

# WAITOMO REMEMBERS THE PASSING OF AN ICON

- Kevan Wilde

John Ash speaks at the memorial dedication.  
Photo: Greg Martin.



Peter Dimond was warmly, and somewhat sadly, remembered at a memorial dedication ceremony held at the Waitomo Museum of Caves on 20 December 2003, one year since his tragic and untimely death.

As you know, Peter was a long time member and former President of ACKMA, associated with caves and caving for almost 50 years (!); and, the founder and driving force behind the Waitomo Museum of Caves.

The Multi-media Theatre and show *Arachnocampa luminosa* (the New Zealand Glowworm) were dedicated to Peter and his achievements during the ceremony that was attended by over 100 friends.

Also attending were Sue Dimond, Peter's sister and his son, Christian, who unveiled a memorial plaque. A photographic album depicting Peter's rich and full life was also placed on display in the Museum.



Peter Dimond's son, Julian, about to unveil the memorial plaque in the Waitomo Museum of Caves Auditorium at the Peter Dimond memorial dedication. Photo: Greg Martin.

Derek Mason (right) at the memorial dedication, holding a glass of red wine and the ACKMA Journal – Peter Dimond would have approved! Photo: Greg Martin.



Glen Bailey, the Waitomo Museum Society Chairperson, reflected on Peter's dedication, passion and stubborn determination in making the Museum what it is today and John Ash, formerly of Black Water Rafting, spoke of the way Peter helped shape Waitomo tourism and the community.



Ann Stubbs addresses the gathering at the memorial dedication. Photo: Greg Martin.

Kevan Wilde, the new Museum Director, spoke of Peter as "A giant of a man, a man of significance and a man of depth of vision"; and, he quoted an old Maori proverb, "Ka hinga te totara o te wao nui a Tane" ('A totara has been taken from the great forest of Tane').

The evening was concluded with supper and wine in the manner to which Peter was accustomed, and would have thoroughly approved of.

He is gone but not forgotten. He was our friend, our mentor, and our rangatira!

