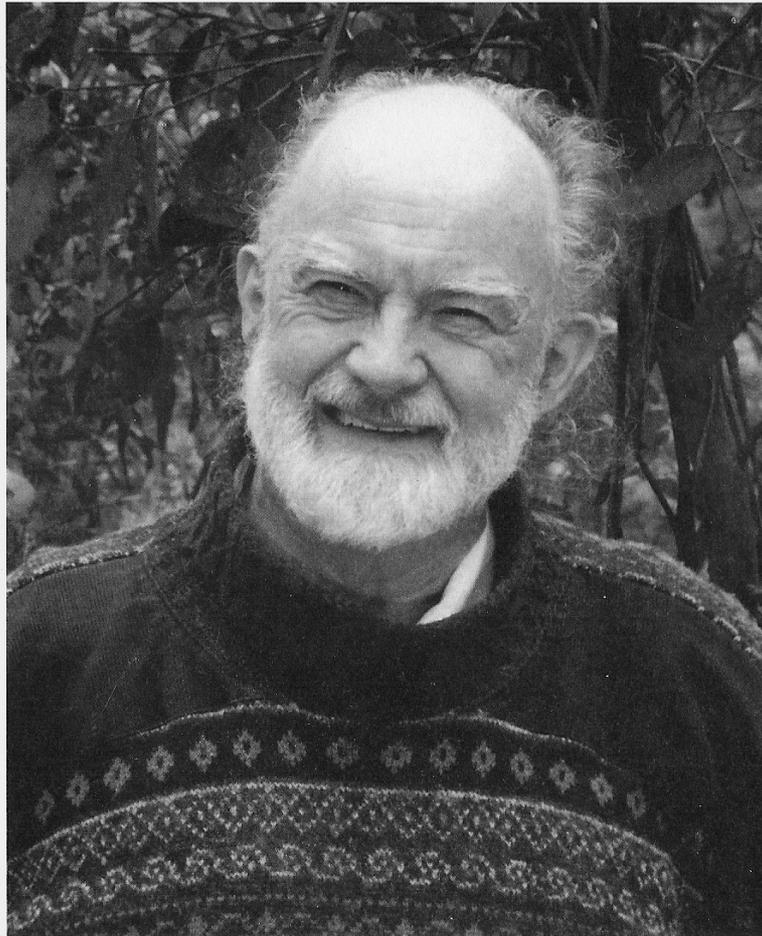


Journal of the

Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association



Elery Hamilton-Smith AM

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FROM THE EDITOR



*Steve Bourne with Elery
Naracoorte Caves, 2006
Photo: Liz Reed*

This is a very special issue of the ACKMA journal. It is the 100th edition, which in itself is quite an achievement, but it is much more than that. It celebrates the life of a man known as the father of ACKMA, Elery Hamilton-Smith. Elery was always a man of exquisite timing and it is indeed remarkable that the 100th edition should coincide with his passing.

This edition includes the eulogy delivered by Elery's great friend Dennis Williamson at the service held at St Francis Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Wednesday 1 July 2015. I attended the service along with other ACKMA members who were able to attend. It was a diverse crowd reflecting Elery's diverse interests and the number of people he touched in his career. Dennis's eulogy is well researched and all of those in attendance learnt more about this remarkable man.

Andy Spate provides some recollections of Elery, having known him for over 50 years. Greg Middleton, likewise, provides some anecdotes stretching back to the 1960s.

His impact across a range of diverse interests is reflected in a series of emails that Andy Spate has collected from email lists, where people have expressed their gratitude to Elery, sympathy to his family and shared personal stories.

It is by no means a complete history of what Elery achieved in his lifetime, and does not set out to do that, but is rather a collection of personal stories and feelings towards a man we all loved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dan Cove

How do you summarise a great life? Do you focus on individual actions, single memorable moments or try to describe the whole? Do you focus upon the achievements of the individual or upon the impact of these achievements? On the point of inspiration, or upon those inspired? There are, of course, no perfect answers to these questions and we all remember, celebrate and grieve in our own ways. This special issue of the ACKMA journal commemorates a truly great life through the tributes and reminiscences of only a few of those whose lives were touched, influenced and in many cases irrevocably altered by the 'Father of ACKMA', Elery Hamilton-Smith.

When one's own words feel inadequate, it is sometimes all you can do to turn to the wisdom of others. In thinking of Elery, and reflecting upon the fullness of his life and the passion and purpose that he exuded and transmitted to so many others I am reminded of a quote from Gautama Siddhartha, founder of Buddhism;

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.

Elery's life was a candle that burnt with an intensity that both illuminated the way where previously there had been darkness, and that truly lit thousands of candles as it passed. Elery leaves us a World that is the brighter for his having passed through it. I cannot think of a more meaningful and lasting legacy.

VALE **ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH AM:**
A LESSON in not LIMITING OURSELVES
Dennis Williamson

**This is an amended version of the eulogy delivered by Dennis Williamson
at Elery's memorial service on 1 July 2015.**

A Renaissance Man Passes By

Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith AM was a remarkable Australian and a good friend who passed away on 27 June at Westgarth Aged Care Centre, following 18 months of illness. I am very honoured by his family in being asked to give this eulogy for Elery at his memorial service, held at St. Francis Church in Melbourne on 1 July. Again, my heartfelt condolences go to his wife Angela, Elery's five living children and his extended family and close friends. We are all going to miss him greatly.

Nearly 200 friends, colleagues and family gathered at the memorial service, even though it was held at relatively short notice. His long-time friend and Nullarbor explorer, Father Ken Boland, officiated. His other long term friend and speleologist, Andy Spate, also delivered a tribute. And, I understand that hundreds of emails and social media messages of sympathy have flowed to the family from around the world. This typifies the mark of the man.

Elery was well known throughout Australia, and the world, for his significant contribution to the fairly diverse fields of youth work, social work, cave and karst exploration, parks and leisure research, and World Heritage Area assessment and management.

In some ways, I think Elery may be one of a dying breed of "Renaissance Men" born during the last century. More than that, however, Elery set a great example of why none of us should limit ourselves in terms of our interests, our fields of work, whom we collaborate with and what we can achieve for the world around us.

Elery's Early Days

Having been born during 1929 into a family of Unitarians in Shady Grove, South Australia (near Handorf), Elery moved with his parents southeast to a larger farm at Tooperang in 1938. Elery grew up as the only child of Thorald and Elizabeth Smith. He was later to add his middle name, "Hamilton", to his surname with a hyphen during the 1950s for personal reasons.

Elery told me that he was a rather sickly child who was not well enough to go to school until he was 9 years old. As such, he was home-schooled by his parents and learned to read fairly early in life. He devoured whatever



newspaper stories and books came his way. And he was encouraged in his reading and learning by an Aboriginal family friend, David Unaipon – the man whose face graces the Australian \$50 note.

At Tooperang, Elery used to walk two miles (3 km) to attend the small one-teacher Nangkita School - Nangkita being an Aboriginal name for "Lots of Little Frogs". As it was to turn out, Elery was a big frog in a small pond at that stage. His walks through the forests and woodlands on his way to and from school had a great influence on Elery's later interest in bushwalking and nature.

After his graduation from Victor Harbou

r High School near the end of 1946, Elery spent a short time at the University of Adelaide during 1947. However, at the age of 19, he wasn't ready to settle into further studies and he moved about Australia working at

different jobs, including rabbit-shooter, tree-faller, and truck driver.

Elery's Further Education, Career and Explorations of Caves

From 1949 through 1956, Elery held several positions as an outdoor education teacher and youth worker in the Adelaide area with Scotch College, the Industrial School for the Social Welfare Department and with Prince Alfred College.

In 1950, Elery enrolled part-time in the University of Adelaide's Social Work, completing his Diploma in 1956.

During this time, Elery served as a Senior Scout leader and also began early exploration of cave systems in South Australia with friends. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA), the Nullarbor Expeditions, and the



Elery - 1954



1954 Nullarbor Expedition

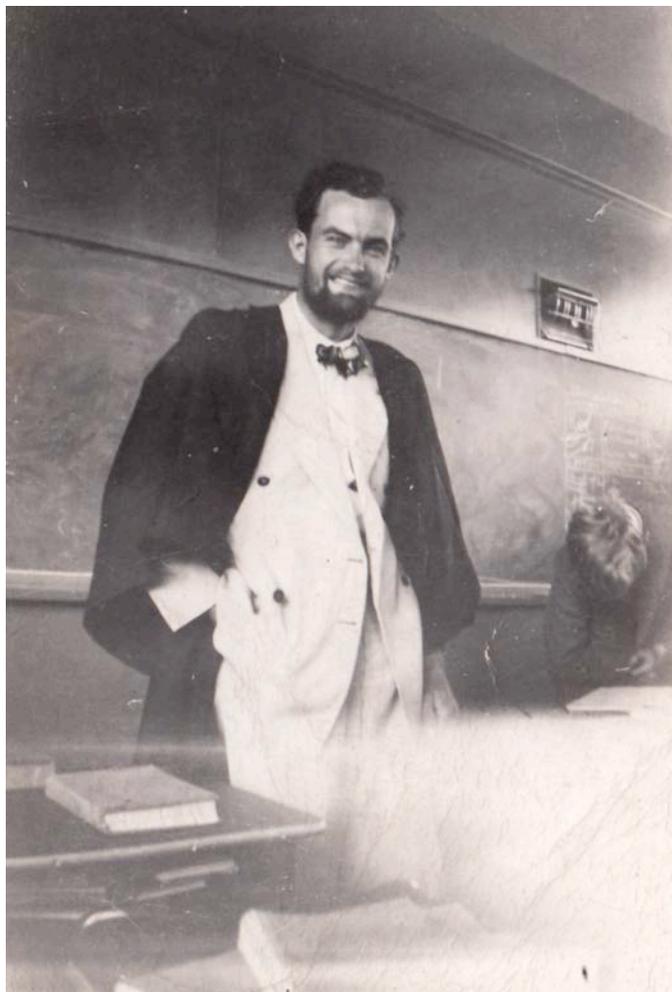
First National Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF).

It was also during this time that Elery began his penchant for documenting his various adventures with the Scouts and his discoveries in the South Australian Caves by writing articles for scouting and caving organisation journals and newsletters. He also wrote reviews of various social work and natural history books. This was just the beginning of what would accumulate through his lifetime in well over 800 such contributions, including books that he co-edited and consultant reports for a range of clients.

