

Preface

Introduction from the Chairman

The 20th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation resulted in an interesting collection of papers submitted for presentation and publication. With a central theme of volcanic caves there is also a wide range of other papers of speleological interest. These include papers on conservation, cave biology, international caving, speleological history and discussions on various Australian caving areas.

The Vulcon committee has chosen to have Precedings available at the commencement of the conference rather than Proceedings being published after it is all over. This has the dual values of having the articles and abstracts available during the actual conference time and to avoid the possibility of late or sometimes the non-production of papers after the enthusiasm of conference organisation has dissipated. Unfortunately not all presenters have been able to prepare their complete papers in time for printing, but we have been able to collect enough to make up a useful volume.

I would like to thank all those involved in the production of these precedings, especially Glenn Baddeley, the Editor, who has produced an excellent companion volume to the *Vulcon Guidebook*.

Finally I would like to thank the Vulcon conference organising committee: Tony Watson (secretary), Glenn Baddeley (treasurer), Margot Watson, Jenny Watson, Ken Grimes, Bryan Gardam and Brett Wakeman for the hard work of organising this conference, and the myriad of other helpers without which it is impossible to function.

Susan White

Chairman, Vulcon Organising Committee.

From the Editor

The papers in these proceedings were edited and prepared for printing using the Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0c word processor on 386 and 486 IBM compatible Personal Computers, running Microsoft MS-DOS 5.0 and Microsoft Windows 3.1. These may not be the latest versions available at the time but they have proven reliability and flexibility.

The manuscripts originated from a number of sources. Some of the text was digitised from printed paper using a flat-bed scanner and processed via Optical Character Recognition software. The bulk of the text was imported into Word for Windows from either Word Perfect on the IBM PC, or Word on the Apple Macintosh, or just plain ASCII text files. Some of the papers received by fax were retyped as they could not be scanned successfully.

Despite the disparate sources of text, a consistent, good quality and readable presentation has been achieved using the Bitstream Inc. font *Century Schoolbook* throughout. The final artwork was rendered on a 1200 DPI plain paper imagesetter and reproduced using an offset print process.

Glenn Baddeley

Editor.

Acknowledgements

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Rudy Frank (cover photograph); Alice White (retyping); Samantha Berryman, Susan White (redrawing figures on pages 44, 46, 75, 76); Peter Ackroyd, Ken Grimes, Anne Atkinson (selective proof reading and reviewing); Geoff Hammond (cover layout, printing production, redrawing figure on page 29 and annotation of some figures); Susan White (paper chase).