

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Andy Spate

Well, this time we have to report something about ACKMA bureaucracy! Since the last Journal we have had the first ACKMA Inc AGM. I got the notice of meeting out just in time to meet our statutory deadline (thanks to *The Sicilian*). Whilst our new responsibilities arising from our incorporation appear onerous they are not as bad as they appear to be on first sight.

The AGM, at Taralga (near Wombeyan Caves), was held in a typical Australian country pub on 9 June. Overnight temperatures where in the region of minus 7 Celsius but various levels of fluids were ingested to ensure that the blood streams did not freeze solid. Judging by the meeting, even the viscosity was not dramatically reduced. We were well looked after and we managed to liaise well with the locals.

From the Executive Officer's point of view (and perhaps the President's) the production of "pre-minutes" materially helped the flow of business. The minutes are included as an insert in this issue of the Journal. The Incorporation's Office require that the minutes be endorsed subsequent to 30 June 1996. Would all members who were at the meeting read the minutes and decide if they are a correct record. If I don't hear from you I will take your nil return as indicating that you are in favour of the minutes as they stand.

Significant happenings at the meeting were:

- the unexpected, but very welcome attendance of, and contributions from, Clyde Stiff - one of our very special Life Members

- the elevation of Kevan Wilde to Life Membership of the Association for his contributions over very many years to cave and karst exploration and management in Australia, Papua New guinea and New Zealand

- the large turn-up of members outside the Executive.

Following the AGM we descended to Wombeyan for inspections of recent works in Tinted Cave and in Junction Cave. Keep up the good work, Mike. There were very interesting old-timer conversations during these visits and in the trip through Fig Tree Cave.

On Monday, a collection of interested cave managers and scientists discussed the *Worksafe Australia* report on radon and prepared an ACKMA Inc. I have circulated this paper to all Australian show cave operations and to the CEOs of the organisations responsible with the intent of lifting the profile of the Association. It is also printed below for member's interest. I am especially grateful to Elery, Ted Reedy, Julia James and Ruth Lyons for their constructive, and rapid, comments on the draft I circulated immediately after the meeting.

Elsewhere in this Journal you will find an account of an ACKMA *heavies* trip to Cape Range in Western Australia. Whilst the three of us were wearing non-ACKMA hats the Association is, and will be, clearly identifiable in the resultant report.