

The Guides' School and AGM at Naracoorte — May 2019

Some 30 people attended the Guides' School whilst slightly more than that number attended the AGM. A survey has been conducted of those attending the Guides' School and an analysis of the results will be published in the September journal. As Ian Eddison indicates in "Around the show caves", these survey results will assist with the preparation for the 2021 Guides' School to be hosted by Wellington Caves.

The AGM was generally uncontroversial with the new committee membership featuring many continuing faces (as noted on the inside cover). Tony Culberg, in his final set of annual accounts, noted ACKMA's healthy financial position and reported on the consolidation of the Australian and New Zealand accounts - a consolidation which leaves a modest amount in a New Zealand account for working purposes but transfers the surplus to Australia.

There was also discussion at the AGM about the desirability of establishing a strategic plan for ACKMA. Jodie Anderson volunteered to set up a working group of members (not confined to members of the committee but also volunteers from the broader membership) to progress such a project. Members will have received, by now, an email from Jodie seeking volunteers for this. The strategic planning outcome will be reported to the 2020 AGM — as will committee deliberations on any amendments arising from a review of the ACKMA constitution I am currently undertaking for committee consideration.



Tim Moore

**A post-AGM
group photo**

The Naracoorte Sonnet

Mark Delane

The call of ACKMA was passed around, with those in attendance coming from across the land
50 years to rejoice, to celebrate, plus an AGM and Guide school all combine
the allure of Fossils, World Heritage, Dr Liz, Steve and Nick as lead of this band
the gathering new and old to share, to learn and to partake was truly divine.

Looks of amazement, bewilderment and intrigue start the guides off with Andy's walk around karst
Marvel, curiosity and Christmas Day joy soon took over with Dr Liz and her fossil collection and stories of
encounters

The nights life was brief compared to past years, but alas this was replaced by the flutter of bats as they went past
with a blast

Cave animal of the year was next on the tongue, as too was the words of the new tours the guides had cast as
announcers

Then there was Flint, a professor by name, well to many he was a shot of reality, a spark to inspire of was that just
my cognitive bias?

He had us singing and clapping, laughing and pointing, but try and try he might Nick Heath just would not hit top
speed in the Dinosaur stampede!

The sessions were engaging, the setting was surreal, but the impact was powerful as too was vision of the duck in a
new light! Which now sits atop of the dais

Then came the AGM, short and too the point, some positions changed, some stayed the same, but we now have a
new Fellow, well deserved indeed

After some caving, some crawling and sharing and failed attempts to get the songs out of one's head
The time had come to say goodbye, until Jenolan, in the year ahead.