



Australian Speleological Federation Inc. (A.C.T.)

ABN: 15 169 919 964

2014 Annual Report

(Financial year 2013-2014)

(Adopted June 2015)



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Cover Photograph – 6KJ8 – Jeremiah Hills – Bob Kershaw

Executive Members

President	Stan Flavel (Resigned October 2014) Replaced by John Cugley Vacant from November 2014
Senior Vice President	Jim Crockett
Vice President	Joe Sydney
Vice President	Phil Maynard
Treasurer	Grace Matts
Executive Secretary	Deb Hunter
General Secretary	Bob Kershaw
Membership Secretary	Colin Tyrrell
Non-executive Vice President 2013-14 year	John Dunkley, AM
NEVP Exmouth Conference 2015 Convener	Darren Brooks (appointed October 2013)
NEVP UIS 2017 Conference Convener	Denis Marsh (appointed October 2013)

President's Report

John Cugley

Firstly, I would like acknowledge the dedication and contributions of Stan Flavel who was the former President of the ASF for 8 years prior to my term. Stan retired earlier this year and we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavours.

In an increasingly busy world where we all have competing priorities to balance, the commitment of the volunteers of the ASF is to be commended.

As we move towards the 60th Anniversary of the ASF in 2016, we have many exciting projects and events for ASF members to become involved with. The Exmouth conference marks the beginning of a busy two years where Australian and International cavers will have the opportunity to come together to share and learn from their unique experiences and knowledge sets.

The ASF would like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of the organising committee for all their hard work in bringing together the Exmouth Conference for all ASF members to enjoy.

The arrangements for the UIS 2017 conference in Sydney continue thanks to the efforts of Denis Marsh and his team. More volunteers are welcomed to contribute to help build the foundations of this conference. There are still some critical posts to fill. Can you rise to the challenge?

New opportunities exist for ASF members to become involved in the Commissions and Executive in the upcoming year. There will be a review of the Commissions to identify opportunities for growth and change and also an Executive focus on the need for structured succession planning.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Executive for their ongoing commitment and goodwill in supporting and taking the helm in guiding the ASF towards a strong and productive future.

It is important however to highlight that at times, being a federation of many unique clubs and people, circumstances have arisen where non-constructive bickering and in-fighting have threatened to divert time, goodwill and resources away from the original goals of the ASF.

This does not mean the ASF Executive and Council will shy away from the "hard issues" but please make sure your feedback and input is constructive and aimed at building engagement and not inciting negativity and pettiness that impacts on goodwill and levels of volunteerism.

Most of all, I know that many ASF member clubs are running some great trips and expeditions. Make sure to send your stories to Australian Caver for publishing. Your commitment to exploration, minimal impact caving, social caving, karst conservation and sharing scientific knowledge is outstanding and should be recognised.

Wishing you all a fantastic year in your endeavours.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer: Grace Matts
Presented and accepted at meeting

The ASF Karst Conservation Fund

see page 10 report by Nicholas White

Conservation Commission Reports

National

Nicholas White

Introduction

My abilities to coordinate cave and karst conservation matters needing action reflect the way I work. If it is time to re-establish State Cave Conservation representatives or to find a new Convener then this should be considered. It is not necessary that the Commission be involved in everything but it can only assist with things when asked to do so. There is very little cross border information on how clubs or State Speleological Councils interact with State Ministers or Agencies. Who is on a State Advisory Committee? What do they do? Such advisory committees are the most effective means of interaction for cavers in getting positive cave and karst management changes carried out. So much of our karst is now managed within Parks and Reserve systems that much of our focus as cavers is on better karst management. Flooding Cliefden Caves is the exception now. It is also important that sites such as Bungonia or the Junee-Florentine Karst are well managed and that we are in a position to influence the quality of management.

Legislative changes

Devolution from Federal to State jurisdictions of responsibility for environmental matters is currently part of the Federal Government's agenda. The proposals involve handing responsibilities for the requirements of the EPBC Act to be conducted by the States. Such simplicity belies the fact that the States are often advocates for development rather than providing balance on environmental matters, and have often a poor record in enforcing their own regulations. This proposed "One-stop-shop" legislation was rejected by the Senate but for how long?

Changed karst policies have been varied or introduced in Western Australia and Tasmania.

In the case of Western Australia, the changes by the Department of Parks and Wildlife recognize karst values; recognize threatening processes; a precautionary approach is to be applied to karst values; provide advice on caves and karst in areas not administered by the Department; provide community awareness of cave and karst values; provide management training for the department staff, volunteers and others involved in the planning and management of karst; conduct a review of legislation and regulations pertaining to karst; research and monitoring of karst is to be supported. These changes were issued as a policy change. It is not clear what effect the introduction of this policy will have, but the intent to review and monitor management and protection needs is encouraging. ASF should not underestimate the value of dialogue between ASF, its members and the managing agencies about better and more effective management of karst. (www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/.../policy/Policy_No_80_CavesKarst.pdf)

In Tasmania, the Parks and Wildlife Service have introduced a new Cave Access Policy. This policy has the effect of classifying the use of caves including the capacity to provide zoning controls for particular caves. All of this was specified in the Mole Creek National Park Plan of Management (2004). It is not clear to me whether the changes will amount to effective protection of karst values or whether it will mediate problems of overuse of a restricted number of high use caves by schools, youth groups and commercial operators. Managers should require all these users to abide by AAS Caving requirements for safety and respect for the cave environment by exercising Minimum Impact Caving principles. The policy implementation will require staffing and resources for good implementation. It is not clear that this will happen. (<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/file.aspx?id=36310>)

SA Nullarbor has been proclaimed as Wilderness despite major inconsistencies such as the presence of the major Highway and two Service Centres for tourists. The original occupants, the Mirning have been given title and now getting involved in joint management with State government agencies of the Nullarbor National Park and the Nullarbor Conservation Reserve. The changes will be

effected in 2015. Caving access requires multiple approvals.

In Queensland, Kings Plain Station, Melody Rocks, Quarry License Application ML-20562. A permit has not yet been issued but it has been objected to by the Station owner, the ASF and several others. Chillagoe Caving Club has had several visits to the site. There are many entrances in the karst towers and a permanent spring. There are many bat species present including ghost bats as well as several threatened species. It is a biodiversity hotspot with remnant rainforest species. The proposals are to quarry the limestone although markets and infrastructure are not in place. The Queensland Government has enacted new mining regulations which restrict the rights to object to mining permits being issued. This legislation was introduced to restrict objections to big mining proposals but it has the effect of changing the right to object to a mine's operations such as this one on tower karst.

Proposed Dam on Belubula River to Flood Cliefden Caves

This is the most important challenge to a cave area in Australia for some years. The possible flooding of the Cliefden Caves by a dam on the Belubula River is a major threat to these caves. The NSW government in the 2014 budget provided funds to investigate the siting of a dam at the Needles on the Belubula River. Such a dam would flood the caves. Additional funds were added to conduct a comprehensive Scoping Study. The Federal Government has added this dam to its list of water infrastructure proposals that it may support. The only major increased use of water in the area is for mining purposes at the Cadia copper-gold mine, although proposals for new industry needing water in Bathurst and Orange provided further justification of the dam proposals.

