

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Peter Dimond

The first year of my term of President of ACKMA is up. It doesn't seem that a year since the conference at Wombeyan last year, and now another Annual General Meeting is upon us. The past year has gone smoothly with all officers carrying out their allotted tasks efficiently.

The Journal under Kent Henderson's editorship has continued to thrive and is a very important part of this organisation. Special thanks are due to Kent for his perseverance in obtaining articles to fill each issue.

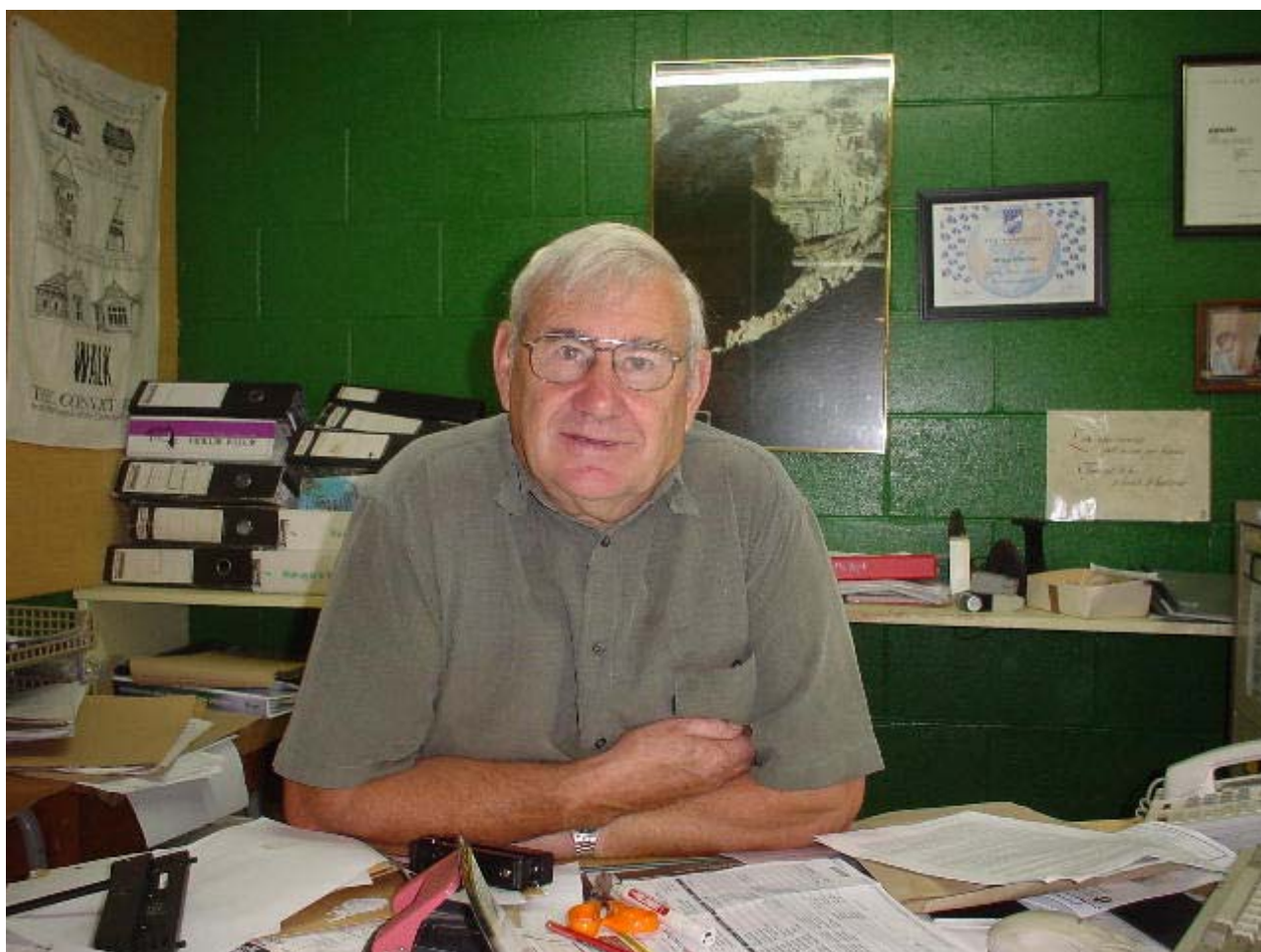
Andy Spate is representing ACKMA at a major Cave Expo in Korea in August year. He is attending in his own time and at his own expense with a small input from ACKMA. I urge all members to give Andy all the support they can. I note that several ACKMA members will be there to support him at various times including Robyn McBeth, Elery Hamilton-Smith, and Lana Little, for which we are most grateful.

An editorial committee has been set up, rules and procedures for which have now been approved. Rauleigh Webb has been working in the Minimal Impact Code for Karst Managers, and this is being reviewed by our two Information officers prior to a further draft appearing in the December Journal. Rob White has set up a web site for ACKMA, and we are most indebted to him.

Planning is well advanced for the Chillagoe Conference in Queensland next year and we will have an update at this meeting. A conference committee has been formed, and is already meeting to plan the West Coast (NZ) conference in 2005.

It is with sadness that I record the death of Les Kermode, an active member of ACKMA. I also note the departure/promotion of Brian Clark from Naracoorte to Mulu Caves in Malaysia. Brian has long been a stalwart of this organisation and while not lost to ACKMA, is a loss to Australia. I would like to thank all the outgoing Officers for the support of ACKMA and myself over the past year and thank those that are continuing for agreeing to fill those positions for another year.

Our Annual General Meeting at Yarrangobilly early in May was a great success, with all members of the incoming Committee present, and over thirty members at the AGM itself. I particularly wish to congratulate Kent Henderson on being elected an ACKMA Life Member, and Arthur Clarke on his election as a Fellow of ACKMA. Both have given outstanding service and richly deserve their accolades. Another challenging year if before us, leading up to the Chillagoe/Undara Conference in twelve months time. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at it, if not in the interim.



The President in his office at the Waitomo Museum of Caves