

Editorial

Tim Moore

This edition brings to a close the completion of my first year as this Journal's editor. It has been an honour and a pleasure both to take over from Steve Bourne and to have the opportunity to headline three of my editions with his reports on his visits to the caves of Vietnam and Laos. In addition to his engaging commentary about his peregrinations, there can be no doubt that the images which accompanied his narratives have shown the spectacular nature and size of the caves he visited, and the differing features within them. His third instalment commences on page 5.

From New Zealand, we have a contribution which I had foreshadowed several editions ago from Mary Trayes, being about the impact of the Christchurch earthquake of 2011 on two caves of cultural significance to the local Maori population. As you will recall was noted in the September 2018 Journal, the Association has offered to contribute \$1,000 toward the cost of interpretive signage as part of the restoration of the area in the vicinity of these caves.

As the third major article, Greg Middleton has provided an interesting article on the caves of northern Germany and a cave lighting conference he attended in Belgium.

Over the recent December/January law vacation, my wife and I took our younger children to Morocco and various places in Europe. At three of the places we visited, matters subterranean engaged us. The first, on a hilltop below Berber ruins dating from the 12th century high above the World Heritage medina at Fez in Morocco, there were several caves in the hillside that had been subject to human modification in the 15th or 16th century, our guide informed us. I have reproduced, with this editorial, an image of one such cave. They are entirely currently uninteresting, despite their past historic use, and I need not detain you, dear readers, with them any further.

The second subterranean structure we visited was a Roman cistern which had also been formed by human modification of a pre-existing small cave. This cistern and its associated structures formed part of one of two Roman subterranean interpretive sites below mediaeval buildings in the Spanish city of Toledo. I have included a short article on this at the end of this edition.

The third subterranean element of our travels was in two parts, both on the island of Malta. One was a Neolithic human habitation cave that has been dated from earlier than 4500 BCE whilst the other was also a Neolithic structure that commenced life as a small cave but had been substantially excavated in approximately 3600 BCE (as a three level temple and funerary for storage of human remains).



Cave in the hillside above the Fez medina, Morocco

Associated with these two Neolithic structures are two spectacular Neolithic temple complexes (from about 3200 BCE) located some 400 or so metres apart on a windswept plateau above the sea on the southern side of the main island. These four locations are all inscribed on the World Heritage Register for their cultural significance. An article on them will appear in the next journal.

Finally, as Andy notes in his President's report, Tony Culberg is stepping down as the Association's Treasurer at the forthcoming AGM in Naracoorte. Thanking him and others who are also retiring from the Association's committee for their roles in the management of the Association is properly a matter for the President and I do not seek to trespass upon that.

However, Tony has also fulfilled, for Steve Bourne and for me, the role of an honorary proof-reader, republication, of this Journal.

In his editorial in the March 2018 edition, Steve thanked Tony for his assistance to him. I wish not only to record my thanks for the assistance that Tony has given me over the past four editions, but also my gratitude for the fact that he has agreed to continue in this role, despite stepping down from his official position in the Association.

**Naracoorte Guides' School and
ACKMA Annual General Meeting — details on pages 19 to 24**