

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF ACKMA

Quotable Quotes from Past ACKMA Newsletters/Journals

- Kent Henderson

- ❖ “Ernie’s “presidential utterances” are longer than in the past.....” (No. 4, Dec 1989)
- ❖ “Neil (Kell) breathlessly reported in recent phone call he had received \$30,000 to completely re-wire Jersey Cave (Yarrangobilly), and has been given four weeks to complete the job...” (No. 5, June 1990)
- ❖ “...on Buchan, many will be delighted to learn its tourist tariffs, held for many years at \$2.40 per adult, have finally been lifted to a far less embarrassing \$5.00” (No. 6, Dec. 1990)
- ❖ “...while reflecting (very briefly) on the possibility of Andy’s (Spate) canonization, it will interest members to know that *Andysez* is now Australia’s first *Karst Cult Figure*...” (No. 7, May 1991)
- ❖ “...but caves go on, and the new *Tantanoola Tart* is *Janine* (“J9”) *Tamblin*, who took up management on 1st October.” (No. 8, Dec 1991)
- ❖ “Fascinating tidings from Yarrangobilly Caves – Neil Kell has left the country! After *his tin man performance* at the recent *Gabfest*, departure was his only honourable course...” (No. 9, June 1992)
- ❖ “There are too many stalactites in the Federal Parliament, they have been drip, drip, dripping, becoming accretions, doing nothing....” *Canberra Times*, 17/4/92 (No. 9, June 1992)
- ❖ “...Peter “a girl’s best friend” (Dimond) has taken a sledge hammer to the Waitomo Museum of Caves. Still, I understand he has now been restrained by appropriate people in wire jackets, and they are rebuilding...” (No. 10, Dec 1992)
- ❖ “Recently, the *Melbourne Age* (6/6/93) in a travel article on *The 20 Best Things about Tassie* said: “There are three sets of limestone caves in Tasmania with guided tours available...” Out of this list of 20, the caves only rated 19! Oh dear....” (No. 11, June 1993)
- ❖ “Partial transcript from *Talk to the Animals* (TV show) filmed at Chillagoe Caves: Presenter: Ah, at last, some bats! Did you know bats are the only true flying mammal? I don't really know what these ones are.... (Enter, stage right, a shadowy, bearded figure..) The Figure: I can help you there, that's the diadem horseshoe bat... Presenter: Hey, aren't you Andy Spate, the world famous cave expert???? The Figure: That's right, that's right...” (No. 13, Dec 1993)
- ❖ *Melbourne Age* (9/7/94): “Bats Get Last Laugh – The Department of Conservation & Natural Resources this week charged five men with possessing common bent-wing bats, a threatened species under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. A table of patrons had allegedly released the bats in *The Last Laugh Restaurant* in Collingwood (Melbourne)” ...it is the last time I’m getting out of bed late at night to bail Elery and Andy out...” (No. 16, Sept 1994)
- ❖ *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Qld (21/5/94): “Karts are special landforms on cave walls”. (No. 15, June 1994)
- ❖ “Elery (Hamilton-Smith) has retired after 20 years as effective Executive Officer of ACKMA and its precursors - in itself a mammoth effort in self-flagellation....” (No. 19, June 1995)
- ❖ “I’d have loved to have been in the Pharmacy the day Ernie (Holland) walked in and ordered several boxes of syringes and unlubricated condoms...” (No. 22, March 1996)
- ❖ “Buchan Caves Manager Dale Calnin and his wife Gail announce the arrival of baby Benjamin...(Dale is already) teaching Benjamin how to abseil in a cave. However, I believe he is having a spot of bother with the SRT equipment - although Benjamin is evidentially handling it well...” (No. 23, June 1996)
- ❖ “The following recently appeared in the NSS Cave Conservationist magazine: “Fourteen Caves are for rent in the Spanish village of Galera, near Granada. Prices range from \$30 per couple daily (\$1 70 a week) for a one-bedroom cave, to about \$70 a day (\$400 a week) for a five-bedroom underground apartment that can accommodate seven. The caves have electricity, running water and modern plumbing and are equipped like any vacation lodging.” (No. 26, March 1997)