Major Streams of Elery's Professional Life

At this point, I will diverge from a strictly chronological account of Elery's life to the four streams of his professional life and career. The principal areas in which Elery made highly significant impacts include:

- Social Sciences, including Social Work, Community Development, Youth Work,



Early days

Gerontology and Dementia

- Caves and Karst Geology and, broadly, Cave Zoology throughout Australia and the World
- Recreation and Leisure Planning and Research
- Protected Area and Park Management of the World's Natural and Cultural Landscapes

At first glance, a person might think some of these are somewhat divergent topics, but to Elery they were very much inter-related at various times.

The Social Sciences

As we have seen, Elery was involved with youth work and social work through the Scouts and in teaching outdoor education at secondary colleges from about 1949 to 1956-57.

Elery undertook a major shift in his life when he moved to Melbourne during 1957 to participate in the Family Centre Project with Brotherhood of St. Laurence – a non-profit Anglican organisation dedicated to assisting people in poverty.

Elery established himself as one of the ground-breakers in Australian social work, youth work and community development during the next decade. His various roles included:

- part-time lecturer in Social Work at the University of Melbourne
- Development Officer with the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs (VAYC)
- assistance with the development of a new Ministry of Social Welfare by the Victorian State Government

During the late 1960s, Elery established CPS Services (Community Planning & Survey Services) where he worked with local governments such as Stawell, Springvale, and Nunawading on a wide range of social and community development issues. Elery was instrumental to the founding of the Victorian Association of Professional Youth Workers and the Sociological Association. He served as State and Federal President of the Australian Association of Social Workers. Elery also advised several foreign governments on social development through CPS, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the UNESCO Youth Research and Policy program. This phase was gradually displaced by Elery's move into professional consulting. From 1967 through 1977, Elery's reputation in the field of social work grew. His work took him around the globe to Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and New Zealand.

Over the following 17 years, from 1977 to 1994, Elery shifted into academia, becoming a lecturer at Preston, which became Phillip Institute of Technology (PIT), where Elery was later promoted to head of the Leisure Studies

Department. Phillip Institute was absorbed into RMIT University during 1992, where Elery worked in the Leisure, Ageing and Wellness Unit.

During his academic years, Elery was a visiting or guest Professor at 15 international Universities, from Europe to Canada, the USA and New Zealand. Over the course of his professional life from the 1950s, Elery wrote and edited a great volume of professional journal articles, professional association newsletter articles, professional reports, books, and book reviews, numbering in their hundreds.

Fortuitously or ironically – as Elery suffered this affliction himself in his final few years - it was during this time that Elery commenced research on Dementia Care and on the Social Construction of Ageing. During 1992, he co-authored, with David Hooker and Margaret James, the Occasional Paper through RMIT University titled: *Granny is a Bit Strange: The Medicalisation of Dementia*.

Following his retirement in 1994, Elery continued his work on a range of social, community and gerontology issues as a Professor or Professorial Fellow at:

- WLRA International Centre of Excellence (Wageningen, The Netherlands)
- Lincoln Gerontology Centre, LaTrobe University.

He focussed on issues associated with dementia and prepared, with Sally Garratt and other colleagues,:

- *Rethinking Dementia: An Australian Approach*, 2001
- *Teaching about Dementia Teaching*, 1997 (Multi-media Kit with Sally Garratt)
- *A Collection of Readings on Dementia* (three editions)

During his career in social work and community development, Elery helped to establish or served in several significant organisations, in particular:

- the Victorian Association of Professional Youth Workers
- the Sociological Association, and
- served as State and Federal President of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Caves and Karst

Caves and karst were one Elery's greatest areas of interest and his lifelong passion.

First, for those of you who may not know what karst is – a simple definition is that it refers to landscapes or terrain that are largely a product of rock material that has been or is being dissolved by water or otherwise shaped by the processes of solution. More broadly, Elery regarded karst as an integrated and dynamic system of

landforms, life, energy, water, gases, soils and bedrock. Caves are typical karst features, but not always so.

Another strange word you will hear a lot in discussions of Elery is “speleology”, which is simply the scientific study or exploration of caves.

Elery’s initial interest in caves began during the 1950s in South Australia with a group of friends with whom he used go bushwalking and climbing. They needed to try something new and began exploring caves and their contents around South Australia.

From this time on, Elery organised and participated in



Elery at Jenolan Caves, New South Wales - 1985

various cave expeditions throughout Australia and in a host of countries internationally.

Cave bats and invertebrate fauna, particularly spiders, became an area of great interest to Elery.

Elery was instrumental in the establishment of a range of cave and karst exploration and scientific organisations and events. Some of these included:

- the Cave Exploration Group of SA
- Nullarbor Expeditions
- the First National Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF)
- Victorian Cave Exploration Society in the 1960s - now the Victorian Speleological Association (VSA)
- Australian Cave and Karst Management Association in 1987 (ACKMA)
- the Australasian Commission on Cave Tourism and Management
- IUCN Advisory Group on Chiroptera Caving.

Some key roles that Elery played in the cave and karst field included:

- Chair, IUCN Task Force Cave & Karst
- Executive Officer, Australian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA)
- Editorial Board, International Journal of Speleology

Some important contributions that Elery made to the cave and karst literature included:

- the “Biospeleological Collection” in 1962 at the South Australian Museum
- *The Arthropoda of Australian Caves*, 1967 in the Journal of Australian Entomology Society
- *Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection* in 1997 with John Watson, David Gillieson and Kevin Kiernan for the World Commission on Protected Areas and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Elery was one of the early explorers of caves in Australia, leading the way in their analysis, protection and management. He has even had at least three species of cave fauna named after him (e.g., Cave Bats: *Mormopterus eleryi*, *Murina eleryi*; and the Pseudoscorpion: *Pseudotyranochthonius hamiltonsmithi*).

Elery carried his work widely around the globe and became highly regarded as a world expert on caves and karst.

Recreation and Leisure Planning and Research

Elery’s work on both social issues and caves led him into activity on a range of recreation and leisure research studies, becoming a leading academic in the field, with the bulk of his work in this area occurring from about 1977 onwards.

From that time, much of his cave-related work was focused on the preparation of various cave management plans. Elery assisted with the organisation of the first cave management conference and the publication of the Australian Speleo Handbook.

During his time at PIT, Elery established the Leisure Information Centre (LIC) and later a published directory in relation to this. He also led or collaborated with others on recreation and leisure research studies regarding a wide range of topics including:

- Leisure Activity Adoption
- Motorist-cyclist Conflict
- Community Arts
- Leisure services in local government
- Benefit measures for recreation and urban parks
- Relationships between park visitors and neighbours
- Graffiti

Elery received the Canadian Study Fellowship for which he worked at various locations and universities across Canada and helped to establish the annual workshop series – “One Question, Thirty People, Three Days”.

Elery undertook a major study with the with the US Forest Service on the benefits of leisure, including work with collaborators at the Universities of Minnesota, Fort Collins, Montana, and Seattle.

During this time, Elery served in the following roles:

- Board of Directors, ISA research committee on leisure
- Advisor on USFS national survey of dispersed recreation
- Chairman, World Play Summit
- Melbourne Parks and Waterways Advisory Council

Elery helped to organise or prepare the following conferences, plans and other actions during this time:

- World Congress of Sociology, Uppsala, Sweden
- Conference on Popular Culture, Trois-Rivieres
- International Conferences in NZ and Queensland
- The Macedon Ranges Plan
- TAFE planning for Frankston Region
- Management Training Program, National Parks of Thailand
- Leisure Planning for Frankston, Rodney, Deakin & Doncaster
- Port Phillip Bay

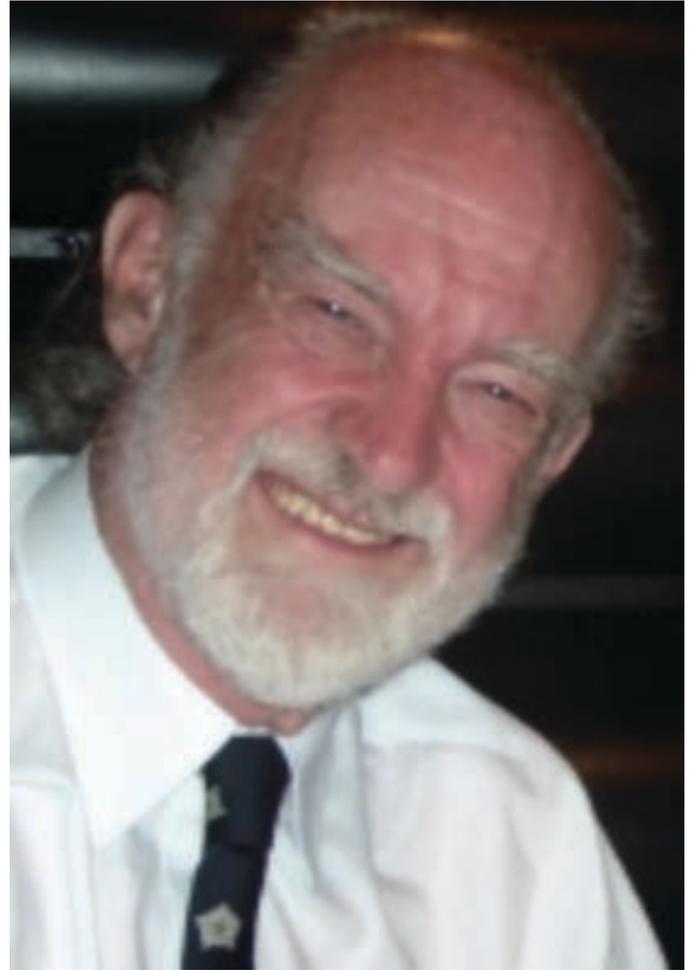
- Editor with David Mercer, *Recreation Planning and Social Change in Australia*, (1991)
- WLRA Paper on Education for Recreation Management.

