



## Australian Speleological Federation Inc. Karst Conservation Fund:

# Honeycomb Cave Entrance Stabilisation Project

The aims of this project were to stabilise and make safely accessible an entrance to Honeycomb Cave. Honeycomb Cave is in a part of the Mole Creek Cave National Park. The Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service administer it. Being the most obvious entrance, most frequented by the public, it had eroded over the years from a combination of human impact, trafficking in and out of the cave and collapse of an earth bank during an unprecedented flood event.

The works involved construction of a set of Limestone steps and a combined small, integral 1meter x 1 meter viewing landing also in Limestone. The steps now safely lead visitors to a viewing landing in order to view some of the caves features. Coupled with this, the stabilisation of the earth bank has once again restored the natural dynamic equilibrium of this seasonally inundated bank. The provision of a more managed cave entrance is expected to cut down on visitors wandering into the cave at multiple areas and causing unnecessary trafficking damage elsewhere.

The intention of the project was also to bring together a small team of individuals committed to the protection of honeycomb cave, and to provide an opportunity for volunteers to learn valuable new skills in dry stone walling and rock step laying by a master stonemason. The project took 135 man and woman hours across 7 days. Instrumental to the project were efforts by Deb Hunter MCCC, Ken Higgins MCCC, Janice March NC, Andrew March and Eleanor March and Steve Shayler-Appleton our master stonemason. The project was overseen by Cameron Brooke of PWS. Cameron and PWS would like to thank all those involved in the project and ASF for their kind funding commitment. Special mention of ASF support / funding and Wildcare / Karstcare volunteering efforts will be made on the interpretation board planned for the information shelter at Honeycomb cave.

This project went under budget due to donation of materials and the residual funds were used on costs of repairing the stairway protecting vegetation and mosses in the lower entrance to Kubla Khan Cave. The original stairway was damaged in a windstorm when trees fell into the collapse doline.

Cameron Brooke (minor changes Nicholas White).

Before and after photos of the Honeycomb Cave Entrance Stabilisation Project.