The ASF Karst Conservation Fund has backed OSS and the Save Cliefden Caves Committee to prevent this dam from being constructed.

National Heritage Legislation

It is important that caves and karst are properly recognized under this Federal Legislation. Below is a new entry to the List which was enacted in 2014. There are a number of other caves and karst areas deserving of listing.

Koonalda Cave, Nullarbor National Park, South Australia

This cave was put on the National Heritage List in October 2014. "The site is of great importance for its role in the history of Aboriginal occupation and of particular historical and cultural significance for the Mirning people."

Separately we have provided advice on other recent National Heritage listing proposals.

Adventure Activity Standard Caving

These standards rely on ASF Codes and have been implemented in a number of States. Adhering to the Codes are required by a number of management agencies such as Parks and Wildlife Services. The Standards provide for Commercial operators using caves to introduce dependent groups to caving. Commercial operators should be understood to include all tours with dependent groups whether they are school groups, Outdoor Education groups, or youth groups. Managers tend to treat these groups differently but each such group has the capacity to do the same tracking or speleothem damage.

Adventure Activity Standards Caving (AAS Caving) are drafted and implemented at a State level. A number of States have implemented these. Leadership requirements for access to Parks for Commercial Groups are dependent on holding of Level 3 or 4 Certificates for Caving (or equivalent). Modules for this training require a Cave Conservation unit emphasizing the Minimal Impact Caving ethic. There is some disquiet about these being taken over by Outdoor Recreation enthusiasts who do not have a cave conservation ethic. The ASF Codes including Conservation, Minimal Impact Caving Code as well as Safety and Risk Management are quoted in the AAS Caving documents from various States. There is a need for an audit of practices and implementation of AAS Caving in all States.

NSW Jenolan Privatization

The NSW Government had the Jenolan Caves and Caves House operations out to tender. Towards the end of 2014 the process was terminated as no suitable tender was received. There have been quite a number of repercussions and Jenolan operations have not stabilized since the tender process was terminated.

NSW Karst and Geodiversity Unit

This Unit has been adsorbed into a Planning Unit within the Parks and Wildlife Service. This unit still has Stephen Meehan and several of the old staff involved. The Planning unit has both and Operations (field) and planning role.

The major karst success of the Karst and Geodiversity Unit was the acquisition of the Mt Sebastopal property for incorporation into the existing National Park structure. The recommendations from the unit rated the Cliefden Caves very highly. These recommendations were obtained by OSS and have been of use in the Save Cliefden Caves Campaign.

Bats, Diseases and White Nose Syndrome

The ASF was asked to be alert to the introduction of the causative fungus of WNS to Australia by the Chief Veterinary Officer. An article was placed in E-Speleo. Material will be put on ASF Website on diseases associated with bats and White Nose Syndrome.

This stresses the need for cavers returning to Australia and visiting International cavers to adhere to strict clothing, foot ware and equipment disinfection regime.

Recommendation for Council

Conduct an audit of practices and implementation of AAS Caving in all States. (This needs a coordinator – not Nicholas White).

Karstcare

David Wools-Cobb

Deb Hunter received funding from ASF conservation fund and coordinated several days work with volunteers, PWS and local stonemason Steve Shayler-Appleton to rehabilitate the main entrance to Honey Comb Cave. Result is limestone rock stairway and viewing platform that is quite aesthetic. Deb was congratulated for persevering with this project.

Blackshawl system cave survey and mapping project completed. Boot wash station in Lynds (Ballroom area) finally has a brush. David Wools-Cobb replaced Tailender rope (tagged and dated) and serviced boot wash stations whilst on a 'pleasure trip'.

Speleological Council Reports

NSW Speleological Council

President: Colin Tyrrell

On behalf of the NSW Speleological Council Executive and Federation Members in ACT and NSW, I present the following report on the affairs of this State Speleo Council for 2014.

The Council met twice during the year in May and October.

Meetings were well attended with around 11 corporate members represented at both meetings. During the year the ASF in NSW was represented by caver delegates at meetings of, the Karst Management Advisory Committee (KMAC), Kosciuszko NP Speleo Reference Group (KNPSRG) and Bungonia Reference Advisory Group (BRAG)

An increasing number of clubs in NSW have run joint caving trips with other clubs during the year and this is seen as a positive action by all concerned.

Kosciuszko NP Speleo Reference Group (KNPSRG)

This committee was established as a requirement under the Kosciuszko NP Plan of Management. NPWS accepted the nominations are Rod Smith (new member), Denis Marsh (reappointed) and John Brush (reappointed). Members are appointed for a three year period.

NPWS Reference groups

Along with the Kosciuszko group, nominations were required for the Karst Management Advisory Committee (KMAC). Chris Norton's nomination was accepted. However, the current nomination is only for a 1 year period

Jenolan Caves

Following the unsuccessful EOI, what was formerly the Jenolan Caves Trust has become a branch of OEH. The Karst unit has also been restructured and is now part of the OEH Landforms group. Currently, there appears to have been no impact on club caving activities

Save Cliefden Caves

Several months ago the State Government announced the intention to build a dam at the Needles on the Belubula River. This would represent the 5th or 6 dam on the catchment and would cause major flooding of the Cliefden Cave system. After discussion with the ASF executive, OSS was handed the role of coordination of the Save the Cliefden Caves Campaign. (This is the same process that

NSWSC took with the successful Timor Caves Campaign several years ago) Numerous discussions have taken place with the Karst Conservation Fund and Grants Committee about funding towards the campaign. To date the campaign has largely been media related as there has not yet been any public submission process.

Tasmanian Speleological Liaison Council

Report by David Wools-Cobb

TASMANIAN SPELEOLOGICAL LIAISON COUNCIL

Decided to have consistency of executive rather than rotating positions and it was resolved Deb Hunter President/chair, David Wools-Cobb Secretary, Decided no need to have formal AGM, but endeavour to meet 6 monthly, when possible in conjunction with an ACRC activity or caving trip.

- 1 Consensus agreed with STC position on taking no action re Education policy on caving activity; however it was thought that implementation of a "good" cave zonal system now the Cave Access Policy is finalised may result in better management and control of "inexperienced" groups. This will only be effective if PWS install signage (e.g. Honeycomb site) and monitor compliance with policy.
- 2 Series of meetings between PWS and NC reps and Karstcare with regard to developing a better relationship for caver involvement, particularly for the Mole Creek Karst National Park.

