Elery Hamilton Smith Award 2023

The Elery Hamilton-Smith Award is given for the most meritorious article published in the ACKMA journal over the preceding two years. The award is normally given in association with the bi-annual conference, but with the postponement of the Tākaka Conference in 2022, it was decided that as the journal editor was retiring, the award should still be made in 2022. It was awarded to Grant Gartrell for his article "In the blink of a magic eye", ACKMA Journal # 126.

With the 2023 Tākaka Conference proceeding, it was decided that the EHS Award should be given again to be in alignment with future conference years, hence it considered some articles overlapped from the previous award considerations.

It is judged according to the following criteria:

- Contributing to the management of cave and karst resources,
- Promoting the ideals of ACKMA,
- Inclusivity and relatability to those working in the management of caves and karst,
- Ease of readability and relevance to the general membership.

The 2023 recipient submitted well-written and easily understood articles that were broken into bite-sized sections with catchy titles. The articles educated the reader and provided relatable examples that aimed to stimulate thought about active management issues.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Grant Gartrell (again!)

