

At Alan Griffin's Retirement Dinner

– Alan (right) is presented with his own Jenolan Sooty Owl by Peter Austen. Photo: Domino Cove.



FAREWELL TO ALAN GRIFFIN

– Peter Austen*

On Friday 6 February a sizable group assembled at Chisolm's Dining Room in Jenolan Caves House to pay tribute to the career of Alan Griffin. Alan officially retired on 31 December 2008 after forty-three years in the NSW Public Service.

Alan's final five years of service were as the Administrator of the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, a period that Alan referred to as certainly a highlight of his long and distinguished career.

Several speakers representing Jenolan management, staff, NPWS, SSS, JCHAPS and other stakeholders rose during the night to praise Alan's contribution to Jenolan Caves. Amongst the achievements noted were Alan's extraordinary ability to secure government funding for significant capital works projects, his capacity to foster a strong management team and the sense of teamwork and purpose that has developed at Jenolan during his tenure.

Tributes were also received from Steve Bourne, Andy Spate and Elery Hamilton-Smith, recognising Alan's contribution not only to Jenolan, but his broader interest in Karst management and ACKMA. Letters from the Hon Carmel Tebbutt, Deputy Premier of NSW, and Lisa Corbyn, Director of DECC, praised Alan's many contributions to NSW over his forty-three years, including his contribution to Jenolan.

The size of the gathering, and in particular the number of staff in attendance, was an appropriate recognition of the exceptional service that Alan has given the state of NSW, and the leadership and direction that he has provided to Jenolan. Management and staff alike offer him their thanks, and wish he and his wife Margaret all the very best for a long and well earned retirement.

* Director, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust.



"Don't tell me. More last minute editorial changes."