

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dale Calnin

I begin this report by acknowledging a well-known and much loved ACKMA identity for his marvellous contribution to the organisation and to cave and karst management internationally.

Recently I informed ACKMA membership that Steve Bourne would be standing down as Publications Officer with effect from the next AGM to be held at Margaret River in May 2018.

A surprise indeed but given Steve's high profile professional life combined with many research interests it was not totally unexpected.

During the shock of Steve's announcement and wondering how on earth are we going to fill such a massive void, I reflected on the amazing contribution that Steve has made to ACKMA. As well as Steve's extraordinary six years as probably the most effective President that ACKMA has had, he has put in an outstanding seven years as the Publications Officer producing a very high-quality Journal.

Steve will always be a highly valued leader and mentor within ACKMA. As much as we would all love to see him continue in the Publications Officer role we now need to honour his decision, thank him for this remarkable contribution and, somehow find a new ACKMA Editor. So, what a fantastic opportunity for one of our members to step up and continue the great work of our past editors.

It was great news to hear of Jodie Anderson's appointment as the new General Manager of Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust. Jodie is a much valued ACKMA committee member and her impressive communication and leadership skills hold her in good stead to lead a very successful career at Jenolan. Congratulations Jodie and on behalf of ACKMA we wish you every success.

In early November, East Gippsland District Manager Will McCutcheon and I hosted the Parks Victoria's state-wide Cave

and Karst Advisory Group at the Buchan Caves Reserve. The committee, which is made up of Parks Victoria representatives and well known caving identities from various backgrounds, takes a keen interest in the management, conservation and recreational use of caves and karst landscapes.

Parks Victoria manages such landscapes in the Buchan area and stretching up the Snowy River towards the Alps, around the Glenelg River and through the Port Campbell National Park, amongst others. It was a great opportunity for the group to be part of the local Cave and Karst management scene at Buchan which is a jointly managed park with traditional owners, the Gunaikurnai people.

More recently I had the pleasure in helping to facilitate the new casual guide training at the Buchan. A couple of very enjoyable days spent with staff commencing their cave guiding careers as they prepare for the busy summer holiday period and the influx of visitors ahead.

The count-down has certainly begun towards our next ACKMA Conference in the Margaret River Region, Western Australia in 2018. Congratulations to conference Convener Mark Delane and his team for putting together an exciting conference program, promising another wonderful opportunity to learn and network with fellow contemporaries - one not to miss.

As we approach our next AGM, I am keen to pass on the baton of the ACKMA Presidency. I welcome anyone who is interested to take on the role to please let me or the committee know.

As the summer period rapidly approaches I offer on behalf of the ACKMA Executive committee all members the very best for Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. I look forward to another progressive year in 2018 and to continue the good work that you do in cave and karst.



Parks Victoria's Cave and Karst Advisory Group