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AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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[1] Prepared, edited and printed by Peter Dykes, with assistance from John Dunkley and Chris Dunne. This electronic version of the Annual Report is NOT the final version for archival purposes. The Agenda for the 2002 Council meeting is included in this version at page 7

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2001[1]

Presented by the President, Peter Berrill

Melbourne, January 2002

Highlights Of 2001:

- Outstanding success in court action to prevent mining leases on Cape Range in Western Australia;
- Major concessions wrought from mining interests in mediation sessions relating to a proposed Exploration Lease on the karst at Mt Cripps, Tasmania.
- Registration as an Environmental Organisation by the Commonwealth Government
- Completion and acquittal of the National Heritage Trust grant in the NSW Central West
- Completion of a new Web-site and a web-based membership list
- Representation at cave management meetings and at the Congress of the International Union of Speleology in Brasilia, Brazil
- Significant progress towards a new, up datable Karst Index Database,
- After months of work, adequate but less than comprehensive and not inexpensive insurance

Executive:

Communication between the executive has increased with all members available via e-mail. The convenience of email has increased the work- load and the output of the executive and commission convenors. The executive had a face-to-face meeting in Canberra during April, a teleconference in October and exchange of thousands of email. They functioned exceptionally well this year, especially on the insurance issue. During the year Arthur Clarke resigned to devote more time to his MSc studies, and was replaced by Jay Anderson, who is organising the next Conference in Western Australia and has also been involved with the Cape Range issue. A recipient of the ASF Certificate of Merit several years ago, Arthur has given exceptional service to the conservation of Tasmanian caves, and will no doubt always be available when needed.

Community Honours:

We are delighted that founding Secretary and longest-serving President of ASF, Elery Hamilton-Smith received the award of Member of the Order of Australia in the January Honours List. The citation read (in part): *"**For service to conservation and the environment, particularly in the areas of national parks, wilderness, cave and karst management**"*. Elery is the fourth member of ASF to be recognised in the Honours List for services to speleology, earlier ones being Don Matts, Anne Atkinson and Norm Poulter. We greatly regret to record the passing of Don Matts, in November. The first speleologist to receive an OAM, Don was a prominent pioneer in the NSW Cave Rescue Squad.

Insurance:

As you all know, the insurance crisis was totally unexpected and, serious as it was in June, the future is likely to be worse after the events of September 11. Insurance has taken up an enormous amount of time and people rose wonderfully to the task. Although there was many involved in the work, I must mention that Joe Sydney, Alan Jevons, Jodie Rutledge, and Arthur Clark each spent literally days and days on the task. The search for insurance dragged on for four months and I must say that in the end it began to way heavy on some. Some management authorities apparently seized the opportunity to impose requirements for insurance that they had earlier survived without. Insurance is so serious a problem for community organisations like ours that some are simply folding, following up to tenfold increase in premiums. I believe that members must accept the impost for the reality it is. We must not dissipate our energies in unproductive debate about details. It is absolutely imperative that we pursue this issue in concert with other organisations and/or seek a government-funded scheme.

Conservation:

Early in 2001 we had what Rauleigh Webb described as a remarkable 99% success in the case against mining exploration leases on Cape Range in Western Australia. Rauleigh devoted the spare time of a year to this task and deserves our heartfelt thanks and congratulations, as do the other individuals involved and our WA member clubs, WASG and SRGWA for their financial and other support. We must also thank the Environmental Defenders Office in Perth for acting on our behalf. Without them we would not have afforded to mount the legal Action. One result is that following the Mining Warden's recommendation; it is unlikely that the Minister will agree to an application for 82sq.km. of mining lease on the Cape Range karst. At the time of writing this report all parties were still involved by way of commenting on draft guidelines for the Environmental Impact Assessment of a smaller area for the proposed quarry (13 hectare).

At Mt Cripps in Tasmania, Arthur Clarke acted for ASF and STC in extracting major concessions from the company applying for an Exploration Lease. Although we unfortunately had to withdraw from the court case (in the light of a financially open-ended commitment), Arthur's achievements were outstanding.

During the proceedings, both of these karsts were listed by the Karst Waters Institute in the USA as one of the year's ten Most Endangered Karst Ecosystems of the world. Both of the campaigns were partly funded from the Environmental Defenders Office with a contribution from ASF and member clubs. It is clear from the detailed State Conservation reports that there is no lack of issues, but we cannot always rely on EDO involvement and there are many issues requiring common sense rather than legal solutions. As I have highlighted elsewhere, the question is how best to finance and support cave conservation issues.

Conservation consumes much of the time of the conservation convenors and others involved. We have been fighting to conserve the caves of Australia before the Federation's inception and we will have to go on fighting it seems forever. It takes a special kind of individual to be a devoted conservation convenor as the like of Rauleigh Webb and Arthur Clarke who have both now stepped aside from their roles as conservation convenors. T hey have both done an outstanding job over many years and made many personal sacrifices for Australia's caves. They leave us with BIG shoes to fill but we must fill them.

Natural Heritage Trust Grant – Central West Catchment, NSW:

Early in 2001 a supplementary documentation report was prepared as part of this project and the $27,330 grant was acquitted with Environment Australia. Nine clubs and about 65 members contributed to the field work and to the fencing and vegetation rehabilitation work; for its outstanding success we particularly have to thank Peter Dykes, Denis Marsh and Bruce Howlett. The main report received very favourable reviews, as it was the first in the region to deal with vegetation on karst. There appears to be interest from managers interstate in the report and as all copies have been distributed to landholders etc., if necessary we will reprint it.

Environmental Fund:
Following Constitutional changes at the last Council Meeting, Environment Australia has registered the Australian Speleological Federation Inc. as an Environmental Organization. The registration is a flow-on of the Mt. Etna Campaign. CQSS solicitor Stephen Comino suggested the idea of registration to me after we had received enormous donations and support for our cave conservation stand. It has taken almost three years of work to become registered and I must thank John Dunkley for the enormous amount of time he put into the application. Work on the operation of the Fund will begin in 2002 with information and circulars sent to all clubs for involvement. We received an offer of a donation to initiate the Fund associated with this, on a $-for-$ basis from ASF, and I strongly recommend to the Council that this be accepted.

International Union of Speleology:
A dozen or so members attended the 14th IUS Congress in Brasilia, Brazil in July. Dr Julia James retired as IUS President but we congratulate Dr Armstrong Osborne on his election to the IUS Executive Committee. President of the Royal Society of NSW and a world authority of palaeokarst, Armstrong was the 1997 recipient of ASF's Edie Smith Award.

Speleo- E-Bulletin:
Introduced in 2000, this innovation has proven remarkably successful, thanks largely to Angus Macoun. Some members have asked that its status in relation to the journal be clarified.

Helictite:
As advised last year, ASF now publishes the long-established scientific journal *Helictite* under the management of Sue White, Ken Grimes and Glenn Baddeley. Unlike our sister organisations in UK and USA, we do not mandate a subscription to this as part of our membership fee, but we would like to see more members subscribe. There is also the suggestion that those joining ASF as individual members be given the option of receiving either Australian Caver or Helictite. There has been a stock-take of Helictite and other SRC titles, several sales and some outstanding orders for back issues. We aim to publicise these more in 2002 and consider reprinting some.

Representation on Other Bodies:
ASF's representative on the Board of the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, Patrick Larkin has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Board. It is pleasing that speleologists are demonstrating their expertise; two other members of the Board, including the Chairman Richard Mackay, are present or former ASF members.

"Discovering Caves" kit from Australian Geological Survey Organisation:
This excellent kit, produced by AGSO last year with assistance from ASF & ACKMA, is well worth buying just for the large wall map. Check it out at your nearest show cave.

Australian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA):
I am pleased to report that following the widespread dismay expressed at the last Council Meeting, ACKMA swiftly acknowledged and apologised for the breach of ASF copyright in preparation of a CD on cave and karst management. Special thanks for their common sense in concluding this matter are due to Chris Bradley and to former ACKMA President Brian Clark. The core issue here is not who owns what, but a wish by speleologists to be acknowledged and respected for the work they do – see also my comments in the next section. John Dunkley represented ASF at the ACKMA Conference at Wombeyan in April, and presented two papers.

Intellectual Property and Products:
Following my report on this last year, we received further valuable legal advice in 2001. Thank you to Bob Dunn for facilitating this. Several clubs enquired about the advice; it is very comprehensive and is available on a need-to-know basis. I believe it is imperative that speleologists act professionally in all dealings involving maps, charts, data- bases etc., whether published or not. To do this, we all need to act from an informed position and not make assumptions of a bush lawyer variety.

Web-site and Membership List:
Thanks to Carol Layton the Web site is well established. Clubs are reminded that the list at www.caves.org.au is our Register of Members for insurance purposes and that it is their own responsibility to maintain it accurately and up-to-date at all times.

Karst Index Database:
The data originally held on a mainframe computer has been transferred to the Web site and limited fields are available for perusal. Mike Lake has circulated a Discussion Paper to each State Coordinator on a new updateable database and we expect to let a tender possibly before the January meeting for the necessary programming.

Archival and Historical Material:
At its April meeting the Executive decided to begin a process of assessment of the ASF archives. Good deals of our records are still in the possession of some previous executive members scattered throughout the country. When we have a report as to the extent of the archives we will then decide what to do with then. Most recently some early records thought to have been lost have been re-located.

Public Relations:
For some time many have stated that ASF needs to improve its public image. On any objective assessment our achievements are quite staggering, and many members have devoted much of their life to conserving caves and karst, often at considerable personal cost. Yet there is a perception in some quarters that only 'professionals' are involved in looking after Australia's caves. On the contrary, an increasing number of management and academic people interested in caves and karst have no background in those areas, and as always, memory is short. The issue of Public Relations is not an area in which we have great expertise and I would welcome advice on how we should proceed.

Where to Now?
I recommend to members that our priorities for 2002 be:

- Pursuing the insurance issue, particularly working with other organisations and political lobbying to bring about a more reasonably priced product for members
- Improving public relations with cave managers
- Establishing the Environmental Fund including matching the founding donation
- Launching a new updateable Karst Index Database
- Making information available on intellectual property attached to club maps and the like
- Strengthening support for Helictite to improve the standing of speleology in Australia
- Greater support for Australian Caver which is our primary source for " *what's happening on the caving scene in Australia"*

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION Inc.

Annual Council Meeting, January 2002

For questions or additions, please contact the Secretary, Kath Rowsell: Ph: (W) 08 8922 1414 (H) 08 8941 5587
Fax: (W) 08 8922 1450 Email: krowsell@anglogold.com.au

Please note that the Council Meeting for 2002 will be held over only one day (Saturday January 26th). All delegates will need to bring their copy of the agenda and the Annual Report as no photocopying will be done on the day.

1 0830 Registration of delegates - Delegates are requested to register attendance *before* the opening of the meeting.

2 9:00 am – Meeting opens, apologies, acceptance of proxies, Membership Review

3 Minutes of previous meeting

4 Business arising from previous minutes – the minutes were circulated in May 2001. Please review the minutes prior to the meeting.

5 Annual Report of ASF Inc. to be presented by the President, Peter Berrill (please print the whole report AND the separate Insurance Discussion Paper, and ensure your delegate brings it to the meeting as additional copies will NOT be available)

6 Business arising from reports – as per requests / motions/ recommendations contained in the Annual Report
Presidents Report, Insurance, Library, Tasmanian Conservation, Software Selection, Strategic Planning, Web-site (other business arising may be deferred to General Business)

7 Membership Applications – (none received at time of sending out Agenda)

8 General Business – The following items had been received at the closing date for Agenda items. Other General Business will be accepted subject to time restrictions on the day

- 8.1 Membership Year proposal (see Discussion paper circulated November 2001)
- 8.2 Code for Cave and Karst Numbering – motion to accept revised Code (n.b. this was circulated with the 2000 Annual Report as well as with the 2001 but was not dealt with at the last Council meeting)
- 8.3 Australian Caver – content, aims, circulation of details for submission dates
- 8.4 ASF Website Subdomains – there is an opportunity for clubs to purchase a subdomain of the ASF website (eg. clubname.caves.org.au), providing a recognisable address and offsetting costs of running the ASF website.
- *8.5* Motion submitted by CCV *"that the ASF Membership Policy decided by the Council be included in the by-laws"*
- *8.6* Motion submitted by CCV *"that the dates of the ASF financial year as agreed to by the council be included in the by-laws"*
- 8.7 Discussions with the ACKMA Executive regarding insurance issues
- 8.8 A Communication Policy for ASF?
- 8.9 Other General Business as allowed by the Chair

9. Budget 2002 and membership fees

10 Election of Officers

11 Next meeting, date & venue

ASF TREASURER – Annual Report 2001

Grace Matts

Australian Speleological Federation Inc
& Associated Entities
Balance Sheet as at 31st August, 2001

ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Current/Savings			
TD 4 Documentation Funds30/10/0	17,291.66		
ASF General Funds Col/State	8,490.89		
ASF Inc Australian Caver Account	8,160.94		
ASF Environmental Fund	559.01		
ASF 2001 Conference Account	2,960.72		
NSW Speleological Council	581.36		
NSW SC NHT Grant	31.16		
Total Current/Savings	38,075.74		
Total Current Assets		**38,075.74**	
TOTAL ASSETS			**38,075.74**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
CLAG = 1/4 INS EXCESS = ¾	-5,245.93		
Prepaid Macquarie NHT Karst Grantt	- 361.31		
Total Other Current Liabilities	**-5,607.24**		
Total Current Liabilities		**-5,607.24**	
TOTAL LIABILITIES			**-5,607.24**
EQUITY			
Opening Bal Equity	50,772.81		
Retained Earnings	10,218.10		
Net Income	-17,307.93		
Total Equity		**43,682.98**	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			**38,075.74**

