

DATES

Landmarks in Organisation and Publication

1946	Australia's first speleological society, Tasmanian Caverneering Club formed in Hobart	
1948	Sydney University Speleological Society formed (first mainland society)	
1953	Search & rescue at Yarrangobilly draws attention to other individuals & groups interested in caves	
1956	Australian Speleological Federation founded, first national Conference held in Adelaide	
1957	First issue of <i>ASF Newsletter</i> (later retitled <i>Australian Caver</i> and later still <i>Caves Australia</i>)	
1962	First issue of <i>Helictite</i> ; The Journal of Australasian Cave and Karst Science	
1962	ASF Conservation Commission established	
1964	<i>Bat Research News</i> - joint venture of ASF & CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research	
1968	<i>ASF Speleo Handbook</i> published; <i>ASF Conference Proceedings</i> published for first time	
1970	Constitution overhauled to facilitate ASF functioning ("The Green Thing")	
1970	<i>Australian Speleo Abstracts</i> initiated	
1972	Largest ASF Conference draws 150 to Nibicon, Cavers Dinner held on meandering Sydney Harbour ferry	
1978	<i>ASF Cave Management Newsletter</i> inaugurated	
1984	ASF incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory	
1985	<i>Australian Karst Index</i> published; <i>ASF Newsletter</i> renamed <i>Australian Caver</i>	
1988	<i>Australian Geographic</i> includes special section on caves	
1991	New Constitution to facilitate governance of ASF	
1990s	ASF plays a leading role in the development of outdoor recreation leadership through NORLD & ORCA	
1990s	ASF representation on Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust enshrined in legislation	
1994	Insurance first raises its divisive head!	
1996	21st Biennial Conference celebrates 40 years of ASF, Quorn (SA)	
1997	Publication of <i>Karst of the Central West Catchment</i> , NSW from NHT grant	
2000	ASF acquires ownership of <i>Helictite</i> and other assets of the Speleological Research Council Ltd	
2001	ASF registered as an Environmental Organisation by Department of Environment & Heritage, Canberra	
2001	The Great Insurance Crisis is adroitly addressed	
2003	<i>Beneath the Surface: a natural history of Australian caves</i> published for ASF by UNSW Press	
2004	ASF co-hosts <i>Limestone Coast</i> international conferences at Naracoorte (International Geoscience Program – and First International Workshop on RAMSAR Subterranean Wetlands	Global Karst Co
2004	ASF wins Brisbane City Council Award for organisational excellence in an outdoor activities organisation	
2004	<i>Australian Caver</i> renamed <i>Caves Australia</i>	
2004	ASF Environment Fund makes its first grant to a member club (to assist documentation of Timor Caves, NSW)	
2005	New software for Karst Index Database completed	
2005	25 th Biennial ASF Conference opened by Governor of Tasmania, Mr W.E.Cox	
2006	ASF negotiates Memorandum of Understanding with Cement Australia for ownership of caves, karst & other property at Mt Etna, Cen	

Landmarks in Conservation and Management

1962	ASF Conservation Commission established; <i>Caves and Conservation</i> published	
1965	Campaign against mining at Mt Etna commences	
1967	Colong Campaign against mining eventually leads to preservation of caves	
1974	ASF receives National Heritage grant, leading to a national cave documentation system	
1971-75	'Save Bungonia' campaign, ASF/UNSWSS member sets precedent of standing before Mining Wardens Court; <i>Bungonia Caves</i> book published	
1973	<i>Proposed Pike Creek Dam</i> (the first major ASF campaign submission / report on conservation issues)	
1973	ASF hosts inaugural Australasian Conference on Cave Management, Jenolan	
1974	First ASF cave management consultant report (<i>Cave Reserves of the Katherine area</i>)	
1981	ASF undertakes Nullarbor Karst Study for WA Environmental Protection Authority	
1983	High Court decision saves Franklin River (Tas) from inundation, caves & aboriginal sites preserved	
1987	Establishment of Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association	
1987	ASF contracted to advise on future management of Jenolan Caves	
1988	Publication of <i>The Management of Soluble Rock Landscapes: an Australian Perspective</i>	
1988	High Court of Australia returns Mt Etna Caves issue to the Supreme Court of Queensland; some caves blasted	
1989	Compulsory acquisition of The Potholes at Buchan after more than 20 years campaigning against quarry threats	
1991	ASF contracted to organise survey of Exit Cave, Tasmania following closure of nearby Benders Quarry	
1991	ASF campaigns against quarrying at Yessabah Caves, NSW	
1994	Victoria Fossil Cave (Naracoorte SA) receives World Heritage Listing	
1994	ASF prosecutes Sellicks Hill Cave dispute, ends up in SA Supreme Court	
1995	Australian team conducts cave & karst management training courses, Thailand	
1998	ASF obtains NHT grant for fencing & revegetation work at Cliefden, NSW, carried out by NSWSC	
1998	Mt Etna National Park extended to incorporate Cammoo Caves, end (almost!) of 37-year campaign	
1999	ASF obtains NHT grant: NSWSC to document karst & caves in NSW Central West & rehabilitation at Stuart Town	
1999	Reconciliation between conservationists & mining company over Mt Etna	
2000	ASF takes mining lease applications at Mt Cripps (Tas.) to Mining Wardens Court	
2000-4	ASF successfully pursues action in WA Mining Wardens Court over quarrying on Cape Range	
2000	ASF participates in international seminar on guidelines for mining cavernous limestone areas, Bathurst	
2004	Work commences on ASF book celebrating cave conservation issues	
2007	ASF contracts to undertake rehabilitation work on eastern quarry, Mt Etna	

