



ASF Awards Policy

(January 1983, amended Jan 1993, amended by Executive January 2010 and December 2012)

The Federation has a tiered system of awards that provide persons with recognition of their achievements (accomplishments) in various fields of speleology in Australia.

History of the Awards

The Edie Smith Award was established in 1968 and is given for outstanding service to Australian Speleology over a long period of time. Also in this tier is the Fellowship of ASF, established in 1972, and given for outstanding service over long period of time to the Federation. The Certificate of Merit was added in 1983 and the Award of Distinction in 1993 to ensure that a wider range of speleological achievement was able to be celebrated. Other Council resolutions in 2005 and 2008 have seen the introduction of several classes with the Awards of Distinction.

General Information

- Frequency:* The ASF awards are announced biennially, in conjunction with the Biennial Conference.
- Nomination:* Nominations shall be called during February of even numbered years with a closing date at the end of June in that year. Except for Fellows, there is no requirement for a nominee to be a member of the ASF
- Selection Committee:* Those charged with selecting award recipients shall be the President of the day and at least two past ASF presidents. The selection panel need not restrict itself to nominations received, nor is it required to make an award in any particular biennium. If the panel recommends the awarding of a Fellowship, such election shall require no less than a two-thirds majority approval of Councillors at a Council meeting.

General Selection Criteria:

Nominations are made for an Award generally, not for a specific Award. Although no specific nomination form or criteria exist for each award, the following could be used as a guide to assist the nominating club or person write a nomination:

Specific contributions to the exploration, scientific study, conservation or documentation of caves, including the roles of leadership, administration, publication and the development of new techniques and equipment, notable contribution to speleology outside the normal parameters, recognition of excellence and outstanding achievement in karst and cave conservation, cave exploration, or cave science.

EDIE SMITH AWARD

- Criterion: For outstanding service to Australian speleology over a long period of time (ie.10 years) in any field of speleology.
- Award Form: Permanent plaque, together with a citation and badge.
- Background: The Edie Smith Award was established by resolution of the January 1968 meeting of the Federation to perpetuate the memory of Edie Smith and to give recognition to those who have made outstanding contribution to Australian speleology.
Edie Smith was a distinguished pioneer of Australian speleology, a life member of Tasmanian Caving Club and the first woman president of an Australian speleological society (Canberra Speleological Society).

FELLOWSHIP OF THE ASF

- Criterion: For outstanding service, specifically to the Federation
- Award Form: Permanent plaque, together with a badge and no requirement to pay ASF membership fees
- Background: Established in 1972.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

- Criterion: For recognition of those who have made an especially notable contribution to speleology.
- Award Form: A medallion, together with a citation
- Background: Established in January 1993 to honour those who have given valuable service to speleology in conservation battles, expedition assistance, research, etc.
- In recent times this award was extended to also cover specific areas of speleology:
- The Joe Jennings Award of Distinction for Cave Science
 - The Jeff Butt Award of Distinction for Cave Exploration
 - The Peter Berrill Award of Distinction for Cave Conservation

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

- Criterion: For valuable service to speleology above normal involvement
- Award Form: A printed certificate (framed for conference attendees), together with a badge.
- Background: Established in January 1983 to honour specific contribution to speleology. Often given to those seeing through particular projects such as: Specific contributions to the exploration, scientific study, conservation or documentation of caves, including the roles of leadership, administration, publication and the development of new techniques and equipment.

SPECIAL AWARDS

From time to time organisations and individuals may offer awards to promote some aspect of caving or speleology. The offer of such awards is to be made to the Awards Commission, which will determine if the award is acceptable and the most appropriate method for administering such awards. There are no recent such awards.

Certificates of Appreciation

These are given for services rendered to the ASF from persons outside the ASF. They are given by the executive and need not be organised by the Awards Convenor. For example, an auditor who donates his time to audit the ASF books; an ex-caver who prints the ASF receipt books; The convenor or organising club or committee of a Biennial conference

Protocol regarding informing nominees

Nominations and recipients of awards are to be kept confidential by the committee until the announcement at the appropriate time. But new trial actions are:

After the Awards have been determined by the President and past Presidents, a letter is to be sent by the Convenor of the Commission to the ASF award recipient re their award. This letter acknowledges their contribution to speleology etc but not the exact nature of the award or reasons for receiving the award. This aspect brings ASF in line with Australian Awards whereby the recipient is notified months in advance. Also to note in the letter is that the award information is to remain confidential and is not to be announced to anyone until the night of the presentation dinner. This letter will also invite them to the Conference dinner to receive their award.

NOTES

- Awards are not made posthumously unless nomination received before passing of nominee.
- Current Executive do not receive awards unless nominations received before being an Exec member

Policy on the position of wearing ASF Awards

Adopted by the Executive December 2012

The ASF encourages members to wear their miniature medals of Australian Honours and the medals that reflect the ASF awards at Conference Opening Ceremonies and the Formal dinners such as at conferences.

Australian Honours recipients know that their medals are worn above the left breast and so to begin an ASF protocol, we ask you to please wear your ASF award badge/s above the right breast.

If you have more than 2 ASF awards, the highest ASF award is worn closest to the breast bone.

But the Award of Distinction is a medallion to be worn around the neck. See the diagram above.