Priorities are:

1. Partnership agreement). Has been requested & submitted three times over past few years. Progress should be made shortly.
2. Constant point of contact: is now new ranger David Fulford
3. Kubla leader accreditation scheme: PWS looking to possibility of handing to TSLC
4. Cave Key management: new MCKNP office in Deloraine,
5. Mapping projects: Alan Jackson-Genghis & Kubla, progressing well. David Wools-Cobb has almost completed Blackshaw/Spider/Pyramid system.
6. Weed control plan- & follow up to be effective.
7. DH felt that a Kubla Cave rescue plan should be added as a priority. An experienced SAR officer may

accompany an authorized Kubla trip for the purpose.

8. PWS Cave access policy discussed especially whether some groups would be confined to "General Access" Zones or allowed in "Experienced leader" Zones.

Kubla bottom entrance stairway now repaired. New ranger MCKNP, David Fulford attended ACRC skills day. Encourage all to give David experience underground.

Speleological Council of Western Australia

By Greg Thomas

The SCoWA acted as the forum for discussion of possible locations and venues for the 2015 Biennial ASF Conference; ultimately selecting Exmouth at Cape Range, appointing Darren Brooks as Convener, and ensuring an adequate organising committee was formed. Once this decision was made the Convener and organising committee managed the conference without and interference from SCoWA.

The SCoWA has continued formal and informal efforts to encourage all WA clubs and cavers to publish their findings and provide data to the State Cave and Karst Numbering Coordinator and the relevant Area Co-ordinators. This has met with mixed success due to a reluctance to participate formally by the CEGWA and a reluctance of other cavers to risk potentially repeating work that has already been done, plus the fact that over the last year or so many key personnel have been heavily involved with the conference organisation. It is anticipated that this will be more actively followed up after the ASF conference in order to ensure the WA Karst Index Database continues to be updated.

The retirement of Anne Woods from the position of DPAW Cave Manager (south West) in approximately June 2014 had left this position currently held by one of the senior cave guides in an acting capacity. The WA clubs have sent letters to DPAW reinforcing the need to retain the position of Manager: which is currently under review. This position has also been made at the Cave Management Advisory Committee Meetings. While relations between groups and the department are currently good it is still disappointing that this important position has not been filled by an appropriately qualified person.

South Australian Speleological Council

By Graham Pilkington

Revived and includes CEGSA, FUSSI and Scout Assn. informal set up and all clubs invited to attend all activities. All cooperate.

Commission Reports

Australian Cave Rescue

Convener: Ross Anderson

Cave Rescue in Australia is quiet as always, which is good in that nobody is getting into significant trouble that requires a rescue response. This however makes it more difficult to gain traction with authorities and cavers as to why rescue training should still be undertaken. Significantly, Tasmania is getting into a rhythm of regular rescue practice and exercises in both the north and south of the state, New South Wales is experiencing a higher level of activity on the training side and South Australia is planning both wet and dry rescue activities for 2015.

Western Australia will host the ASF conference in Exmouth in June and the ACRC will hold a workshop and meetings during the conference to determine our direction for the next couple of years.

State Reports Tasmania

A 4 day vertical cave rescue workshop with Al Warild was a great success.

Local police also planned some cave rescue practice on their annual search and rescue exercise but sadly they got called out to a real search and so we didn't get the chance to undertake any cave rescue practice.

New South Wales

There was a 2 weekend course held in NSW for club members to increase their Rescue skills.

South Australia update by Richard Harris

The last 18 months has seen a number of activities planned and performed. In October 2013 several divers from SA and WA installed a rescue cache and through ground radio in Toad Hall at Cocklebidy. The second radio is kept at the Cocklebidy Roadhouse and can be used for routine diving activities or emergencies. The

cache contains food, water, a stove, sleeping and thermal protection and first aid.

At the end of 2013 two CEGSA members (Richard Harris and Graham Pilkington) ran a modified CROP at Naracoorte caves to assist the guides in identifying and managing risks in their sites. Attendance from the local CFS and SA Ambulance Service Special Operations paramedics made the weekend both productive and enjoyable. A SAREX is being planned for early 2015.

The annual Sump Rescue Orientation Program (SROP) run for CDAA members was cancelled in 2014 due to insufficient numbers, however rescheduling at a separate time to the AGM should resolve this in 2015.

Finally, there are plans to install a rescue cache in the air chamber in Engelbrechts West cave in Mt Gambier in 2015.

Western Australia update by Ross Anderson

Ian Collette has continued to run rope skills and rescue workshops in Perth.

We had a joint roping day in the south west in September and December 2014, with one on one rescues performed by some of the individuals.

Future planned activities

Western Australia

- For 2015, we are planning more roping and rope rescue days in the south west and seeing as it is a number of years since our last Cave Rescue Orientation Program weekend we will aim to present one of these weekends in spring.
- In the north of the state we have the ASF conference in the middle of the year and will have associated activities with the vertical caves of Exmouth.

New South Wales

- A SROP in Jenolan involving NSW CRS members and local divers is planned for April 2015. This should add some important rescue capability to this popular and important site.
- Al might run a personal vertical and rescue day.

Tasmania

- This is all still preliminary, but hoping to organise a cave rescue scenario in one of the vertical JF caves involving local cavers and local police/SES (and maybe some mainland cavers and VRA CRS people). And maybe we'll do another cave rescue workshop in a year's time to keep people's skills current. And some days spread out

over the year to practice pick-offs, practice anchor building, etc for local cavers.

- Nth Tasmania ACRC wants to run a two day vertical cave SARex in the north in March. Not in Junee Florentine.
- It is important to make it convenient enough to maximise attendance by north Tasmanian cavers. Interstate and southern cavers have always been welcome.

Awards

Convener: Miles Pierce

Report on Activity Calendar Year 2014

A letter explaining the ASF Awards structure and formally inviting nominations for 2015 awards was sent out in April 2014 to all ASF member clubs and societies via the Secretary.

Similar information and invitation to submit nominations has been included in each issue of eSpeleo over the remainder of the year.

It is intended to have a final notice calling for nominations in the first issue of eSpeleo for 2015.

All of the above notices stipulate that nominations for ASF Awards for 2015 close 31 March 2015. (This date is predicated on the June date for the 2015 ASF Conference).

In accordance with the Awards Policy, the (acting) president should establish an ad hoc Awards Selection sub-committee, comprising him and at least two other former ASF presidents. This should be done by the nominations closing date so that the Awards Commission convener can then forward copies of nominations received to each member of the selection sub-committee for their collective determination.

To the convener's knowledge, no claimable expenses in relation to this commission have been incurred during the year.

Bibliography

Convener: Greg Middleton

The Commission still exists (and probably should continue as long as IUS continues its Commission on Bibliography, or at least maintains Speleological Abstracts, which has gained a new editor this year). I am still contributing a few abstracts each year (especially for Caves Australia, ACKMA J.) but with zero support from other cavers cannot hope for wide coverage of Oz publications.

