

# EDITORIAL

Steve Bourne

It is with relief, and some sadness that I write this last editorial after 7 years as Publications Officer. This journal is chock full of quality articles that embody what ACKMA is all about. This, plus the sense of achieving something worthwhile and some positive comments, had me thinking if I could possibly continue in the Publications Officer role. Unfortunately, the reality is I have to cease doing some things I currently do and this journal is one of them.

I acknowledge the contribution of Tony Culberg as proof reader, who has an excellent grasp of the English language. I have enjoyed quarterly discussions as he provides corrections over the phone, often with his wife Pat in the room. On more than one occasion, dictionaries have been consulted and debate over a word or grammar has been ensued. The journal has been much more professional for Tony's efforts. Errors have still remained of course, for which I am responsible. I trust that overall the journal has been a good read over the past 7 years.

In the December journal, I made mention that a manager had not been appointed at Naracoorte Caves after applicants were told the position had been withdrawn. Acting Manager Nick McIntyre has been appointed for a further 12 months, with the announcement made at his farewell function! I understand some knew prior to this, but the party was held anyway. Nick has established great relationships with staff and stakeholders and I have seen a few emails and heard some really positive comments about Nick staying on in this role. I understand the manager position is being reviewed and the Department is seeking private interest in parts of the business. This will sound familiar to the staff at Jenolan Caves. The Department is currently seeking expressions of interest for the operation of the Caves Café and adventure caving, an interesting mix if it was one business! Nick and the Executive Officer Chaka Chirozva are attending the ACKMA Margaret River conference and will no doubt update members on the work that has been going on at Naracoorte. A new grant has just been announced too, this time to assist with the management of weeds within the park.

The ACKMA conference at Margaret River is fast approaching and my understanding is registrations are quite healthy at this stage, although commitment to deliver papers is a little low. As I have said in this journal previously, too often we think that the work we are doing at our own site is not interesting enough to share with others, when in fact all work in caves should be shared as advances are most often in small increments, rather than quantum leaps. Write and talk about your work with pride!

This journal is a great mix of articles including a great review of Camooweal caves and karst by David Gillieson and Keith McDonald. David now lives an enviable



*Above. Revamped visitor centre at Naracoorte Caves  
Below. New fossil display at Naracoorte Caves.  
Photos: Steve Bourne*



lifestyle between Queensland and Kangaroo Island and I hope to catch up with him “on the Rock” in the not too distant future. Terry Bolger and Martin Ellis provide an overview of caves in Thailand and I know I will see Terry in April in Laos!

ACKMA has been active in several consultations and our submissions and responses are printed for members to see the work executive has been doing with member support. This is a key part of ACKMA's work and we should remain active in this field without being political. To complete your reading for this journal is a commentary on signage at Borenore Caves by Kent Henderson and its effectiveness, an update from Tony Culberg on cave access management and news on Tim Moulds' appointment as Adjunct Secretary of the International Union of Speleology. Enjoy the journal and I look forward to seeing members soon.