

## President's Report

Some not so good news ...

Our thoughts go out to the Augusteyn family and the staff at Capricorn Caves. The passing of the charismatic Ann has been a terrible shock to all ACKMA people and beyond. Ann, and Ken before her, did a fantastic job of converting a run-down operation into a world-renowned show cave operation. As I have stated on several occasions in various circumstances, I regard Capricorn Caves as the best managed show cave operation in Australia and New Zealand.

I have already conveyed ACKMA's condolences to John, Helen, Robert and their families and to Capricorn Caves staff – and I am more than happy to repeat those sentiments here.

Many older members will remember Kevin Kiernan as a founder member of ACKMA and a contributor to cave and karst science and management. Unfortunately, I bring you the bad news that Kevin's son, Adrian, died recently in a kayaking accident on the Humla Karnili River in Nepal. Adrian was an experienced raft guide and competitive kayaker. He was an Australian freestyle champion and had kayaked in many countries. Adrian was recognised around the world as can be seen from the many tributes on Kevin's Facebook page.

Again, ACKMA's sympathies go out to Kevin and his family.

On a brighter note – I think I have now re-established contact with Life Member Alan Costigan – long ago manager of Buchan Caves. More on that front shortly.

Also, another first (or maybe a second) – we have a contribution from Cutta Cutta Caves in the Northern Territory. Great to hear from them. We all, and especially our esteemed editor, Tim, want something from all Australian and New Zealand show caves in every issue – and from you Hein as well!

Recently, John Brush and I met with Jodie Anderson and Geoff Melbourne at Jenolan, to discuss the 2020 ACKMA Conference. Scott Melton has produced a great draft for 2020 – “2020 – Vision for Cave & Karst Management”. Jodie, Scott and Geoff will be building on this for a great Jenolan conference.

After Jenolan, I went on to Wellington to meet with Michelle Tonkins and Ian Eddison to talk about various management issues and the possibility of the 2021 AGM and Guides' School – all looks good at this stage. Great to have these meetings fixed in advance.

Then to Canberra where John and I had dinner with Nick McIntyre and Chaka Chirozva from Naracoorte (and palaeontologist Professor John Long) discussing next May's Guides' School and AGM. All looks well.

Then my car blew up – sobs. Lucky to be alive but all well now.



**One of the sights awaiting you at Naracoorte in May 2019**

**The fossil bed (and friend) in Victoria Fossil Cave**