Australian Speleological Federation Inc.
& Associated Entities

Income & Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 31st August, 2001

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

INCOME

Conference 2001			26,507.90
Publications on Sale			
SRC	230.00		
Total Publications on Sale			230.00
Associates			105.00
Bank Interest			1,370.78
Membership 2001			
01 student	52.50		
01 family	21.00		
01 single	49.00		
Membership 2001 – Other	15.00		
Total Membership 2001		137.50	
Membership Fees 2000			
00 family	2,941.50		
00 single	3,920.00		
00 individual	175.00		
00 student	630.00		
00 new	325.50		
Membership Fees 2000 – Other	185.50		
Total Membership Fees 2000		8,177.50	
Membership Fees 99			
Corporate			
99 family	42.00		
Total Corporate		42.00	
Total Membership Fees			9,942.00

TOTAL INCOME **36,570.68**

EXPENSE

2001 Conference			30,991.25
Sundries			-10.00
Council			
Minutes -Printing/Distribution	100.00		
Meeting Expenses	250.00		
Total Council		350.00	
Commissions			
Publications			
SRC	3.90		
Publications – Other	689.00		
Total Publications		692.90	
Newsletter			
Journal of ASF	8,707.44		
Total Newsletter		8,707.44	
Awards (for Edie Smith Award)		198.00	
Administration		374.00	
Conservation		220.00	
Documentation		7,206.00	
Archives & Library		2.45	
Total Commissions			17,400.79
Executive			
Teleconferences	637.23		
Meeting	531.30		
Directors Fees	750.00		
Total Executive		1,918.53	
Operating Expenses			
Incorporation	45.90		
Telephone / EMAIL	894.62		
Postage and Delivery	126.20		
Total Operating Expenses		1,066.72	
Bank Service Charges			
Withholding tax	-35.40		
Stopped Cheque	0.00		
BAD Cheque Tax	90.80		
FID Financial Instituions Duty	79.44		
Bank Service Charges – Other	8.95		
Total Bank Service Charges		143.79	
Dues and Subscriptions			
UIS Affiliation	1,187.53		
Total Dues and Subscriptions		1,187.53	
Professional Fees			
Auditing	330.00		
Professional Fees – Other	500.00		
Total Professional Fees		830.00	
TOTAL EXPENSE			**53,878.61**
NET ORDINARY INCOME			**-17,307.93**
NET INCOME			**-17,307.93**

Australian Speleological Federation Inc
& Associated Entities.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The financial statements of the Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated have been drawn up in accordance with accounting concepts, and where applicable the standards and disclosure requirements of the Australian Accounting bodies and applicable accounting standards.

The Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated is not a reporting entity because in the Executive's opinion there are unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs, and these Accounts are therefore "Special Purpose Financial Reports" that have been prepared solely to meet the Associations Incorporation Act requirements to prepare Accounts. The statements have been prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account changing money values nor, except where stated, current valuation of non-current assets. Except where stated, the accounting policies have been consistently applied.

Income Tax:
The net surplus of the Association is exempt from income tax under Section 23(g) of the Australian Income Tax Assessment Act 1936. Accordingly, neither provision for income tax nor income tax expense appears in the accounts.

Liability of Members:
The Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated is incorporated in the ACT under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1991. The members are liable in the event of winding up to an amount not exceeding the amount per member as provided in the Association's Constitution.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

To the Members, Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated:

We have examined, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, the Balance Sheet of the Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated as at 31st August, 2001, and the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended.

In our opinion:

- We have obtained all the information we require.
- The above financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Association as at the 31st August, 2001, and the results of the Association's operations for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and Statements of Accounting Concepts.

C W STEWART & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants
Quirindi NSW
6th October, 2001

NSW SPELEOLOGICAL COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2001

President: Megan Pryke

NSW NPWS Karst Management and Associated Permits Review:

At the October 2000 NSWSC meeting, the executive has sought a meeting with the NSW National Parks to discuss Karst Management policies and associated permit conditions. This has sparked an internal review by National Parks at the request of the Director General. The NSWSC has inquired with NPWS personnel regarding the review status and has recently has had contact with the area dealing with the request, but has not been able to confirm what level of involvement the NSWSC will have in the review to date.

NSW NPWS Regulations and Act Review:

Draft regulations are yet to be released to the public sometime before August 2002. The current regulations have been rolled over and are in force till 31st August 2002. Some people viewed preliminary draft regulations and it seems that due to various representations the NPWS have undertaken a rewrite. The NSWSC still wishes to pursue changes to the current regulations as previously discussed with members of the council and the Minister for the Environment. Currently there are two regulations requiring permits and caving is listed as an example of a dangerous activity. It is hoped that the NSW NPWS karst management review mentioned earlier will provide opportunity to discuss NPWS regulations and policies relating to karst in the near future.

Oberon Office NPWS Imposition of Permit Administration Fee:

One NSW NPWS office has, with the approval of district management, started to charge a $40 administration fee for each caving permit. The karst areas include Tuglow, Colong, Church Creek and Billy's Creek caves, all of which are in remote areas with no facilities and are accessed by bushwalking. Individuals and clubs have individually expressed their views to the office. The NSWSC has written to the Minister for the Environment and is waiting a response before it can take any further action.

ASF Insurance:

A brief discussion on the insurance problem the council mentioned that the ASF might have to consider a bare bones policy which meets most statutory and access requirement but with the removal of member to member cover of this reduces costs.

The Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust have recently requested speleological groups to hold public liability insurance which specifically names the trust as indemnified and are prohibiting caving permits to be issued until the issue is resolved. The NSWSC, prior to notification of the insurance requirement had requested management to assist with setting up a meeting of the Speleological Advisory Committee (SAC), which has not met in over three years due to staff changes. At the time of writing this report, the Trust board has resolved to meet that a SAC meeting be convened with the board executive attending. The Trust has also undertaken to examine its own insurance policy in regards to speleological activities.

Alliances with other interest groups:

At the September 2001 council meeting a proposal that alliances be sought with other peak advocacy groups and commercial operators be sought by the NSWSC, and that these alliances be formalised pending approval of the ASF council. Rather than formal alliances, it was suggested that an informal contact list of persons in peak groups be made. There are many times when objectives do overlap and alliances can be sought but these should be on an ad hoc basis rather than formal to avoid expectations of support in all individual cases. Time permitting, the council may wish to discuss this matter further. Public liability insurance is a common problem at the moment for many outdoor recreation operators and clubs.

National Heritage Trust: Macquarie Karst Documentation Project:
The project has been completed but for a few administrative and financial matters (unpresented cheques). Grace Matts, ASF/NSWSC treasurer, is aware of the outstanding issues.

NSW Speleosports:
The NSW Cave Rescue squad hosted the event. It was a successful day, many clubs attended and over $2,000 of sponsorship prizes were given to the winners. Afterwards, a NSW Cavers dinner was hosted by RSS.

\SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 20000

President: Graham Pilkington

Public Liability and Office Bearer insurance cover was the main issue for 2001. Just as we were sorting out the cover for the handing out of keys for access to caves, the ASF policy lapsed. Hopefully the new insurance policy will address the key issue. South Australian caving has almost ceased since June because clubs will not approve trips without insurance cover. The Scouts, Flinders University, and ADDICTS (via CDAA) have their own insurance but lead few trips.

Leadership accreditation has still not reached a working system despite directions to do so at the January ASF meeting. Rectifying the insurance collapse appears to have taken up everyone's efforts for the last half year.

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS 2000

ADMINISTRATION
Chris Dunne

The three previous editions of the *ASF Administrative Handbook* (c.1972, 1987 and 1997) have been compendiums of the ASF Constitution, By-Laws (more recently), some of ASF's codes, and information on ASF's Commissions and Committees (both historical and current) together with their respective Terms of Reference.

The main function of this Commission has been to update and distribute the stand-alone *Handbook*. In my last two reports I indicated my intention to publish an updated version within the following year, but this has not occurred. In this Internet Era, it is now questionable whether a single document such as the *Admin Handbook* need be published at all, particularly in printed form.

ASF's Constitution and By-Laws are either already on ASF's website <caves.com.au> or soon will be. My long-standing desire to consolidate all of ASF's codes and guidelines into the *Handbook* would have been prohibitively expensive, but these too are readily available on the website. There is simply no need to print a single document containing all of this material at once, when a specific item can itself be downloaded and printed off by anyone who needs it.

What is needed is a consolidated, formal listing of these codes, by-laws, etc. as well as the updating, for historical purposes, of the information on past and present Commissions and Committees. I have not kept on top of all of these changes myself, but many of the current ASF documents, particularly the codes, are the responsibility of others (particularly Evalt Crabb and Mike Lake), and their availability on ASF's website lies outside of the purposes of this Commission.

What I do proposes to do in the near term is to incrementally publish to the website those items from the last edition of the *Handbook* which are absent or have been updated or added in the last four yours – some of these will be uploaded by the time of the January 2002 meeting. As well, I propose to publish a slimmed down document to be called the *Administrative Handbook* which will contain the essential Constitution, By-Laws and definitive listings (codes, commissions, committees) referred to above. A review is in hand to determine the necessary content of this *4th edition*. As publication will occur electronically and distribution will in future be via the website, there will be no additional publication, printing or distribution costs.

AWARDS
Lloyd Robertson

ASF Awards are only presented at the ASF Bi-annual Conferences, and as this is a non-conference year, no action is required by the Commission. Last year a number of awards were announced at the Bathurst Conference and these were later acknowledged in Australian Caver. Formal presentation of the awards to the holders will be made at an appropriate occasion.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
Greg Middleton

During the past year the main activity of the Bibliography Commission has been the compiling of abstracts of Australian speleological publications and contributing them to IUS's *Speleological Abstracts*. The 2000 abstracts were compiled by the small group of Arthur Clarke, Ken Grimes, Jill Rowling and the Convenor with some contributions from Mia Thurgate. A total of 650 abstracts were compiled for 2000 (677 in 1999, 689 in 1998) from Australian and New Zealand publications. A further 53 abstracts of items published overseas (on Australian and other caves/karst) were contributed.

As all items contributed from Australia are published in *Speleological Abstracts* there remains, in the Convenor's opinion, no justification for the separate publication of Australian abstracts. Through its world-wide contributors *Speleological Abstracts* also includes many items published overseas on Australian caves which it would not be possible for local abstractors to track down. A set of the Australian abstracts is provided each year for the ASF Library.

Australian and New Zealand journals and newsletters abstracted in 2000 were: *Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association Journal, Australian Caver, Cave Exploration Group South Australia Annual Report, Caver's Chronicle, CEGSA News, Cimmerian, Helictite, Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society, Karst Out, Nargun, Newcaves Chronicle, New Zealand Speleological Society Bulletin, Outkarsts, Speleopod, Speleo Spiel, Sump Think, SUSS Bull, The Doline, Trog,* and *Troglodyte.* It is regretted if any publications have been omitted but the Convenor relies on the library of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers for those publications not covered by other abstracters. Publications not received by STC may not be abstracted.

Speleological Abstracts is available annually from IUS for 25 Swiss francs per issue, plus CHF 10 postage (either hard copy or on CD). In addition to the annual issues (each with about 5,000 abstracts, available back to about 1989), there is now a 12 year compilation (1988-1999) including 60,000 abstracts for CHF 100 (about A$100). Orders can be sent through the website www.isska.ch/bbs or by e-mail: ssslib@vtx.ch Once again I express my appreciation for the continuing efforts of our small and dedicated band of abstractors. New contributors are always welcome.

CAVE DIVING
Peter Kraehenbuehl

CAVE AND KARST MANAGEMENT
Vacant

CAVE SAFETY
Mike Lake

Last year I reported that an ASF National Cave Rescue Commission had been formed to provide support for cave rescue organisations and cave rescuers throughout Australia, facilitate the exchange of information and training, and represent the ASF internationally. Since then the NSW Cave Rescue Squad has made available to the NCRC a very comprehensive and detailed manual, ``A Handbook of Cave Rescue for Accredited Rescue Squads Responding to Cave Rescue Incidents''. The NCRC has already provided this 125 page document to a number of rescue squads. It will be of use to cave rescuers in their training, provide guidelines to rescue groups so that caves are looked after during exercises and authentics and hopefully rescue groups will provide feedback so that it can be improved. The NCRC is chaired by Grace Matts.

There has already been several cave accidents this year. A short summary of new reports and information that I have received, including some that date back quite a few years, is attached.

I am also resigning from position of Safety Convenor. The ASF's National Karst Index Database is now taking considerably more of my time and I am unable to find the time to devote to safety issues. With insurance now being a major issue collation and analysis of accidents may have to be done more formally The role of the ASF Safety Convenor is important not just for chasing up and collating ASF and non-ASF accidents but the presentation of the information in a form suitable for those that have need of it. This includes the ASF Executive, cavers and perhaps in the future insurance companies. Overseeing continual appraisal of our safety guidelines, club training and setting safety policy is also important to ensure that ASF groups stay up-to-date and practice safe caving and that the ASF is seen as the appropriate body to define what is best-practice. I am sure that the ASF will be able to find someone with the time and enthusiasm to carry this forward.

