

The Ann Augusteyn Award

Ian Eddison

The Ann Augusteyn Award is to celebrate and encourage excellence in cave and karst interpretation and presentation.

Ann was a highly-respected member of ACKMA who passed away suddenly in 2018. Ann was a very successful business operator in our industry, she was also an inspiration to many through her calm manner of inclusion of all – quietly driving us to better what we do and with a focus on visitors gaining the best possible experience. It is so appropriate that Ann be remembered and recognised this way.

The 2019/2020 ACKMA committee decided to establish an award in memory of Ann that was focussed on cave guiding and presentation. A small team worked to prepare guidelines for the award and a process to implement it. This team was led by Cathie Plowman and included several current cave guides as well as eco-tourism specialists, Professor Betty Weiler and John Pastorelli, both of whom have done extensive work in tourism guiding and have been involved in ACKMA cave guide training events.

The award overview and criteria are included in this edition of the Journal; have been emailed to show cave sites that are members of ACKMA; and have been added to the ACKMA website.

The award will be open biennially and it is planned that the award will be announced at the cave guides training event in the award year. The panel for the first three rounds will be Cathie Plowman, Professor Betty Weiler and John Pastorelli and I thank them all for their commitment. There is to be a rotation system for the award committee and a review period built into the award guidelines. I thank Associate Professor Dr Julia James for her donation of the shield that will be part of the prize for the award.

The award committee may determine that:

- one or more nominations not selected for the award may be given a ‘Highly Commended’ certificate; and
- the award is not to be given, if there are no nominations that the committee feels are of a high enough standard to meet the aim of the award.

I encourage members at show cave sites to ensure that information about the Ann Augusteyn Award in this edition of the Journal is displayed so that as many relevant people as possible are aware of the award. Members who are not involved in cave presenting may also know of people who could be considered as suitable nominees.

The inaugural award is scheduled to be presented at the Cave Guides’ Workshop at Wellington in 2021.

Ann Augusteyn Award

The **Ann Augusteyn Award** recognises the excellence and outstanding contribution of an individual to cave and karst guiding and interpretation. Nominations for the award will be open biennially, and the award announced at the subsequent cave guides training event that is held in conjunction with the ACKMA AGM.

The inaugural Ann Augusteyn Award will be awarded at Wellington, New South Wales in 2021.

Nominations will open on 15 January 2021 and close on 15 March 2021.



Amy Voss, Zana Lane Photography

A celebration of Ann Augusteyn

Ann and Ken Augusteyn bought the then Olsens Caves in 1988 and embarked on a journey to further develop and promote the caves which were renamed Capricorn Caves. Ann and Ken, assisted by their family of John, Robert and Helen, worked to modernise the show cave experiences, develop accommodation facilities, provide for greater community connections with the caves and support science research.

After Ken's passing in 2008, Ann continued their vision with a special focus on guide-development and assisting guides to develop engaging cave visitor experiences. Ann was supporter of ongoing training and development and exposing guides to new and practical ideas to enhance their guiding.

Ann died suddenly in 2018 and ACKMA determined that her efforts to promote vision, excellence and new approaches in cave guiding and presenting should be celebrated and progressed.

Ann Augusteyn Award

Prize

Associate Professor Julia James has donated a shield which will rotate from one award winner to the next, with the award winner's name engraved on it.

The award winner will also receive:

- 1) The honour of being recognised by their peers.
- 2) A certificate.
- 3) A year's membership of ACKMA.
- 4) A book prize relevant to caves and karst.

Award criteria

Anyone can nominate an individual for this award. For an individual to be eligible they need meet the award criteria:

- Be a member of ACKMA or work for an organisation that is a corporate member.
- Show commitment to cave and karst guiding and interpretation.
- Demonstrate leadership in developing new and engaging ways to interpret caves and karst to the community.
- Share with and assist others to further develop the profession of cave and karst guiding and presentation.
- Adapt cave and karst presentation so that it is relevant to varying audiences.

To make a nomination

To nominate an individual please provide the following information:

YOUR DETAILS

Your name, full contact details and professional relationship (if any) with the person being nominated.

PERSON BEING NOMINATED

For the person being nominated please include:

- Their **name, workplace and workplace address**.
- A description of their **cave and karst presentation work** (maximum 250 words).
- **Why you believe they deserve this award**. Please refer to award criteria (maximum 250 words).
- **Supporting documentation** such as video, photos and other documentation (maximum of five documents).
- Names and full contact details of **three professional referees**, including each referee's relationship to the nominee and how they know of the nominee's work as a cave guide, interpreter or presenter. Please think broadly here as a referee does not need to be a speleological expert or have been a cave guide to appreciate excellence in cave and karst guiding and presenting. Referees with a variety of backgrounds relevant to cave and karst presentation are encouraged.

KEEP YOUR NOMINATION SECRET

Please note that the award committee would like to keep nominations 'a surprise' until the public announcement and encourage people making a nomination to support this.

For enquiries and to submit a nomination please email:

AnnAugusteynAward@ackma.org