Elery's most important writings and works in the recreation and leisure field, as compiled by Dr Ken Marriott, include:

- *The Demand for Recreation Workers* (1973); *Education of Recreation Workers: a report to the Minister for Tourism and Recreation* (1973), which was also delivered as a paper at the seminal 1974 National Department of Tourism and Recreation conference, *Leisure: a new perspective* (1974)
- *Leisure, People and Social Systems* (with Ross Baxter, 1975)
- *Space for Play: a discussion paper* (with Carey Handfield, Western region Commission, (1975))
- *Recreation Planning and Social Change in Australia*, co-edited with David Mercer, (1980)
- “A conceptual model of how people adopt recreation activities”, *Leisure Studies*, vol. 1 no. 3, 1982, with J. Brandenburg, J. Greiner, H. Schotton, R. Senior and J. Webb
- *Managing Public Lands in a Time of Financial Stringency* (Phillip Institute of Technology workshop papers, 1988)
- *Recreation Benefit Measurement* (1990), a Phillip Institute of Technology workshop convened by Elery which featured papers from, amongst others, Bev Driver and John Kelly from the US, Lea Scherl, Gary Howat, Rhonda Galbally, Norm McIntyre, Duncan Ironmonger and Betsy and Steven Wearing, as well as one by Elery; *Measuring the Benefits of Recreation*, co-authored with Kate Driscoll, a background report to an Australian benefits workshop, (1990)
- “*The Construction of Leisure*”, in the volume *Benefits of Leisure*, edited by B. L. Driver, Perry Brown and George L. Peterson and published by Venture Publishing (1991)
- *Urban Parks and their Visitors*, co-authored with David Mercer for the Board of Works in 1991 as part of the first-ever comprehensive research into the use of Melbourne’s metro parks (in association with Ken Marriott and Jan Bruce)
- *Recreation and Wellness*, papers from a workshop convened with Marg James (1992); “*Serious and other leisure: Thirty Australians*”, *World Leisure and Recreation* vol. 35, no. 1, (with Stan Parker and Penny Davidson).



Elery and Angela greeted by the Sani Yi people at the South China Karst World Heritage Listing Celebrations Near Kunming, Yunnan Province, China (Shilin Stone Forest Geopark) in 2007



*Elery in Perth - 2002
Photo: Rauleigh Webb*

Protected Area and Park Management

Following retirement, Elery was also an Adjunct Professor at the School for Environmental Studies at Charles Sturt University in Albury, New South Wales.

He maintained involvement in a wide range of karst, recreation and World Heritage management planning projects internationally and throughout Australia.

Of special note during Elery's "retirement years" was his work with various Chinese and other world karst and World Heritage experts on the management of karst sites in Australia, China, Malaysia, PNG, Slovenia, Vietnam and on their review and nominations for World Heritage listing. During the decade following 2000, Elery and Angela made five trips, as honoured guests of Chinese universities and government agencies, to work on World Heritage issues.

As a consequence of his combined interests in nature and sociology, Elery has been instrumental in the designation of several karst World Heritage Areas and Geoparks around the world, including South China Karst and Ningaloo Coast, both of which I had the great pleasure of working on with him.

Elery – The Friend I Knew

Despite Elery's various professional accomplishments, he remained a very ordinary and humble man with a great sense of humour. He had an abiding respect and concern for his colleagues and other people from all walks of life.

Elery was one of the most accomplished networkers I have ever met. And he took great delight in sharing his network with others. He would always say, *"Have you met this person or that person? They are one of the best people in this field and have achieved marvelous results. Here is their email and phone number - or we'll have them over for dinner and invite you to join us!"* And there were many gatherings at Elery and Angela's house in Clifton Hill (Melbourne).

Since first meeting Elery during the late 1970s through our mutual friend, Dr. George Stankey (US Forest Service and Oregon State University), I have rarely heard Elery mention a bad word about any individual. He almost always had high praise for and was amazed by the skills and achievements of other people. And this went for almost any person, regardless of their education, wealth or age. It was only bad governments, politicians and bureaucrats who received Elery's ire from time to time.

Elery never played the role of an intellectual elitist. He was always a reliable and loyal friend.

Elery lived through a period of incredible social and technological change, but was unfazed and undaunted by them. He was very adaptable, always mindful and respectful of the past, but also constantly looking forward to the future and what new opportunities it may bring.

With his wide range of knowledge, skills and talent, Elery may have been one of the last real Renaissance men in the world.

Some Lasting Thoughts from Elery

Elery has left us with some lasting thoughts and basic principles to consider and apply.

Two basic principles that he has related to me include:

1. Everything is related to everything else; and
2. You can never change just one thing!

Some of Elery's key reflections on life and the world also include the following:

- He totally rejected Cartesian thinking and was greatly disappointed that it has survived so strongly;
- He was pleased with the growing strength of holistic thinking – not just multi-disciplinary thinking, but certainly imaginative and trans-disciplinary thinking;
- He recognised and believed that we should all acknowledge the wisdom of many tribal peoples;
- He believed that we must deal with ambiguity in life;
- He has been appalled at the rise of neo-liberalism, as well as the fashion for obfuscation in politics;
- He believed there has been a tragic rise of pseudo-accountability through so-called risk management;
- And last, Elery had a great respect for our natural environment and for indigenous and local cultural ways and knowledge. He would want us to take better care of the precious natural ecosystems and landscapes of our world, as well as look after people and their cultures.

A Lesson in Not Limiting Ourselves

The life of Elery Hamilton-Smith AM is a great lesson to us all not to limit ourselves and what we can achieve with others for positive outcomes in this world.

Elery successfully blended his personal interests in nature and the environment with his concerns and enthusiasm for youth and social welfare and justice.

The intricate mix of his passion for the outdoors through camping, climbing and cave exploration along with his penchant for sociological problem solving produced both single discipline research results - such as his writings on dementia and his contributions to cave and karst science and management - as well as trans-disciplinary results by him and his colleagues – as demonstrated by his research on the social benefits of recreation and leisure.

This ability to synthesise and combine different disciplines, as well as Elery's sheer joy in networking with a wide array of people from all different professional fields, walks of life, cultures and languages, was also demonstrated through his work and successes in gaining international recognition through the IUCN for caves and karst sites and in the listing of several World Heritage Areas reflecting these types of geologic phenomena.

Although Elery's formal tertiary education was limited to his Diploma of Social Work, he never allowed that to be a barrier to the breadth or the depth of his work. His great contributions to Australia were recognised by his admission as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2001. In addition, he was awarded a Doctorate of Applied Sciences *honoris causa* from RMIT University during (c.) 2002.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS of ELERY

Andy Spate

I first met Elery in my mid-teens (maybe I had a crush on him like another teen – but that one a lady!) Elery had been recruited by Joe Jennings to attempt a traverse in Punchbowl Cave from the Entrance Chamber to the Loxin Chamber. Sensibly Elery retreated from the traverse ...

But then Joe suggested that I take Elery several hundred metres into Dogleg Cave to look at the stygiobionts recently discovered by Edgar Reik. Not the first to be discovered in Australia but, like many others, still not described in the scientific literature. If many taxonomists had got off their backsides there would be many more animals with the specific name *hamilton-smithii* or, indeed, *eleryi*.

Several years later I went to Melbourne University and got distracted by the Melbourne University Mountaineering Society. Failed uni but passed mountaineering! But then I spent some years shuffling backwards and forwards between eastern Victoria and Naracoorte banding bent-wing bats with Elery.

I moved back to Canberra and stopped doing things with Elery although we kept in close contact. In 1986 I got myself involved in organising the 6th Australasian Cave Tourism and Management Conference which up to then had been largely organised by the Australian Speleological Federation. Elery and I realised that the Federation did not, and could not, adequately represent the views of cave and karst managers and others interested in this field. Thus he and I created the Australasian Cave Management Association (ACMA) at Yarrangobilly in May 1987, which became ACKMA two years later when “*and Karst*” was added to the organisation’s name.

ACKMA has been a remarkably successful organisation with membership from all around the world. Much of this membership has been a result of the charisma and encouragement from Elery Hamilton-Smith. His contribution to the Australian Speleological Federation, the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association and the Australasian Bat Society cannot be over-estimated!

One error that I have unthinkingly promulgated recently that needs to be corrected. Elery was not the founder of what has now become the IUCN/WCPA Caves and Karst Specialist Group – the energy behind this group was the inimitable Dr John Watson.

I guess I should add my bit to all the wonderful testimonials that are flowing in from around the world.

I have had a series of fabulous mentors through my career. The most obvious are my geographer father, Oskar Spate, Joe Jennings and, of most relevance here, Elery Hamilton-Smith. Others in CSIRO and NSW NPWS have been wonderful.

I have known, caved with, been bitten by bats with, researched with, reported with and written with this most remarkable man, Elery, for over 50 years. A polymath, a gentleman and such a sincere friend and colleague.

In closing, I would like to slightly paraphrase a paragraph from the Preface to John Tyndal’s delightful *Hours of Exercise in the Alps* (Longmans, Green, and Co., London and Bombay, 1871, p viii).

To the name of a friend who taught me in my boyhood how to handle a theodolite and lay a chain, and who afterwards turned his knowledge to account on the caves of the world... Of the firmness of a friendship, uninterrupted for an hour, and only strengthened by the weathering of 50 years of companionship, both physically and in spirit, he would need no assurance. Still, for the pleasure it gives myself, I connect this statement with the name of Elery Hamilton-Smith.

Angela - Kirsty and I are thinking of you and your whole wonderful extended “village”.

Andy Spate and Kirsty Dixon (Taroona, Tasmania)



*Andy and Elery at Wee Jasper 2012. The AGM weekend celebrated 50 years since Elery and Andy met.
Photo: Steve Bourne*

SOME RECOLLECTIONS of ELERY

Greg Middleton

I believe I first met Elery Hamilton-Smith at the 7th A.S.F. Conference at Goolwa, South Australia on 26 December 1968. Of course I knew of him before that but as a caver with SSS based in Sydney I hadn't had a chance to meet him. I met Grant Gartrell, Henry Shannon and Mike Burke at the same time – it was a most interesting and informative conference.

I believe I next ran into Elery at a meeting of ASF's NSW Coordination Committee held at Bob Hawkins' place in Sydney on 30 March 1969. Elery was very active in the running of the Federation at that time.

YARRANGOBILLY

In December 1969 I was fortunate to get a vacation job as a guide at Yarrangobilly Caves. One of the tasks we 'Seasonal Rangers' were asked to do was put together a display in Leo Hoad's former house, which had been designated as the 'Visitor Centre' (which it continues to be in 2015). Going through the files I came across letters Elery had written in 1966-67 to the former Ranger-in-Charge, Don Roy, offering to help set up displays for visitors. Accordingly I drafted a formal letter to go through official channels, taking up the offer but I must have thought I knew Elery well enough by that time to send him a personal letter, giving a few more details of what I had in mind. I even went so far as to invite him to visit if he had the time. In typical Elery fashion he found the time, arriving on 2 January. He provided preserved specimens of fauna collected at Yarrangobilly and photographs of others, as well as information on all material that had been collected at the caves – and collected some more while he was there. How many others in his position would have so readily lent a hand?

