

ASF NULLARBOR SIG – Report for ASF council Meeting 8th January 2023

Inaugural GM held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 19:00 (SA time) by Zoom.

Present at the meeting were 16 ASF members and 6 apologies were received.

Nullarbor SIG Charter was approved and adopted.

A committee of 8 persons was elected as follows:

- Steve Milner (Chair) – nominated by Mark Sefton
- Jim Crockett – nominated himself
- Clare Buswell – nominated herself
- Cathy Brown – nominated herself
- Sil Iannello – nominated herself
- Denis Marsh – nomination by Nick White
- Anne Marie Meredith – nominated herself
- Casual vacancy open

The main aims of the NSIG were decided as follows;

1. The Group aims to contribute to and foster cooperation in furthering the understanding of, and raising the awareness of, features and values of the karst and caves of the Nullarbor.
2. Specifically, the Group aims to foster work to locate, identify, document, map, and if appropriate publish its work/findings.
3. The Groups aims to encourage the sharing of knowledge of the karst and caves of the Nullarbor.
4. The Group further aims to support scientific research of the Nullarbor, including but not limited to geological, biological, paleontological, and archaeological/anthropological disciplines.
5. The Group aims to identify and engage with stakeholders of the Nullarbor including landowners, land managers and Traditional Owners.
6. The Group aims to identify threats to, and in conjunction with the ASF Conservation Commission, advocate on matters relating to conservation and protection of the Nullarbor.

The initial committee meeting was held in March and the following positions were appointed from among the committee members.

- Chair – Steve Milner
- Secretary – Jim Crockett
- Treasurer – Denis Marsh
- Membership – Sil Iannello
- Communications – Anne-Marie Meredith

The initial plan was to have a monthly committee meeting and we had 5 other committee meetings during the year, unfortunately a few were missed due to various reasons.

The aim of the committee was to prepare the NSIG to accept members. Organising banking facilities, membership credentials, acceptance and working on the aims.

We were ready to sign up members in October with a plan for the inaugural members general meeting in November. Unfortunately we had only signed and accepted 10 members before that date and it was decided to defer the GM until more members were signed and are planning on having the first GM in February 2023.

Throughout the year the committee has identified a number of activities that will help to fulfill the aims and objectives of the Nullarbor SIG.

- Identify active projects and research on Nullarbor.
- Develop register of activities on the Nullarbor from clubs, etc.
- Schedule online seminars, showcasing expeditions, ongoing work, etc.
- Develop a policy aimed at building trust and fostering the sharing of knowledge
- Produce publications aimed at all ASF members and external stakeholders.
- Ensure capture of knowledge so it can go on the data base Oz Karst and ASF library
- Encourage writing expedition reports to Caves Australia and Helictite.
- Call for working group to address the Nullarbor Green Energy Project(s).
- Develop opportunities for cross-club participation in trips to the Nullarbor
- Develop SIG webpage and link to ASF webpage (information, contacts, key public
- National Heritage listing is viewed as a long-term goal
- Launch SIG to the rest of the ASF, aiming towards a soft launch before the 2022(April 2023) conference.

Jim Crockett – ASF Nullarbor SIG Secretary.