The accident/incident forms have been passed onto Joe Sydney and he is intending to place these into a database. I have provided Joe with some ideas for a suitable table structure for the database. Thanks to all who have contributed the accident & incident information. Please keep the information flowing as someone will continue to collate the reports. Also thanks to those that have made suggestions and taken the time to update the Safety Guidelines over the last few years

Summary of Accidents/Incidents:
This is a short summary of new reports and information that I have received over 2000--2001 including some dating back quite a few years.

ASF Member Clubs:

1989	Big Tree Pot, Tasmania Rockfall
July 1998	Flick Mints Hole, Tas Rockfall hits experienced ASF caver whilst descending long pitch. Nothing broken. Helmet was crucial in reducing injuries. First aid at scene was required. (ASF caver)
Sep 1999	Dip Cave, Wee Jasper NSW. Dislocated shoulder. (ASF trip)
August 2000	Wee Jasper Caves, NSW. Lost footing and fell, first aid given by team. Stitches to cut head, nothing broken. (ASF trip)

Non-ASF Member Clubs:

Feb 1997	Razor Cave, Vic. Slipped into tight rift and needed rescue to exit. **(Not ASF)**
Apr 1998	Centipede Cave, Vic. Radio Report, **(Not ASF)**
May 1998	Slocombe's Cave, Vic ABC radio report, fall 2m, bruising **(Not ASF)**.
August 1998	The Owls Roost, North West Cape, WA. Fall, injury to leg and suspected broken hip. **(Not ASF)**
Sep 1998	Colong Cave, NSW Dislocated shoulder. **(Not ASF)**
April 1999	Britannia Creek Vic. Caver became wedged. **(Not ASF)**
May 2000	Centipede Cave, Victoria. Caver required assistance to exit entrance squeeze. **(Not ASF)**
Aug 2001	Wet/Georgies Cave Mole Creek, Tas Search and Rescue. **(Not ASF)**
2001	Dragons Teeth, Bungonia, NSW. Army stuck in B51, Self extraction. **(Not ASF)**
Feb 2001	Bungonia Caves, NSW. Sydney Daily Telegraph,Teen schoolgirl trapped, twisted knee. **(Not ASF)**
March 2001	Karabiner Cave, Bungonia NSW. Caver stuck, rescue by NSW VRA, Goulburn Police Rescue, Careflight. High CO2 hampered efforts. **(Not ASF)**
April 2001	Sigma Cave, Wombeyan, NSW. One broken rib, another cracked rib and small crack in bone of toe. Minor rope burn to wrist, bruising to finger. **(Not ASF)**
Sep 2001	Colong Caves, NSW. ABC News item report. Dislocated shoulder reported. **(Not ASF)**
Oct 2001	Blue Water Holes, NSW. Canberra Times report, Fall 5m, back and internal injuries reported. **(Not ASF)**

CAVING LEADERSHIP STANDARDS
Alan Jevons

The proposal to write and develop training materials for the ASF Leadership Curriculum Standards was progressed earlier this year with discussions with a potential author/writer for these materials. Unfortunately due to illness of the potential writer no further discussions occurred. In addition, due to the impact of the non-renewal of the insurance the time of the convenor who shares this portfolio with the insurance commission was utilised for that commission.

The ASF was invited to participate in the biennial review of the National Outdoor Recreation Standards conducted and hosted by Sport & Recreation Training Australia (SRTA). Peter Kraehenbuehl (CEGSA and ASF Cave Diving Convenor) and myself attended a one day workshop which commenced this review process. Many hours of reading and redrafting has been done and all thanks should go to Peter for taking on this burden. Through this process the ASF has provided to SRTA proposed national Cave Diving Standards which they will consider.

CODES AND GUIDELINES REVIEW
Evalt Crabb

Code of Ethics and Conservation, Minimal Impact Caving Code:
The review of the above codes has proceeded and the full proposal for both codes will be ready for distribution December 01/January 02. This is, unfortunately, too late for meaningful discussion at the coming ASF Council meeting; the need for change is not urgent, as the existing codes still appear to be generally acceptable. The envisaged minor changes do not alter the original intent of the codes but are changed forms of expression to make them appear more purposive than prescriptive.

The catalyst to the review, the issue of bolt laddering, has not been specifically mentioned as it is only one of many climbing techniques, is rarely undertaken and offers no outstanding threat.

Cave Numbering and Nomenclature Code:
Details of the proposed changes and their rationale is now on hand and will be distributed during December 2001. Although there are many proposed changes only some ASF members are concerned about details of this code. Discussion and agreement may be achieved quickly.

HELICTITE
Susan White

No report received –Editor overseas for the last few months.

INSURANCE
Alan Jevons

2001 has proven to be a tumultuous year for the Commission. In early June our then Broker received notice from our insurer of six years, Triton Underwriting Agency, that they will not be offering insurance cover to the Federation as of the expiry on 30th June, 2001. Subsequently the Broker advised the ASF Executive.

The search commenced immediately for insurance cover. However, our Broker was unable to obtain from their associate insurers any cover for the Federation. By this time June had passed. A search for a new broker commenced who was able to source insurer's interested in our market area. Several members of the Executive and a couple of individual members assisted this search. We had brokers searching the world for cover as the Australian insurer's tightened there risk exposures and declined to offer insurance.

It was not until September that appropriate policies could be sourced and discussions commenced on the finer details of cover. Resulting in offers being received unfortunately with premium values of some 400% increase over our previous year premium. The ASF Executive then put the proposal to members for the funding of the increase which was approved in early November.

The outlook for insurance is not conducive to a decrease in premium amounts. The whole recreation community in Australia has been affected in a similar manner. The ASF is involved in the wider recreation community via it's membership of the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA) and it's various state bodies and via this avenue lobbying for legislation changes and discussions of the potential for a National Outdoor Insurance Scheme sponsored by ORCA are being actively investigated.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Vacant

JOURNAL
Angus Macoun

No report received.

LIBRARY
Cathy Brown

Another quiet year for personal reasons. A couple of sessions of accessioning & shelving were held. Photocopies of several missing issues of publications were obtained - thank you to SUSS & KSS. Offers of donations of some material were received by John Dunkley and are currently being negotiated - this included a collection of cave maps, and some material of archival importance related to the foundation of ASF.

Thank you to all those clubs who regularly supply their newsletters, and also for the special reports received on karst research and karst management, notably from SRGWA.

Recommendations:

1. That the Council allows $100 for library storage materials next year. We need some plastic folders and sleeves to help preserve some of the older material, and one off items, and need some more pamphlet boxes for the newer journals. Also need a few floppy disks for easy exchange of library catalogue updates.

2. Following on from receipt of material we consider to be of archival importance, I would like to invite clubs to consider what archival material the ASF should retain, and where? eg Council minutes, old constitutions, conservation campaign material, old club records, newspapers clippings (etc) relating to ASF members, and so on. Is the library the place to keep this material?

I hope to generate some discussion on this issue over the next 12 months and report back through Australian Caver, and to the next Council meeting.

PUBLICATIONS
Angus Macoun

No report received

SURVEY AND MAPPING STANDARDS
Ken Grimes

As usual, little activity. No queries this year. No significant costs for 2000. No expected major costs for 2001.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORTS 2000

CONSERVATION
New South Wales Co-convenor – Keir Vaughan-Taylor

Colong and Tuglow:
The National Parks and Wildlife Service wrote to caving groups informing them of a permit fee about $40 for Colong Cave and Tuglow. The permit scheme was supported because it encouraged responsible groups however some people feel the "user pays" system may fail to get community support. This raises concerns for the environmental concerns for both caves which in the past have suffered badly from vandalism by uneducated groups. In recent years Environmentalism and education seemed to have improved the situation at both caves. Hopefully this situation will not be reversed. The Parks Service has not yet actually demanded a fee from any of the caving groups.

Kempsey:
During the Yessabah court case my solicitors suggested to the limestone quarry operation, David Mitchell Melcann, that the hill adjacent to Yessabah, Gowings Hill would be a suitable alternative to the Yessabah limestone. At that time the mining company felt that the limestone was unsuitable. Recently however we have been asked to visit and identify any caves on Gowings Hill. They are apparently intending to mine the hill but a promising to avoid any of the caves. I would imagine that any quarry operation has the expertise to do this however I will be visiting the area in January to investigate this situation further.

Jenolan:
Scientific work at Jenolan Caves has virtually ceased at Jenolan Caves. The Jenolan Caves scientific officer Mia Thurgate left apparently in unhappy circumstances for a more lucrative career in the United States leaving a void regarding co-ordination of all speleological projects and the management of science at Jenolan in general. There is no official announcement yet about the future of this important position.

The speleological liaison committee is attempting to readdress conservation issues, including access conditions after three years of missed meetings. The Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust has banned all caving at Jenolan allegedly for fear that ASF and various groups have public liability insurance that does not protect the JCRT. There have been zero claims against the JCRT by speleological groups in forty years of caving. According to the JCRT minutes a deal has been made with scouting groups to allow them to abseil and cave at Borenore Caves.

Survey work mapping Wiburds Cave has terminated because of the caving ban although the map was almost finished. There is one unknown lead in the cave to be explored. There are between four and five kilometres of cave surveyed and ready to be drawn up.

Wellington:
Replanting of indigenous plants and trees is under way across Wellington Hill. Weeds continue to be a problem with cactus returning around the entrance of Cathedral Cave. A re-furbishment of Cathedral Cave and a management plan is to be conducted soon. Mike Augy retired fossil enthusiast has purchased one of the houses next to Wellington Caves and donated the premises to the council for the purposes of preparing and displaying fossils. In McCavity divers discovered a strange organism believed to be a "biofilm" or a colony of bacteria. A video of the organism was taken showing a translucent column like structure about 20 cm long and 5cm wide containing a mysterious set of filaments. This bacterial colony has apparently grown in a very short time and in the space of a couple of weeks appears to have disappeared again.

CONSERVATION
Queensland Co-convenor – Peter Berrill

Mt Etna Caves National Park:
For the past twelve months the Mt. Etna Caves National Park Advisory Committee has been involved with the preparation of the new Management Plan following the inclusion of Cammoo Caves into the Park. The contractual arrangements between the National Heritage Trust and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have proven to be of great value in providing direction for the Advisory Committee for the future redevelopment of the Cammoo Site. Although there have been some problems with the management of the EPA in dealing with the terms of the contract, progress is slowly being made. Funding has been secured for the preparation of a Landscape Architectural plan of the area taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee which include, day use visitor facilities, an educational and interpretation centre, redevelopment of Chandelier and Flogged Horse Caves and a research centre for the karst associated sciences especially Palaeontology.

Relations between CQSS and Pacific Lime are still on a high with manager Chris White and myself being the back- bone of the Advisory Committee. Rehabilitation of the abandoned quarries of Mt.Etna is progressing well with the company standing by its commitments towards rehabilitation. Recently they have offered to rehabilitate a considerable portion the area knows as Pilkingtons' Quarry, which is now part of the National Park.

Chillagoe:
Mining has resumed around Tea Tree Cave. Tea Tree Cave is known for its fossil deposits and although it has National Park status, it has very little buffer area to protect it from disturbance of mining. Monitoring equipment has been placed within the cave and dialogue between the mining company and the Environmental Protection Agency has commenced. Mining has not encroached on the cave at this time.

Lawn Hill National Park – Riversleigh:
Souvenir vandalism has been occurring within the fossil deposits of Riversleigh. The EPA have announced the appointment of a Senior Ranger position which will provide a permanent on-ground presence that will enhance the protection of the area.

Blackbraes
The Blackbraes area is south of Undarra and also has a series of lava tubes. The EPA has also appointed a full-time Ranger to this area.

Mitchell-Palmer
CQSS continue with their assessment and recording of the area, however there is no progress on formal protection.

Information Exchange:
A clause has been included in the Management Plan for Mt Etna National Park providing for greater education of rangers managing karst areas, including closer liaison and exchange of information between those at Mt Etna, Chillagoe, Lawn Hill and Camooweal. This follows years of work in highlighting the importance of speleological work. It is pleasing that this message is filtering through to management authorities.

Mt. Etna Legal Documentation:
This past week I have received from CQSS solicitors the legal files relating to the Mt. Etna High Court Action. Because of previous problems with the University of Central Queensland, at this time I will not be lodging them with them although they have in archive all of CQSS records. The Question is what to do with them.

CONSERVATION
Tasmania Co-convenor – Arthur Clarke

Mt. Cripps

This issue was resolved during 2001. In 2000 Western Metals Resources Limited (based in Perth W.A.) sought an Exploration License (EL) to establish quarrying sites for limestone in the Mt. Cripps karst area (WNW of Cradle Mountain) in an area that lies within two kilometres or less from the recently closed Hellyer Mine site in NW Tasmania.

Following an earlier mediation session with the mining company and Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT), this EL area was reduced by two-thirds – removing most of the known karst features and caves from the EL – to a lesser 13sqkm application further west. This modified area, predominantly situated west of the Southwell River and the Southwell Inlet (into Lake Mackintosh), incorporated a limestone area with unconfirmed karst (rarely visited), partially buried by Quaternary sediments (glacial deposits).

