

EDITORIAL

Steve Bourne

Somehow another journal has managed to materialise! Thank you to the contributors who have taken the time to add their work to the ever growing volume of knowledge recorded by ACKMA members. I think we sometimes underestimate the value of what we do, and this was obvious when I visited Indonesia in September with Andy Spate to participate in a cave and karst management workshop. The Indonesian Speleological Society is new, energetic and seeking to establish guidelines to improve the management of caves and karst throughout Indonesia, no small task when you consider the Indonesian Archipelago is made up of around 18,000 islands!

This journal includes an obituary, recognising the contribution of Ken Grimes to cave and karst management and research. Deborah Carden's report on developments at Naracoorte Caves is dedicated to Ken, as he provided his wisdom to this project.



Liz Reed being photographed by Australian Geographic photographer Bill Bachman in Blanche Cave, Naracoorte.



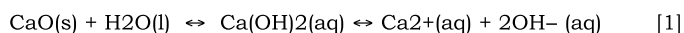
Liz Reed and I were contacted by a local resident who had found a "cave". Her boys had dug a hole under the calcrete surface and continued digging. At last check, it is still growing and providing hours of entertainment and exercise excavating sediment from it.

Rolan Eberhard provides a report on the June floods in Tasmania. I have just returned from Tasmania and Marakoopa Cave is still closed as a result of this freak rain event. John Brush provides a report on the Vulcanospeleology Conference in Hawaii, complemented as always with excellent images. Kent Henderson's report on a trip to Jenolan raises concerns about infrastructure that is not surviving in the cave environment, a real concern, and something that I observed in King Solomons Cave in Tasmania. Their lights are reacting and appear to be deteriorating rather quickly. I hope the funds can be found by cave managers to address issues such as these.

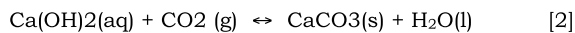
I have had a busy few months in caving; Nullarbor, Tasmania and Indonesia. The Indonesian Speleological Society (ISS) held a cave and karst management workshop and invited ACKMA to attend. Andy Spate and I attended as invited keynote speakers.

Corrections

Journal 104 contained an excellent paper by Garry K. Smith on calthemites. Unfortunately it contains 2 errors in equations where subscripts were missed meaning the equations don't anatomically balance. Equations 1 and 2 on page 18 should read



Any carbon dioxide (CO₂) trapped in the mix reacts with the Ca(OH)₂ to precipitate CaCO₃ within the concrete structure [Equation 2].



On page 19, fourth line from the bottom on the left column, should read CO₂, not CO. Apologies to Garry for these errors.

17th International Congress of Speleology Registration is now open Early-bird registration rates open until 31 January 2017

The congress will be a once in a lifetime event for Australian and New Zealand cavers as this event is unlikely to be held in the Australasian region again in our lifetimes. The congress will provide tremendous opportunities for local cavers to meet with international cavers, hear their presentations and make invaluable connections for visiting caves in other countries. With less than five months until early-bird registration closes, it's time to talk to your speleological colleagues about the many benefits of attending the 17th ICS. Full details at www.speleo2017.com

The workshop was held in Bandung, about 180km from Jakarta, but due to the incredibly heavy traffic, over 4 hours driving time. The workshop location was the university campus of tourism business management. All students work uniforms and are the most polite people you would ever want to meet. Sherly was assigned to look after me ensuring I had drinks, food and any other needs catered for.

The workshop commenced with formal introductions, then the singing of the national anthem. It was Friday, so the workshop program had a couple of hours break for prayers, and commenced in earnest after lunch. During the lunch break, Andy gave a presentation on Australian caves, a whirl wind tour of the Australian cave scene. This was very useful as it set the scene for our later talks.

Andy was the first speaker on the topic of show cave management - good and bad. I followed with an example of a cave redevelopment, a project in Victoria Fossil Cave from a few years ago, which was presented to ACKMA in 2009 in Western Australia. We were followed by some local speakers, who presented in Indonesian. This made it very challenging for the mono linguistic Australians!

The following day Andy and I worked with two different groups; Andy on show cave management and I worked with a very

energetic and interested group on cave interpretation. Indonesia has relatively few show caves and is keen to develop more, but is very conscious of doing this correctly. Their proposed guide training and accreditation program is excellent and exceeds what we have in the cave industry in Australia. Accredited guide programs were discussed at the Rockhampton AGM in May. Some Queensland guides are part of the Savannah Guides program, and Jenolan Caves (and maybe others?) has delivered certificate courses in the past, but we don't have a national program as Indonesia is seeking to establish.

One presentation was from the Pacitan province, which includes the show cave Goa Gong. The lighting is not to our tastes, being lit with a multitude of colours. it is a major visitor attraction though, with numbers increasing from 148,000 in 2013 to 247,000 in 2015, and 221,000 for the first 7 months of 2016. as you would imagine, this accelerated rate in visitor numbers is placing huge pressure on the infrastructure and challenging for cave managers. It was a pity it was a little too far from our location to visit as I think it would be quite an eye opener in more ways than one.

I had the honour of meeting Prof Robbie Ko and conversing with him for quite some time. Prof Ko was a friend of Elery Hamilton-Smith. He gave me a copy of a bound collection of his papers and its easy to see why he and Elery were such good friends. Like Elery, his interests and expertise are wide ranging and his writings reflect this. Such is Prof Ko's status in cave and karst management, he received an extended standing ovation when he entered the workshop.



Presenting books to Cahyo Ramadi, President of the Indonesian Speleological Society



With Prof Robbie Ko and student at the Indonesian workshop

17th International Congress of Speleology

Two scholarships are available to the 17th International Congress of Speleology. The scholarships are specifically for people from countries in the South-East Asia and Oceania areas and we are seeking people who would otherwise not have the economic resources to attend an international congress.

Applications are invited from people:

- Associated with the management and conservation of caves and karst; or
- Undertaking studies associated with caves or karst in South-East Asia or Oceania;
- Who are a citizen of a country in South-East Asia or Oceania.

Please refer to the conference website www.speleo2017.com for details on how to apply