

THE ASF'S NATIONAL KARST INDEX DATABASE

– AN OVERVIEW OF THE UPDATING FEATURES

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THE ASF's National Karst Index Database has been running since January 2001 and it accounts for the majority of the visits to the ASF's web site.

Until now that database has been read-only. The reason for this was that the database is quite complex and when initial coding was started in 2000 we decided to "walk before we ran". In hindsight that turned out to be a good idea.

Over the last year the code underlying the database has been extended to provide updating functionality. The codebase now runs to 100,000 lines of code. We have data updating, auditing, attribution and automatic PDF generation of cave summary forms.

The KID is also a working implementation of the UISIC standard for Cave & Karst databases. As the code is released under the GPL, other countries can adopt our system, although for some languages considerable work in internationalisation would be required.

This talk presented an overview of the new functionality and encouraged clubs and other organisations to contribute to updating Australia's national karst index database. The first online update of the KID was ceremoniously performed by Grace Matts who updated 2WA-17, Deep Hole, at Walli Caves. Significantly, it was Grace who made the earliest recorded entry into the original KID in 1970 for 2MC-1 at Moore Creek, NSW. ■



Mike Lake instructs Grace Matts in making the first online update of the ASF Karst Index Database .

PHOTO: JOE SYDNEY

VIDEO SEMINAR

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

– ITS LIMITATIONS AND WAYS AROUND THEM IN THE CAVE ENVIRONMENT

Angus R. Macoun

Digital cameras are becoming popular and many people are hardly using their film cameras anymore.

This is due to the perceived main benefits of digital technology which are: that more pictures can be taken and stored or deleted, that payment for film processing is not necessary and pictures can easily be emailed to other people. There are numerous other technological advances as well.

However, this does not mean that a digital camera will give a better picture quality than a film camera. This is es-

pecially so in a dark environment. Digital photography has a number of drawbacks when compared with film and it has its own costs.

Photographing with a digital camera requires a different approach to obtain good results.

This seminar provided some simple approaches and some more complicated solutions both in photographic and computer techniques to the challenge that the digital world gives us in making great cave photographs. ■