Despite this down-sizing, in 2000 all three caving bodies variously maintained their objections to the exploration proposal for limestone quarrying sites, including that:

- This is a pristine untouched/ unlogged myrtle rainforest area in a region known to include areas of glaciated polygonal karst, archaeological sites and rare cave fauna;
- There are a number of known karst features including effluxes and a cave in the modified EL area (east of the Southwell Inlet in the northern arm of Lake Mackintosh);
- There has been no preliminary on-ground limestone geology or karst geomorphology assessment in the proposed (modified) area. ASF are maintaining that this assessment needs to be undertaken an independent person, not aligned to private or government mining interests and that caving bodies should have input into the personnel selection process (MRT maintain they would establish a Mineral Exploration Working Group assessment after an approved exploration work programme had been established following the granting of the EL.);
- There are already existing limestone quarry operations in the general area including Railton, from where product could be railed direct to the company mine site. There are also additional areas of possibly non-cavernous limestone that have not yet been investigated;
- 13 sq.km is still considered to be excessively large for a site that will supposedly have a 2million tonne quarry output;
- The viability/ possibility of the mineral extraction technique from the tailings dumps has still not been proven.

On January 11th, 2001, four of us were present at the Wivenhoe (Burnie) offices of Western Metals: the new Acting Manager (Andrew Platt), the MRT Registrar (Dennis Burgess), frank Salt (representing Savage River Caving Club) and Arthur Clarke (for ASF and STC). Although Western Metals are considering alternative supply options including limestone via rail from Goliath at Railton, their main concern relates to transportation costs – hence their preference to establish a limestone quarry site with short distance road haulage in the Mt Cripps area that adjoins heir present lease. We (ASF, SRCC & STC) agreed to support the EL provided that the following points of agreement or resolutions are included in the EL conditions:

1. Western Metals Resources Ltd may carry out activities involving the use of hand tools over the whole licence area prior to independent karst studies on target sites. Access to be existing tracks and/or foot (including access by boat on Lake Mackintosh);

2. Prior to the carrying out of any ground-breaking disturbing activity the licensee shall arrange for an independent karst study of the area(s) where the disturbance is planned. Disturbance includes sampling (other than hand collecting), drilling, costeaning, track construction and track upgrading;

3. The licensee shall liaise with the Savage River Caving Club and the Australian Speleological Federation before carrying out any activity on the licence; and

4. The caving clubs reserve the right to comment if the project moves to a mine feasibility and development approval phase.

ASF's involvement in the Mt Cripps case during 2001:
In January 2001 the ASF Executive decided that ASF could not afford to be involved in the case any further because of the potential cost. Despite ASF having some legal advice on standing from Sydney barrister Tim Moore, the Executive also felt that ASF might do itself a disfavour to itself in future hearings if we were unsuccessful in gaining standing this time around. ASF took the view that the EL should no longer be opposed, but that ASF should ensure there were adequate karst related guidelines and safeguards incorporated into the E.L., and also to maintain an option to oppose any future limestone mining proposals in the area.

As it happens, the matter seems to have been settled amicably and has settled down. However I am not entirely happy with the longer-term implications of the decision to withdraw from the case – see recommendation below.

Mt Cripps listed by Karst Waters Institute:
Shortly after signing off on the agreement described above, I received advice from the Karst Waters Institute (USA) that the nomination of Mt Cripps had been accepted for this year's KWI list of the Ten Most Endangered Karst Ecosystems of the world. Although listing has no legal foundation, it serves to strengthen our case and to draw wider attention to an issue which might otherwise have gone unnoticed on the mainland, never mind overseas.

Magnesite Mining Proposals in the Arthur-Pieman Region:
I have reported on this for the last few years – there is some rare magnesite karst and caves in the region on which Prof. Paul Williams reported a couple of years ago. Economic considerations appear to have shelved any for an indefinite period the establishment of a magnesium smelter site in Tasmania. However there is still aproposal by a commercial operator to establish a mineral water bottling plant at a warm spring site (within the magnesite).

Other Conservation Issues:
Problems at Hastings Caves with new development and non-relocation of toilets (currently situated beside a doline that list topographically upstream from the thermal springs); 4: possible proposed commercial development of wild caves at Mole Creek (Wet Cave and Honeycomb) following the closure of access to the sites by private landowners enforcing the rights of their "Centre-Of-Earth" titles. The cave entrances are located within parcels of land that form part of the Mole Creek Karst National Park, but the cave/s continue/s beyond these Park boundaries and under private land.

Resignation:
I informed the Executive during the year that I would be unable to continue in this role. Work towards my Master's degree has already been delayed by involvement in the Mt Cripps case and I really must devote my full time to that.

Recommendation:
In my report last year I sought funds from ASF to continue the Mt Cripps case and as described above, was unsuccessful. ASF should not be in a position where it cannot find $1,000 or so for an issue as straightforward as this one.

Perhaps ASF's recent registration as an Environmental Organisation will facilitate raising of funds for cases like Mt Cripps. However I think it is unwise to wait until these issues arise before addressing the problem I recommend that ASF build a permanent fund to enable such issues to be addressed as and when they arise.

CONSERVATION
Western Australia Co-convenor – Jay Anderson

Executive Summary:
The main conservation issues that currently exist within Western Australia are summarised below.

- Housing developments in the Southwest of the state (from north of Perth in Wanneroo to as far north as Jurien Bay) continue to have significant impacts on karst areas and caves in particular. Several known cave entrances were destroyed when a road, to a new housing development, was built over them at Carabooda just north of Perth. The Presidents of the Clubs have met with the local City of Wanneroo to discuss the karst in the area and to plan a co-ordinated approach-involving liaison regarding areas under development in karst regions. Greater liaison with the Environmental Protection Authority is also planned to ensure further caves and karst areas are not impacted. There is a huge task of acting to protect the karst areas, as decisions of the last 40 odd years in "land specification" are affecting the current development and impact of Perth's expanding population pressures on the karst.

- Cape Range – The legal action of the A.S.F. (that was supported by the E.D.O.) regarding the proposed mining leases covering 82 sq km of Cape Range was concluded in the Wardens Court in Perth on 10 November 2000. The Warden made his recommendation to the Minister for Mines on 9 February 2001. The mining company had also referred the proposed mine to the E.P.A. for evaluation. Objections to the level of evaluation were lodged, with us recommending for a change in the level of assessment. The outcome was that the level of assessment was changed (although not to the level we suggested). We are now waiting on the proponent to release their environmental review document for public submission, at which time we will make further comments in a formal submission. Additionally, through the campaigning of other conservation groups, the public is becoming more aware of the proposed resort at Mauds Landing, north of Coral Bay, on the Cape Range coast. There is now more support for the A.S.F. and W.A. caving clubs objection to the proposed mine as other groups are now aware that the limestone from the proposed quarry is for the proposed marina at Mauds Landing.

- The Department of Conservation and Land Management (C.A.L.M.) was divided into two departments: One to manage Forest's, the other to manage National Parks and Reserves. The body that previously managed lands held by C.A.L.M. (tbe N.P.N.C.A.) was reorganised and is now called the Conservation Commission. They will be approached to ensure that future management plans adequately cover the specific needs of caves and karst. The N.P.N.C.A. had previously indicated that the appointment of a State Karst Officer was being considered. Further approaches, to the Conservation Commission regarding this issue, will be made once a suitable proposal is developed. There are several members working on plans for the State Karst Officer proposal and methods of lobbying Government for this position.

I have held the position of W.A.S.G. Conservation Officer for two years. I am also the W.A.S.G. representative on two Government Cave Management Committee's, both of which meet bi-monthly –The Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and The Yanchep National Park. During 2000, and with the realisation that the conservation position required more than one person, W.A.S.G. approved my proposal for a Conservation sub-committee. This group currently consists of 4-5 self-nominated people and meets monthly to discuss the specific issues that arise and to actively work towards the conservation of caves and karst. After discussions with other clubs, I am pleased to state that S.R.G.W.A. has nominated a representative to the committee. The Conservation Committee will now represent all W.A. clubs and several members will jointly be the A.S.F. conservation convenors.

Finally, a big "Thank You" to all cavers who have been interested in conservation issues and who have volunteered their time for various discussions, meetings and projects, especially to Rauleigh Webb who is willing to share what he has learnt and who is able to provide valuable consultation on an informal basis to anyone who asks and is willing to listen.

1. South of Perth: Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (L.N.N.P.):

1.1 Cave Management and C.M.A.C.:

The Cave Manager for the Department of Conservation and Land Management has been managing the caves within the National Park, including restricted access and permit system caves. Additionally, the Cave Management Advisory Committee (C.M.A.C.) meets bi-monthly to advise The Department and the Caves Manager on cave management issues. Under The Department's organization, various Projects have been carried out during the past year – these include – monitoring of water levels, environmental monitoring of air quality, track marking, installation of hazard signs and installation of infrastructure such as boardwalks or stairs. It has been reported that the income from public cave entry and the cave/abseil/climbing permit system is covering the day-to-day operating costs.

However, there is a HUGE list of projects that need to occur (replace gates, signs, stairs, pathways; increase staff monitoring of caves, installation of toilets). Additionally, where conservation or rehabilitation work needs to occur, cavers and volunteers are utilised for labour. However, it is disappointing to see that the issue of research or investigative assessments are not a consideration due to the current lack of funding. It is felt that there needs to be more provision of funding to allow the much needed work and research in the areas caves.

During 2001, the contract expired for Edith Cowan University to provide Leadership training for the C.L.A.P. course (Cave Leadership Assessment Panel). The Land manager is now organising and facilitating the leadership training. As previously reported, with the introduction of Formal Leader Training, the number of leaders went from about 500 (in the self-assessment method) to the current number of about 70 leaders(some of whom are also A.S.F. trip leaders). It appears that there are few participants on the courses (3-5 people), which make the course difficult to run more than several times a year. This basic course provides information about speleology, cave conservation, local karst and some leadership skills to Outdoor Leaders wishing to take participants to a certain category of caves within the National park. It is considered by some that there needs to be some more ongoing assessment or training of leaders, and that encouraging leaders to belong to A.S.F. caving clubs would improve the attitudes and behaviours of Leaders.

There was one major cave conservation incident during the year. A significant piece of formation called the "Christmas Tree" in Dingo cave was damaged. (This is a tiny crystal formation in a gour pool in a decorated part of the cave). It appeared that there was a minor incident within a group of teenagers where the leader's attention was diverted from the larger part of the group. During the trip, the formation was broken, apparently accidentally. Upon the reporting of this incident, there was much concern amongst the caving community, and a large amount of discussion on how groups should be managed and specific minimal impact caving techniques that should be used by visitors to caves. It is important to note that the area was track marked and signs in the area should have indicated the significance of the area. However, it appears that the track marking had been previously tampered with (and not reported to management) and the "no-go" sign's had been removed. The combination of factors led to light disciplinary action and a heightened awareness of the need for both regular management visits to caves and improved leader education. The Formation was able to be returned to its original position, however it is not the same and it is missing most of its crystals. Once again it was cavers who assisted to repair track marking and the formation.

It is hoped that as a result of this incident; all cavers, cave managers and cave visitors have been able to reconsider both their attitudes towards caves and their impact on caves. It is my opinion that cavers, trip leaders and cave managers need to take more action to ensure that such damage to caves does not occur in the future. One suggestion is that trip leaders carry track markers and fishing line to replace missing markers in the cave where required. It is also extremely important that all individuals are aware of their impact on caves and that they are familiar with and abide by minimal impact caving techniques. As a result of the above incident, the Caves Manager has implemented a specific "Caves Monitoring" system where there is regular assessment of; permit system compliance and visitor impact; environmental resource and visitor impact; and environmental monitoring. Regular management inspections of caves will occur to check the impacts on the cave and other factors such as track marking. The implementation of this process is a great improvement on the current situation.

1.2 Track and Route Marking:

I can report that caves within the Permit System (where public have access with accredited and approved leaders) are either track marked or utilise a route marking reflection system. Caves within the Restricted access and locked section are track marked according to work trip proposals and caver recommendations. Generally this system is maintained by cavers, volunteers or C.A.L.M employees when damages are observed or reported. It is my opinion that, although cavers and land managers are aware of the human impact on caves and minimal impact caving practices, there still is a lot of work that can be done and actions that can be undertaken to minimise our impact on caves.

It would be my recommendation that a lot more caves are route or track marked and also that consideration be given to utilising a different method of track marking (where the reflector is more resistant to humidity and therefore lasts longer). It would be excellent if every caver could carry a selection of markers (or tape) to allow for immediate track delineation or to define a portion of cave that needs protecting. The Education of cave users and cave managers about their direct and indirect impacts on caves is a continuous process!!!

1.3 Widening of Caves Road:

The Main Roads department in Western Australia has been planning for a lengthy period of time to widen Caves Road in the South-West of Western Australia (from Yallingup to Augusta). This road has become the major access road to many of the key features of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (such as Calgardup Cave, as well as tourist facilities such as Lake Cave, Mammoth Cave and the Caveworks Interpretive Centre). It also passes over a number of known caves and lies very close (less than 10m) to a number of others. It appears that portions of Caves Road will be relocated, at some stage, to avoid "Black Spots" and also a number of caves. It is reported that the intent is that the road will not be widened in the National Park, and that any possible changes would be in consultation with the land managers/National park.

2. To the East:

2.1 South Coast Management Plan:

The situation has not changed significantly from previous reports. The required legislation is still on it's way. The management plan for the area is almost due for renewal. I am advised that almost none of the work recommended in the previous management plan has been completed and that none of the proposed National Parks or reserves (to protect caves in the Nullarbor region) have been declared.

2.2. Nullarbor World Heritage Listing:

There appears to have been no progress on this issue, since the election of the new Government placed the proposed listing in limbo. No new developments have occurred and this area's status needs to be raised with the Government again. I am advised that the previous state government was opposed to the World Heritage Listing for the Nullarbor and that the new state government is more likely to listen to the proposal. I would recommend that contact be made with both the W.A. state government and the S.A. state government regarding this issue.