Writing to the Kosciusko National Park Superintendent following his visit, Elery noted he had "suggested to Mr Heilbron [the then Ranger-in-Charge] that the Grotto Cave should continue to be locked. This cave has the most prolific fauna of any cave I have yet visited in the area and would lend itself to use for research purposes. Accordingly, its preservation and protection from littering or pollution of any kind is most desirable, even though it has little other interest or value." This worthwhile suggestion was taken seriously and the Grotto Cave continues to be set aside for biological research, over 45 years later.

In a follow-up letter on 12 January 1970, Elery provided more weta photos – pointing out that they should be displayed with the animal upside-down, not just because that was how they were when the photos were

taken, but because that is how visitors are most likely to see them. In a PS he added: "Am hard at work at present on a paper on insects of Mount Etna as the Queensland Conservation Committee is about to publish a booklet on the area. It is tough writing such a paper when there is so little material. I find my one day of collecting in one cave had produced about one third of the known material; SSS stop-overs [Gleniss Wellings] in one cave en route to Chillagoe has produced another third and all the rest of the collecting, the remaining one third!"

Our correspondence continued after that; I sent him cave invertebrates I collected at Yarrangobilly and subsequently at Tuglow and Colong – he responded with identifications.

I continued to work at Yarrangobilly during university holidays and was involved in the conversion of the Glory Hole Cave to the country's first self-guided cave. Elery followed these developments with interest and on 6 March 1971 he visited Yarrangobilly with his wife, Jean, her sister, Roy Skinner, Chief Guide at Hastings Caves, Tasmania, and his wife, Pam, to inspect the new installations (which included tape recorded interpretative messages, though there were lots of problems with these). On 7 March I conducted Elery and party through the River Cave and Elery collected a number of beetles and other insects. On 10-11 April I was caving with Elery and Joe Jennings at Cooleman Plain. On 12 April, Elery and Jean were back at the Glory Hole Cave which had by then opened to the public. On 13 April, we visited Tricketts Cave where Elery again collected insects.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEO ABSTRACTS

In July 1970 I wrote to Elery, floating the idea of Australian Speleo Abstracts – and asking him would he contribute biospeleological material. He responded immediately and enthusiastically supporting the idea. "I would be glad to help if it does go ahead. I am a little pessimistic about the response, but feel it would be invaluable. Will give any help I can and it would be relatively easy to do biospeleo abstracts for you". Elery's input and support had significant influence on the format and content of the publication. True to his word, Elery contributed biospeleological abstracts for the next ten years, to all the regular issues of the publication. Publication of ASA by SSS, supported by ASF, was agreed to at the Hobart ASF Conference in December 1970.

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM, MULU, MALAYSIA, MAY 2001

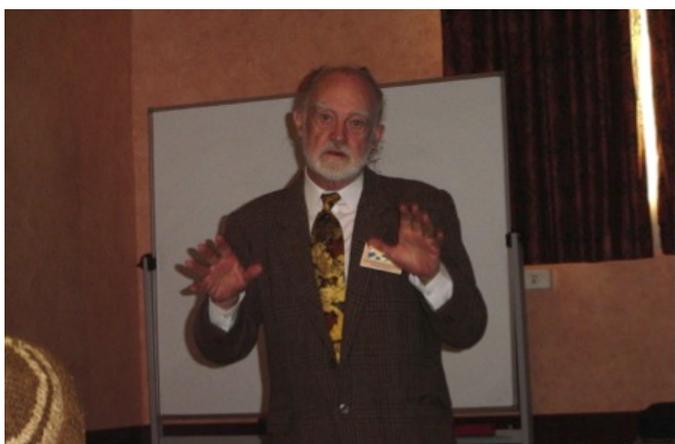
Through his influence in IUCN Elery was able to pull together a one-off Asia-Pacific Forum on Karst Ecosystems and World Heritage at Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak 26-30 May 2001. I was fortunate enough to score an invitation. The meeting brought together 70 leaders in karst management and assessment from the region and was successful in significantly raising the profile of karst as an important element for World Heritage protection in the region.



*Elery making a presentation at the 2001 Mulu Forum
Photo: Greg Middleton*

LIMESTONE COAST 2004

In October 2004 Elery was instrumental in organising the closing workshop of IGCP 448 on Global Karst Correlation and the First International Workshop on RAMSAR Subterranean Wetlands at Naracoorte Caves. In his address to the meeting he emphasised the value and importance of World Heritage as a mechanism for protection and management.



*Elery addressing the "Limestone Coast 2004" conference
on World Heritage.
Photo: Greg Middleton*

KARST MANAGEMENT COURSE

Elery did an amazing job of setting up a specialist Karst Management course at Charles Sturt University. I enrolled in it in 2004, initially as a Graduate Diploma but later converted this to a Masters. Elery took a personal interest in the students enrolled in the course and was always very encouraging. Most of the work was done by "distance education" so there was very little face-to-face lecturing, except at residential schools. I attended one of these at Wombeyan in 2005; Ken Grimes did most of the field work but Elery delivered a few lectures and ran some workshops. Throughout the course Elery was always available to assist students and on a number of occasions he made publications available to me from his personal library which, for karst-related material, was probably unparalleled in the Southern Hemisphere.

Unfortunately the course did not attract the level of support Elery had hoped to gain from the South-East Asia region and the courses gradually shut down from about 2008. I was fortunate to be able to complete the Masters Course and secure the degree in 2009, the only student, I believe, to do so. Elery was not pleased when my absence in Madagascar prevented my attendance in person at the graduation ceremony.



*Elery lecturing, Wombeyan Caves, September 2005
Photo: Greg Middleton*

JOYITA AGAIN IN TROUBLE

Australian Associated Press-Reuter

SUVA, January 8.

70-ton diesel-engined trading vessel Joyita, 1955 was found adrift in the Pacific without a crew, is in trouble again.

increase the buoyancy of the Joyita in preparation for an effort to refloat her.

The Kadavulevu will leave Levuka to arrive at Horseshoe Reef at first light tomorrow.

The present danger is that the Joyita may slip off the reef into deep water during the night and sink.

When she was recently refitted her owners removed insulation cork which had previously given her buoyancy, preventing her sinking on her ill-fated voyage in 1955.

mea Radio at 11.30 a.m., said the ship was a total wreck and was breaking up.

Two Die In S.A. Accidents

A 66-year-old man was fatally injured in a suburban road accident late last night, and the death was also reported yesterday of a young motor cyclist on Kangaroo Island on Monday night.

The man, Alfred Bolland, of Athol avenue, Blair Athol, was struck by a car on Prospect road, Prospect Extension.

He was taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital in a St. John ambulance, but was dead on arrival.

The driver of the car was Joseph Lyon, 20, Killoburn, beside his damaged bicycle.

Constables J. H. Phillips, M. Schulze, and J. L. McCall, are preparing a report for the City Coroner (Mr T. E. Cleland).

Found On Road

The motor cyclist, Robert George Pitt, 17, of Kingscote, was found dead beside his damaged machine in Murray street, Kingscote.

Police said that while riding home the rear tyre blew out and Pitt was apparently thrown to the roadway and sustained severe head injuries.

His body was found by a motorist.



RELICS 8,000 YEARS OLD

From A Staff Reporter By Portable Radio From Eucla CEDUNA, Jan. 8.

The oldest signs of human life on the Australian continent may be unearthed on the Nullarbor Plain when finds by the Nullarbor caves expedition are followed up.

Indications of aboriginal life on the plain at least 8,000 years ago were found yesterday in the Koonalda caves, 64 miles east of Eucla.

Late last week, Dr. A. Gallus discovered an old aboriginal fireplace in the cave, about 200 ft. below the surface.

Dr. Gallus continued digging on the site this week and discovered five levels of aboriginal activity, the lowest one at least 8,000 years old.

Lack of time prevented Dr. Gallus from digging further, but 20 members of the expedition who will stay on the plain for another week may do further work on the spot.

The oldest known aboriginal skull in Australia found at Kellor, near Melbourne, is about 10,000 years old.

Some native tools from an earlier period have been found but cannot be accurately dated.

Dr. Gallus said today he hoped that implements of an even greater age — perhaps 15,000 years old — might be found by digging to bedrock at the site of the Koonalda fireplace.

He discovered a variety of stone tools at the site, including chippers and scrapers and hand axes, some of them unfinished.

Dr. Gallus said the aborigines had obviously used the cave as a quarry and the fireplace as a site for making their implements.

Handprints

Another discovery was made by the expedition at the Aburakurie cave, about 40 miles north of Eucla.

Explorers found handprints in red ochre of the same type as those in the Murrawijine cave near Nullarbor homestead.

Today 42 members of expedition will begin their homeward journey with a short "Cook's Tour" of some of the better known Nullarbor caves.

They are scheduled to arrive in Adelaide on Sunday.

MATTRESSES REMADE
Same Day Service.
Le Cornu's, M9227 (5 lines)
(Advt.)

TYRANTS AND KINGS

The clash of Roundhead and Cavalier in England's struggle for civil liberties in the 17th century, and the salient facts which distinguished this typical English Revolution from all others, are a favorite theme of the second volume of Winston Churchill's "The History of the English-Speaking People" which will begin in "The Advertiser" on Saturday.



Other far-reaching events of the 16th and 17th centuries are the adoption of the Protestant faith by England and Scotland, the lively period of sea expansion, including the defeat of the Spanish Armada under Elizabeth, and the discovery and settlement of the new Continent of America.

The Reformation, the Continental Renaissance and the Restoration of the Monarchy all belong to this period, which Churchill has called "The New World" under his general title of "A History of the English Speaking People."

The Reformation, the Continental Renaissance and the Restoration of the Monarchy all belong to this period, which Churchill has called "The New World" under his general title of "A History of the English Speaking People."

CROMWELL

Much of Sir Winston Churchill's own style and personality permeates his writing as, for instance, his comment when Cromwell smote the Scots at Dunbar:

"Both sides confidently appealed to Jehovah; and the Most High, finding so little to choose between them in faith and zeal, must have allowed purely military factors to prevail."

Saturday's instalment in "The Advertiser" begins with the accession of Henry VIII, and that monarch's frantic search for a wife who would bear him a male heir.

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Rescue Of Ship's Crew

SYDNEY, Jan. 8.—The French naval repair ship Vulcan had taken off 27 members of the crew of the freighter San Antonio, which has been aground since Sunday on a reef off the north-west coast of New Caledonia.

Messages received in Sydney by the ship's agents John Manners and Co. Ltd., have not yet made it clear whether the captain, four officers and four other crew members have also been taken off.

These messages said the ship was breaking up and had been written off by Lloyds of London as a total loss.

The San Antonio (3,702 tons) met heavy seas and ran aground in a cyclone.

