

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Robyn McBeath

Having just returned from yet another hugely successful ACKMA conference in North Queensland, I find myself writing my first report only days after being elected President of ACKMA.

On behalf of all members I would like to sincerely thank Peter Chandler, who so admirably filled the role of President over the past five months following the death of Peter Dimond, who's memory was commemorated at Chillagoe with a donation to the Chillagoe Hospital, assisting in the purchase of an ECG monitor. Following much discussion, the Executive Committee determined that Peter will continue to be remembered through donations given to a local community project at future conferences.

The 15th Australasian Conference on Cave and Karst Management was outstanding with eighty delegates attending. Many thanks must be given to Lana Little, Professor Dave Gillieson and Val Speedie as conference convenors, Kent Henderson for his preparation of the Conference Handbook and unflagging energy in keeping things happening, also Andy Spate for his role as presenters co-ordinator. Thanks are also due to

Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service and Undara Experience for their generous support of the conference.

I particularly want to congratulate Chester Shaw on his election as an ACKMA Life Member, also Dave Smith and Peter Bell on their election as Fellows of ACKMA, all three have contributed significantly to the Aims of ACKMA and fully merit their awards.

A couple of important occasions to diarise are our next Annual General Meeting weekend at Mole Creek, Tasmania, on the 1st and 2nd May 2004 and the 16th ACKMA Conference to be held in New Zealand on the west coast of the South Island in April 2005.

I look forward to my time as President and encourage all members to actively participate in ACKMA by means of the Journal and our Email List – your contribution is important. Finally, I would like to thank all members, without your membership ACKMA would not be the great organization it is. I seek your continued support.



The new ACKMA President in action! Clockwise from the top: In her office at *Caveworks* (photo: Arthur Clarke); trying out the wheelchair access at Undara; with her past president Peter Chandler at Undara Lava Lodge; presenting a Fellow of ACKMA certificate to Dennis Rebbechi.