

THE 24TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

- Jodie Rutledge

The 24th ASF Biennial Conference was recently held in Bunbury, Western Australia, from the 2nd to the 8th of January. Heartfelt congratulations are extended to the Committee led by Ida Newton and the host club's the Speleological Research Group of Western Australia and the Western Australian Speleological Group.

All participants agreed that this was a fantastic event. An extensive program was offered including talks on history, paleontology, geomorphology, local hydrology, cave art, cave photography, conservation, eco-tourism, cave biology as well as some fascinating reports on karst exploration in such areas like the Nullabor, the Kimberley, China and Borneo. The program also provided opportunities to visit some of the most pristine caves in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge in the Margaret River Region.

On the first day of lectures and workshops all gathered for an opening address by the ASF's inaugural President Dr Brian O'Brien titled, "Caving; Risk Management; Dreams & Visions". Dr O'Brien spoke of the love of exploration and the importance of dreams and visions. He warned us to be cautious about how we approach the Public Liability problem that is sweeping Australia, and warned against

becoming over regulatory at the expense of achieving our dreams as explorers. His opening address I believe is featured in this edition of the Australian Caver magazine and is well worth reflecting on.

Thank you to the principal sponsors, Caveworks, CALM, and Ngilgi cave- Yallingup for their wonderful support also. As an organiser for the previous ASF conference, I can appreciate the importance of such support.

ASF EXECUTIVE FOR 2003\5

The following were elected to the ASF Executive at Conference in Bunbury:

President:	John Dunkley
Senior Vice-President:	Jay Anderson
Vice-Presidents:	Chris Bradley, Nick White and Joe Sydney.
Secretary:	Kath Rowsell
Membership Secretary:	Jodie Rutledge
Executive Secretary:	Peter Dykes
Treasurer:	Grace Matts
Non-Executive Vice-Presidents:	Arthur Clarke, Peter Berrill

COMING EVENTS

- Elery Hamilton-Smith

In particular, this list will cover events of special interest to researchers and managers. A similar list in *Australian Caver* will give a place to meetings of exploration interest, open expeditions or international tours. Both of these lists will be just that: if you are interested in any listed events, contact Elery Hamilton-Smith at: <elery@alphalink.com.au>.

2003

March 27-Apr 2	International Workshops and Conference on Salt Water Intrusion and Coastal Aquifers, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.
Apr 5	NSW Speleological Council: Workshop on Aboriginal Sites and Cultural Values, Jaunter
May 5-12	15th ACMKA Conference, Chillagoe-Undara, Queensland
May 29-31	Scientific Meeting to celebrate 300th Anniversary of Kungur Ice Cave. Perm, Russia.
June 3-8	International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems, Bowling Green, USA
July 7-11	Australian Vertebrate Palaeontology Conference, Brisbane
July 23-31	Neglected environmental proxy-archives: continental shelves, karst and drylands, XVI Inqua Conference, Reno, Nevada.
Aug 26-28	Gypsum Karst Areas of the World, Bologna, Italy
Sept ?	Water Resources in Karst and Hard Rock Formations, Isfahan, Iran
Sept 8-17	World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa
Oct 13-18	Caves and Karst Management Symposium, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

And Looking Ahead:

2004: Jan 24-25	ASF Council Meeting
2004: Sept	International Conference of Vulcanology, Azores
2004: Sept 13-18	First International meeting of the Vietnamese-Belgian Karst Project, Hanoi
2005: Jan 2-8	ASF Conference, Dover, Tasmania
2005: Autumn	16th ACKMA Conference – West Coast, South Island, New Zealand
2005: Mid-year	14th International Congress of Speleology, Athens, Greece
2007: January	ASF Conference, South Australia, celebrating 50 years of the Federation.