SCRAP IRON

She was on her way from NZ to Japan with a load of scrap iron.

A message from the San Antonio, relayed by Nou-

Stranded When Police Take "Stolen" Car

A farmer's suspicions led to a rabbiting party being stranded in the scrub 10 miles from Strathalbyn on Monday after police had removed their car.

The car belonged to Mr. John Fabri, of Gilbert street, city, who was accompanied by two other men and two boys, aged 14 and 12.

The men went into the scrub, with ferrets and left the boys in the front seat of the car.

A local farmer became

suspicious when he saw the boys in the car and phoned the Strathalbyn police.

The boys left the car before the police arrived. As they could not find anyone in the area, the police believed the car had been abandoned and drove it to Strathalbyn police station.

Early in the afternoon the party returned and, as they could not find the car, phoned the Strathalbyn police from a farmhouse.

On giving the car's registration number, the police told the owner that his car was at the station and the party were driven

suspicious when he saw the boys in the car and phoned the Strathalbyn police.

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to Strathalbyn by the farmer.

Meanwhile, in Adelaide, police were calling at Mr. Fabri's home to check the ownership of the car and whether it had been reported stolen.

The father of one of the boys saw the police at the house and was told only that they were calling in connection with Mr. Fabri's car.

Fearing that the party had been involved in an accident, the boy's father went to police headquarters.

A phone call to the Strathalbyn police ended the "comedy of errors."

Elery on the Nullarbor, Jan. 1957 - interestingly captioned

VALE ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH AM

compiled by Andy Spate

These emails were posted on the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA) and the Australasian Bat Society (ABS) email lists or sent directly to Dennis Williamson or me over the last few weeks. They have been lightly edited and are approximately in the reverse order of posting – newest on top. ACKMA member tributes have no organisational attributes, ABS members are identified ABS and non-members of either society are given their affiliations.

Apologies for my delayed reply but I am currently in South America and only just back from the hills last night. Good to hear from you but sad news indeed. It won't be the same Australian karst scene now that Elery is gone - I guess he has been gone for a while already in a way but this sort of finalises it. I presume some sort of memorial volume or some such is already in contemplation? If not it should be.

Kevin Kiernan (Tasmania)

Thanks for a magnificent presentation of Elery's long and complex life yesterday. He certainly lived life well. As I said yesterday, the Victorian Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers has requested Linette Hawkins and me to write something for our branch newsletter, Social Work Connect.

Elery was a life member of the AASW and took that seriously so we feel we owe it to him to mark his passing respectfully and also put something on the permanent record for future historians. He was an active member to the last and I just recall about 3 or 4 years ago when our association was running into difficult times nationally and the ever vigilant Victorian Branch called a meeting at Brunswick town hall to express our concern, on a cold, windy, wet night, Elery came along (struggling with his hearing) because he was always prepared to go the extra mile and really cared about social work and about standards. There was something very touching about his commitment.

What we would like to do is to use your account of his early days and his social work contribution. We will of course acknowledge you. Also Linette will get Angela's permission and we will show what we have written to her before publication. We are happy to show it to you as well.

Jane Miller – Australian Association of Social Workers

I had a small but continuing acquaintance with Elery - mainly through the old Fisheries and Wildlife F&W Department.

I distinctly remember listening to his lecture on the ecology and breeding of bats at the Australian Mammal Society Conference at the National Museum in Russell Street in 1964, when his presentation far outshone most of the other scientists by its clarity and general presentation.

Over the years he was a source of knowledge and inspiration to many of the staff members of F&W, and then CFL. I presume this continued after I left in 1988, although we did meet from time to time through the RAOU.

Sid Cowling - former Ecologist with the Victorian Fisheries and Wildlife Department

I have fond memories of Elery. He visited Forestry Commission Victoria Head Office to complain about certain people using bats in the cave near Lakes Entrance for target practice (in lieu of clay pigeons). A call to District Forester Jeff Brisbane put an end to that problem. I am reliably informed Brizzy offered the suspects a choice: stop or become a clay pigeon.

And Elery attended the last FEAR Branch gathering.

Athol Hodgson - former Commissioner at the former Forests Commission Victoria.

I first met Elery during the early 1980's when I first started by journey in Cave Management at Buchan. I was totally spellbound by his knowledge and his ability to captivate the audience.

I very quickly learnt that when Elery spoke, people listened.

Elery was my mentor and constant source of inspiration throughout my time spent at Buchan.

He always made himself available as a keynote speaker when celebrating a special milestone, celebration or event.

The 2007 ACKMA Conference and Centenary celebrations of both the Royal and Fairy Cave discoveries at Buchan were made very special, thanks to Elery's involvement and contribution at the time.

I will be forever grateful for his friendship and guidance. His legacy will live on for ever

Dale Calnin (Victoria)



Top. Elery asked Andy and Jan Spate to construct a harp bat trap to assist with research into southern bentwing bats in Bat Cave, Naracoorte. This was Australia's first harp trap built in 1966.

Photo: Andy Spate

I keep meaning to contribute this anecdote as it is the one that springs to mind first when I think of Elery.

Some time back I had been pondering something Elery had told me about the great Australian photographer Frank Hurley and his photo book on Jenolan, Gems of Jenolan. Elery had advised me that Hurley had been inspired to produce the book when he flew over the Blue Mountains with pioneer aviators Keith and Ross Smith back in 1919. This didn't make sense to me as the book was published in 1919 and I couldn't see how Hurley would have had time to do the photography and get the book into print. When I next caught up with Elery I

raised with him my concerns and queried him as to the source of his information. I was expecting Elery to tell me it had been mentioned in a particular document which he had seen. That was not the case. In fact Elery had got the information direct from Hurley himself so we agreed that Hurley, ever the showman must have embellished history a bit. The point is though that I got the feeling Elery had a front seat to life and I was often surprised at who Elery knew and what he had done.

To illustrate, on another occasion we were discussing matters relating to patient care. The Robin Williams film Patch Adams (which was relevant to our conversation) had not long been released and I had seen it the previous week. I queried Elery had he seen Patch Adams to which he responded "Not lately". Whilst I was referring to the film it turned out Patch was an old colleague of Elery's. As I said before, it was always fascinating to hear of the people Elery knew and the adventures he had.

Rob Whyte (Victoria)

Many years ago Elery offered to show me the way to Cameron's Cave on the Snowy River. We had to walk around the edge of a steep hill. Elery was using a stick for balance on the downhill side. Unfortunately the stick broke and he cartwheeled off the edge into the ferns. I thought I had killed a legend but he emerged from nettles and grass and scrub unscathed.

Then when we reached the river it was running strongly. Elery was kitted in speleo overalls so I suggested a safety line. As I reached the middle of the river I heard a splash and turned in horror to see Elery submerged in the rapids. It took all my strength to haul him to the boulder. We got across the river and spent two hours looking for the cave but couldn't bloody find it! It was a great day with the master.

Jim Reside (ABS)

As with others already posted am most sorry to hear of Elery's passing but I know he led a good life and many, many of us have benefitted from his wisdom.

He gave me an award for the first piece of writing I did for an ACKMA journal which has given me the confidence to continue writing and editing articles (for NZSS) about caves.

Mary Trayes (NZ)

Firstly our sincere condolences to Angela and family on Elery's passing. David and I learnt the news on Monday from Ross Anderson. Fittingly we were in the Cape Range, near Exmouth, with the post ASF conference caving camp. My first thought when Ross told me was one of great loss, coupled with relief for both Elery and Angela that Elery's suffering was now ended.

We appreciate reading the email tributes and thank Kent for sharing the funeral service booklet. Quite fitting that Elery was farewelled from the 'home' of the VSA. We are travelling in remote WA and only read the email tributes last night, under the stars at a bush property where we were camped. While many people have echoed our own experiences of this wonderful man, we were grateful to learn more about Elery and his many efforts. We had not known about the cave fauna catalogue system (thanks Arthur). And thanks to Nic for the history of both ASF and ACKMA, Elery being so intertwined with the early days of both organisations. (I think that the job in Iran that Nic mentioned was an invitation from the Shah to set up that country's first university.)

Our own experiences of Elery have been echoed by several others, namely encouragement and trying new ideas. There are two things that I'd like to add. Tim Stokes mentioned Elery's contribution to gerontology in his tribute. When I returned to nursing 10 years ago I found several very useful books that Elery had edited or co-edited on aged care. So while I had left working in cave management, I still had Elery's guidance.

Back to caves, when I undertook the Karst Management Course (along with a group that included Scott Melton, Dan Cove and Jay Anderson) Elery was leading a discussion on efforts to provide cave education in show caves. A particular statement from Elery is embedded in my thinking *'our job is not to teach people about caves, but to give them an opportunity to love caves, and the rest will follow'*.

Thank you Elery.

Cathie Plowman and David Butler (Tasmania)

Dear ACKMA members and Mrs Hamilton-Smith,

We have been following the stream of correspondence pertaining the passing of this great contributor to our mutual interests and offer our sincerest condolences.

Please be it known that that Elery's wise advice, guidance and influence even stretched down to the tip of the African continent and was applied here at Cango Caves.

Hein Gerstner & Crew (Cango Caves, South Africa)



*Elery presenting a gift to Daoxian at Limestone Coast 2004 Conference
Photo: Steve Bourne*

My deepest condolences! It was 2001 when I first met Elery in Mulu. I will never forget his warm and friendly smile.

Kyung Sik Woo (South Korea)

Thanks for the sad news. Not entirely unexpected I guess, but shocking all the same. I still remember some of the wise and thoroughly engrossing things he said in presentations he gave at ASF conferences in the 1970s - and caving with him in 1977 at Camooweal, sitting on guano piles alive with cockroaches ...

John Brush (Canberra)

It has been truly amazing to read the tributes to Elery flooding in and to reflect on just how many lives have been influenced by this great man.

There may be little that remains unsaid, but I would like to record just how profoundly Elery changed and challenged me. I had been aware of Elery from the moment I first became a guide at Wombeyan and subsequently Jenolan Caves in the 1990s. It was impossible not to be aware of him, a figure spoken of with respect bordering on reverence by all those whom I worked and associated with. As such, I first met Elery with the timidity of one meeting an idol and with the same reservations - could he possibly live up to his reputation? And what could I bring to any meaningful conservation with so eminent a person? Of course, Elery

did more than match his reputation in person and indeed far exceeded it. He was one of the most charismatic characters and one of the most fluent and captivating speakers under any circumstances that I have ever encountered. He was incredibly generous with his time and with sharing his knowledge and experience, and he had a marvellous gift of encouraging one to speak their mind as conversation ranged widely.

