

ACKMA WOWS THE ISCA CONGRESS

A Message from ISCA President David Summers



The bid by Jenolan Caves to host the next Congress of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA) in 2014 was successful. The world of show caves will be coming to Jenolan in 2014. Congratulations to Jenolan!

In addition to the success in securing the host position in 2014 Australia was also successful in that Dan Cove was elected to the Board of Directors of ISCA. This is a first, as Dan becomes the first Australasian to be elected to this Board. The elections were eagerly contested and it is to be noted that Dan finished in the upper bracket of votes in this election. Congratulations to Dan!

The ISCA Board comprises a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer and ten Directors. With the exception of the Secretary/Treasurer and the two Associate Members, who can be elected as Directors, each member must be from a different country.

The full elected Board of Directors comprised:

President: David Summers (Bermuda)

1st Vice President: Heinz Vonderthann (Germany)

2nd Vice President: Brad Wuest (USA)

Secretary/Treasurer: Renata Marinelli (Italy)

Directors:

Filiberto Cecchi	(Italy)
Dan Cove	(Australia)
Guilhem De Grully	(France)
Peter Gazik	(Slovakia)
Hein Gertsner	(South Africa)
Hanne Oedin	(Sweden)
Rafael Pages	(Spain)
Nick Powe	(England)
Zhang Shouyue	(China)
Zsuzsa Tolnay	(Hungary)
Non-Voting:	Arrigo Cigna (Italy)

This Board serves a four year term ending during the next Congress that will be held at Jenolan Caves in 2014.

With four Australians at the Congress it would be less than correct to say that Kent Henderson, Andy Spate, Barry Richard and Dan Cove were a quiet and inconspicuous group! There were always in the thick of things and carried the Australian flag very ably and proudly. The worldwide meeting of show caves was enriched by their presence and contributions.

The recent Congress was held in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia over 18th to 23rd October 2010. All six populated continents were represented at the Congress. ISCA now comprises a total of 30 member countries. This is up from the total of 18 countries in 2006. ISCA is experiencing great growth even in these times of worldwide economic recession.

The international comradeship that pervaded the attendees at this Congress can best be demonstrated by a very remarkable occurrence. The venue of the ISCA Conference in 2012 was being contested by Greece and Turkey. This was going to give everybody a very tough choice when these two opponent countries unexpectedly became together and conceived a shared Conference, with three full days and four nights in each country. This was enthusiastically endorsed by all participants at the General Assembly.

The travel day to Greece will be 3rd November 2012 followed by three full days and four nights in Greece. This will be followed by a travel day from Greece to Turkey on 7th November 2012, followed by three full days and four nights in Turkey. Departure from Turkey will be on Sunday 11th November 2012. More information about this conference will be provided as the organization of this very exciting conference proceeds.

For those of you who have never travelled to Greece and Turkey, and seen the show caves of these two countries, this will be an incredible opportunity to do so. Mark your Calendars now and start saving some pennies for what promises to be an incredible trip.

Another event that occurred during the recent Congress were a number of changes to the ISCA Constitution that included the enlargement of the number of Directors from five to ten. This was considered necessary because of the increase in countries and members during the past four years.

Now that Jenolan have realized their goal to host the next Congress there is much to be planned. You can expect the initial details of ISCA's 7th Congress in 2014 to be released after the good folks at Jenolan get over the shock of their accomplishment.

I will be talking to you all again very soon.