

ELEVATION of DAVE SMITH to a LIFE MEMBER of ACKMA

Andy Spate and John Brush

It was my very great pleasure, on behalf of the ACKMA Life Members, to move that Dave Smith join the family of our Life Members. This was seconded by John Brush and carried unanimously by acclamation by the members present at the AGM at Te Anau.

Dave has made a great contribution to ACKMA – usually understated and unrecognised – as is evidenced by the following:

- 1997-2004 ACKMA Committee Member
- 2003 Elected Fellow of ACKM
- 2005-2011 Executive Officer
- 2011-2013 NZ Vice President
- 2013-2016 Executive Officer

Dave has been involved in cave-related work across:

- 1990-91 & 1993-94 Conservation Officer, NZ Speleological Society
- 1998-2003 Research Officer, NZ Speleological Society
- 1992-2017 Secretary, Waitomo Catchment Trust Board

And of course, he has his professional role in the Department of Conservation. In 1995 he wrote a regional karst management strategy under contract. After 1997 he has been managing karst programs around the Waitomo area as a ranger, program manager and ultimately district manager. Since 1997 managing karst programmes around the Waitomo area as a ranger, programme manager then district manager. His main role has been managing biodiversity staff and operations across the board.

His contribution to ACKMA has been considerable. As well as being a cheerful and friendly fellow his work on the ACKMA Rules over the past few years has been exceptional.

Dave's background includes guiding and outdoor instruction with various companies in the early 1990s, including Black Water Rafting. He has been involved in cave related work across NZ, Alaska, Tonga and Philippines; and recreational caving across Australia, and in New Mexico and Samoa. He is a recreational caver through Hamilton Tomo Group since about 1986. Lots of exploration, especially in Bulmer Caverns, Mt Owen, and long involvement in Cave Search and Rescue (SAR).



*Dave receiving his award from Dale Calnin, Te Anau 2017
Photo: Steve Bourne*

We commend Dave Smith to the membership of ACKMA.



*Dave in Hollow Hill Cave, Waitomo, New Zealand 2013.
Photo: Steve Bourne*



Clockwise from top left.
In Victoria Fossil Cave, Naracoorte 2015.
Photo: John Brush
In Beekeepers Cave, Naracoorte, 2015
With Steve Bourne at Westport, New Zealand, 2005.
In Johansens Cave Rockhampton, Queensland 2016
At Mole Creek, Tasmania 2004
In Aurora Cave, Te Anau 2017
Photos: Steve Bourne