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ozspeleo@iinet.net.au

Cave Diving

Conveners: Tim Payne and Peter Kraehenbuehl

No report received

Cave and Karst Numbering

Convener: Peter Dykes

ASF Code for Cave and Karst Numbering:

A draft revised ASF Code for Cave and Karst Numbering is being sent to clubs after the Exmouth Conference. The code has been extensively rewritten to facilitate separate surface and cave feature numbering and documentation. Also the revised code introduces the concept of outcrop numbering into the ASF documentation system. Although the Code requires checking, both Graham and I want this draft to be available to ASF members for discussion and comment, particularly as OzKarst has been developed to accommodate the changes.

OzKarst:

During 2014 Graham Pilkington and I have met on one occasion to work on OzKarst;

- February 2014 with a workshop on 2nd Feb at Joe Sydney's in Sydney

Graham has split surface feature data from cave data in the features component and developed an outcrop data component in OzKarst; improved the OzKarst Library database and worked with me on a revised ASF code and OzKarst administration. I have field tested both OzKarst and OzKarst Library; entered some NSW karst area data and developed administration procedures and management forms.

Together since February 2015 we have had a full operating version of OzKarst available for members of ASF to use. A basic OzKarst with only minimal feature data (feature no., name) is now being offered to all ASF members with no obligation to exchange data with the OzKarst Administrators or any other ASF members. Attached to this report are 4 OzKarst documents covering OzKarst operation, administration protocols and agreement forms. To date, over 30 ASF members from 4 States have chosen to participate and we expect that number to at least double by the end of the year.

I would like to welcome Matt Smith, a CEGSA member who has agreed to join the OzKarst project team. Matt is a computer programmer

and he will be developing user operating manuals, user "how to" help, and establishing protocols. Matt will also assist Graham with some OzKarst programming.

Grants

Convener: Fiona Beckwith
No Report Received

Helictite

Convener: Susan White

The Helictite Commission is separate from the Publications Commission. When ASF received Helictite from the Speleological Research Council (SRC) it was agreed to form a separate commission to enhance the chances of continuation of the journal. The Commission currently consists of Susan White (Chair and joint editor), Ken Grimes (Editor), Stefan Eberhard (Editor), Grace Matts (ASF Treasurer), Glenn Baddeley (Business Manager) and John Dunkley. The ASF President is an ex officio member. I have chaired the Commission since ASF took over Helictite in 2000 and Ken Grimes and I have been editors since 1998. The Commission is run in tandem with the Publications Commission but is a separate Commission.

There has been no issue published in 2013. The last printed volume to produce (Volume 42) has become stranded on the volume of work plus health issues I dealt with this year. All further publications will be Open Access (digital) as agreed a few years ago. Volume 42 is still in review and editing mode and it is intended that it be published as soon as possible. Pre-publication on the website of finalised articles will occur.

There are 24 copies of Volume 41 (Bullita special volume). There are no complete sets available but limited copies of some other volumes are available from the Chair of the Commission.

We have been trying to scan back copies but this is still stalled due to time constraints. RMIT and the Karst Portal (based at the University of South Florida) have both expressed interest in being involved in this but I have not had sufficient time to engage in the detailed discussions with either institution. I do not want this to become a serious problem because of not doing the necessary background work on such matters.

No further action has occurred on the matters discussed at the UIS meeting in Brno in 2013,

but this is still on the agenda. The main issues are to do with time constraints by volunteers.

Moving Helictite to Open Access after the production of Volume 42 will hopefully mean it will survive for some time, especially as it is still the only refereed specialist karst journal in the Australasian region.

Thanks to the other members of the Commission, especially Ken Grimes who has attempted to keep me up to the mark.

International Relations

Convener: Nicholas White

Little to report this year.

The ASF and Speleo 2017 Commission hosted the UIS Bureau in Sydney in October 2014. This was productive in establishing connections with Bureau members which will bring rewards in such things as attendance at the Congress.

I represented ASF at the UIS Bureau meeting in Stan Flavel's place for part of meeting and Denis Marsh and I presented the Speleo 2017 Commission planning for the Congress.

The USI Bulletin has new life and is regular and useful. I advise the membership of new issues.

The Karst Portal is an important access point for speleological literature. Accessing it needs further advertising of its website. www.karstportal.org/.

When I was appointed to fill the Commission position the internet and email were in their infancy. UIS has gone from strength to strength in the last few years. Contacts with cavers are very much easier for people undertaking karst touring or more serious cave exploration internationally.

The Terms of Reference seem appropriate for the Commission.

Karst Conservation Fund

Convener: Nicholas White

Introduction

The Commission manages the operation of the ASF Karst Conservation Fund. The most significant new challenge is a NSW Government provision of funds to build a dam at Needles Site on the Belubula River. This dam would flood the Cliefden Caves. A Save Cliefden Caves Campaign has been initiated by

the NSW Speleological Liaison Council and headed up by Orange Speleological Society.

Current projects are:

- Mt Etna Ghost Bat Project
- Scrubby Creek Acquisition Project
- Wombeyan (Melocco) Quarry Interpretation Project
- Honeycomb Cave Entrance Stabilization Project
- Save Cliefden Caves Campaign
- Britannia Creek Cave Project (in process)

Mt Etna Ghost Bat Project “Tracking and Tracing CQs Macroderma

The Mt Etna Ghost Bat population is in jeopardy and could die out. The genetic analysis we funded support the counting evidence from the field that the population is now below sustainable numbers (less than 50, actual count 2013 about 32 separate individuals).

The Fund is now supporting further genetic studies on the population. This amounts to \$5,351 for further sample analysis. The samples in this instance will be fecal samples taken from under the roosting sites of the bats which if it works is less stressful for the bats. The first samples failed to give useful results due to sample shipping and storage problems. The Fund has not yet been invoiced for this work.

Scrubby Creek Cave Property Acquisition Project

The Fund initiated this project in January 2012 at the behest of Rimstone Cooperative Ltd. The property was purchased in May 2012. At the end of 2014 Rimstone Cooperative was in a position to quit the personal loans which together with the donations from the ASF Karst Conservation Fund allowed purchase. The Fund provided some \$83,000 of targeted donations to enable the purchase to proceed.

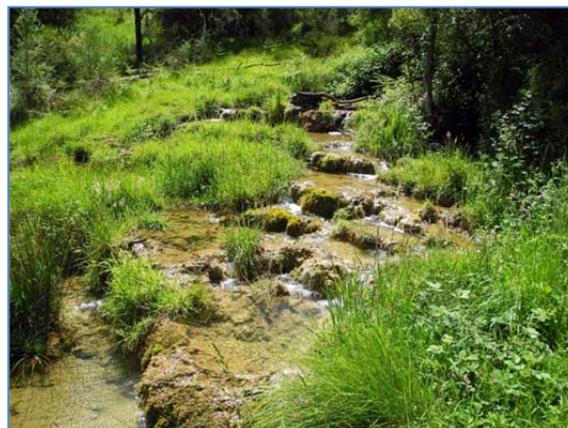


Photo 2 Scrubby Creek Tufa Terraces (Photo R Frank).

This project could not have proceeded without the Fund support. The purchase of a cave property for conservation reasons by Rimstone Cooperative Ltd as a Community Advancement Society was a good way of the Fund supporting the purchase of a cave property.

