

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Andy Spate

Well, the next conference is bearing down on us with extreme rapidity. I hope you have all made it easy for Peter Dimond and colleagues by getting all your paper warfare in early. I certainly haven't...

Accompanying this issue of the Journal is the formal notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Association which includes a plea for agenda items and for the nomination of office bearers. I am sorry about the formal nature of all of this but it is easier to get the Association's business and incorporation stuff right the first time around - if we can. As far as I am aware all committee members are available for re-election with the exception of Mike Chalker - but don't let that prevent you from standing yourself or nominating other (Innocent? Or unsuspecting ?) bystanders. Hopefully there will be a young Turk who wants to be Executive Officer? More likely, I am sentenced to the job for the rest of time! I understand that Greg Martin may well be standing for President - an New Zealand incumbent is long overdue.

As usual I have been a fairly slack Executive Officer but the looming AGM has stimulated me to all sorts of endeavours. I am most influenced, perhaps, by an exhortation of the Victorian Associations Incorporation Office which has a plea "to keep good records". To that end I have been spending a series of very hot evenings in my flat in Tumut (too hot to do any useful or productive work!) re-arranging and filing the

Association's records. Many fascinating pieces of trivia have emerged but I won't embarrass Kent by trotting them all out.

As well as ACKMA administrivia it is interesting to see what other karstic matters are on the boil. On Sunday last I launched Dave Gillieson's great new book at Wombeyan, I have papers to review or contribute to on the state of the (karst) environment in Queensland, active mine conservation for bats in north eastern NSW; major issues at Bungonia; peer reviews of scientific papers in Tasmania, NSW and Western Australia as well as ongoing Antarctic, Cape Range and many NSW karst management issues. Why can't I make a dollar out of all of this?

I have also been engaged in a number of relatively successful feral fish eradication programs along the Yarrangobilly River in company with Mr Carr. Caught more rainbow than brown trout, but that's the way it goes. They are bigger than they look in the photo! In the process I have found two formerly unreported springs - one bubbles up very energetically from the bed of the River; the other emerges from a small cave nearby - I need a small, chill-proof caver! Both provide some additional hydrological complexity to what was originally taken to be a simple hydrogeologic system.

Dinner is just about to start burning... so I will see you all in NZ.