2.3 Commercial Activity impacting on caves on the Nullarbor:

It has come to our attention that Commercial activity on the Nullarbor has been increasing. The affects of this are not yet known, however Television and individual reports indicated that there are some commercial operators who are visiting this region (caves such as Old Homestead). Discussions with Land managers and D.O.L.A. reveal that the land managers don't consider this an issue and have little capacity to control access to the area. It is considered that public visitation to this area is a future issue that will need to addressed.

3. North of Perth:

3.1 Yanchep National Park:

During mid 1999, the Yanchep National Park Caves Advisory Committee was formed. This was in accordance with the Park Management Plan involving "Cave Management". This committee has recently developed a set of "Guidelines" for cavers, "Objectives for caving Permit system", and a "Code of Practice for Caving in Yanchep National Park". Additionally, the caves have been categorised into various categories according to access. A manual cave visitor register has been formalised to record cave visitations. It has also been determined (due to a wide variety of reasons – primarily to protect the cave) that some caves will be gated and locked. Members of our clubs have been involved in the process of assessing each cave separately and recommending appropriate gate types. It is anticipated that C.A.L.M. staff will make the gates and the caving club members will assist in the installation of the gates.

It has been known for some time that the water levels in the caves and caves streams has been declining over the years. The Park staff have been monitoring the habitats and numbers of amphipods in caves. It is also understood that the Waters and Rivers Commission has been pumping water to certain areas in attempts to maintain the stygofauna habitats. It appears that the fauna are now being kept alive in artificial conditions in several caves. It is unclear how many amphipods are remaining in the cave environment now that the cave streams and root matt communities have been affected by the lowered water table.

It is known that the Gnangara Mound is at low levels. There are plans to selectively reduce the Pine Tree Plantations in the area and to replace them with native vegetation. However, this process needs to occur immediately, not over 20-30 years as is currently proposed. The Government Department responsible for managing the State's water supply acknowledges that the water table has lowered, however it is stated that it is unclear whether this is a result of climatic conditions or whether it is a seasonal issue. I am advised that there was research conducted in the early 1990's that indicated that the water table drop was directly related to the pine plantations. Regardless of the cause, the low water table impacts on the caves and the effect of this on the cave fauna is at a critical stage. Further action regarding this issue needs to be considered.

3.2 Carabooda Area:

It was reported last year on the proposed development of a privately owned block at Carabooda, called "Emerald Valley". Unfortunately the land owner and developer did not consider the importance of caves during the development of this land. There were 23 caves and karst features located, explored and documented on the land proposed for development. A total number of 8 caves were directly impacted on by the development. Despite the objections of local members, nothing was done (by either the local Council or the State Government) to address the issue.

Furthermore, there is a proposed road through the Emerald Valley area called Alkimos Drive. This road passes next to a recreation reserve and adjacent to Reserve No. 24637 (an old limestone quarry site). The area is currently native Tuart bushland and contains a large number of caves. It is of great concern that the road is planned to go straight over a number of significant caves.

One cave called Koala Cave has been known to contain palaeontological remains. More recently, this cave was visited and further important bones have been found. It is reported that this site is the only substantial mega fauna site in the Perth Metropolitan Area. The following fauna was found at Koala Cave during September 2001: Sthenurus pales and Sthenurus brownei (large extinct kangaroo's), Vombatus hacketti (extinct wombat), Wonambi naracoortensis (extinct giant python at 4-6m long) and the Phaseolarctus cinereea (Koala). It is clear that this area is significant and needs to be protected.

There are two other areas nearby that are currently under plans for further development: Lot 51 Walding Road and Bernard Road. Members will be continuing to express concern regarding these proposed developments to the City of Wanneroo and the State Government.

Letters will continue to be sent to appropriate authorities indicating the impact of development on caves and calling for the environmental assessment processes to be changed to ensure that such a situation will not occur again in the future. Additionally, we will continue to request that the specific proposal of Alkimos Drive road be relocated to protect the caves in the region. Many thanks to Lex Bastian for his continued attempts to draw notice to this matter with authorities and on raising the awareness of local cavers to the impact of development in our "backyard".

3.3 Two Rocks & Wanneroo Area:

The City of Wanneroo corresponded with the caving clubs during 2000, regarding a request for cave location details and a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the S.E.S., Police, City of Wanneroo and Caving Clubs. The main issues involved were regarding environmental management and safety issues around the caves in the area. Several Joint meetings between the clubs resolved that specific cave locations could not be safely exchanged or kept in a Government Department. As such, there is a plan for a co-ordinated approach-involving liaison between the City of Wanneroo and Caving Clubs regarding areas under development in karst regions.

Additionally, discussions were held regarding the sharing of cave locations for safety issues and the consultation and involvement of cavers in a rescue with other agencies such as the S.E.S. and the Police. Greater liaison with the Environmental Protection Authority is also planned, by caving clubs, to ensure further caves and karst areas are not impacted. There is a huge task of acting to protect the karst areas, as decisions of the last 40 odd years in "land specification" are affecting the current development and impact of Perth's expanding population pressures on the karst.

The northwards extension of the Freeway and Wanneroo Road Upgrades may also impact on karst areas. This issue is being investigated further. The extent of the impact of the new developments on the boundary of the National Park is also an issue that is being investigated.

Development subdivisions in areas such as reported in previous reports (the Tokyu Corporation) continue to rise. The City of Wanneroo has a Karstic Policy stating that new developments need to undergo a cave and karst assessment first. It is anticipated that "cavers" will be allowed access to the caves to make appropriate comment on potential impacts on the caves and karst. There are several caving club members who have been utilised for this process of visiting a property and making an assessment of the karst features present. Where areas are assessed by the E.P.A. and are applied for under the environmental review process, the A.S.F. will continue to provide submissions.

3.4 East of Jurien - Drovers Cave National Park:

Old River Cave - The land clearance adjacent to the National Park took place during the year 2000. This large land clearance caused concerns to be raised to the Environmental Protection Authority and may affect future applications for land clearances. At this stage, the impact of the land clearance on Old River Cave does not appear to have been assessed.

Drover's Cave - A meeting occurred in 1999 between the A.S.F. Co-Convenors and CALM to discuss the removal of large quantities of concrete blocking solution pipe cave entrances and the construction of a new gate for Drovers Cave. It was hoped that both of these acts would restore airflow to the cave and possibly attract back the bats that once resided in the cave. This proposal was sent to CALM in late 2000 and a response was received during mid 2001. The Land manager agreed with most of the proposals and further discussions will be undertaken regarding actions that will need to occur to implement the proposal.

3.5 South of Jurien - Coastal Area –Jurien/Cervantes:

The northward growth of Perth continues to impact on the coast and associated karst features. There is a planned coast road between Two Rocks/Lancelin and Cervantes. The coastal localities of Wedge and Grey have been cited in development plans as "attractive locations on the Turquoise Coast". It appears that land to the east of Jurien has already been subdivided with one known cave being involved. There is a current proposal for the "Turquoise Coast Development, Jurien Bay". This area is an area of 2,006 hectares that contains 1,508 hectares of bushland, and is bounded to the south by the Hill River, and to the east by Indian Ocean Drive. The existence of caves or karst features in this area of land is yet to be determined.

3.6 Cape Range:

Please refer to previous reports for the background and specific details of this issue. The legal action of the A.S.F. (that was supported by the E.D.O) regarding the proposed mining leases on the Cape Range was concluded in the Wardens Court in Perth on 10 November 2000. The Warden made his recommendation (to the Minister for Mines on 9 February 2001), having accepted the evidence of several witnesses called by the A.S.F. The Warden found that the Cape Range is a unique karst system, outstanding on world scale in terms of its location, geological structure, subterranean fauna and it's integrity. He also agreed that the Cape Range contained unique and extraordinary subterranean fauna, and that it was likely that unique fauna would be destroyed by a mining operation. The Warden also noted a high potential for significant undiscovered anthropological sites. The Warden accepted that the Cape Range contained World Heritage values and that mining activity would be a "significant negative factor" in future decisions regarding World Heritage nomination or listing.

Specific Recommendations of the Warden included: The mining lease should only be granted for the area presently proposed to be mined (thereby rejecting 99.98% of the area applied for); The mining lease should only cover an area that is necessary for the proponent to conduct an efficient mining operation; This small mining lease should only be granted if the E.P.A. finds that the proposal is environmentally acceptable; The E.P.A. assessment of the proposal to mine should be made before the Minister makes his decision (contrary to current policy); If it is found that the mine should not be sited where it is presently proposed, then the applicant should not put the mine in any other site within the lease area without going through the process again. It appears that the Warden was keen to minimise the risk to the environmental and World Heritage Values of the area and it is a positive result for the A.S.F.

The mining company had also referred the proposed mine to the E.P.A. for evaluation. Objections to the level of evaluation (Public Environmental Review - P.E.R.) were lodged, with us recommending for a change to a Proposal Unlikely to Environmentally Acceptable (P.U.E.A.). The outcome was that the level of assessment was changed from a P.E.R. to an Environmental Review and Management Program (E.R.M.P). Once again, this is a positive outcome, and the Minister allowed an extended period of public comment (10 weeks instead of 8 weeks).

Additionally, through the campaigning of other conservation groups, the public is becoming more aware of the proposed resort at Mauds Landing. This is north of Coral Bay, on the west of the Cape Range coast. It is apparent that the area is a significant site for a large variety of marine creatures and that the area will be impacted on by the proposed development. The limestone for the proposed marina at Mauds Landing is to come from the proposed quarry. There is now more support for the A.S.F. and the W.A. caving clubs objection to the proposed mine, as other groups are now aware of the two issues.

It is known from past fauna studies that there is a large variety of troglobitic fauna in the Cape Range area. Preliminary information regarding the fauna collected (from drill holes placed on the proposed mining lease) indicates several possible new species. The report indicates that there are several new genus and species of troglobitic fauna identified. One species had not been previously found in the Cape Range or elsewhere, while another is a new family record for Australia. It will be interesting to see what happens with these results.

We are now waiting on the proponent to release their environmental review document for public submission, at which time we will make further comments in a formal submission. However, it is the Minister for Mines, who will have the final decision regarding the granting of the mining leases. Finally, we really appreciate the huge amounts of work that was undertaken by the lawyer's of the Environmental Defender's Office and their staff in the preparation and execution of this case. Whatever the outcome of this case the A.S.F. will need to continue to oppose limestone mining on the Cape Range peninsula, call for the Government to remove the strategic limestone mining purpose from the proposed 5(h) reserve, enlarge the Cape Range National Park and advocate for World Heritage Listing.

4. Comments on W.A. Cave Management Practices.

Our large state has many caving areas and a huge variety of landowners and cave managers. The huge distances involved often make it difficult or impossible for all cave visitation to be monitored or controlled. In some areas there are Government Advisory committees that consist of representatives of various user groups of the area. Whilst this is seemingly a "good idea" and allows a variety of groups to have a "voice" in the management of caves, there are some concerns about this process. I find it difficult to see how individuals with little caving experience or little cave management knowledge can be expected (or able) to make decisions regarding caves. For example, some groups have economic and political vested interests and may advocate for inappropriate development of caves or higher trip participant numbers, which may not be in the best interests of the cave. There is some pressure for the development of multiple routes through sensitive areas of caves to increase the interpretive or adventure experience of some client groups.

Additionally, in some areas, existing Management groups that are specifically for "Cave Management" are combined with other small user groups such as climbers and abseilers. This combination of groups to make advisory decisions about a range of outdoor areas leads to the problem of individuals inevitably lacking knowledge in a certain area and thus affecting decision making. I do have a concern that representation on Cave Management Committee's, on some occasions, is inadequate in representing the "best interests of the cave". It is my belief that Cave Managers and Advisors need knowledge, education and experience in caves and in cave management. The specific focus is necessary for the conservation and care of caves. It would be my recommendation/ preference that individuals on such committee's had appropriate knowledge or experience to enable them to make informative and advised decisions regarding the karst features of an area.

I have come to the viewpoint that the ideal and future form of cave management would involve a State Karst Officer (S.K.O.)who had a background in caves and karst and could make appropriate decisions regarding each karst area in our state. This individual could advise Government and other organizations on karst management issues. I would like to report that the W.A. clubs are currently in the process of developing the proposal for a S.K.O. There are several members working on plans for the S.K.O. proposal and methods of lobbying Government for this position. Further approaches to Government will be made once a suitable proposal is developed. Some Local Councils that we have had preliminary discussions with indicate that they would support such a proposal. It is important that our Karst areas are acknowledged as important, precious & non-renewable. We need to do all that we can to preserve what we have and to manage the caves in our Country.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES 2000

DOCUMENTATION - SOFTWARE SELECTION & DEVELOPMENT GROUP
John Dunkley

Mike Lake has continued to do most of the work this year, for which I am most grateful as my attention has been elsewhere. The current Web-based Karst Index Database has been operational for a year without any problems and despite the old data (1985), is a major attraction on the ASF Web-site. A Discussion Paper on the ASF Updatable Web-based Karst Index Database was circulated to State Coordinators in October. Because this was based on earlier discussions including outcomes from a meeting of State Coordinators at Bathurst a year ago, we expect to obtain by the end of 2001 a consensus on the procedural aspects of entering data into an updatable Database. The programming then is fairly straightforward and we expect the system itself to be operational early in 2002. The real work of updating can then start.