The project is complete and Rimstone Cooperative Ltd now manages the property together with a lessee. The next initiative on the property is to fence out the tufa terraces to allow them to recover from stock trampling during periods of extended drought.

Wombeyan (Melocco) Quarry Interpretation Project

The quarries have now been surveyed using Dr Robert Zlot's Zebedee laser scanning equipment. The survey is to be used to provide interpretive materials for the geological and industrial interpretation of the site.

Honeycomb Cave Entrance Stabilization Project

This project has now been completed. \$3,500 was provided for this work.

The project provided stone steps to gain access to the cave entrance thus avoiding an erosion prone soil bank. See photograph of finished steps below.



Photo 3 Honeycomb Cave, Mole Creek National Park, entrance steps (Photo C. Brooke).

Because stone was donated it came in under budget. The residual funds were used by the Department to cover replacement steps in Kubla Khan Cave lower entrance doline that were destroyed by trees falling onto them during a wind storm event.

Save Cliefden Caves Campaign

The NSW Government has proposed building a dam that would flood the Cliefden Caves. A targeted appeal has been approved to support this campaign. OSS and the NSW Speleological Liaison Council are coordinating the campaign.

As part of this Campaign the Fund separately provides funds for the expenses associated with Dr Robert Zlot using the Zebedee equipment to produce a laser scan of Cliefden Main Cave and other caves there. The Project was at the initiative of Harrison Burkitt and all funds have been expended (\$645). This data is now being processed to produce a “fly through” video of the cave for use in the campaign.

Water NSW has prepared a Scoping Study Report that is currently with the Minister. Funds are being used to research the area, its caves, the biota particularly the bats and conduct a campaign to stop the building of such a dam. Should the Government choose the Needles Dam site for the dam this campaign will move from research to support our opposition case to a full blown legal campaign requiring expert witnesses and significant expense and support.

Fund Assets

The assets of the fund are currently about \$63,000. Liabilities are \$5,300 for the Ghost Bat

project and currently tagged funds of \$2,400 to the Save Cliefden Caves Campaign.

The PayPal capacity to receive donations is proving popular with donors.

Conclusions

Establishing a Commission from the previous Management Committee has been a very sound move allowing clarity for the fund operational and management issues and providing advice to the Fund Directors for decisions. Current Commission members are Nicholas White (Convener), John Dunkley, Grace Matts, and Yoav Bar-Ness. Additional members would be welcome. There is a need to modernize fund raising and provide more information to fund donors and to the ASF membership.

The Directors of the Fund are John Dunkley, AM, Maria Comino, Tony Culberg OAM and Dr Kevin Kiernan. Dr Phil Maynard became a Director since the last report. There is capacity for another Director to provide for generational change as well as geographic spread if possible.

The ASF website www.caves.org.au now has short reports of completed projects that the Fund has supported.

The Fund has shown it can effectively support the ASF's conservation objectives.

The effective and successful support of Rimstone Cooperative in purchasing a karst property with the significant karst spring and Scrubby Creek Cave is only a small part of what the Fund could achieve with more drive and funds.

Library and Archives

Convener: Cathy Brown

Dated: 1st November 2014

Receipt and accessioning of ASF publications, Australian club and international journals continues. We also continue to receive offers of, and acquire club and personal archival materials from time to time, including 5 boxes of material from Andrew Pavey late October.

In addition to the regular work, over the last couple of years the ASF library has acquired, on several trips, a large part of Elery Hamilton-Smith's speleological library, in 108 boxes, with the last 13 boxes expected to arrive from

Melbourne, courtesy of the Whites, this coming weekend. We have a box list with a brief description of the contents of each box. This material is a mixture of caving journals, books, published and unpublished management reports, some postcards photographs, slides, videos, CDs and commercial publications from various Australian and overseas caving areas, other miscellanea, and a collection of offprints and copies of Elery's own publications.

So far, the contents of 28 of the boxes have been sorted and either integrated into the existing journal collection, identified as of limited interest to the caving community and set aside, or catalogued. While we sought to acquire Elery's collection, which includes some rare and valuable material, the influx of so much stuff is a challenge to manage and to publicise. It has also provided a timely reminder that the ASF library also holds a significant collection of maps and management-related reports that we have never got around to fully cataloguing either. We also hold 5 boxes of ASF secretarial archives.

As most of you will know, several volunteer efforts by members of the ASF Executive and others have made inroads into relocating part of the collection into our compactus, cataloguing our maps and making a start on cataloguing what is now a large collection of books. The librarian's existing work commitments and those of other volunteer helpers are making the cataloguing process quite slow. There are several drivers for trying to speed up the process.

One concern is that sooner or later the library will need to be relocated* from the Dunkley's house, either because they are no longer willing/able to house it, or because it has outgrown the space available. Ideally we would like to have a catalogue of all the material before that happens, but at the very least we do need to be able to identify rare material (maps, one-off management reports, rare books) before relocating them. Another driver for getting more of the collection catalogued is possible insurance. We can't get insurance on an unknown quantity. A third important driver is to be able to better publicise the collection, both within ASF and to other Australian libraries. We do get a smattering of requests for material, most of which we can satisfy, but the purpose of having a library is so that it can be used. While I think it is a fantastic collection, I have not done much publicity of the library over the years and most Australian cavers probably

have little idea what we hold, or how they might use it.

We have recently identified two people who are willing to help with cataloguing recent acquisitions to the ASF library collection, and have the right skills to do the job efficiently. Carol Anderson is a caver with excellent organisational and admin skills, and Penny Whitten is a trained indexer and library cataloguer with a science background and IT skills too. Penny can help us ensure that the catalogue is compatible with other libraries and can be made readily accessible from the ASF website. While neither is available to work full-time, both are willing to make a regular commitment that will add significantly to the time I have available.

I can't be precise about the length of time required to catalogue the material currently on hand (and we are expecting an additional ~ 1 cubic metre of material from Andy Spate in December), but 74 books have been catalogued in 3 sessions, and now that we have a clearer idea of what is required, and a scanning pen to assist with the process, I am fairly confident that productivity will progressively increase. I estimate the total items to catalogue to be somewhere in the order of 3000.

Both Carol and Penny receive an honorarium of the order of \$20 per hour for ASF library work and believe there is of the order of 200 hours work for the straightforward material and more for the maps and management reports. We will get a clearer idea about the time required as the work progresses.

*Library relocation appears not to be required in the short term, but may need to be considered in the next few years. For information, rental of storage space in Canberra costs of the order of \$250 per month for the minimum size to accommodate the Library. In the longer term it may be more cost effective to buy library accommodation. We have a lot of material that is not available digitally and is unlikely to become so, unless we arrange the digitising.

Membership

Colin Tyrrell

Membership

Membership climbed slightly again this year, with currently 934 members spanning 27 corporate member clubs with 9 Individual members outside the club framework. A couple of clubs are still experiencing difficulties in getting their members properly recorded on the membership database. This figure includes numerous family memberships and "O" Week sign-ups.

