

TWO NEW FELLOWS OF ACKMA!

ACKMA President, Robyn McBeath, congratulates Dr. Grant Gartrell on his election as a Fellow of ACKMA – ACKMA AGM Weekend.



At the recent ACKMA Annual General Meeting at Mole Creek, two members were unanimously elected Fellows of ACKMA. Both richly merited their awards. Their propositions read as follows:

Dr. Grant Gartrell, the old man wombat of caving. Grant has been an active caver for nearly 40 years. He has been responsible for some of the South Australia's most significant caving finds, including the discovery of the fossil beds in Victoria Fossil Cave with Rod Wells and Bob Henzel. Everywhere you look, there are caves and chambers have been first entered by Grant, but he has never sought recognition for that. Instead he sits quietly in the background, seeking to understand the complexities of a particular karst area. He is always happy to sit and discuss his ideas with everyone and if there is a problem that needs solving, Grant is a wise head to turn to.

He has been extremely pro active in the fight to protect caves, the Sellicks Hill Cave a classic example. Changes of government and over ten years since the cave was imploded have not stopped Grant from seeking to have someone held accountable for the debacle and to ensure it never happens again.

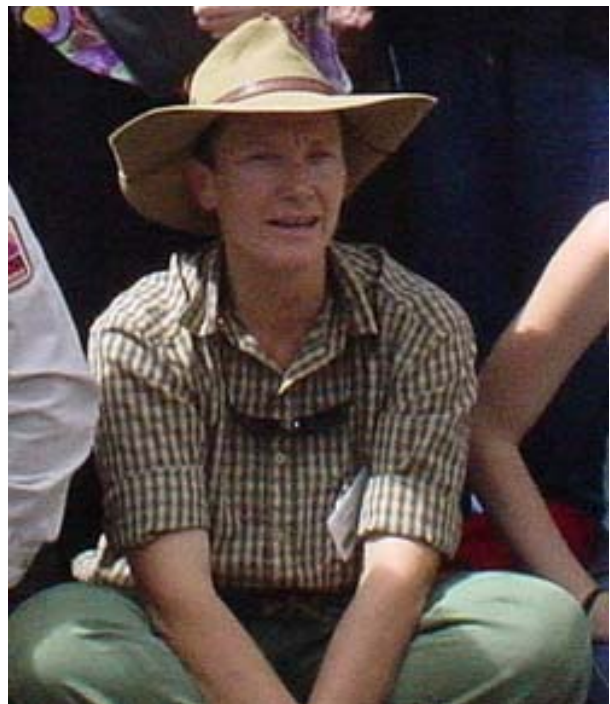
The launch of the Naracoorte Caves website was coincidentally held on the tenth anniversary of the destruction of the cave and Grant did not miss the opportunity to point this out to the Minister for Tourism and Member of Parliament in attendance. He is a dogged in this quest as he has been in finding new caves.

Grant has willingly served as treasurer and ASF liaison officer of ACKMA for the past two years. He has served on many caving club committees, always happy to take a role in administration as well as activities. He is a rare individual in that his contribution to Australian caves covers all aspects, from active exploration, conservation, administration and research. His contribution to Australian caving is significant and for that reason, we would like to propose Grant Gartrell a Fellow of ACKMA (proposed by Steve Bourne and Andy Spate).

Lana Little has served the Association with great diligence over the Association's life. Her achievements include:

- A major role in the first ACKMA (Tenth) Conference in Queensland – at Rockhampton, Undara and Chillagoe;
- A leading role in the second ACKMA (Fifteenth) Conference in Queensland – at Chillagoe and Undara;
- Considerable assistance with the year-to-year operations of the Association including the production of spectacularly good minutes of such troublesome AGMs as were needed for the major constitutional changes agreed at Derwent Bridge at the Eleventh Conference;
- Major involvement in the utilisation of innovative approaches to show cave development and management practice;
- Involvement in recreational caving;
- Considerable involvement in cave bat research in Queensland and in SE Asia;
- Exploration of Australian caves and karst including in exotic settings such as Black Mountain near Cooktown as well as excursions into South East Asia; and
- Major involvement in the world's first Cave Expo in Samcheok City, Korea.

Lana arrived at Chillagoe many years ago and worked in lime works and quarries before joining the Queensland Parks Service rising to be the boss of Chillagoe and parts of the Mitchell-Palmer karsts – in addition to many other parks and reserves – as well as having had a great influence (and from-time-to-time) major exploration, documentation and management activities at Undara. (proposed by Andy Spate and Steve Bourne).



Lana Little – ACKMA Conference 2003

