

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

– Steve Bourne



Steve Bourne (right) with Catherine Sellars and Andrew Hansford – Mulu AGM 'week' 2010.

I write this president's report on a Friday night- a dry Friday night! It is nearing the end of Dry July, a month long abstinence from alcohol that is part of a nation-wide fund raiser to improve the life of people living with cancer. Alcohol may have also contributed to the other part of this fund raising effort, going vegetarian for the month as well! Thank you to the generous ACKMA sponsors who contributed to my fundraising effort, which has me sitting 7th in South Australia for most money raised. Will I stay a vegetarian teetotaller? I believe you should try everything once and the fun things lots of times....

There is some exciting news from Naracoorte. After a very long process the South Australian Government has purchased eighty hectares of land containing Sand Cave. This cave is the most significant in the Naracoorte region outside the World Heritage area.

It has a 20 metre deep solution pipe entrance leading to 2.5 km of large (for Naracoorte) passages with nice decoration, fossil-bearing sediments and displaying really interesting geomorphology. It demonstrated how difficult it is to get geological values considered within a framework designed for biological assessment. Fortunately, the block of land sits within the Naracoorte Plains IBRA region, severely underrepresented in the national reserve system.

It also provides potential habitat for a number of threatened species and completes a corridor of vegetation along the Caves Range. I made quite a deal of fossil and geomorphological values in two cabinet submissions, backed up with a number of letters of support (thank you to a number of people for these).

I am not sure whether it was the level of information provided or just sheer persistence but the good news eventually came and on 29 June the cave became government owned. It time, it will be added to the Naracoorte Caves National Park and with further persistence, ultimately the World Heritage Area.

ACKMA will be well represented at the ISCA (International Show Cave Association) Congress in

October, with Dan Cove, Peter Austen, Barry Richard Andy Spate and Kent Henderson all attending. Jenolan Caves will be making a bid for the 2014 ISCA Congress.

I will be holidaying in Eastern Europe in September and have made preliminary arrangements to meet again with staff from the Slovak Karst Institute (that Andy, Kent and I met in 2004), and do some pre conference ground work.

ACKMA provided support for 'Bill M206 Cave Protection Act 2010', made to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada, in May. Letters of support had previously been supplied when the auspiciously-named Spaet Cave came under threat from developers.

It was very pleasing to receive news from Paul Griffiths that the Bill was passed, that support from ACKMA contributed and was acknowledged in parliament. From Paul 'Your message of support was a very important factor, Steven. The legislators singled it out for special mention. Thanks again! Paul.'

The Tassie team are doing a wonderful job preparing for the 2011 conference. This will be a sharp contrast from the weather conditions in Mulu, so I await instructions on how to prepare. I hope Cathie doesn't think my vegetarian habits and teetotalling will continue – I think I will be back to normal self by then!



Significant speleothems in Sand Cave, Naracoorte.