This year, again, has seen an increase in the number of individuals enquiring about Individual membership – these are referred to nearby clubs in the first instance.

There are 4 Associates and one Complimentary Associate (ACKMA).

There are 3 Caves Australia subscribers

Membership Database

Its primary use is for ASF to record members. The email lists operating through the membership database is used for all official ASF correspondence. As such it acts as a vehicle for communications (to club contacts (asf-admins), to individuals (all-comms).

The Membership database is also used for sending the eSpeleo newsletter to those who have their email address recorded.

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

A secondary use is to validate if a person is an ASF member and covered by insurance. Parks Tasmania is the only known non-club user of this facility. Several clubs use the facility to confirm whether a visiting member is actually a financial club.

The main issue to arise this (again) year continues to be that some clubs have been slow in updating their member records and keeping member details current. This has improved this year. It is important that when club executive positions change that they update their membership database admin person, which can be done by the club – you do not have to email the Membership secretary to do it.

There have been several emails from people receiving Caves Australia at an address vacated by a financial member.

The main impact is that members missed receiving a copy of Caves Australia, and not being covered by insurance.

Clubs should update membership data as members pay their fees.

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

Publications

Convener: Susan White

The Publications Commission had another extremely busy year in 2014.

Caves Australia

CA continues to thrive and we are now moving towards digital publishing as well as archiving digital (scanned editions). Most of the earlier copies of CA and its predecessors are scanned and we are just negotiating the scanning of volumes 1-25 of ASF Newsletter at the appropriate price ie free. Please make sure clubs are aware that the link will be sent via the email addresses listed in the membership database and that clubs have a responsibility to keep this as up to date as possible. The cost of printing and posting hard copies is prohibitive and digital publishing does mean that if our subscriptions can go to furthering the needs of speleology in the 21st century. Nevertheless those who want hard copy need to make sure that this is indicated by their club.

We have been more or less on schedule for 2014 and the next issue is well in hand. However keep those articles coming; we are very short of articles after CA 200. Alan Jackson continues to oversee the production and Ian Curtis has been a fine editor.

The limited number of people who write for CA has widened slightly but it is still far too narrow. The regular columns continue to be successful. There has been further discussion regarding detailed locations being published in CA articles and while the ASF policies and protocols do not support this the editor will continue to remove these details. If other publications (or publications which were not part of ASF when the publication occurred) publish such details it does not mean we need to follow suit.

ESpeleo

Ian Binnie has continued to be a good editor and has generated 4 ESpeleo in 2014. Please keep the information flowing to him on activities, notices, ads etc. Please email material to espeleo@binnie.id.au but please do not include large files as these are unsuitable for ESpeleo and clog his mail box!

Website

The website has performed well and continues to be well visited. We have gradually been getting upgraded material especially on the various commissions and other areas of ASF work. The Publications email continues to be successful and really helps with management of the Commission. The use of the website to provide information depends on the updating of material. As we need to be careful that we do not breach copyright, privacy, our own codes or defamation law etc., Commissioners are asked to send information to Susan White. Some editing of material is sometimes needed as spelling mistakes, typographical errors and grammatical horrors cannot always be seen by the authors. It is important that these are picked up before information is uploaded.

Other publications

David Rueda Roca has continued to be a successful publications sales officer and this has solved to a large extent the problems of individual orders. The PayPal facility is generally working well. We still have some problems with stock control. The order form and sales notice on the website Publications has largely solved the problem of supplying the small number of sales enquiries. There is also an issue of storage of large quantities of printed material. Not everyone has space for the storage of large numbers of boxes of books. I would like to thank John and Jeanette Dunkley for wearing the bulk of this for the past few years.

The sales of the Wee Jasper book continue to be a success and we have plenty of stock. The Jenolan book is now almost out of print and after consideration, we do not at this stage envisage a reprint. The New South Wales Karst Atlas (The Documentation System) has sold steadily and we have less than half the stock left. Caves, People and Land: Sandstone Caves of the Blue Mountains and Sydney Region by John Dunkley has moved rather slowly. The protocol set up to oversee the process of the production of subsequent volumes in the Atlas project worked well for this volume and will stand us in good stead and the Commission looks forward to new volumes.

These are all available through the Publication Sales officer.

The various publications available from ASF are listed on the website Publications page and can be purchased from the publications sales officer.

The Conservation Book is still stuck. We need to work out what is happening with this and it is still "in the queue" of things I have not had time to deal with this in 2014 and it is not an easy project. I would very much like to hear from anyone who is interested in being involved in regenerating this project! However I think that the project is not viable. Similarly the idea of a science 'for the people' book on Jenolan project has been made not feasible with the publication of the very excellent Hallinan book.

I would like to reiterate that good editing is a very real component of publication and the Commission is not prepared to back the publication of material we have not had professionally edited. As well, I periodically hear of errors in book X or Y. If errors exist the Commission needs more than just a 'there are serious errors' statement. A much more detailed list with pages and explanation of why it is incorrect is needed. Errata can be printed and inserted if necessary.

We have some potential publications under consideration. Some of this includes assisting with the publications issues which arise out of hosting the UIS congress in 2017.

The small profits from these books will be available to publish new material which will further our aims. There is great potential in publications to further the aims of ASF in the general public but more people need to be involved with writing stuff. We still get stuff where people have spent a lot of time on layout that is stripped out anyway as layout programs generally need plain text. Photos and diagrams need to be high quality, sources acknowledged and grammatical mistakes corrected.

Copyright

There are several issues about copyright the executive needs to be aware of and maybe assist with.

ASF is a member of the CAL, and CAL is holding a little bit of money us for copyright fees, mainly of the codes by schools. TAFE etc. The copyright statement on the website for material is now appropriate. We want people to use our codes not be put off by overly legal language, whilst still acknowledging our

copyright. On a related matter, it is my considered opinion that ASF members should not have to seek formal approval to use the codes; they are their codes after all. They should include the copyright statement with anything printed/published but permission is gratuitous. On the other hand outside organizations that wish to use our codes should seek permission if it is being incorporated into their material and this includes government agencies.

Publications is a big commission and it does take quite lot of time and effort but it is a rewarding task, especially when we see the finished results out in the public arena. It is a Commission which requires time to do the various jobs of overseeing the various tasks and finding people to do them including succession planning.

I would like to thank all the members of the Commission for all the work they have put in this year, especially Alan Jackson and Ian Curtis, both of whose acerbic senses of humour continues to keep me sane.

Safety, Leadership and Risk Management

Convener: Caroline Forest

A report was received but included items of future nature not what has been achieved this year. A copy is attached as an appendix.

No incident forms received from members.

Requests for club magazines to be emailed to SLARM Commissioner directly is being investigated.

Development of affordable CO2 detectors is progressing.

