

TWO NEW FELLOWS

– Steve Bourne and Kent Henderson

An the 2010 ACKMA Annual General Meeting at the Royal Mulu Resort on Saturday 24 April, on the unanimous recommendation of the ACKMA Committee, two new Fellows of ACKMA were proposed and then elected by acclamation. Their citations read as follows:

CATHIE PLOWMAN. Proposed by Steve Bourne.



One of the objectives of ACKMA is to develop improved standards in the management and interpretation of cave and karst heritage in the Australasian Region. This person has made significant contribution to lifting the standard of cave interpretation in Australasia.

Among her achievements, she convened the 2004 Caves Guides Workshop, commonly termed the Gabfest, at Mole Creek. That year the ACKMA AGM was held back to back with this workshop, so she convened that weekend as well. The 2004 Gabfest was memorable for a number of reasons, notably the presence of Prof Sam Ham and Dr Betty Weiler, two experts in thematic interpretation that brought a high degree of professionalism to the workshop and great learning for those present. Rosie Black and Penny Davidson, two more academics assisted the group develop the first 'Principles in Cave Guiding'. The workshop also yielded a significant profit thanks to generous sponsorship and the ability to attract these academics to participate free of charge. Through an arrangement with *Parks Tasmania*, the surplus funds were transferred to ACKMA, and used to support a series of workshops on thematic interpretation at various cave sites, and the development of a voice training manual.

Always generous with her time and willing to share her knowledge and experience, interpretation workshops during or prior to each annual ACKMA meeting has become the norm. A workshop prior to the Rockhampton AGM and another during the Buchan Conference are just two examples. In the past decade we have seen many changes in how caves are presented with new technologies, however many advances have been made in how guides operate as well. This person has been a leading player in advancing cave interpretation.

She has been a great supporter of ACKMA, a regular contributor to the journal and thus far has attended on five occasions. It gives me great pleasure to nominate Cathie Plowman as a fellow of ACKMA.

DR. JOHN WATSON. Proposed by Kent Henderson.



The person I am nominating today as a Fellow of ACKMA has made an outstanding contribution to cave and karst management and conservation for well over thirty years. This person was a Foundation Member of ACKMA, and he attended his first Conference, the 2nd, in 1977 – thirty-three years ago. He has attended many ACKMA Conferences since, his latest attendance being at Margaret River twelve months ago. Indeed, as a Western Australian, he would have been hard pressed not to attend that one!

He began his work relating to caves and karst at the former Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) where he chaired the Cave Working Group for several years. This group brought speleologists and government bodies together for the first time in Western Australia. While at DCE he was influential in ensuring that the first comprehensive report on the Nullarbor karst was prepared by the ASF in 1978.

He was the founder and first chairman of the WCPA Working Group on Cave and Karst Protection, and was the coordinating editor of the IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection – arguably the most important karst book ever produced, internationally-speaking. He has been the manager of parks and conservation reserves for the South Coast region of the state, which until 1985 included the famous Margaret River region and continues to include the Western Australian section of the Nullarbor.

Those of us who have worked with him have enjoyed sharing his vision of what parks should be, respected his stimulating leadership and enjoyed his love of folk music. It with great pleasure that I nominate Dr. John Watson as a Fellow of ACKMA.