I was fortunate enough to have studied under Elery at Charles Sturt University in 2002. This was truly a transformative period. If I were pressed on the impossible question of Elery's greatest strength, then from my own experience I would have to nominate his constant challenging of the orthodox and of existing paradigms. He quite literally changed the way I thought. He encouraged fresh thinking and actually supported development of ideas that challenged his own position on issues - truly the mark of the greatest and most honest of intellectuals. It is not at all an exaggeration to state that virtually everything that followed over the next decade at Jenolan Caves owed a debt to Elery. Approaches to cave lighting and development, staff

training, approaches to guiding and in placing all commercial operations within a much larger framework and seeking to understand the complex social relationships and motivations that underpin leisure and recreation - Elery's influence was ever present. Also present was his challenge to me and to my colleagues to never be content with the status quo but to ever ask of ourselves if there might not be a better way, a new way of approaching our profession.

To meet and to know such a transformative individual is not a privilege that all are fortunate enough to have in their lives. I am, and will be forever, grateful to have been so fortunate in the case of having met and known Elery. I regret that I cannot attend his funeral, though like so many others will most certainly be there in spirit.

Dan Cove (Oberon)



*Elery with Ian Millar, Paul Williams, Di Vavryn, Barry Richard and Grant Gartrell
ACKMA Conference, Westport 2005.
Photo: Kent Henderson*

Elery's 1985 'Improving the Visitor Experience' was an inspiration to us in the fledgling adventure cave business here at Waitomo, and still is. Over subsequent years it was an honour to rub shoulders with Elery who brought such an international perspective to the local area.

Our sympathy is with you, Angela and your extended family at this time.

Pete and Libby Chandler (Waitomo)

Elery addressing a group at a celebration of Father Julian Tenison Woods, Blanche Cave, Naracoorte 2006.

Photo: Steve Bourne

I think you and the others who have sent in accolades should edit/add to the Wikipedia entry on Elery, which makes no mention whatever of his contribution to bat research.

Robert Bender (ABS)

There have been many comments on Elery's place in Australian, Australasian and World cave and karst matters.

I wish to comment on my early associations and collaborative work with Elery.

I have known Elery since the mid-1960s when he had recently moved from Adelaide to Melbourne. In Melbourne he was instrumental in chasing cave bats and involving VCES but also with SASS particularly regarding the Scrubby Creek Cave exploration at Buchan. In 1967, Elery provided the impetus for SASS and VCES to amalgamate into the Victorian Speleological Association. Before Buchan he was a driving force in CEGSA and was an internal member of exploration on the Nullarbor, Cora Lynn, Naracoorte and other SA caving areas.

He was involved with others in connecting a disparate lot of caving enthusiasts across Australia to organise into formal clubs and to amalgamate into an Australian Speleological Federation. There were obviously others of like mind who formed the first ASF Executive. He was instrumental in ASF activities at various levels. He was

the first Secretary and later President. However, early in his term as ASF President he accepted a fascinating job in Iran leaving me as acting ASF president which morphed into 4 years as elected President. At the ASF Council meeting following his departure for Iran he was made a Fellow of ASF.

The 1970s were a time of optimism in Australia with the end of the Vietnam war and a change to a Labor government under Gough Whitlam. This brought things like the Inquiry into the National Estate and funding for matters about the National Estate. Elery was instrumental in backing ASF initiatives for funding for cave documentation and for providing reports on the importance and significance of caves and karst.

Elery with others in ASF formed a Cave Management Commission and this held several very successful Conferences. From this base it was apparent that cave managers wanted their own Association. ACKMA was born out of this need for managers to have their own Association. Elery was instrumental in providing the framework for this to happen.

I will not dwell on later events as ACKMA grew legs of its own but Elery continued with his thrust providing the ideas and impetus for Naracoorte to become a listed under the World Heritage Convention. The initiative of starting a Cave and Karst Group under World Commission on Protected Areas of IUCN was from Dr John Watson. Later, Elery brought to this his capacity to communicate ideas about the values of caves and karst in a way which were readily adopted and seized upon within Asia. In particular both China and Vietnam benefited greatly from his input.

At a personal level I had many caving trips with Elery sometimes to catch bats, sometimes to get further away to the Kimberley ranges. He made himself available to plan strategies for change and caves in Victoria and Australia are better protected because of his input. One of his regrets in recent years was not being able to join us our yearly expedition to the Nullarbor. It was his early trips to the Nullarbor which really inspired him. Such a trip was not to be, even though he used to bring it up every time I saw him in the last seven years.

Others have expressed feelings about Elery in other words but from my perspective his contribution to cave knowledge and cave management in Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the World particularly in East Asia can never be replicated. It has been my privilege to work in partnership with him to effect changes for better cave and karst management.

Nicholas White (Melbourne)



Elery speaking with Greg Middleton at the karst studies field course at Naracoorte in 2004. Ratana Leukanawal, an international student from Thailand in the background, an initiative of Elery's to improve cave and karst knowledge in South East Asia.

Photo: Steve Bourne

It is some years since I last spoke with Elery, but I treasure the memories of the field trips done with him, with his generous sharing of his encyclopaedic knowledge, and of his friendship. He will be sorely missed, but leaves a fantastic legacy through his influence on so many people. Elery will be long remembered.

Ian Temby (ABS)

It was my honor to know Elery. I discussed the literature of the field and shared interest in the historical material of caves with him for about 35 years. We became more than book dealer and customer and I cherished that friendship. One of my fond memories is visiting Elery and looking through his collection with him. Also we discussed the cave management system in the US and how it differed with Australia. My life was richer knowing Elery.

Emily Davis (New York)

People do not die for us immediately, but remain bathed in a sort of aura of life which bears no relation to true immortality but through which they continue to occupy our thoughts in the same way as when they were alive ...Marcel Proust

Elery will always 'be there' and will continue to occupy our thoughts for so many years still to come, indeed decades... Thank you for everything...

John Watson (Albany, Western Australia)

In addition to the many and varied tributes and accolades to a truly inspirational leading light in the world of caves and karst and the study of speleology in general, perhaps one of the lesser known but lasting attributes for Elery Hamilton-Smith relate to his early interest and devotion to the study of cave fauna and biospeleology in Australia. For many years Elery held the position as Honorary Associate in Zoology at the South Australian Museum. It was during this time that he was one of the pioneers in the collection, study, classification, specimen curation and museum registration of invertebrate fauna from Australian caves.

During his long standing relationship with the South Australian Museum (SAM) in Adelaide, leading up to his appointment as Honorary Associate in Zoology, Elery developed a Bio-Speleological ("BS") Card Index at SAM for registering and recording the collections of cave species from all over Australia, which included the specimens collected by himself and other early cave biologists, entomologists and arachnologists. By way of example, for the period from 1953 to 1971, he collected invertebrate species from 15 cave sites in Tasmania: at Hastings, Ida Bay, Junee-Florentine, Loongana and Mole Creek. This Tasmanian collection included 80 lots of cave species, all of which were given "BS" numbers and curated at SAM after being preserved vials in the SAM spirit (alcohol) collection or placed in the SAM dry collection (pinned to polystyrene blocks, impregnated with naphthalene for longevity).

Another lasting tribute for Elery relates the recent (May 2015) description of a new cave adapted species of Anaspides, a primitive syncarid (a "shrimp"-like aquatic crustacean), which were amongst his collection of 15 specimens taken from Exit Cave (Ida Bay karst) on 24 May 1969. Published in Zootaxa, a highly esteemed international zoological journal, his two collected Anaspides specimens provided the holotype male and one of the paratype females for the Type Locality site (Exit Cave) description for this new species.

Two of Elery's early publications that reveal his pioneering study of biospeleology include:



*Elery in Camooweal Cave, 1977.
Photo: John Brush*

- Hamilton-Smith, E. (1967) *The Arthropoda of Australian caves*. *Jnl. Australian Entomological Society*, 6:103-118.
- Hamilton-Smith, E. (1971) *The classification of cavernicoles*. *National Speleological Society Bulletin*, 33 (1):63-68.

On a personal note, as such an inspirational mentor, Elery was one of the many friends who urged me to continue my study into the history of cave fauna in Tasmania, updating the records of cave invertebrate collections in Tasmania and going on undertake postgraduate studies into the ecology of cavernicoles in Tasmania (building on the previous studies by Stefan Eberhard). During our MSc degree studies, Stefan and I were most grateful to Elery for the loan of his "BS" card index from the South Australian Museum, along with copies of various biospeleo manuscripts.

I have recently sent some of this information to Angela, offering our condolences and apology for not being able to attend the memorial service planned for tomorrow. Tears ...

Arthur Clarke and Siobhan Carter (Dover, Tasmania)

We'll have a special thought for Elery each time we visit his beautiful Buchan Caves Reserve. We'll have a special thought for Elery each time we visit his grand old caves at Naracoorte. We'll have a special thought for Elery in his transit lounge in just about any Asian airport. In fact he's so much all around us that it would be a lot easier just to maintain a special thought for Elery's care for his whole planet. "Oh, you are going to such-and-such a country? Here are the contact details for a few friends of mine you might care to look up while you are there...."

Thank you Elery for showing us how to fill life full to the brim, and thank you for introducing us to Angela.

Grant and Merry Gartrell (Mount Compass, SA)

So sad to hear of Elery's passing.

He was such a positive influence to budding speleologists. I remember having a great discussion with him at the Tas Trog conference.

Jill Rowling (Thornleigh, NSW)

Our condolences to Angela and family. Elery's wisdom touched many thousands of lives including ours. Thanks Elery.

Andy and Anjum Lawrence (Oman)

Whilst we only had the privilege of knowing Elery for about 10 years we have been so fortunate to at least have been the receptacles of his vast knowledge over that time.

A wonderful man who always had time to talk and pass on his vast knowledge even to those of us who were only at the beginning of our Cave journey

It is sad that we have lost him but we will all have everlasting memories of the great man.

Our good wishes to his family.

Geoff, Trish and Ben Deer (Gunns Plains Caves)

Thank you Kent.

I have been struggling with the words needed to express the length, breadth and depth of how I perceive Elery's contribution to this world and while only he and I know how much I personally owe him for his support over the last 30 years, you have come very close to framing my feelings.

Brian Clark (Adelaide)



*Elery unveiling a plaque celebrating World Heritage at Naracoorte Caves
Photo: Steve Bourne*

Please pass on my sincere sympathy to Angela and of course all who have been privileged to know him. Having lost Carol earlier this year, I appreciate the tremendous sense of loss that his passing has brought to his many friends and associates.