Landmarks in Cave Exploration and Documentation

New South Wales

- 1946 Descent of Drum Cave, Bungonia, by winch
- 1953 Discovery of Chevalier Cave, Jenolan, using scaling poles; pioneer diving in Imperial Cave
- 1957 Divers link River Cave with Junction Cave, Wombeyan
- 1950s Exploration & surveying of Wee Jasper Caves
- 1960/61 Exploration of B31, Bungonia
- 1962 Exploration, discoveries and documentation at Coolemon
- 1962 Wiburds Lake Cave, Jenolan
- 1965 Exploration at Moparrabah, Macleay River
- 1965/66 Survey of Tuglow Cave
- 1967 Busting of The Efflux, Bungonia'
- 1969 Beginning of thorough documentation of Abercrombie Caves
- 1970/71 Surveying of Mammoth Cave Jenolan & publication of the "yellow book"
- 1971/5 Exploration & documentation of sea caves on south coast
- 1974/5 Filming of 'Crystal Kingdom' movie
- 1974 Cave Rescue Group formed
- 1976 Discovery of new karst area at Deua
- 1975-2006 Discovery, exploration & survey of Spider Cave, Jenolan; linking with Tourist Caves
- 1980/90s Survey of Jenolan Tourist Cave system
- 1990s-2006 Advanced cave diving at Jenolan, Wellington, Wombeyan, Yarrangobilly Caves
- 1998 *Tuglow Caves* book
- 2004> Advanced surveying in Colong Cave

Northern Territory

- 1961/2 Exploration in Fenton area, 11 caves located at Douglas River
- 1980s Exploration & documentation in Katherine region
- 1991-2006 Expeditions to Gregory National Park explore & survey the 2 longest caves in Australia
- 2004 Bullita Cave system passes 100km; total length of Gregory Caves passes 150km
- 2005 Exploration & documentation commences at Pungalina

Queensland

- 1950s Early exploration of caves at Camooweal
- 1960s Explorations at Texas & Viator before Glen Lyon dam floods caves
- 1965 Campaign against mining at Mt Etna begins, first extensive exploration at Mt Etna & Limestone Ridge
- 1966 First major expedition to Chillagoe
- 1971 Publication of *Mt Etna Caves* book
- 1972 Exploration of Fanning River Caves
- 1975 Expedition by light aircraft to locate caves near Camooweal
- 1990s Expeditions to Mitchell-Palmer in search of caves and ghost bats
- 1990s> Exploration & documentation of Broken River Karst

South Australia / Nullarbor

- 1950s Exploration of Nullarbor using light aircraft
- 1957 Expeditions following inaugural ASF Conference survey Koonalda & other Nullarbor caves
- 1966/67 First speleological books on Australian caves: *Mullamullang Expeditions 1966*; *Caves of the Nullarbor 1967*
- 1969 Discovery of fossil deposits, Victoria Fossil Cave (becomes World Heritage site in 1994)
- 1970s Documentation of south-east region
- 1970s> era of extensive cave diving begins, 11 (non-ASF) deaths from cave diving leads to formation of CDAA; publication of *Cave Diving in Australia*
- 1982 *Nullarbor Cave Atlas* published
- 1990s Documentation of Nullarbor region passes 2000 sites

