

President's Report

Several things have happened since Tim's first successful foray in Journal editing which seems to have had a successful response – no complaints anyway. Thanks, Tim.

We seem to be settling down to our next AGMs and conferences. Naracoorte next year for the AGM and Guide School. Thanks Nick, Cathie and colleagues.

ACKMA has been successful with an application to the Naracoorte Lucindale Council's Community Chest Fund. This fund provides support to organizations to undertake small projects within their sporting or community facilities, or to support events that bring an economic benefit to the Council district. ACKMA was awarded a grant of \$2,000 at the August Council meeting. The funds can be used for any expenses that support the objectives of hosting the meeting in Naracoorte. The grant will assist the organizing committee keep costs down for those attending the ACKMA AGM in May 2019.

And also very exciting: Jenolan for our conference in 2020. Thanks Jodie and team. This will be great! And I hear whispers for Waitomo Conference in 2022. Also wonderful. But you all need to think about the AGM in 2021. Equally important – who is going to put up their hand?

On a more personal front, once again, Neil Kell and I have been retained to provide advice on the lighting, infrastructure and ventilation of Seongryugul show cave on the east coast of Korea. More on this elsewhere in this edition of the Journal.

But, this serves as a reminder – our new editor, Tim Moore – continuously needs material for our quarterly Journal. Even a few lines and an image are great.

Many members will have met Moira Lipyeat who has argued for some time for better interpretation of two caves at Redcliffs in suburban Christchurch. Both are Maori heritage sites. The Committee, following on discussions largely involving Moira, Neil C, Mary T, Deb C and John B, has decided that ACKMA will support interpretive signs proposed for both Moa Bone Point and Moncks Caves. ACKMA is prepared to contribute up to \$NZ1000 for the design, production and installation of the signs on condition that:

A) Ngai Tahu and CCC each agree to contribute a similar amount;

B) It is understood (by Ngai Tahu and CCC) that ACKMA is not in a position to offer additional assistance for any ongoing maintenance and repair issues that arise; and

C) ACKMA is acknowledged on the signs.

A plea to longer-term members ... Some time ago I sent a plea to the ACKMA mailing list asking for old ACKMA documents – minutes, treasurers' reports, etc. So far the response has not been at all dramatic – quite the opposite. So please help John and me as we try to build an administrative history of our Association.

But, maybe even more importantly, I have received a letter for the USA National Conference of Bar Examiners for a comment on an applicant. Addressed to me at ACKMA! I immediately emailed my close colleague, Steve Bourne, to see if he could assist me in this arduous task – checking out America's bars! Sadly, it turns out to be the bar of the legal profession in Washington DC. Sobs!

The EIS for the Snowy Hydro 2.0 'Exploratory Works'

John Brush and I have completed a not very substantial submission on behalf of ACKMA to the New South Wales government on the Snowy Hydro 2.0 proposal (see pages 37 to 39). First, we were concerned about the short time available for comment on a project of this enormous magnitude. Some six volumes with >3800 pages. Exhibited on 23 July for 28 days only! And an associated video clip that states that approval could be given so that "exploratory" works could start by the end of a year. There was just too much to absorb the complex document and 28 days meant about 135 pages to be read each day! Added to this is that neither John nor I knew the EIS had been exhibited until xxx days had passed.

In fact the whole document reads as if the project is a *fait accompli* – which it probably is given the fact that it is political stunt rather than an economic proposition. Unless the economic costs gets bigger than the political costs! Given the academic interest widely reported in the media recently, potential pumped storage schemes number in the hundreds, if not thousands, around this country. Perhaps these should have been looked at before the Snowy 2.0 'Exploratory Works' commenced – they have already had an impact on northern Kosciuszko National Park (KNP). To quote John in an email to me:

"But there must be plenty of small possibilities [pumped storage] that would in total equal the 2000 MW capacity of Snowy Hydro 2.0. Come to think of it, at just 2000 MW, it is less than the output of one of those 4x660 MW coal-fired stations that were the backbone of the NSW system back in the days (20 years ago) when power supply was cheap, reliable, and government owned."

The proposal is for an enormous amount of tunnelling, cavern excavation at a place called Ravine or Lobs Hole in KNP about 15 km down hydraulic gradient from Yarrangobilly. As well as cave bat roosts in old mine adits that the proposed project will cover, the significance from an ACKMA perspective is the extensive tufa deposits – certainly the most extensive in southern Australia – if not the whole country – which have created 'caves of construction' and tufa terraces. Some of these will be damaged by the proposed project. There are other environmental and social issues at this site.

Anyway – we at least waved the flag.