

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

- Peter Dimond

Already we are into another year and planning is underway for the Annual General Meeting at Yarrangobilly in May. An interesting Weekend has been planned and I would encourage members to make an effort to attend. The program and registration form is inserted in this issue of this Journal.



It is with sadness that I note the death of Les Kermode who died recently in his seventieth year. Les, a geologist, has been involved with caves, their exploration and conservation for around forty years. Andy Spate has retired from the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, but not from ACKMA. Andy will be representing our Association at the Cave Expo in Korea. Another long time Cave Manager, Chester Shaw, has also retired. Brian Clark, another member with along involvement is leaving Naracoorte to take up a position at Mulu in Sarawak. I wish them all well.

Here at Waitomo we have had a busy summer season with adventure cave visitors, mainly free independent travellers, showing an increase, but coach tours from Japan and United States have shown a decline. Development of Ruakuri is proceeding slowly with the main bridge being replaced with a steel structure. The prefabricated bridge was lowered in to the cave down the '210 foot tomo' and assembled at the bottom. A High Court case is looming with Waitomo Adventures (Nick Andreef) challenging Black Water Rafting's right for the exclusive use of that name. Black Water Rafting have the name registered and Waitomo Adventures and some other tubing companies want to use Black Water Rafting as a generic term.

We in Waitomo's Museum of Caves have had a busy summer with the recently upgraded displays being well received by visitors. A new multi media show is being prepared on the subject of the New Zealand Glowworm. This is a \$100,000 project involving three digital projectors. That's all for now. I hope to see many of you at Yarrangobilly in May!

COMING CONFERENCES

- Elery Hamilton-Smith

This simply lists them - if you are interested in any of them and need more details of contacts, etc., contact Elery: elery@alexia.net.au

2002

- 11-12 May **ACKMA Annual General Meeting, Yarrangobilly, NSW.**
- 12-17 May 'Balancing the Groundwater Budget', International Association of Hydrogeology, Darwin, N.T.
- 24-28 May 18th International Conference on Theoretical and Applied Karstology, Baile Herculane, Romania.
- 16 Aug 4th International Conference on Souterrains (Man-made tunnels & other subterranean excavations, Liverpool, U.K.
- 8-15 Sept. International Society of Bio-speleology, Verona, Italy.
- 9-15 Sept 10th International Symposium on Volcanospeleology, Iceland.
- 15-19 Sept 2nd Nerja Conference and ICGP Meeting, Nerja, Spain.

- 17-21 Sept Evolution of Karst: From Prekarst to Cessation. Postojna, Slovenia.
- 24-27 Sept Cave Climate and Paleoclimate: Best Record of the Climate Change, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.
- ? Oct International Show Caves Association, Skocjanske, Slovenia.
- 2003**
- 2-7 Jan ASF Conference, Bunbury, W. A.
- 5-12 May **ACMKA Conference, Chillagoe-Undara, Qld.**
- May Water Resources in Karst and Hard Rock Formations, Isfahan, Iran.
- 8-17 Sept World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa.
- 13-18 Oct NCKMS, Gainesville, Florida.
- 2004**
- Sept Final meeting of IGCP 448 - 'World Correlation of Karst Ecosystems', Naracoorte WHA.