Speleo2017 ICS Organising Commission

Convener: Denis Marsh



17th
International
Congress of Speleology,
Sydney 2017

This past year has seen the foundations laid for the challenging task ahead of ASF in organising and hosting, on behalf of the UIS, the 17th

International Congress of Speleology in Sydney from 23 - 30 July 2017.

Initially this involved coming to terms with realising what ASF's obligations were and what would be required to undertake the task ahead. At the time of the last ASF Council meeting in January 2014 the ASF Executive had appointed a Secretary, Jim Crockett (MSS) and a President, Denis Marsh (OSS) to kick start the establishment of an organising committee. The Council in January 2014 resolved to provide a refundable seeding capital advance of \$35,000 towards the committee's purpose.

From this infancy, professional advice led to the establishment of a new ASF Commission (Speleo 2017 ICS Organising Commission) with a set of terms of reference agreed by the ASF Executive. The Executive Board of this ICS Organising Commission was expanded to include a Vice President, Nic White (VSA), a Treasurer, David Butler (NC) and a UIS Bureau representative, George Veni (from USA). A broader organising committee structure is gradually being developed by the Commission's Executive Board and resourced as appropriate. There is still a long way ahead with pulling together a suitably resourced organising committee but progress is happening in conjunction with the many administrative and immediate tasks identified so far, in line with the requirements of the UIS instructions for organising their world congress.

Possibly the most significant action in 2014 has been the signing of the contract for the selected venue, Penrith Panthers Events Centre, and payment of the initial \$1,000 deposit.

At the time of writing this report the organising committee structure reporting to the Executive Board so far consists of:

- Finance and Registration Committee – Chair, David Butler
- Publications Committee – Chair, Sue White
- Field Excursions Committee – Chair, Cathie Plowman
- Program Committee – Chair, Jill Rowling
- Venue and Accommodation Committee – Chair, Jim Crockett
- Promotions Committee – Chair, vacant
- Public Relations Committee – Chair, vacant

Each committee will be resourced with a number of Coordinators for the various tasks associated with these committees. A few

coordinators have already been identified to assist with specific tasks on the Publications and Program committees but we will need to build a much larger committee going forward to share the load.

During 2014, the Commission has held 3 meetings, in February, May and August, all conducted in Sydney and hosted by the generosity of Grace Matts. A further meeting is scheduled for the 14th February 2015. In addition, ASF and the Commission jointly hosted a visit and annual meeting of the UIS Bureau members in Sydney from 30 October to 1 November 2014. The Commission through myself as President and Nic White as Vice President, gave a presentation to the Bureau members on our organisation and progress on the organisation of the Congress to date. I am pleased to report to the Council that the Bureau members gave us their full vote of confidence in our progress actions so far and our future directions.

Members of the ASF Executive and Commission Executive Board also hosted a visit to the Congress venue for the Bureau members during their visit to Sydney. The Bureau members were able to provide some constructive comments to the Commission but overall were impressed with the selected venue. The Commission extends a thanks to Grace Matts for organising Bureau member's accommodation and coordinating transport, Joe Sydney who hosted an Aussie barbecue for the Bureau Members, along with the ASF Executive who were in Sydney for an Executive meeting, and Bob Kershaw for driving the bus.

Our current focus going into 2015 involves getting our website up (speleo2017.caves.org.au) and building on the required team currently being established to organise the Congress over the coming 2 ½ years. It is expected that the actual conduct of the world congress in 2017 will in itself need an even larger energetic and enthusiastic team of ASF volunteers to make the Congress a success.

The Commission is availing itself of Caves Australia, E-Speleo Bulletin and the UIS Bulletin at this stage to advertise the Congress

Arrangements are in hand for the payment of the second venue deposit amount of \$10,000, due to be paid to Penrith Panthers Event Centre on the 26 January 2015, followed by a further deposit amount of \$20,000 due on 25 January 2016.

The Commission continues to seek out ASF members to indicate a willingness to join our team and hopefully establish ASF on the world stage in advancing speleology in all its forms.

Survey and Mapping Standards

Convener: Alan Warild

I really think that having a commission for survey & map standards is a little more than what is warranted. Probably more like an ASF contact person is more like it. In all the time I've held the title, all I've done is answer a couple of questions from the international commission.

Special Interest Groups

ASF Cave Diving Group

No report received

Judbarra-Gregory Karst Research SIG of the ASF – 2014

Mark Sefton

The July expedition to the Judbarra-Gregory National Park in the Northern Territory marked the 25th anniversary of speleological activity there and was one of the most productive yet. Although only 500 m of new cave was mapped in the Bullita Cave System which is now 122.7 km in length, another 20 km of passages was surveyed elsewhere in the park. Most of this year's activities took place in the karst field, referred to as the 'Southern Karst' immediately west of the East Baines River. A resurvey of Two Fishes Cave which is close to the East Baines has almost doubled its length and combined with further mapping in the eastern half of the Two Fishes-Prometheus-Atlantis system has extended the surveyed length of this cave system in the eastern half of the Southern Karst to 35 km. Three new caves nearby were explored and mapped: "Northwest Passage", "Lair of the Macropod" and "The Arctic Circle". All three caves have possibilities of connecting to the Two Fishes-Prometheus-Atlantis System which itself still has much more to survey. So it is very likely that this system will soon become Australia's second longest cave. The Two Fishes-Prometheus-Atlantis system contains among the largest passages and chambers seen in any cave in the park.

Meanwhile, in the opposite (western) end of the Southern Karst, we finally managed to link BAA29 to BAA108 via a tight squeeze that only two of our new members were able to negotiate. BAA108 was, in turn, linked to a new cave – BAA117 and there remain some leads heading further north-east, towards Atlantis. This western system is now just over 13 km in length. It may be possible to finally join the western and eastern systems but this will involve some hard work and will probably take several more years. If we do succeed, we could end up with a cave that is over 60 km long.

The area east of the Dingo System (north of Limestone Gorge) also received quite a bit of attention. An extra kilometre of some very attractive passages and chambers was found in Piano Bar Cave (BAA7) and the series of small and now linked caves immediately to the east of the northern end of the Dingo System was extended further east by another 700 m in the direction of Thunderbirds Cave. A 'thin' team scoured the surface between these caves and Dingo in the hope of finding a connection and although some new small caves were found that led into Dingo, no connection has yet been found in the opposite direction, despite these two systems being less than 50 m apart. If a connection is found then this will extend the Dingo System to around 40 km.

At the Annual General Meeting, held at Bullita on the last day of the expedition, Mark Sefton, Megan Pryke and Bob Kershaw were re-elected to the SIG Committee as Chairman, Secretary and Mapping Coordinator respectively. Phil Maynard, Kevin Moore and Peter Freeman were also elected as Committee members.

Committee Reports

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Committee

Conference Committees

Karstaway 2009

Chair: Margaret James

Exmouth 2015

Chair: Darren Brooks

ASF Server and Karst Index Database

Mike Lake

Karst Index Database

No change this year.