Motion:
That when organising updating procedures, all State Coordinators ensure the widest possible involvement of knowledgeable people, regardless of club affiliation.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PRODUCTS
Chris Dunne, Evalt Crabb

Although there has been loose discussion on the need for a new code on Intellectual Property, there has not been sufficient discussion to proceed at this time. Discussion and submissions are welcome.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
John Dunkley

At the outset I have to say that, critically important as insurance is to all of us, it is strategically undesirable to have so much Executive effort diverted to dealing with that one issue. Action on all of the issues below was postponed or delayed by the insurance business – we must determine that matter urgently, and move on.

Registration as an Environmental Organisation:
Following the Constitutional amendments made at the last Council Meeting we completed the required paperwork and have now been registered by Environment Australia as an Environmental Organisation.

Conservation:
Although ASF had a creditable win on the Cape Range issue in WA. We won significant concessions on Mt Cripps in mediation but had to withdraw support for court action for lack of funds. This has been a perennial problem – what can we do to prepare better for such issues?

Intellectual Property:
In previous years this was flagged as a sleeper but is rapidly emerging as an important matter with 4 clubs in the last two years approaching me about issues relating to copyright and other intellectual property issues. In conjunction with CSS some comprehensive legal advice was obtained on a *pro bono* basis from a major national legal firm, on several issues relating to cave data, maps and the Karst Index Database. The legal advice is available for perusal by member clubs on a 'need-to-know' basis for specific issues, and one club has already availed itself of this service..

Public Relations:
The achievements of speleologists in conservation and management in Australia have been remarkable. However several incidents in the last few years (not of our making) suggest that ASF and member clubs need to put some spade work into improving the public image of their activities. Some years ago the Boy Scouts became Scouting Australia, while the former Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union is now Birds Australia. So, what's in a name? An image. How about Caves Australia?

Recommendations:
High priority be given in 2002 for;
- Projects consistent with our status as a Environmental Organisation, including means of adequately funding conservation issues.
- An authoritative article on intellectual property be prepared for Australian Caver.
- Target public relations, including preparation of articles or discussion papers

ASF WEBSITE
Carol Layton

Objectives of the ASF website (http://www.caves.org.au) were:
1. Access to general information on ASF & Australian caving for members of the public
2. Reference for members - access to policy & information about ASF

I hope that the website that I put together has met these objectives and conveys the correct image of ASF as well as reflecting the environmental aims of ASF ("to safeguard the karst heritage of Australia") and still strike a balance between the various objectives of ASF, that is, recreational, scientific, conservation. I am grateful to Peter Matthews for the huge amount of content from the previous site and Ken Grimes for some pointers about his massive survey and mapping material.

Since the website was unveiled some very nice feedback has come my way but one criticism I did get was that not all ASF information/policies are online. This is slowly changing but I would like the following to happen so that the ASF website is valuable and utilised.

Recommendations:
1. All information on the website is up to date and accurate. If anyone should see an error then I hope that you would take the time to email me so that I can fix it up. One example is the contact details. Please have a look and let me know if there are any changes that should take place.
2. There are many commissions with no information on offer such as Awards, Bibliography, Cave and Karst Management, Cave Diving, Cave Leadership Standards, International Relations, Library. I would like some information; a half page would be fine. Helictite and Australian Caver could have a more informative profile as well as a scanned cover of each one.

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

12.3 **Motion for an amendment to the ASF Code for Karst and Cave Numbering:**
Moved by Peter Dykes, NSW State Documentation Coordinator, Convenor NSW Speleological Council's Cave Numbering and Documentation Committee

A REVISION OF THE ASF CODE FOR KARST AND CAVES NUMBERING

CHANGE 1 - add the following paragraph under the title:

Individuals and member clubs of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc have developed the karst and cave numbering system outlined below over many years. The system has become essential to the documentation of the karst heritage of Australia. The Federation has the prime responsibility to coordinate and administer the system on behalf of Australia's scientific and speleological communities.

Rationale:
The above clearly establish ASF ownership of the code and its responsibility to coordinate and administer the code. This is important because there have been cases where government agencies have felt that administration of the numbering system is there responsibility and not ASF's. Also its is important that ASF clearly establishes that this is a national system and it is only appropriate national organisation who can administer the system.

CHANGE 2 - add the following contents after change 1:

CONTENTS

Rationale:
In the original version of the code passed in January 1979, no content list was included. However it should be noted that in version published in ASF Newletter No. 86 on pages 5 to 16 there is a contents list. In any case if the proposed revisions are approved a new revised contents list is required.

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

By numbering we mean the use of an alphanumeric code which enables identification of every karst feature in Australia by a unique combination of numbers and letters; while at the same time keeping such combinations as short as is reasonably possible for economy of space and time in recording, and also to facilitate memorising them.

This Code of Practice formalises existing Australian methods and at the same time, establishes practical and necessary limits to facilitate the systematic registration, consolidation and retrieval of cave data from throughout Australia.

In the text which follows, the word "cave" should be taken to include any cave or karst feature deemed of speleological significance such as to require its own unique number.

CHANGE 3 - delete the existing Section 2 and replace with the following new Section 2 (Stability):

2. STABILITY

As well as being a means of avoiding the unnecessary proliferation of cave names the prime purpose of numbering is to provide identification, which is *systematic*, *unique* and *permanent*. It is these last two properties which enable consistent unambiguous reference to any one cave in scientific or other literature over an indefinitely extended time span. The achievement of this objective requires a well-organised approach to numbering at the State level and long-term dedication from individual cave numberers.

Rule 1 *Once assigned, the number of a feature should never be changed.*

Rule 2 *Every effort should be made to allocate a number prior to publication of a feature's details.*

Rationale:
Rules 3, 4 and 5 in the current code have been deleted from Section 2. These rules and the issues related to them have been transferred to Section 10 (Administration) where it is felt they more appropriately placed.

CHANGE 4 - delete the existing Section 3 and replace with the following new Section 3 (Structure of Number):

3. STRUCTURE OF NUMBER

Rule 3 *The structure of a cave number shall be as follows*

State code	*Area code*	*Serial no.*

Where:
State code *is 1 numeric character*
Area code *is up to 3 alphabetic and/or numeric characters*
Serial number *is 1 or more numeric characters*
and
No serial number repeats within its area code.
No area code repeats within its State code.

In normal usage the cave number may be abbreviated to just the area code and serial number unless ambiguity could result.

The remainder of this Section describes how each of the three components of a cave number should be built up.

3.1 State Code

The purpose of the State code is to identify the State where the cave is located and to permit independence between area codes in different States.

Rule 4 *The State code should be selected from the following numbers.*

2	*NSW and ACT*	*6*	*Western Australia*
3	*Victoria*	*7*	*Tasmania*
4	*Queensland*	*8*	*Northern Territory*
5	***South Australia***	***9***	***Territories and islands administrated by the Commonwealth of Australia.***

3.2 Area code

The purpose of the area code is to identify the area where the cave is located and to permit independence between serial numbers in different areas.

Rule 5: *The letter(s) and/or number(s) chosen for the area code should follow the following conventions*

1. *Where the convention is to derive the prefix code from the area name, then the first letter of the code should correspond with the first letter of the area name. Any remaining letters should be as few as possible and derived from other letters within the area name.*
2. *Where the convention is to derive the prefix code from a source other than the area name, such as a map number, then the letter(s) and/or number(s) chosen should follow a consistent pattern and reflect the order in which the letter(s) and/or number(s) appear within the original source.*
3. *In the second convention, individual states may chose to highlight the use of this method to determine the prefix code, by prefixing the code with the letter "Z".*
4. *In both conventions only the upper case of the letters are used.*

Area code examples: B for Bungonia, MC for Mole Creek, I6E Sydney General Cave Area, Z5F Clermont.

The determination of areas and their geographical boundaries has been largely left to each state to derive. Consequently there is a wide variance in what constitutes an "area" and what type of cave features are documented in each area type. Basically an area will normally fall into one of three categories - localised, large tract or background. Each state uses one or more of these area categories to document its caves. The discussion below explains these categories and the system that has been adopted in each state to number its caves.

3.2.1 Localised Area

This is the type most commonly encountered: an outcrop, or series of outcrops, forms a natural grouping with a natural name and a manageable size; the area boundary is conveniently defined as the limits of that outcrop or deposit, and it is assigned an individual area code.

3.2.2 Large Tract Area

Where the host rock forms a large continuous tract it may be more convenient to subdivide it into several more manageable "areas", each with a separate area code. If so, the following should be observed

Rule 6 *A subdividing boundary in a large tract area should conform to the following*

1 It should if possible form a natural division.

2 It should be clearly definable and locatable on the ground.

3 Any visible feature used as a boundary should be chosen with regard for its permanence of location.

4 It should not be crossed, or likely to be crossed, by any cave system.

Comments

1. Surface divides can be unsatisfactory boundaries in karst areas because they are not infrequently crossed by underground drainage and karst systems. However they can be extremely useful if the surface divide boundary is well off the karst, because they are easily locatable on both maps and in the field.
2. Arbitrary straight lines on maps may be extremely difficult to locate on the ground in sparsely featured country. Local government boundaries may be useful, however in the long term they are rarely permanent; but they do have the advantage of being reasonably locatable on the ground.
3. Boundary lines which get shifted (eg. Road re-alignment) can cause anomalous cave numbers. On the other hand it is not really a serious problem if there is a small overlap in areas of poor definition, so long as each cave has a clear and permanent physical identification and its location is unambiguously recorded.
4. Rivers and streams can form good boundary lines because they are permanent, easily locatable on maps, aerial photographs or on the ground, and are rarely crossed by cave systems.

3.2.3 Background Area

A background area is a "catch-all" area to accommodate isolated caves, which do not fall into nor warrant their own area designation. This typically includes boulder caves, rock shelters, sea caves, lava caves and in some states isolated karst caves.

Rule 7 *If it is decided to use background areas to number caves within a state the whole of that State should be divided into suitable background areas.*

Examples

- VIC has divided the State into four natural areas defined by visible boundaries to cater for isolated caves.
- NSW groups all such caves into the respective 1:250 000 topographic map, each sheet representing one "area".
- In both WA and SA, where surface features are virtually non-existent over large areas, a single area designation has been used to cover all caves not in existing local areas.

Comments
1 Most of these caves are widely scattered non-karst, often occurring as a "one off" cave.
2 A number of states have decided to use a topographic map series because of ease in providing "whole of state coverage" for background areas. Usually either the 1:250 000 or 1:1 000 000 topographic map series is used.

Rule 8 *If the map sheet method is used for background areas, it should cover the whole State and be based on either the 1:250 000 or 1:1 000 000 topographic map series.*

3.3 Serial Number

The purpose of the serial number is to distinguish between different caves in the one area.

Rule 9 *The allocation of serial numbers should be solely on the basis that the next cave to qualify for a number gets the next number, not on factors such as order of discovery or physical position or type of "cave".*

Comments
1. Location-derived serial numbers pre-empt any decision to suppress a cave's location, can have resolution problems with close caves and make it harder to prevent duplication. Any locating function in the cave number is best left to the area and State codes.
2. Where a cave forms part of a larger feature, such as a doline, only one serial number is allocated.

3.4 Procedures Operating in Each State

The following outlines the procedures for numbering areas in each State.

3.4.1 New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

Within New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory the responsibility for the administration of karst and cave numbering rests with the Convenor of the NSW Speleological Council's, Cave Number and Documentation Committee (CNDC, previously the Cave Numbering and Nomenclature Committee) who by definition is also the State Documentation Coordinator. This committee has overseen cave numbering and documentation in NSW and the ACT for over 30 years. As a product of history, NSW and the ACT have two types of cave areas

1. Karst cave areas
2 General cave areas

Where for numbering purposes, the term "karst" is narrowly defined as referring only to landforms found in carbonate rocks. Therefore karst cave areas only record caves found in limestone, dolomite and associated carbonated rocks. Features that are found in other rock stratum such as sandstone, quartzite and basalt are numbered using a general cave area.

Karst Cave Areas: Over the last decade the CNDC has been geographically defining karst areas with a view of arriving at a definitive set of karst cave areas for NSW and ACT. To facilitate this the following rules have been used

1. All of NSW has been partitioned into a set of karst regions, with the basis of the regional boundaries being surface drainage systems. The regional boundaries interlock with each other and with the State and Territory boundaries.
2. These regions are simply used as an administrative tool in organising karst cave areas. As such they have no other role in the numbering system.
3. Within each region all the karst deposits are attributed to a karst cave area, irrespective of whether an outcrop or deposit contains karst features.
4. Each karst cave area has a geographical boundary defined by surface drainage systems.

5. To ensure that any future discoveries of karst are attributed to a karst cave area, the geographical boundaries of each karst cave area in a region interlock with each other and with the region's boundaries.

Karst cave areas have either 1 or 2 alpha letters in the prefix code, which are derived from the karst cave area name using the following rules

1. The first alpha letter in the prefix code is derived from the first letter in the karst cave area name.
2. If a second letter is used it is derived from any other letter in the karst cave area name.

For example: Jenolan "J", Wee Jasper "WJ", and Cliefden "CL"

Comment
Initially karst area numbering in NSW was based on small localised outcrops of limestone, such that major "limestone belts" were often divided into several karst areas. The net effect of this was to create a large number of small areas, some with only a handful of caves. As exploration has gone to the more remote parts of NSW, if this situation had been allowed to continue, the final number of karst areas could have been in the several hundreds. The above rules were developed in an attempt to avoid this "proliferation" of karst areas.