Tasmania

- 1947 Discovery of Growling Swallet, rediscovery of Croesus Cave
- 1947 First speleological exploration of Mystery Creek Cave & Exit Cave
- 1948 Exploration of Kubla Khan Cave
- 1958 Discovery of river passages in Kubla Khan
- 1959 ASF Conference field trips - groundbreaking survey of Honeycomb Cave, Mole Ck
- 1967 Reconnaissance of Mt Anne, another mile in Exit Cave
- 1970 Exploration in Junee – Florentine deep caves; Tassy Pot 240m, deepest cave in Australia
- 1971 Exit Cave length reaches ten miles (16km), Australia's longest – Conference Concourse discovered
- 1971 Australia's longest pitch, 103m in Kellers Cellar, Mt Anne
- 1973 Precipitous Bluff expedition by amphibian aircraft
- 1976 Khazad Dum - Dwarrowdelf 322m, becomes Australia's deepest cave
- 1970s-80 'Rubber ducky' expeditions explore caves along Franklin River
- 1982 "For your Eyes Only" passage discovered by divers in Junee resurgence
- 1984 *Vertical Caves of Tasmania* book
- 1990s Exploration & documentation of Mt Cripps karst and caves
- 2000 Caves documented in Junee-Florentine area reach 638
- 2000> Exploration & documentation of caves at Gunns Plains

Victoria

- 1961 Scrubby Creek & Trogs Wallow, Buchan

- 1961 Dalleys Sinkhole, Buchan
- 1968 Extensions to Trog Dip
- 1973 Discovery of Exponential Pot
- 1973-83 Exploration & documentation of Bats Ridge
- 1990s Discovery, exploration & surveying of the Carmichael / Maze system at Mt Eccles
- 1998 Exploration & mapping of DD4

Western Australia

- 1958 Rediscovery & exploration of Easter Cave
- 1958 Discovery of Jewel Cave
- 1960s Aerial photos aid several Nullarbor Expeditions; Discovery, exploration & survey of Mullamullang Cave
- 1976 Survey of Easter Cave
- 1987 Beginning of major documentation and research at Cape Range
- 1979-84 Successive world record cave dives extend Cocklebidy Cave to over 6km
- 1990-7 Search for new entrances on Nullarbor using motorised hang gliders & trikes
- 1991 Old Homestead Cave becomes longest cave in Australia (23km)
- 1993 Cape Range biospeleological survey
- 1993 Establishment of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge Permit System
- 1994 Expedition to new karst areas of the East Pilbara region
- 1996 Exploration of new karst areas in Wanneroo
- 1990s> Exploration of Nullarbor region using ultra-light aircraft
- 1998> Exploration, documentation & cave diving in Ning Bing Range & nearby East Kimberley
- 2003> Further diving in Cocklebidy & other caves

Australian Expeditions Overseas

- 1963 Australian biospeleological expedition to New Caledonia & New Hebrides (Vanuatu)
- 1970s Expeditions to South Island, New Zealand
- 1973 Expedition to West Papua, Indonesia
- 1978 Atea Kananda & Mamo Kananda, Muller Ranges, New Guinea explore deepest cave in southern hemisphere
- 1980s-90s Expeditions in search of deep caves in Mexico
- 1981 Exploration of St Pauls Cave, Palawan, Philippines
- 1982 Atea Kananda & Mamo Kananda, Muller Ranges, New Guinea
- 1993 Expedition to Szechuan, China
- 1990s Reconnaissance trips to Laos
- 1985> 10 Expeditions to Thailand explore longest caves in mainland SE Asia & document Thai karst & caves
- 1988 Australians conduct world's first expedition in search of caves in Burma
- 1994 *The Caves of Thailand* book published
- 1990s Expeditions to Java, Seram & Sulawesi (Indonesia), Vietnam, China
- 1990s> Documentation of (mostly) lava caves of Mauritius, Rodriguez & Samoa
- 1999 – 2003 Exploration expeditions to Mt Owen, New Zealand
- 2000> Australians in international expeditions to Lechuguilla Cave (USA), Mexico, Abkhazia, Madagascar, China
- 2005 Expedition to East Timor for documentation in Iralalaro polje area