ASF Servers

Security and Software Updates

Both servers have been kept up-to-date with numerous security patches and software updates over the year. Backups are done of the karst index database and some of the other hosted sites, though generally clubs are responsible for maintaining their own backup of their hosted websites. The membership database backups are handled by Dave Connard.

A major change this year has been the phasing out of username and password access to the use of public/private keypairs with a pass phrase for all users. This provides two-factor authentication which is more secure and considered best-practice.

Hosted Sites

Hosted sites on the ASF server are NSW clubs; BMSC, CASM, CWCG, ISS, OSS, and SUSS and in Victoria the VSA. CWCG and CASM have a site but have not yet created content for their website. The server also hosts sites for the ASF Executive, the NSWSC (NSW Speleological Council) and Helictite (Journal of Australasian Speleological Research) and a site for the Save Cliefden Caves campaign <http://savecliefdencaves.caves.org.au>. A site for the UIS Congress has been setup at <http://speleo2017.caves.org.au> (with a simple basic design and some content) and an email address speleo2017@caves.org.au as a start. I have also setup a wiki for the UIS Committee and filled this with information.

The ASF decided to use the Joomla Content Management System for its main website www.caves.org.au early in 2013. That site is externally hosted site by ITC Software as we do not have the skill set to maintain it and it was a security risk. The changeover from our server to ITC Software in March 2014 went very smoothly and there was no downtime for users.

Other Software

There are two other items that I have been setting up on the ASF servers. Private or public wikis are available for each club. They would be useful for clubs to maintain their documentation or for members to have an editable Wiki. I'm sure clubs will find many different uses for this.

The other item that is new for 2014 is an archive for a caving club's cave survey data. The Cave Archive and Versioning Experiment (The CAVE) stores the scans of the in-cave sketches and data sheets, the text survey data and metadata for all files. It is based on a distributed version control system so multiple authorised persons have copies of all versions of the data thus reducing the chance that survey data will be "lost". A publically browsable web front end allows non-private survey data to be accessed and shows just metadata for private survey data. SUSS is trialling this system and we will see how it goes with a view to making it available for all clubs. See <http://suss.caves.org.au/cave/>

Budget proposal for 2015 (that has been approved by the Executive in January 2015).

1. Continuation of our Virtual Servers at Linode with no upgrades:

Costings for 2015 for our current Linode-2GB plan:

RAM	CPU	Storage	Transfer	Network In	Network Out	Price
2 GB	2 Cores	48 GB SSD	3TB	40 Gbps	250 Mbps	\$20 / month

We have two linodes plus pay US \$5/mo for a backup.

This makes a total of US \$45/month to maintain our current systems.

2. Upgrade to 64 bit and more RAM and disk space:

We should plan to upgrade to a Linode-4GB plan in 2015 as clubs are adding more content to their sites and as we add more services we need more RAM:

RAM	CPU	Storage	Transfer	Network In	Network Out	Price
4GB	4 Cores	96 GB SSD	3 TB	40 Gbps	500 Mbps	\$40 / month

However we should also separate our test and backup servers and we probably need a separate server for the UIS site <http://speleo2017.caves.org.au>, hence:

Production server:	US \$40/mo
Test Server:	\$40
Backup Server:	\$40
UIS site Server:	\$40
Backup for 4 sites:	\$20
Total:	US \$140 / month

SSL Certificate:

Obtaining an SSL certificate would allow us to use https instead of http for sites where we wish to have more security. We don't need this right now but there are applications that will likely be rolled out in 2015 where this would be useful. The membership database would probably use this if it was available. SSL certificates are issued by a certificate authority (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Certificate authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Certificate_authority)). The cost from <https://www.startssl.com> is about US \$140 for two years and from <http://ssl.enetica.com.au> is about AU \$1000 for one year. The large discrepancy in the prices charged needs to be looked into further. Cost: either about US \$140/2 years or AU \$1000/year.



Contact List of ASF Corporate Members 2014

ASF is incorporated in the ACT
PO Box 388 BROADWAY NSW 2007

Corporate Members

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Speleological Society Inc.
PO Box 156
Curtin ACT 2605

National University Caving Club

c/o ANU Sport and Recreation Association
ANU Building 19,
North Road
Acton, ACT 0200

New South Wales

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

PO Box 551
Hazelbrook, NSW, 2779.

Metropolitan Speleological Society

PO Box 178
Thornleigh NSW 2120

Cavers and Adventurers of the Snowy Mountains

Contact- Email Alan Beck:al-shiva@hotmail.com

Newcastle and Hunter Valley Speleological Society Inc.

PO Box 15
Broadmeadow NSW 2292

Central West Caving Group

605 Jaunter Rd
Jaunter NSW 2787

Orange Speleological Society

PO Box 752
Orange NSW 2800

Highland Caving Group

PO Box 54
Georges Hall NSW 2194

Rover Speleological Society of NSW

c/o 22/102 Crimea Road
Marsfield NSW 2122

Hills Speleology Club Ltd.

3 Heights Place
Hornsby Heights NSW 2077

Sydney University Speleological Society

PO Box 3318
Redfern NSW 2016

Illawarra Speleological Society Inc.

PO Box 94
Unanderra NSW 2526

University of Technology Sydney Speleological Society

c/o ActivateUTS Sports
PO Box 3210
Broadway NSW 2007

Kempsey Speleological Society

PO Box 31
Kempsey
NSW 2440

Queensland

Chillagoe Caving Club Inc.

PO Box 92
Cairns Qld 4870

South Australia

Cave Exploration Group South Australia Inc.

PO Box 144
Rundle Mall
SA 5000

Flinders University Speleological Society

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

Tasmania

Mole Creek Caving Club Inc

PO Box 209
Mole Creek TAS 7304

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.

PO Box 416
Sandy Bay TAS 7006

Northern Caverneers Inc.

PO Box 315
Launceston TAS 7250

Victoria

Victorian Speleological Association Inc.

GPO Box 5425CC
Melbourne Vic 3001

Western Australia

Cavers Leeuwin Inc

P.O. Box 1192
Margaret River WA 6285

Western Australian Speleological Group Inc.

PO Box 67
Nedlands WA 6909

Speleological Research Group of Western Australia

PO Box 1611
East Victoria Park WA 6981

Cave Exploration Group of Western Australia

PO Box 1821
Wangara DC WA 6947

Provisional Members

Victorian Limestone Caving Team

c/o 39 Esdale St
Blackburn VIC 3130

Associates

Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association

PO Box 36,
Carlton South, Vic 3053

Landforms and Rehabilitation Team

(NSW NP&WS, OEH)
Level 2, 203-209 Russell St,
Bathurst NSW 2795

NSW Cave Rescue Squad

PO Box 122,
Bankstown, NSW 2200

ASF Special Interest Groups

ASF Cave Diving Group

ASF Judbarra-Gregory Karst Research Group

C/- Chairperson, Mark Sefton
C/- PO Box 144,
Rundle Mall, SA 5000

Karst Conservancies

KarstWatch (Mole Creek)