General Cave Area: Since early 1973 NSW and the ACT have used the numbering system developed by Toomer and Welch (1973) to number non-karst caves, where a non-karst cave is defined as a cave in a non-carbonate rock stratum. The system known as General Cave Areas is based on using the 1:250 000 topographical map sheet series as the area boundary and covers all of NSW and the ACT.

General cave areas have 3 alpha-numerics in the prefix code derived from each 1:250 000 map sheet number using the following rules

1. The first alphanumeric in the code is derived from the second alpha letter in the map number.
2. The second alphanumeric in the code is derived from the second number in the map number
3. The third alpha-numeric in the code is derived by taking the corresponding letter in the alphabet for the third number in the map number.

For example Sydney 1:250 000 map's number is SI/56-5, its prefix code is "I6E"

Comment
Toomer and Welch designed the system in such a way that it gave a unique prefix code for "*caves not found within specific cave areas*" without the need for a state code; it was the first and only attempt in the history of Australian Speleology to arrive at a truly national numbering system. However while one aspect of the system, using a map sheet series, seems to have been adopted by a number of states, their method of determining the prefix code has only been used in NSW and the ACT.

Special Case: There is also one "special case area" for caves and karst found on Lord Howe Island. In this case, both karst and non-karst caves are recorded in the same cave area. The rules for the prefix code being the same as for that of karst cave areas.

Comment
1. The Toomer and Welch system only covers the Australian mainland; it does not provide coverage in the case of Lord Howe Island or, for that matter, any of the other external Australian territories.
2. It is felt that separating caves on these islands into karst and non-karst cave areas is going a little overboard.
3. The compromise solution is to record both karst and non-karst in the one area for this special case.

3.4.2 Northern Territory

To be completed by the NT State Documentation Coordinator.

3.4.3 Queensland

To be completed by the QLD State Documentation Coordinator.

3.4.4 South Australia

To be completed by the SA State Documentation Coordinator.

3.4.5 Tasmania

To be completed by the TAS State Documentation Coordinator.

3.4.6 Victoria

To be completed by the VIC State Documentation Coordinator.

3.4.7 Western Australia

To be completed by the WA State Documentation Coordinator.

3.4.8 Territories and Islands Administered by the Commonwealth of Australia

There are a number of territories and islands administered by the Australian Government. These include

- Australian Antarctic Territory
- Christmas Island
- Cocos (Keeling) Island
- Coral Sea Islands Territory
- Heard Island
- Macdonald Island
- Macquarie Island
- Norfolk Island
- Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands

While not all of these have karst or caves, there are some in which significant caves have been found. In these cases the following rules will apply in numbering caves.

1. Each island or territory will be considered as having only one cave area, which will be defined geographically as the island or territory and the islets immediately surrounding it.
2. The name of the cave area will be the same as the name of the island or territory.
3. All caves found on the island or territory will be included in the cave area irrespective of the rock strata they are located in.
4. The allocation of serial numbers will be solely on the basis of Rule 9 of this code.

The cave areas will have either 1 or 2 alpha letters in the prefix code, which will be derived from the cave area name using the following rules.

1. The first alpha letter in the prefix code is derived from the first letter in the cave area name.
2. If a second letter is used it is derived from any other letter in the cave area name.

The overall administration of the numbering system for these areas will be the responsibility of the Convenor of the ASF Karst and Cave Numbering Commission who, as the occasion arises, will delegate to individuals the responsibility for the physical numbering and tagging of caves found on the islands or territories.

Rationale:
This new section has a number of significant changes:

1. Feature type is deleted from Rule 3 (old Rule 6). The reason is that the inclusion of feature type in the cave number is at variance with Rule 1 ie "*Once assigned, the number of a feature should never be changed*." Clearly some dolines are dug out to become shafts and with further digging become caves. The feature number would change each time its "feature type" change which is inconsistent with Rule 1. Also a feature's category type should have no bearing on its number. This is not say that that this should not be included in the KID or on the Cave Summary Form, just that it is not a necessary component of a cave's number. If one accepts the need for "feature type" to be part of the cave number, than why shouldn't "cave type" or "rock type", as listed on Cave Summary Form, also be part of the number. Feature Type, Rock Type etc are really data fields out of the KID and as such have no part in a "unique unambiguous numbering system". Finally it must be understood that is really no need for its inclusion; with the KID now operational one can easily identify all the dolines etc without the need for "Feature Type" to be part of the number.

2. The inclusion of 9 "territories and islands administered by the Commonwealth of Australia in State Code; Rule 4 (old Rule7). This was clearly an omission in original code.

3. Changes to method of choosing of the prefix letters for area code; Rule 5 (old Rule 8). The old rule meant that NSW General Caves area numbering which has been going on since 1973 (6 years before this code was passed) has been at variance with old Rule 8. This now allows more flexibility in the choosing of an area's prefix code. It also bring the system operating in NSW back into agreement with the code.

4. The prefix code for background areas. As per above, there is clearly no need to identify General Caves Areas by the letter Z to ensure that they come at bottom of any listing. Increases in computer technology now means that this can be done without the need for the letter Z.

5. Old Rule 13 has been completed deleted because its is at variance with old Rule 12 (new Rule 9). One can't have a system where the next feature found get the next number and than in following rule proceed to set up a scenario which is at variance with this rule. Either the next feature get the next number rule should operate all the time or not at all, one can't have it both ways. Also again with modern technology there is no need for "hierarchical grouping of features". It is very easy to get listing of all the dolines, caves etc for any area form the current KID without the need for this feature in numbering system.

6. Procedures operating in each state. This explains how the numbering system "works on ground" in each state. I have completed section for NSW and territories and islands administered by the Commonwealth of Australia. I left it up to each State Coordinator to do his/her own state. The full completion of this section (3.4) should not be a necessary component for the revised code to be accepted.

7. I have fully revised the comments section, including examples etc to bring the code up to date.

CHANGE 5 - delete the existing Section 4 and replace with the following new Section 4 (Qualifications for being Numbered):

4. QUALIFICATION FOR BEING NUMBERED

In view of the importance of avoiding mistakes in numbering, certain minimum criteria should be met before a cave is numbered.

Rule 10 *Before a new number is allocated, the Cave Numberer should be satisfied that*

1 The cave does not already have a number.

2 The recorded location details are sufficient to find the cave again and to distinguish it from any nearby caves. If possible global positioning system (GPS) coordinates of the cave should be obtained.

3 A description of the currently known extent of the cave is recorded.

Rule 11 *In the following cases it is essential that the number be marked at the cave entrance at the same time as it is allocated*

1 If the cave is in featureless country where relocation could be difficult.

2 If more than one person carries out numbering in the same area.

In other cases every effort should be made to mark the cave entrance at the same time as the number is allocated, otherwise as soon as possible thereafter.

Rule 12 *No new number should be allocated, alluded to or recorded in any report by any person until confirmed by the recognised Cave Numberer or a deputy specifically appointed by him/her.*

Comment

The problem being avoided by Rule 12 is where somebody guesses at the next number and it gets into print, whereas the Cave Numberer may have already allocated that number to something else. The situation is virtually impossible to recover.

Rationale:

Only a few minor changes, mainly to incorporate the use of GPS coordinates for locating a cave.

CHANGE 6 - delete the existing Section 5 and replace with the following new Section 5 (Temporary Numbers):

5. TEMPORARY NUMBERS

In some circumstances it may be necessary to use a temporary number to identify a cave. This may occur during the numbering process or where it is vital for conservation or protection purposes to provide a list of caves in an area. In such circumstances the following rule should be observed.

Rule 13 *If there is an extreme necessity to use some form of temporary identification in the absence of a name a temporary number may be allocated and should conform to the following*

1. The temporary number should take the same form as a normal number except that the serial number should be taken from the series X1-X999, where the leading alphabetic X clearly distinguishes it from a normal number.

2. A cave's permanent number should be allocated at the earliest possible time, especially before the cave gets into the literature.

Comment

Before using a temporary number, the cave numberer should clearly understand that its use is **not** compatible with a national electronic database. The incompatibility occurs because in distinguishing a temporary number from a permanent number, either the area code is altered or the serial number becomes non-numeric. In the first case (altering the area code by, for example, the addition of X after or before the code) the effect is to "create" a new area within the database. In the second case (by adding X before the serial number, so as to avoid confusing the temporary number with a permanent number having the same serial number) the non-numeric serial number will be unacceptable unless the field in the database is re-specified as non-numeric.

As the whole point of this code is to create a unique alphanumeric number to register a cave, the use of temporary numbers is really not compatible with the basic objective of the code. The use of temporary numbers should therefore be a last resort measure and only where their use can be justified on extreme and/or important grounds.

Rationale:
The use of temporary numbers is not compatible with the basic objectives of this code. Their use should only occur when it is absolutely necessary for a conservation or a similar purpose. This is clearly spelt out in the revised section. Also the administration of temporary numbers is simplified. The fact that the use of temporary numbers poses problems for a digital database is also clearly spelt out.

CHANGE 7 - delete the existing Section 6 and replace with the following new Section 6 (Special Cases):

6. SPECIAL CASES

6.1 Multi-entrance Caves

In the field it is obviously the cave entrance which is the landmark indicating the existence of an enterable cave; whether or not it is leading to the same cave as other entrances is usually not obvious. It is therefore the entrance which must be distinguished and identified by an individual number in the field. On the other hand the real object of our interest is the cave and the number of entrances it has is largely incidental. We therefore also need a definite number by which to refer to the one cave in reports and in the literature; and under which to file all information on that cave, rather than have it scattered through an indeterminate number of places.

Rule 14 *When a cave has multiple entrances, all accessible and significant entrances should be allocated separate numbers and physically identified. The numerically lowest number should be regarded as the cave number and all other numbers regarded only as entrance numbers.*

Where a cluster of inter-visible entrances obviously lead into the same cave only one entrance of the cluster needs to be numbered.

6.2 Separate Caves Later Joining

When two caves become joined there occurs the situation of a single multi- entrance cave.

Rule 15 *When independently numbered and apparently separate caves become joined, the lower number should be regarded as the cave number for the enlarged cave and the higher number should be regarded as an entrance number.*

Note that no serial numbers should be cancelled or changed. All numbers should continue to appear in any cave listing, but in their new role and with the cross-referencing appropriately changed.

Comment
In the case of an important well-known cave joining with an insignificant cave of lower number Rule 15 should still apply and the combined cave is known under the lower number. However this does not mean that the cave *names* should be treated likewise – obviously there may be the need to retain in some way the use of the well-known name. One obvious possibility is to extend the well-known name to cover the whole of the enlarged cave.

Where both caves carry well-known names the decisions become more difficult however, with regard to numbers, Rule 15 must still apply. The important thing is that it is now treated as one cave, not two; because of the confusion which will inevitably arise sooner or later in scientific and other recording over just where the dividing line is (ie. in which cave the observations are being taken). In some cases there will be no clear dividing line. One solution would be to use the lower number name as the cave name and retain the other as an entrance name for the higher number; another would be to convert both to entrance names and coin a new but related name for the combined cave. For further discussion refer to the ASF cave nomenclature guidelines.

6.3 Other Special Cases

Rule 16 *If other situations arise, which have not been explicitly covered in this Code of Practice, before any proposed solution is implemented the ASF Documentation Commission should be consulted to ensure that it will not cause any problems with the Australia-wide registration of cave data.*

Rationale:
A couple of changes;

1. Hierarchical Grouping of Features (old section 6.3) is deleted completely from the code. The reason is that it is in direct conflict with Rule 9. "*The allocation of serial numbers should be solely on the basis that the next cave to qualify for a number gets the next number, not on factors such as order of discovery or physical position or type of "cave"*". Also with modern computer software there is no need for it. A listing of all the caves or dolines etc in any area is very easily obtained from the current KID without the need for hierarchical grouping of features.

2. Multiple Numberers in an Area (old section 6.4) is also deleted completely from the code. The new section on Administration of the code (Section 11) provides a framework to deal with these problems. It is important that ASF appears as a professional body capable of administering the numbering system. Old section 6.4 besides being at variance with Rule 9 highlights ASF as being unprofessional.

3. New Area (old section 6.5) is also deleted completely from the code. One of the reasons for revised section 3.4 is so that each state clearly sets out how the code operates in its state as well providing the framework for a definitive set of cave areas for the state. Further in line other bio-documentation systems such as IBRA regions and provinces, which in recent times have accurately defined and national standardised, the ASF cave numbering system should be aiming to copy by providing a definitive set of cave areas. In this process each state should review its cave areas, decide on a method of determining cave area geographical boundaries and ultimately arrive at definitive list of cave areas for the state (ie a list that remains unchangeable). This is what other professional bio-documentation systems are doing and ASF if it wants to also appear professional should be doing the same.

CHANGE 8 - delete the existing Section 7 and replace with the following new Section 7 (Format of Number):

7. FORMAT OF NUMBER

Due to the structure of the number it is particularly critical as to how it is written, with some methods clearer than others.

Rule 17: *The preferred methods of representation of cave numbers under different situations are illustrated below:*

3B-38	*Full number for B-38 in Victoria.*
B-38	*Common form of the above for normal usage.*
B-50/56 57/105	*Multiple entrance representation, used when it is desirable to list them all. Here cave B-50 also has entrances numbered 56,57 and 105.*
B-4 to 10, 27, 29	*List of caves or features comprising B-4 to B-10 inclusive, together with B-27 and B-29.*

There should be a hyphen (not a dot) between the area code and serial number, with a comma between multiple-entrance serial numbers as shown. A hyphen between serial numbers should not be used because its meaning can be ambiguous

Comments
The use of a single blank between area code and serial number tends to make the number lose its unity when it is embedded in text and a hyphen is preferable over the use of a dot.

