

The ASF: some visions of the future

Jay Anderson

Members can have the opportunity to assist in developing the future of YOUR organisation. Where is the ASF going? What is your vision for the ASF? Where do you see the ASF in the future and what will it all look like? The ASF President would like to raise the issue of organisational identity and provide members with an opportunity to be involved in future planning. This presentation will examine some options and seek suggestions from members for the future of the ASF.

Australia's peak Cave-related organisation

- **Who are we?**
- **Where have we come from**
- **Where are we going**
- **How will we get there...**



A two way street

I'll share some questions & ideas

- Seeking your input & thoughts & ideas
- This conference celebrates our 50th Anniversary
- In keynote presentation - Elery outlined where we came from and who we are

BUT – where are we really going???

Quick Revision

- formed – 1956.
- National Federation of clubs, organisations & individuals.
- involved in the exploration, documentation, & protection of caves & karst.
- incorporated in ACT - 1984.
- Predominantly members → through State “clubs”
- Membership varies – about 26 member groups which constitutes between 800-1000 individual members

The aims of the ASF

- (a) to safeguard & protect the natural environment, specifically the cave & karst environment of Australia;
- (b) to:
 - gather & disseminate information,
 - develop & promote policies,
 - foster & publish research,& provide education & advice to the Australian community on conserving Australia's karst resources;
- (c) to bring together & represent persons interested in caves & karst in Australia & the attainment of the Federation's aims; and
- (d) to foster speleology in all of its aspects.

What does the ASF “have”?

- Logo, members, constitution, executive
- Annual Council Meeting to provide decisions and direction to the Executive Directors of the ASF
- A biannual CONFERENCE – here we are...& published papers of aspects of speleology
- Publications – Caves Australia, Helictite
- A number of site specific karst publications & books
- Guidance to members on Leadership, Codes of Ethics, Risk Management...
- Representatives on karst advisory committee's
- Insurance.....

The Environmental Fund

According to our Constitution –

- A public fund to be called "The Australian Speleological Federation **Gift Fund**"
- specific purpose → supporting the environmental objectives/purposes of ASF
- to receive all gifts of money or property for this purpose

You'll have heard → moving into the future → a land acquisition that will entail responsibilities too.

What does the ASF “DO”?

- Caving of course!!
- As per the aims – education, advice on all aspects of speleology
- Contributes to knowledge of caves and karst
- Involved in karst management
- Representatives on Government advisory committee's
- Submissions re management plans & Government policy

The majority of these activities may occur at a State level through State corporate members – eg majority of karst documentation occurs through club trips.

The way other groups operate

A couple of examples of organisations I deal with.....

- EDO – WA – a volunteer board of management however grants & fundraising support a small team of paid staff
- APEN – volunteer management committee & a paid secretariat position

The way other Speleo groups operate

- NSS – USA – The Board of Directors are volunteers however....there is a number of office “staff”.
- FFS - French Federation of Speleology: significant Government support to provide a staff of 5 & they own their premises.

Any room for improvement or changes?

- Are we growing?
- How do we represent ourselves to public, land managers etc...
- Large administration burden at both a National and State level
- Many admin tasks outstanding
- Lack of collaboration on projects, trips or management issues
- Significant amount of member fees goes to Insurance
- Large number of ways of doing things like data management, training, trip organisation

Other considerations

- Lack of volunteers to fill key positions
- Shortage of TIME to do things,
(related to being volunteers & active with many things including personal lives...)
- Lack of \$\$ for key projects

Perhaps

The ASF could:

- Assist in providing standard documentation packages to clubs – leadership, training, trip organisation – anything else?
- Address the admin burden by seeking a paid position. Allowing members to focus on aims of organisation
- Gather EG documents & central database store – facilitate time saving & individual preparatory work

What about our organisational IDENTITY

Think about this.....

- At a National Level – do other Organisations know who we are? What we do?
- At a State Level – what involvement does the ASF have? Some States have a speleological council.
- Do the State clubs get involved with local or State Environmental groups?
- Is the ASF involved with any collaboration or partnerships with national environmental organisations?
- Do our members ALL know who the ASF is and what we are and do??
- Is it a positive image?

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES from other Environmental Organisations

- A) The Nature Conservancy
- B) WWF – panda bear....
- C) United Nations Environment Programme
- D) The Wilderness Society

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Their Ways → raise profile & fundraise

Women's Apparel



New fabrics,
shapes and colors

● The Nature Conservancy

Travel/Bags



Wide variety of
high-quality bags



GREETING CARDS



● WWF – World Wildlife Fund for Nature



Wildlife Works & the United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP Items



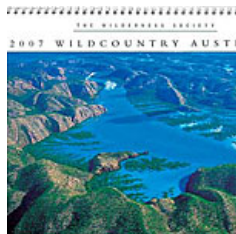
Image: Kangaroo-Lizard-Butterfly-Kangaroo Paw
Price: \$31.00 Plus shipping
Plus surcharge for XXL t-shirts



Click the image to see a larger preview.



The Wilderness Society



Calendars
Diary
Online Shop



What other Cavers & Speleors have

NSS –

- Numerous t-shirts,
- stickers,

FFS –

- Badges, Key rings
- Boxer shorts
- Tie-pins, Lighters
- Bags (small and big ones)

Do we have any products that are used to promote the ASF?

1. Would you wear an ASF T-Shirt?
2. Do you think -ASF sticker → appropriate way to “get our name out there”?
3. Does the ASF need a special brochure on the organisation?
4. What does the ASF need to do to raise its profile in the community?



Could this be on
an ASF T-Shirt?



Or Perhaps this could be on
an ASF T-Shirt?

Uniquely Australian
& cave related.....



Future

- Could the ASF benefit from a Funded position – ASF administrator ??
- Do we need to do Presentations to Govt agencies & local community organisations – who we are & what we do?
- Should we seek Funding - resources for displays, publications
- Is there a need for ASF related merchandise?
- Do members want any specific items with ASF logo on it..... ideas?
- Would you support a \$ membership levy – extraordinary projects?

Any other suggestions??

Where to from here?

- Concerned or Interested? talk to me this week
- There may be opportunities for delegates → raise issue in Council General Business
- You →GO back to your club and seek further input on the role of the ASF.
- The executive will seek further feedback from members → in the future.

We need a DIRECTION and a PLAN for where we are going as an organisation.

WILL YOU BE involved??.....THANK YOU