

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Michael Chalker

Doesn't time fly, it seems like yesterday that quite a few of us were enjoying the hospitality of the Taralga Pub during the ACKMA Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to the new ACKMA Executive members on their election, particularly our new Australian Vice-President, Ann Augusteyn, who was the only new face on this occasion. Of course, Ann has previous Executive experience as *Conference Convenor* from 1991-93. Thanks to all those attending who braved the extremely cold conditions of the Southern Tablelands of NSW in June.

It was great to have Greg Martin over from *The Land of the Long White Cloud*. Greg assured us that planning for the NZ Conference next April-May is well advanced and will be well patronized, so book your seats early. It was also pleasing to welcome one of our elite band of Life Members, Clyde Stiff, to the AGM. Clyde attended the first Australasian Cave Management Conference back in July, 1973!

At the conclusion of the AGM we all proceeded to Wombeyan for a look at Mares Forest Creek Gorge

and the redevelopment in Junction Cave, after which a barbecue and a beer were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Upon our return to Taralga some enjoyable time was spent reminiscing with Clyde and friends.

It is pleasing to see that Ernst's *Guide Exchange Program* is being well patronized with Guides going off in all directions. Guide Exchanges are essential to the maintenance of quality customer experiences and the exchange of ideas and methods, so enhancing the delivery of excellence of service to the public. We must always remember we are but the custodians of the people's property.

Should anyone wish to contact me during the week I am working out of Jenolan Caves until mid-October.

"It's like going from the country to the city!!"