Because of my Murrindal connection I first met Elery before I met Carol. I was amazed at how tolerant he was of an ignoramus like me. Carol and I considered him one of few truly wonderful people that we had been able to count as not only another member of ACKMA but a true friend.

Dennis Rebbechi (Russell Island, Qld)

When you think about it there are few people who, over the course of their life, make a consistently important contribution to society and human endeavour, and even more crucially, leave a lasting legacy. Elery Hamilton-Smith was one of those few individuals. Others have already eloquently written of his endeavours over various

areas. My personal experience was very largely through ACKMA. He was indeed the Father of ACKMA, the main driving force in its creation, and its Executive Officer in its early years...and over the years his input into its endeavours were second to none.

Personally, in living in the same city, I probably saw Elery, and Angela, more than some. I will long remember our many drives, over the years, either to Buchan or Naracoorte, and I was always fascinated by the many anecdotes he imparted on our long journeys; some, of course, I had heard before! Amongst his many immense talents, he was a wonderful raconteur.

Elery, you are irreplaceable and will be sorely missed, but your legacy will continue into the distant future. Thank you for your glorious life, and unsurpassable contribution to cave and karst management in particular.

My deepest sympathy to Angela and family, but Elery's life was, truly, one that can be most justly celebrated.

Kent Henderson (Melbourne)

Elery also had a great interest in and made significant contributions to cave and karst documentation. Just a sample:

It was Elery who suggested and encouraged the first Australian cave list and speleo how-to book, "Speleo Handbook" in 1968. He even provided his organisation's meeting room and large table for the massive job of hand-collating it.

It was Elery who provided me with all the critical cave documentation contacts in many countries before my first "Cave Documentation Safari" trip in 1972.

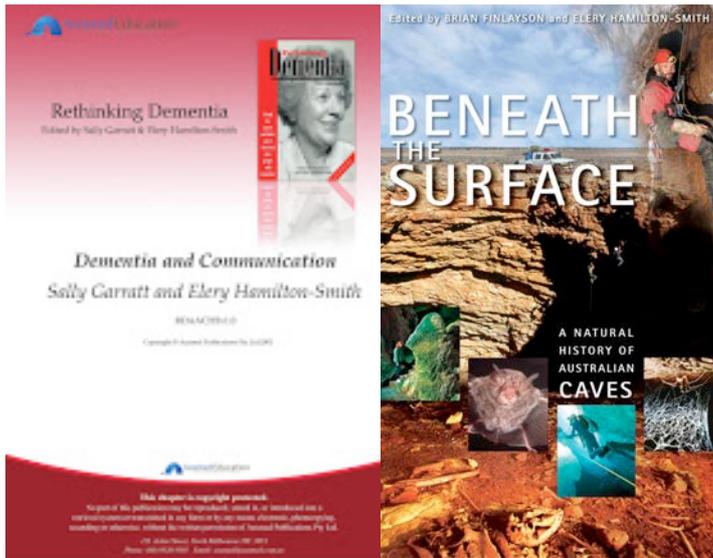
And it was Elery who suggested, encouraged and greatly helped the production of the later and much larger computer-based Australian cave list, "Australian Karst Index" in 1985.

Thanks, Elery, you will not be forgotten.

Peter Matthews (Melbourne)

So sad but a life to be celebrated.

Doug Mills (Canberra)



Examples of Elerly's diverse publications.

I was honored to have worked and debated with Elerly for the last forty plus years. His insights into how people could meaningfully interact with nature and the cave environment were revolutionary. I always came away with way more than I contributed. His spirit will dwell in all the commercial caves where his ideas were adopted.

Fred Stone (Hawaii)

Sad news - I will not be able to attend the memorial service... I will be thinking of him and his positive contributions to a better planet.

Graeme Worboys (Canberra)

I'm very sorry to hear this - Elerly was an also inspirational figure to many of us here in SE-Asia and will be greatly missed. Please convey my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Neil Furey (SE Asia)

(Who named a Vietnamese bat *Murina eleryi* in honour of Elerly)

I am so sad to hear of Elerly's death. I first met him as my lecturer in Recreation at Phillip Institute in 1978 and I know many of the recreation alumni will be sending their condolences to Angela and Elerly's extended family. He was a pivotal figure in the development and recognition of recreation and leisure studies; it was only one of his areas of academic contribution. I have valued rekindling my friendship with Elerly since becoming Parks Victoria's District Manager responsible for the area that includes Buchan some 8 years ago. He has made a tremendous contribution to Parks Victoria over many

Gentleman, scholar and icon of Australian science and conservation.

I didn't have a lot of contact with Elerly, but when I did, at ABS conferences and the like, I came away truly inspired. To spend time with the great man was a wonderful privilege resulting in fulfilment of spirit and a renewed vigour for inquiry into and conservation of our precious natural world.

A sad time indeed.

Greg Ford (ABS)



Murina eleryi

Source: www.mammalogy.org

years, including sitting on the Statewide Cave and Karst Advisory Committee that I have the privilege of chairing on behalf of Parks Victoria.

Will McCutcheon (Victoria)



Pseudotyrannochthonius hamiltonsmithi

Source: www.museum.wa.gov.au

I have been fortunate to benefit greatly from Elery's wisdom. The breadth of his work was remarkable. At Naracoorte Caves, Elery was involved with the first serious research into the bat population at Bat Cave; research that provides the baseline data for the site. He also keenly observed and wrote on the invertebrate fauna of Bat Cave, which became important when drastic changes were observed in 2000. The first discussion of a possible World Heritage listing for the site involved Elery. When I assumed the role of manager at Naracoorte Caves, it was Elery who provided guidance on World Heritage and led me into the world of UNESCO and IUCN, where he was heading up the working group on cave and karst management. We arranged an IGCP conference at Naracoorte, attracting a good number of international speakers due to his involvement. The following year, Elery spoke at another conference at Naracoorte, this time on Father Julian Tenison Woods, a pioneering Catholic priest in the south east of South Australia in the 1850s and 1860s. Some years later, he

was the keynote speaker on Woods for the Sisters of St Josephs, the order founded by Woods and Saint Mary McKillop.

Elery and I shared many common interests, one being collecting Naracoorte Caves souvenirs (he also collected many other caves of course). We had an understanding on eBay, where we wouldn't bid against the other. He was too much of a gentleman to bid against a friend for the sake of a souvenir.

Elery founded a course on karst management with Charles Sturt University. I completed both the certificate and diploma. The course covered all aspects of cave and karst management; giving students a sound geological foundation, policy, interpretation, tourism, etc. It made me a better manager at Naracoorte.

My condolences to Angela and family. Many thanks Elery for all you did for me - I am privileged to have known you as a friend.

Steve Bourne (Naracoorte)

It was certainly a sad day to hear of Elery's passing but we were relieved for both Elery and Angela that any suffering had ended.

Elery was a true mentor to so many people. All you had to do was ask and he was always willing to share his amazing knowledge. His journey has ended but the number of people that have benefited from him, has sent hundreds or maybe thousands on new journeys that they would never have taken without Elery's encouragement and assistance. The world of Caves and Karst on a global scale have been forever changed by Elery's contributions.

As one of the most inspirational, and charismatic people to have entered our lives, it has been a great privilege for Sam and me to call Elery a friend. He will be truly missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts are with Angela and all of those mourning the loss of a great man.

Thanks to everyone who has posted such wonderful tributes to Elery.

Rauleigh and Sam Webb (Perth)



Elery with Greg Middleton (middle) and Ken Schultz, during a visit to a Wratonbully vineyard, karst studies field course, Naracoorte 2006.

Photo: Steve Bourne

Source: www.museum.wa.gov.au

We knew it was going to be a terrible loss but until it comes one never realises how much. I felt sure I'd be able to visit and yarn and stuff next time I was in Melbourne.

It was good to talk with Angela and know she and the families were with Elery beforehand and right until the last.

Deborah Carden (Naracoorte)

Heard the news yesterday through the ACKMA 'family' of Elery's passing. My condolences, and will be thinking of him on the day of the Memorial Service to be held in Melbourne which I am sorry I will be unable to attend as I live over here in New Zealand.

Elery's commendation of some writing I did for the ACKMA journal back in 2003 gave me the confidence to write other similar articles, and a book with a section about caves. I will think of him often as I sit here at my desk writing.

His was a life lived to the fullest.

Mary Trayes ACKMA & NZSS

I will always remember how helpful and encouraging Elery was to me when I was gathering bat references for the 'Batalogue' all those years ago (1996?) So many bat experts helped out, including yourself (it was before the days of widespread internet searches).

Elery gave me a huge pile of handwritten catalogue cards with full details of all the articles he had read relating to bats for me to enter into the 'Batalogue', and said to keep them. I still have the cards as I could not get rid of all of that effort and work that the cards had entailed. I would be more than happy to return them to the family if they wanted them, or to some other archive. He was such a wise, gentle man, such a loss.

Please pass on my sincere condolences to the family.

Marg Turton (ABS)

Xiao-Jing and I are greatly saddened by the news of Elery's passing. Such a lovely, beautiful and brilliant man! We have read all the ACKMA member's tributes to him – what a legacy!

He will live on in our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives.

Our love and condolences go out to you. Arohanui

Kevan Wilde and Xiao-Jing (New Zealand)

Thank you for sharing the sad news of Elery. Australian zoology has lost a treasure, but he leaves a great legacy and a great example of generosity of spirit for us all.

Pamela Conder (ABS)

Elery was a gentleman and scholar in the real meaning of the term. He will be greatly missed for his enormous contributions to ASF, ACKMA, UNESCO, cave conservation, recreation management, cave biology and gerontology.

I am personally indebted to Elery because when everyone else though my work was crazy, Elery gave me strong support. My condolences to all his family and close friends, we will miss him greatly.

Armstrong Osborne (Sydney)

This is sad news. I have fond memories of Elery on my few trips downunder. His wisdom and insight will be missed.

Tim Stokes (Canada)

Thank you for letting us know of the sad passing of Elery. Indeed a very sad time for all. Our thoughts are with Angela and family.

Elery one of life's true gentlemen. Like many I have so much to thank Elery for - a great mentor and inspiration. His legacy will live on for ever.

Dale Calnin (Buchan)

Such a great loss but what an amazing life and legacy

Julia Coggins (Yanchep)

A void will certainly be left in my life, as it will be in the lives all those that were privileged to know Elery. Thanks Elery for all your wisdom and knowledge that you shared us. Our thoughts are with you Angela, as we mourn and also celebrate the life of a wonderful person.

