated a request for member clubs in each state to re-nominate/elect State Cave and Karst Numbering Coordinator as provided in the ASF Code for Cave and Karst Numbering. To date the following are the results:

| | |
|---------|---|
| NSW/ACT | Peter Dykes |
| Deputy | Ian Lutherborrow |
| NT | No ASF club |
| Qld | Peter Bannink |
| SA | Graham Pilkington |
| Tas | Arthur Clark |
| WA | Rauleigh Webb |
| Vic | *VSA understands that their coordinator is Peter Mathews. |

Cave and Karst Numbering Code:

Both Graham and I have a number of changes to the code to bring it up to date with OzKarst. I hope to circulate these changes late this year.

OzKarst:

I would like it noted:

- OzKarst is operational as at April 2011 with certain qualifications.
 1. It requires additional programming to link with the KID and to help facilitate the merging of data from various copies of OzKarst into a state master and a national master.
 2. Graham has suggested splitting the feature data fields into feature data fields (entrance section) and cave

data fields which will require some additional programming (see Interim Report).

3. Except for NSW and SA no other state has indicated the need for additional data fields, this may change with use.
4. The GIS component has only useful datasets available for NSW and these will take considerable time to be incorporated into OzKarst.
5. Only NSW and SA have geographically defined cave areas which mean that the OzKarst GIS component is fairly useful – for the rest of Australia the GIS component will be less useful.

*VSA comments that they do have the data but in a different format compared to Peter's software.

- There are no internal security measures at present to stop corruption of the GIS datasets or the tabular data should ASF members have access to ArcMap software instead of ArcReader software as was originally proposed.
- Should members use ArcMap software to add their own GIS datasets / imagery / tables there can be long-term guarantees on the quality/accuracy of the data derived from these additional datasets – this is particularly so if members add their own aerial photo imagery by ge-referencing and then use that imagery to map limestone outcrops or other geological features.
- It is extremely easy for a novice GIS operator to play havoc with GIS datasets in ArcMap that may require months to repair/sort out.

Graham has indicated that the additional programming may take him at least 3 years to complete doing it in his spare time. It will take me at least 6 to 9 months of full time work to have all of NSW GIS datasets available for OzKarst.

ASF has yet to formally ask CEGSA for permission/licence to use OzKarst. I have recently advised CEGSA through Graham Pilkington that I am surrendering to the club any copyright that I may hold now or in the future with relation to OzKarst.