



# Newsletter 36

## 7th Congress of ISCA *Jenolan Caves, NSW Australia*



Jenolan Caves, NSW Australia, was the proud host of the recent 7th Congress of the International Show Cave Association. Over 90 delegates attended the Congress, 22 papers were presented and delegates participated in workshops on interpretation, training, cave lighting and marketing. The week was not all about the conference room of course, and delegates also had the opportunity to tour the caves of Jenolan and to experience adventure

caving, Aboriginal heritage walks and a variety of field trips to local attractions and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. As usual, the Congress was a fantastic opportunity to network and to discuss show cave management issues with colleagues and friends from around the world, usually over a glass of something suitable! The week was certainly also one of good food, drink and - above all - good company.

### From the Editor

I am delighted to be involved in presenting the first “new look” edition of the ISCA Newsletter.

It now seems amazing that the 7th Congress is over. It was an honor and privilege for Australia to host the world of show caves, and an experience that none of us that were involved will ever forget! It was also a joy to re-connect with old friends, to make many new ones and to remember that ISCA is like an extended family. I believe that the future is exciting for our organization, and look forward to our next opportunity for us to be together once again.

I would also like to take the opportunity to wish all members a happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful 2015.

*Dan Cove*



### WELCOME TO THE NEW LOOK ISCA NEWSLETTER

At the Board of Directors meeting at Jenolan Caves, it was decided that one of the strongest aspects of ISCA was the ability to share our experiences and ideas with each other. It is hoped that this newsletter will present a forum via which this might occur over the coming months and years. I echo the words of our President in his report below in encouraging all ISCA members to contribute ideas, articles

and images for future Newsletters. Is there something happening at **your** cave system? Then let us know! Is there an event coming up? Let us know! Do you have a question, or have you tried something new that you would like to share? The more that we can keep discussion and the flow of information alive, the stronger we will be as an International Organisation. Enjoy the new look newsletter.





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It is an honor to serve as the newly elected President of ISCA. My first newsletter article is an opportunity to give thanks and share my vision for ISCA's future.

It has been about a month since many of us returned home from ISCA's 7<sup>th</sup> Congress in Australia, and what an incredible Congress it was! We enjoyed the highlights of Sydney, the beautiful Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, Jenolan Caves and its Karst Conservation Reserve, and the post Congress trip to Melbourne with significant caves along the way. Thank you to all the Aussies for being such gracious hosts. Not only did they organize an excellent program where information was presented and ideas were shared to help improve the management of show caves, but they also showcased the beauty of their country and shared their history and culture with us. The food, drink and fellowship was exceptional, and overall they showed us one heck of a good time! A special thanks to Dan Cove, his wife Domino, Scott Melton, Andy Spate, and Julia James who played major roles in organizing the Congress, including the pre and post Congress activities.

Thanks to all our ISCA members who traveled to the "Land Down Under" and attended the Congress. Participating in the ISCA Congress, Conferences and Meetings is truly one of the greatest benefits for getting value from your ISCA membership. I hope you returned home with fond memories, great pictures and many ideas to implement for your own show caves. Speaking of attendees, I was very pleased to see how many UIS representatives

attended our ISCA Congress, including their President Kyung Sik Woo, immediate Past President Andy Eavis and many more.

As is customary, a new Board of Directors was elected at the Congress. A big thanks to David Summers for his two terms of service as ISCA's President. David stepped up in 2006 with a commitment to provide leadership, action, achievement, and involvement, and that is exactly what he did. David dedicated himself to the role of serving as ISCA's President for eight years, traveling the world representing our association at national show cave conventions, UIS, and visiting show caves. I don't

know who holds the world record for visiting the most show caves but David must be close! He has truly been the most powerful membership recruiter that ISCA has ever seen. It has been a pleasure for me to serve with David on the Board in my previous roles as Regional Director and then 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. David has been a mentor to me, and he is a dear friend. I am very pleased that he didn't "sail off into the sunset" and we were able to convince him to serve a term as Regional Director representing his little island of Bermuda!

I also want to thank our outgoing Board members for their service to ISCA: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Heinz Vonderthann (Germany), Guilhem De Grully (France), Nick Powe (UK), Filiberto Cecchi (Italy) and Tsuzsa Tolnay (Hungary). It is not always easy to find people willing and able to volunteer their time and resources to serve and we are very grateful.



**Brad Wuest at his most Presidential**

A list of the new Board of Directors is provided below in this newsletter. Thanks to our new Officers and Directors for volunteering. It is great to have fresh perspectives on a Board with new members while maintaining the continuity and experience provided by repeat Board members. We are a team already at work for ISCA, and I appreciate all of you very much.

I also want to thank all who serve on ISCA's Commissions, Committees, and Study Groups. Updated lists are provided on the [ISCA website](#).

Communication is vital for any association, especially one that covers the entire world! I hope you enjoy and find value in this new e-newsletter format, which will continue to evolve as we learn how to make it more informative and enjoyable for you. They will be sent quarterly (or more frequently as needed) to keep you informed, and we will continue with the numbering



sequence President Summers started to help you keep track of the issues. This issue will inform you of the decisions made by the members and the Board of Directors during the recent meetings in Australia. Please give [Dan Cove](#) or [me](#) your ideas for improving this newsletter so that it will be the successful communications tool we want it to be.

