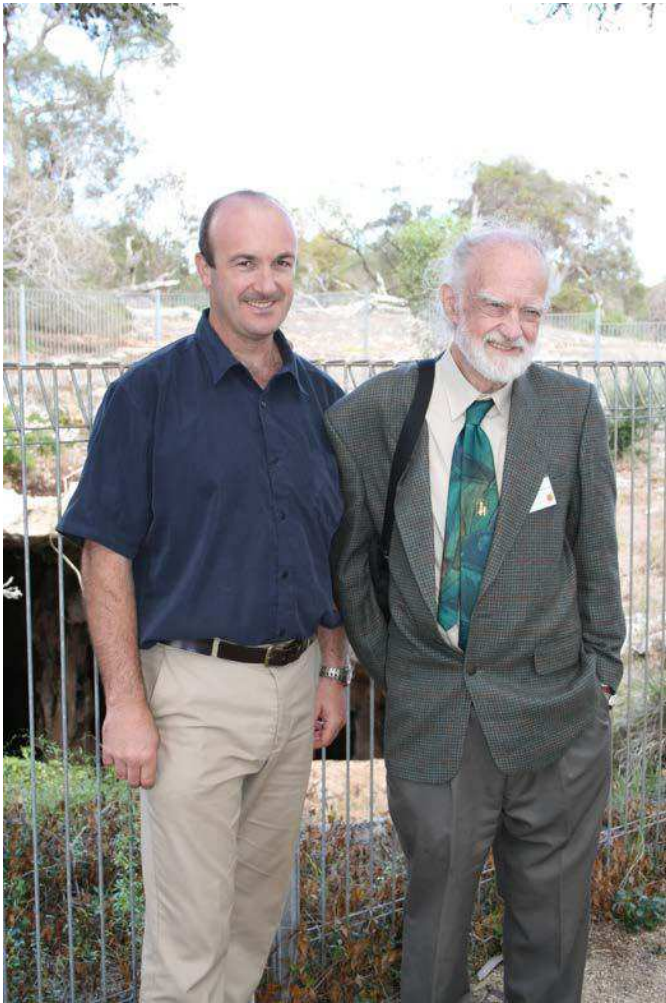


FROM THE EDITOR



*Steve Bourne with Elery
Naracoorte Caves, 2006
Photo: Liz Reed*

This is a very special issue of the ACKMA journal. It is the 100th edition, which in itself is quite an achievement, but it is much more than that. It celebrates the life of a man known as the father of ACKMA, Elery Hamilton-Smith. Elery was always a man of exquisite timing and it is indeed remarkable that the 100th edition should coincide with his passing.

This edition includes the eulogy delivered by Elery's great friend Dennis Williamson at the service held at St Francis Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Wednesday 1 July 2015. I attended the service along with other ACKMA members who were able to attend. It was a diverse crowd reflecting Elery's diverse interests and the number of people he touched in his career. Dennis's eulogy is well researched and all of those in attendance learnt more about this remarkable man.

Andy Spate provides some recollections of Elery, having known him for over 50 years. Greg Middleton, likewise, provides some anecdotes stretching back to the 1960s.

His impact across a range of diverse interests is reflected in a series of emails that Andy Spate has collected from email lists, where people have expressed their gratitude to Elery, sympathy to his family and shared personal stories.

It is by no means a complete history of what Elery achieved in his lifetime, and does not set out to do that, but is rather a collection of personal stories and feelings towards a man we all loved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dan Cove

How do you summarise a great life? Do you focus on individual actions, single memorable moments or try to describe the whole? Do you focus upon the achievements of the individual or upon the impact of these achievements? On the point of inspiration, or upon those inspired? There are, of course, no perfect answers to these questions and we all remember, celebrate and grieve in our own ways. This special issue of the ACKMA journal commemorates a truly great life through the tributes and reminiscences of only a few of those whose lives were touched, influenced and in many cases irrevocably altered by the 'Father of ACKMA', Elery Hamilton-Smith.

When one's own words feel inadequate, it is sometimes all you can do to turn to the wisdom of others. In thinking of Elery, and reflecting upon the fullness of his life and the passion and purpose that he exuded and transmitted to so many others I am reminded of a quote from Gautama Siddhartha, founder of Buddhism;

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.

Elery's life was a candle that burnt with an intensity that both illuminated the way where previously there had been darkness, and that truly lit thousands of candles as it passed. Elery leaves us a World that is the brighter for his having passed through it. I cannot think of a more meaningful and lasting legacy.