



President's Report

Andy Spate AM

Well another year has come and gone, with many happenings having been talked about in earlier President's Reports; in the minutes of meetings that John Brush circulated; and in the Journal.

We have a new committee – John Brush as Executive Officer and Tony Culberg as Treasurer have left, to be replaced by Kent Henderson and Dave Gillieson, respectively. Jodie Anderson replaces Ann Augusteyn as the third Committee Member. Our thanks to those who have retired.

At the AGM and the post AGM Committee Meeting, there was much discussion of the need for a strategic plan for ACKMA. I am too old to understand what this means, but we have a group on the Committee which will push ahead on this.

Perhaps the biggest news is that the AGM decided that there will be no more hard-copy Journals after the March 2020 edition. This is much to my regret, but the costs are just too high. So, you will need to set up a folder on your computer and save the Journals as they come through.

The next conference will be at Jenolan – it's likely to be expensive, unfortunately, so start saving now. This is inevitable, given the limited location in a deep valley away from population centres – and their current building program. Jenolan has only hosted one night and part of a day in ACKMA's 32-year career, so it's great

to be going back there – it is a wonderful place.

It seems as if we will be going to Wellington Caves in 2021 for the Guides' School and AGM. I have ideas for the Guides' School that I will discuss with Cathie Plowman and Ian Eddison. And back to New Zealand in the following year?

The Committee discussed whether conference registration should only be available to ACKMA members – it was resolved that registration would include the membership fee for non-members.

The Committee also discussed, without resolution, that in the future, we would apply a discounted membership fee (\$25) for guides attending a Guides' School.

At the AGM, a suggestion was made that there should be an Ann Augusteyn Award for Guiding Excellence. At the AGM, and in the subsequent Committee meeting, there were statements made saying "what a great idea for this remarkable woman". But also, there were others asking "where does this end – should every deceased member of ACKMA be recognised by an award"? I invite the members' views on this.

It is also appropriate to congratulate the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers (STC) on their recent connection of Growling Swallet and Niggly Cave in the Florentine Valley. It seems that this new depth record of 389 metres is unlikely to be broken. It has been suggested in the media that this Australian record is near the top of the deepest caves of the world. Unfortunately, there are many over a kilometre. I should also take this opportunity to pay tribute to STC's search-and-rescue skills.