I also encourage you to visit our [website](#) periodically for pertinent information. We will strive to keep our website updated and filled with meaningful content. Our website will continue to evolve too! Our Director from Slovakia, Peter Gazik volunteers his time to maintain our ISCA website and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

As show cave owners/managers, we have common interests because of the amazing natural wonders we steward. Cave conservation and preservation, employee and guest safety, providing excellent interpretation and experiences for our guests, and, of course, profitability are important to us; without all of these, we cannot achieve true sustainability. ISCA provides a forum where we can share ideas, learn and help each other, and develop friendships that stretch across international boundaries. ISCA is an organization where we can stand united on our common issues and be represented. It is my vision that we remain committed to unity while making steady progress towards these goals as an association.

As President, I will take my turn at providing leadership, working together with fine people like our Vice Presidents, Friedrich Oedl and Dan Cove, our Secretary / Treasurer Renata Marinelli, and fellow Board members,



Prepared for some caving! November 2014

Commissions, Committees, Study Groups, and members. I look forward to all of us working together as a team to fulfill the aims and objectives of ISCA.

If there is anything I can do to help you, if you have interest in serving in some capacity, or if you have any suggestions regarding what we can do to make our association even better, please let me know.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

God Bless,

President, International Show Caves Association

## MEET THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President.* - Brad Wuest, USA

*1st Vice President.* - Friedrich Oedl, Austria

*2nd Vice President.* - Dan Cove, Australia

*Secretary/Treasurer* - Renata Marinelli, Italy

Richard Bowerman, United Kingdom

Peter Gazik, Slovakia

Hein Gerstner, South Africa

Heros Lobo, Brazil

Hanne Oedin, Sweden

Rafael Pages Rodriguez, Spain

Zhang Shouye, China

David Summers, Bermuda

Mario Verole-Bozzello, Italy

Yvonne Wagner, Germany



**New ISCA Board before the Congress Dinner, Jenolan. From left to right; Yvonne, Hanne, Mario, Zhang, Dan, Richard, Brad, Hein, Friedrich, David.**

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The meeting of the General Assembly during the 7th Congress proved to be highly positive for the Association. The sessions of the Assembly were well attended, with members participating actively in the discussion surrounding agenda items.

Three proposed Constitutional amendments were approved by the membership. The first was to create a new **Affiliate Member category**. The second was to formalize **ISCA Meetings** as events between Congress and Conferences. The first such meeting will be held next year in Germany & Austria - more information in the next Newsletter! Thirdly, the General Assembly voted, after considerable debate, to remove term limits for Officers and Directors. It was accepted by the Assembly that although term limits are a useful concept, in practice it is difficult to find people willing and able to volunteer to serve, and members decided that it was in the best interest of the Association to remove this restraint at this time. It was also agreed that the Constitutional Study Group will be considering other term limit options to propose to membership in 2018. The [Constitution](#) of ISCA has now been amended to reflect these changes.

Importantly, again after a productive period of discussion and debate, The Recommended Guidelines for the Development and Management of Show Caves was approved by the membership. This was a considerable milestone in the history of



ISCA, and one that places the basis of the Association on firmer footing in meeting the future challenges of balancing conservation and development in show cave management in addition to providing a tool and a practical guide to show cave managers all over the world.

## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The new Board met at the 7th Congress in a positive spirit, looking to continue the good works of recent years and continue to move ISCA forward as an organization. Amongst the main points decided:

- The Board voted to approve UIS as the 1st member to the new Affiliate Member category.
- The Board agreed to establish a new ISCA History Committee to be Chaired by Renata Marinelli. More information on this initiative in the next Newsletter.
- The Board decided to discontinue the plastic membership cards as it was decided that the limited value of these cards to members did not justify the cost and effort of production



AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURES

Pre Congress Delegates - Sydney



the national capital of Canberra before moving on to spend two days at Yarrangobilly Caves in the Australian high country. Continuing south the group traveled to the Buchan Caves before finishing an epic trip with an



"Essential" supplies for post congress tour (beer!)...



Al tries Vegemite for the first time...

overnight stay in the southern Victorian capital of Melbourne. All who attended these adventures will certainly take away some terrific memories!

In addition to attending the 7th Congress at Jenolan, and to prove that there is more to ISCA social life than just caves, delegates were able to attend both pre and post congress tours.

The pre-congress tour had 27 attendees who were treated to a three day 'highlights' tour of the great city of Sydney by local hosts Dr Julia James, Scott Melton and Domino Houlbrook-Cove. From climbing the Harbour Bridge and visiting the Opera House to trips to Taronga Zoo and the Sydney Tower Eye, there were no dull moments for these visitors!

At the conclusion of the Congress 30

Top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge



intrepid delegates set off on a 5 day trip to experience the best of the Australian east coast show cave areas that was hosted by Andy Spate and Dan Cove. From Jenolan the group visited Wombeyan Caves before heading south, stopping at



Post Congress delegates at Yarrangobilly

ISCA Calendar

June 15-20 2015

23rd Karstological School and UIS Celebration Postojna, Slovenia

October, 2015

ISCA Meeting Saalfeld, Germany and Werfen, Austria

October 2016

ISCA Conference Al Hoota Cave, Oman

July 2017

17th UIS Congress Sydney, Australia

October 2018

8th Congress of ISCA, Frasassi Italy

Main Contributors

BRAD WUEST



President of ISCA and principal contributor to this edition of the

ISCA Newsletter.

ROD GRAVES



Thanks for sending through the terrific caving photos from the Congress!

DOMINO HOULBROOK-COVE



Provided many of the images captured during the 7th Congress and pre-congress activities.