Rationale:
There are only a few changes here;

1. Delete feature type from the number. Logical if one accepts previous arguments that feature type should not be part of the number

2. The comments section has been revised.

CHANGE 9 - delete the existing Section 8 and replace with the following new Section 8 (Physical Placement of Number):

8. PHYSICAL PLACEMENT OF NUMBER

The physical placement of the number is often referred to as "tagging". This is because it involves the placement of a metal "tag" with the cave's number on or near the cave. While there is considerable variety between the states in how "tagging" is undertaken, the following explain how the "tag" should be positioned, its form and the text it should contain.

8.1 Position

Rule 18 *The positioning of the number at a cave entrance should be guided by the following*

1. *It should be readily found by anyone searching but not obvious to the casual passer-by.*
2. *It should be located where it can readily be used as a survey point, both from within the cave and on the surface.*
3. *It should be on solid bedrock, not a loose or separated piece (a reliable test is the sound when the rock is struck by a hammer).*
4. *If no bedrock is available or the tag cannot be placed where it can be read without using caving equipment it should be placed on a substantial post or equivalent installed close to the cave - eg on a steel star-post.*
5. *It should be located where it is safe from damage by ladders, belays, boots or other equipment.*
6. *It should be located where it is not likely to be overgrown or otherwise covered by soil, dung, etc.*
7. *Its final position relative to the entrance should be noted and filed in the cave records.*

8. Where a cave is known to be an Aboriginal site or forming part of an Aboriginal place, the placement of a tag should conform to Rule 21

8.2 Form

Rule 19 *The physical form of the cave number should be chosen taking into account the following*

1. The difficulty of finding a number on the entrance.
2. The type of rock.
3. The susceptibility of the number to vandalism.
4. The disturbance to the natural appearance of the entrance.
5. The permanence of both the number and its legibility over an indefinite period of time in the local conditions.
6. The cost, portability, reliability and ease of use of the number placement equipment.
7. Where a cave is known to be an Aboriginal site or forming part of an Aboriginal place, the form of numbering should conform to Rule 21

Comments
Two methods which have been successful in their particular circumstances are

1. The NSW Speleological Council's Cave Numbering and Documentation Committee uses an aluminium plate of 30 mm^2 fixed to the rock with a 3 mm diameter masonry nail and stamped with the cave area's prefix code and the cave's serial number.
2. VSA uses a single aluminium rivet with a 6 mm diameter flat head on which is stamped the number. The rivet is the countersunk type with a shank 3 mm diameter by 9 mm long. A hole approximately 6 mm deep is drilled into the rock using a 3 mm diameter rotary masonry drill The rivet is placed in the hole and expanded into it with a few blows of a hammer. The number is then stamped on using 3 mm letter and number punches, the area letters on the top row and the serial number on the second row. Where improved visibility is needed a round collar of weather resistant coloured plastic is threaded over the rivet before placement. In soft tertiary limestone rivets up to 18 mm long are used.

Chiselling or painting are generally not very satisfactory methods- chiselling because it becomes difficult to see after several years in the weather, painting because it too deteriorates in the weather and both are difficult to do without being unsightly.

8.3 Text

Rule 20 *The minimum text for marking a cave entrance should be both the area code and the serial number. The State code is not normally needed but can be added when desirable.*

Comment
The area code should always be included so that in any reports by people not familiar with the numbering system unambiguous identification of the cave will still result.

Rationale:
There are only a few changes here:

1. Rules 18 and 19 (old Rules 29 and 30) have been change by the additional of a extra point (Rule 18 by point 8, Rule 19 by point 7). Both cases relate to tagging a cave *"known to be an Aboriginal site or forming part of an Aboriginal place"*. Rule 21 listed in the new Section 9 (Aboriginal Cultural Issues) applies. The rationale for this is covered in Section 9.

2. I have fully revised the comments section, including examples etc to bring the code up to date.

CHANGE 10 - insert the following Section 9 (Aboriginal Cultural Issues) into the code:

9. ABORIGINAL CUTURAL ISSUES

There are many caves throughout Australia which contain features that are of particular significance to Aboriginal people or are by themselves places of significance and importance to Aboriginal people. Such sites include rock art galleries, ceremonial sites and camping shelters but can also include places that form part of a clan's or tribe's dreaming track. There are specific issues that should be addressed before documenting Aboriginal sites or places of significance to Aboriginal people.

Rule 21 Tagging - *Under no circumstances should tags be nailed into the rock face at an Aboriginal site or place. Tagging should only occur at such sites under the direct supervision of the local NPWS Aboriginal Sites Officer and then only by using silicon glue method of affixing the tag.*

Under no circumstances should any other form of identification other than the use of silicon glued tags be ever used. Chiselling or painting the number onto the rock face must never undertaken.

Rule 22 *Notification of an Aboriginal Site – Aboriginal sites should not be widely advertised. Knowledge of their whereabouts and access details should be restricted to only genuine long-term members of a club. The relevant state NPWS and in particular the local NPWS Aboriginal Sites Officer should always be informed of the location of any new site and of any planned club activities at a known Aboriginal site or place.*

Rule 23 *Involvement of the Local Aboriginal Community – Wherever possible the involvement of members of the local Aboriginal Community in documentation activity at an Aboriginal site or place should be sought and encouraged.*

Comment
All states have specific laws covering the protection and conservation of Aboriginal sites and places. Activities that may harm, impair, damage, deface or degrade an Aboriginal site and place are illegal. Cavers should therefore be mindful of this when undertaking documentation activity at an Aboriginal site or at a place which may have significance to an Aboriginal community.

Rationale:

1. This is a completely new section not previously covered in the old code. When the old code was being drafted in the mid to late 1970's, Aboriginal Cultural issues where not easily understood by many Australians and consequently were often overlooked as in this case. In the period since than, all Australian State and Territories have enacted specific laws relating to the protection and conservation of Aboriginal sites and places. This new section address Aboriginal Cultural issues as they related to the documentation process.

2. Rules 21 is aimed at minimising any disturbance to an Aboriginal site or place through "tagging". It is also aims to ensure, through the involvement of the local NPWS Aboriginal Sites Officer, that tagging activity is undertaken within the legal framework operating in each State and Territory.

3. Rule 22 is aimed at ensuring that the documentation process does not jeopardised the long term conservation and protection of any Aboriginal site through invert publication or disclosure of the location of the site. Sadly many well-known Aboriginal sites, particularly rock shelters are constantly subjected to vandalism. The rule aims to restrict the chances of vandalism through restricting the knowledge of site locations. The rule is in harmony with current State NPWS legislation and administration processes which restrict Aboriginal site location data to NPWS Aboriginal Sites Officers. The rule also ensures that any new Aboriginal site discovery can be adequately protected and conserved by appropriate NPWS staff.

4. All Aboriginal Communities regard the protection and conservation of Aboriginal sites as an important goal for Reconciliation to achieve in appreciating their cultural identity. Rule 23 seeks to engage the involvement of the Local Aboriginal Community in the documentation process which is absolutely vital for the success of the Reconciliation processes at any local community level.

CHANGE 11 - insert the following Section 10 (Administration) into the code:

10. ADMINISTRATION

Because of its importance to documentation of caves it is imperative that the system is administered in a professional manner, so as to avoid ambiguities and ensure its long-term maintenance, security and integrity. To achieve these goals the Federation has placed the administration of the system on a national basis under the stewardship of the ASF Karst and Cave Numbering Commission. At a state level, State Documentation Coordinators shall administer the system. Together the various State Documentation Coordinators along with the national Convenor of the Documentation Commission shall comprise the members of the Karst and Cave Numbering Commission.

Rule 24 *The Karst and Cave Numbering system as outlined in this code shall be administered at a national level by the Documentation Commission and at a state level by State Documentation Coordinators.*

Within each state there is an obligation on the member clubs to ensure the appointment of the State Documentation Coordinator. The State Documentation Coordinator in turn shall be responsible for the overall administration of the system, including the appointment of acave numberer for each area.

Rule 25 *The member clubs of each State should appoint a State Documentation Coordinator who will establish suitable administration and numbering arrangements for the features recorded within the State. This should include the definition of areas, the assignment of unique area codes and appointment of a specific person as Cave Numberer to each area. These arrangements and any changes to them from time to time, should be published in an established periodical with a wide circulation (such as "Australian Caver").*

Where a state has a Speleological Council it shall appoint the State Documentation Coordinator who will regularly report to it.

Rule 26 *Within one area, one specific person (not group), titled the Cave Numberer, should be responsible for all number allocations.*

Rule 27 *The positions of State Documentation Coordinator and Cave Numberer should be a stable one, not subject to regular re-election, but subject to continued satisfactory performance.*

Rationale:

1. Elements of this section were covered in various parts of the old code, however it was never fully addressed and much was left unanswered and subject to the various interpretations. This new section clearly outlines how the Code will be administered by ASF, and the processes and personnel who will involved. In doing so it presents the Code and ASF in a much more professional manner that is done in the old code.

2. In any professional code there is a need to clearly establish who will administer the code. Rules 24 and 25 clearly states set out who in ASF will administer the Code at both an national and state level.

3. Rule 25 is similar to old rule 5, except that the phrase "*The member clubs of each State should appoint a State Documentation Coordinator who will*" has been added to the beginning and the words "Each State" has been deleted. The of the rule has been re-worded and updated.

4. Rules 26 and 27 are almost exactly the same as old rules 3 and 4 with only slight changes. Rule 26 is different from old rule 3 by the addition of the phrase "*titled the Cave Numberer*" after "*(not group)*" and deletion of "*(See also Section 5 and 6.4)*". The old section 5 and old rule 6.4 dealt with temporary numbers and multiple numberer in an area, both of which have been either changed or deleted. Rule 27 is different from old rule 4 by the addition of the phrase "*positions of State Documentation Coordinator*" after "The".

CHANGE 12 - insert the following Section 11 (Dispute Resolution) into the code:

11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

One of the main objectives of this code is to clearly set out unambiguous rules to govern the numbering and tagging of cave and karst features. However, human nature being what it is, disputes may arise over a number of issues related to this code. It is therefore proposed to set up a dispute resolution process, so as to avoid conflict between individuals and/or member clubs of ASF.

Rule 28 *In the event of there being any dispute between individuals and/or member clubs of ASF over numbering, tagging or interpretation of this code the following dispute resolution procedures will apply*

1. *In the first instant the matter will be referred to the State Documentation Coordinator to adjudicate between the disputing parties.*
2. *Where the State Documentation Coordinator is unable to achieve a satisfactory resolution between the disputing parties and/or is one of the disputing parties and/or the matter is deemed of importance at a State or National level by all concerned the matter is to be referred to the State Speleological Council or where no State Speleological Council exists to the ASF Executive for determination.*
3. *The State Speleological Council or, where the matter has been referred to the ASF Executive, will after considering representations by all disputing parties deliver a decision an the dispute.*
4. *The decision of the a State Speleological Council or the ASF Executive shall be final and binding on all parties, including the State Documentation Coordinator.*

Comment

1. In most instances the State Documentation Coordinator should be able to resolve disputes with a minimum of fuss between the parties.
2 Only major conflicts should be referred to the State Speleological Council or the ASF Executive for resolution

3. In the final analysis, a resolution to a dispute has to be achieved.
4. It is hoped that any decision made by the State Documentation Coordinator or the State Speleological Council or the ASF Executive takes into account all the concerns of the disputing parties and is seen to be a fair and impartial resolution to the dispute.

Rationale:

1. This is a completely new section not previously covered in the old code. Since the Code was originally passed in January 1979, there have been a number of disputes over tagging etc. Not all of these disputes were easily resolved. The lack of a clear dispute resolution process often prolonged some disputes and left participants in others clearly upset. This section clearly outlines how any dispute will be resolved, ensures that the views of all parties are adequately considered and deliveries a determination with minimal delay.

LIST OF CURRENT CORPORATE MEMBER CLUBS

STATE	CORPORATE MEMBER	ABBREVIATION
ACT	Canberra Speleological Society Inc	CSS
	Canberra Troglodytes Caving Club Inc	CTCC
	National University Caving Club	NUCC
NSW	Baptist Caving Association	BCA
	Blue Mountains Speleological Club	BMSC
	Canberra Troglodytes	
	Central West Caving Group	CWCG
	Endeavour Caving & Recreational Club	ECRC
	Highland Caving Group	HCG
	Hills Speleology Club Ltd.	HSC
	Illawarra Speleological Society Inc.	ISS
	Kempsey Speleological Society	KSS
	Macquarie University Caving Group	MUCG
	Metropolitan Speleological Society	MSS
	Newcastle and Hunter Valley Speleological Society	NHVSS
	Orange Speleological Society	OSS
	RANCA Adventure Club	RANCA
	Rover Speleological Society	RSS
	Sydney University Speleological Society	SUSS
	University of New South Wales Speleological Society	UNSWSS
	University of Technology Sydney Speleological Society	UTS3
NT	Top End Speleological Society	TESS
Qld	Central Queensland Speleological Society	CQSS
	Chillagoe Caving Club	CCC
Vic	Caving Club of Victoria	CCV
	Victorian Speleological Association	VSA
SA	Cave Exploration Group South Australia	CEGSA
	Cavex	CAVEX
	Flinders University Speleological Society	FUSS
Tas	Northern Caverneers	NC
	Southern Tasmania Caverneers	STC
WA	Speleological Research Group of Western Australia	SRGWA
	Western Australia Speleological Group Inc.	WASG