

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Peter Dimond

This year has rapidly rolled by and it is time for another Journal to go to press. ACKMA from my perspective in New Zealand seems in good heart. Communication is flowing freely via the internet, and Kent Henderson keeps all members well informed through the Journal. The 15th ACKMA Conference is only six months away, so I urge all members who are intending to register to do so early, especially if you wish to ensure the better accommodation.

I already have my air ticket and accommodation booked. I have just returned from Cairns where I was on a holiday with a group of travel people. I nearly made it to Chillagoe, but not quite. I can assure you that the weather is very pleasant in that part of the world, and will be quite a contrast from the climate in Southern areas in May.

Here at Waitomo things are as busy as ever. At the Glowworm Cave, Bevan Jenkins has left and has been replaced by Ephriam Emery, who has had guiding experience and is just finishing his degree. ACKMA Life Member, and former Vice President, Dave Williams, has been appointed Glowworm Cave Training Officer.

Black Water Rafting's Operations Manager, Van Watson, is in Borneo, and has plans to visit Brian Clark at Mulu. The Waitomo Museum of Caves has a new multi media show which has been installed, mainly to give in- depth information about the New Zealand Glowworm. This is a three projector, three screens, show lasting seventeen minutes. The last of the funding was provided by the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Mark Burton, who presented a

cheque for \$43,000 to Museum Chairman, Glen Bailey at a ceremony at the Museum on Saturday 19 October.

At the last ACKMA Committee Meeting, it was resolved to make Englebrecht Cave (Mt. Gambier, South Australia) a perpetual member of ACKMA without annual fees – an “honorary member” if you like. Our Executive Officer, Dr. Ruth Lyons, wrote to the Coordinator of Englebrecht Cave advising of this decision, and she recently received back a letter of thanks. Englebrecht is a small show cave in the heart of Mt. Gambier, which is run by the *Lifeline* charity. It is manned entirely by volunteers, with all profits going to the charity. Appropriately, the Committee felt the above arrangements should apply.

Once again I urge members to register early for the Conference.



**THE PRESIDENT OF  
ACKMA, PETER  
DIMOND, EXTENDS  
TO ALL ACKMA  
MEMBERS, AND  
THEIR FAMILIES, HIS  
WARMEST BEST  
WISHES FOR A HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS AND  
PROSPEROUS NEW  
YEAR.**



The President, Peter Dimond (right) with Past President Greg Martin.