Kay and Chester Shaw (Mole Creek)



*Elery addressing a group at a celebration of Father Tension Woods, Blanche Cave, Naracoorte 2006.
Photo: Steve Bourne*

I am both sad and – oddly - a little relieved.

Sad that a wonderful mind in the body of a great friend left us, and a little relieved because he was in a bad place from which we could give him no respite - but finally nature has.

I picture him now, stroking his beard, eyes a piercing gaze beneath bushy eyebrows staring into the middle distance for a moment then pinning me to the wall with a direct stare “Well, what now young friend?”

Brian Clark (Adelaide)

Well said Brian. May Elery truly rest in peace now.

For us Elery’s presentation at an ACKMA conference is embedded in our tour guide training manual and serves as a living ongoing testament to a great man, his wisdom, knowledge, understanding and capacity to share it.

I feel very privileged to have known Elery and share everyone’s loss.

Ann Augusteyn (Capricorn Caves)

On behalf of CEGSA and all South Australian cavers, we have fond memories and the greatest gratitude to Elery for his role in the formation of CEGSA in 1955.

Even at that early stage of speleology in Australia, he saw the value of caves far beyond that of exploration and recreation.

He linked CEGSA with the South Australian Museum from the beginning and that relationship has continued ever since, contributing to the science of caves at many levels.

He was always interested in everyone and great conversationalist, as so many of us know so well! Thank you, Elery, for everything you gave us.

Ian Lewis (CEGSA)

Elery, a man with such profound wisdom and vision, a mentor and a leader who has left an indelible legacy in the form of his outstanding contribution to our understanding of natural heritage and its management and importantly, the way that understanding is imparted to others.

His life-long contribution will live on in the memory of ACKMA, an organisation so dear to his heart. *Arohanui*

Greg Martin (New Zealand)

Sad news on Sunday. I consider myself privileged to have met a man of his calibre. Wise man. Great life.

Hein Gerstner (Cango Caves, South Africa)

So sorry to hear about Elery's passing. A significant group of people who share a passion for things natural, and the complex interactions that we humans have with them, have lost a very dear friend and mentor. Fortunately for us all, he scattered his wisdom widely and with great generosity, humour and clarity. Every so often one knows that they have sat in the presence of a truly great man. Elery was just such a person. (He became even greater when the bottle of port was opened).The Maori people here have a saying:

Ka hinga te totara i te wao nui a Tāne. The totara tree in Tane's great forest has fallen.

John Ash (Waitomo, New Zealand)

How extremely sad. Thank you for letting us know.

Maree Treadwell-Kerr (ABS)

This is a sad day for us and a sad day for ACKMA. But, of course, also a time to remember and celebrate Elery's extraordinary life and his contributions to furthering cave and karst management and conservation that shall never be forgotten and that shall forever be his great legacy.

Dan Cove (Oberon)

A lovely guy and a great teacher, karst enthusiast and humanitarian.

Ian and Anne Millar (New Zealand)

The Father of ACKMA, Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith AM, died peacefully early on Saturday morning, 27 June.

A memorial service was held at St Francis' Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 1 July at 3pm.

mors janua vitae

Kent Henderson (Melbourne)

A very sad day indeed. It feels like a true legend of the cave world has been lost. Elery did so much for cave and karst management and to quote Beneath the Surface "Caves are much more than just holes in the ground." I think we'd all agree that in one way or another Elery's passion for caves, their history and the conservation of them taught us all that.

A true gentleman who will be sadly missed but also admirably remembered for the wonderful work that he did for the caving world.

I am sure Elery would agree with this next statement:

"Don't cry because I have gone, smile because I have been."

Katrina Wills (Kelly Hill Caves)



*ACKMA members at Elery's service.
Rear L-R Steve Bourne, Brian Clark, Cath Loder,
Dale Calnin, Miles Pierce
Front L-R. Angela Hamilton-Smith, Kent Henderson,
Andy Spate, Ian Lewis.
Photo: Kent Henderson*

A sad passing but there are lovely memories. What a character. A great friend, a generous mentor, an intelligent adviser. Always accessible.

We will have a remembrance here at Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Site - staff have many stories to share. Elery is part of our World Heritage legacy.

Deborah Carden (Naracoorte and Tantanoola Caves)

I am very sad to hear this too.

When I arrived in Australia he invited me straight away for a cup of tea to tell me all about bats in Australia.

A very generous and very knowledgeable man. I am very sorry to hear.

My thoughts are with his family.

Tanja Straka (ABS)

Elery will be remembered for so many things - his involvement as a speleologist, as a Professor, a sociologist, fellow ACKMA member, and friend.....

His interests included caves, environmental management, postcards, bats, memorabilia, people, nature.....and much much more.....

Elery's contributions to World Heritage, as well as to Cave and Karst Protection and Conservation around the World will not be forgotten. Elery was involved in so many ways and we will all remember him for something different I am sure.

Our thoughts are with Angela and family.

Jay and Ross Anderson (Western Australia)

A scholar and a gentleman ... we are the poorer for his passing.

Geoff Kell (Wee Jasper)

Lindy - Thanks for representing the bat society! The passing of a legend.

Simon Robson (ABS)

Elery was certainly a pioneer, and one of the unique people who was speleologist-turned-batologist in the early days. Consequently, through the extensive banding programs that he was involved with, our eyes were opened to the amazing migration patterns of bentwing bats and others. He will be missed.

Greg Richards (ABS)

Sad to hear Elery has passed away, he is a bat legend.

Marg Turton (ABS)

Thanks for letting us know about Elery passing away. He certainly made a significant contribution to bat research and conservation and was an amazing man. If you find out the funeral arrangements could you let me know (I will check too) as I would like to go both for myself and to represent other ABS members that can't make it.

Lindy Lumsden (ABS)

I saw this morning with sadness the announcement that Elery had died yesterday. It seemed so quickly that his health deteriorated. He was an extraordinary man in so many ways. He was of course a key contributor in the history of bat research in Australia. Many of us are grateful for his encouragement.

Terry Reardon (ABS who named Mormopterus eleryi – Bristle-faced free-tailed bat - in honour of Elery)



*Mormopterus eleryi
Photo: Terry Reardon*

At least it wasn't like a "black hole" where all of that wisdom was sucked up and lost. He has left a great legacy. Many thanks for feeding me his last email (I think it was you). I managed to get off an email to him just after ACKMA telling him how much the itinerant Kiwis missed catching up with him.

Got a wonderful reply back from Angela who said that he smiled widely when she read it to him.

Carry his "banner" to China with you when you go.

John Ash (Waitomo, New Zealand)

Great innings for a great mind! Gone but not forgotten! I hope he will be haunting our caves from now on!

Monica Yeung (Canberra)

I think Dan has articulated my sentiment beautifully.

As is the belief of many cultures, I'll look out for the strong winds as Elery travels to all his favourite places and those he is yet to see over the next few days.

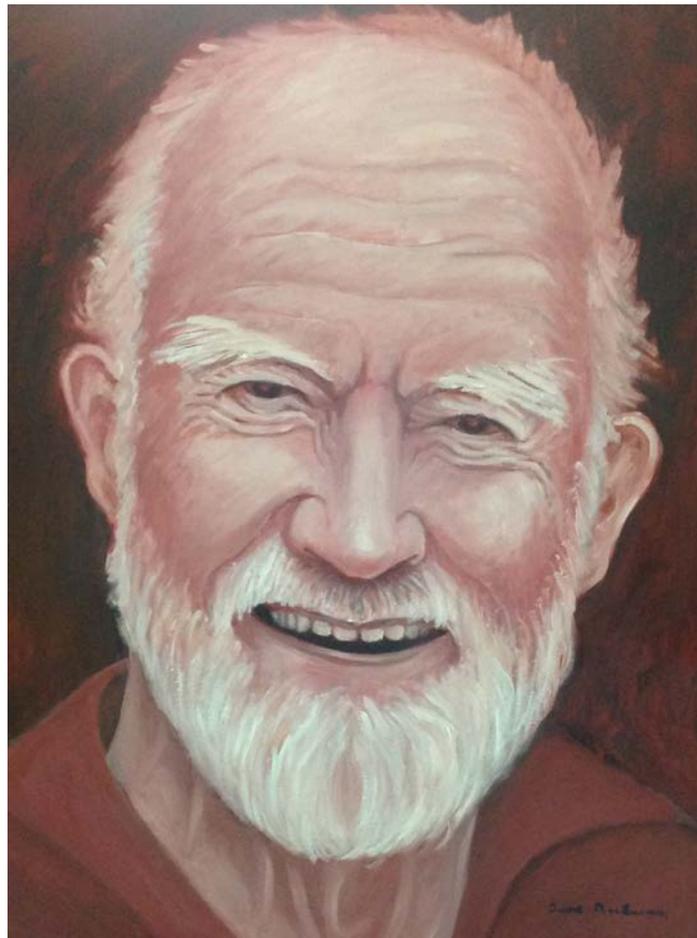
(Just let him know that we are not very fond of strong winds in Mulu!)

Sympathy to all.

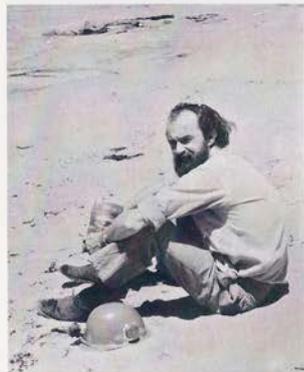
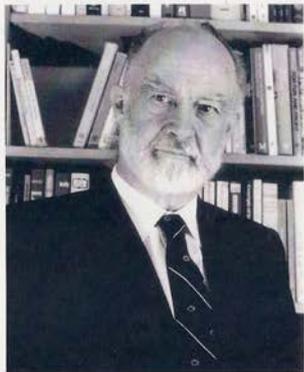
Alison Pritchard and all the team at Mulu

The end of an era.

Peter Matthews (Melbourne)



*Portrait of Elery
By: June MacLucas*



Albinoni: Adagio for strings in G minor

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Father Ken Boland

EULOGY
Dennis Williamson

Mozart: Clarinet quintet in A (Larghetto)

FAMILY TRIBUTE
Angela Hamilton-Smith, Philippa Hamilton-Smith
Simone Elder and Alexander Hamilton.

TRIBUTE
Andy Spate

CONCLUSION
Father Ken Boland

Beethoven: 9th Symphony (Ode to Joy)



Take my hand.
We will walk.
We will only walk.
We will enjoy our walk
without thinking of arriving anywhere.
Walk peacefully.
Walk happily.
Our walk is a peace walk.
Our walk is a happiness walk.

Thich Nhat Hanh