

FROM THE EDITORS

I was elected as the ACKMA Publications Officer taking over from Kent Henderson who published a magnificent 82 journals from ACKMA's inception. Kent had commenced preparing this journal No. 83 and I appreciate the copy he provided. I hope to maintain the high standard that has been set and will be surveying members prior to the next journal on how you wish to receive your copy, either hard copy or electronically.

ACKMA has some challenges to keep producing a high quality printed journal as our Treasurer, Grant Gartrell, highlighted in his report to the Ulverstone AGM. I will be exploring new ways of printing to ensure we maintain the standard. Rauleigh has redirected the publications@ackma.org email address to me - I look forward to receiving your contribution.

Conference delegates will remember Moira Lipyeat's account of the Christchurch earthquake and the damage to Moa Cave.

Members will be well aware of the devastating earthquake in Christchurch last February. Aside from the tragic death and destruction of the quake, access to a significant cave was also, effectively, destroyed. Attending ACKMA members inspected the Moa Cave (in suburban Redcliffs) during the pre-conference study tour held prior to the 16th ACKMA Conference, at Westport, in 2005. This old basalt sea cave is an important Maori site, and was formerly the site of significant archaeological/sub-fossil digs. It was also where noted ACKMA member, Moira Lipyeat, launched her 'Caving History of New Zealand' book *Delving Deeper*, in 2003.

The cave was actually closed to the public in November 2004 after a geologist's report found the cave's roof and



The Launch of "Delving Deeper" in Moa Cave

VALE – VAL SPEEDIE

It is with very deep regret that I advise members of the death of ACKMA luminary Val Speedie, in October last year. Val was, for many years, a guide at Undara and she was a key member of the Organising Committee of the 15th ACKMA Conference at Chillagoe & Undara in 2003.

Val was a very great lady as all who met her would readily agree. Perhaps the following Eulogy (many thanks to Lana Little for forwarding it), which appeared in the local *E-Newsletter* of the Gulf Country, best sums up the life of Val – who made such a valuable contribution to her local community, not to mention the management and interpretation of Undara.

REST IN PEACE, DEAR VAL

On Sunday 17th October our dear Val Speedie lost her battle with cancer, she was one of the 'rays of sunshine' in the Gulf region and everyone who knew her enjoyed her warmth. She was a big part of why our organisation is so successful and she will be missed by all our staff and members. Our love and prayers go out to her husband Tony and family and we'd like them to know that we'll never forget her and her contribution to the people and the environment of the Gulf region. Things will never be quite the same. Love from all the crew from the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group.

Personally, I'm am sad that I am writing this column for the newsletter Val helped design, edit and distribute to so many readers in the Gulf and across Australia. She did such a wonderful job and I enjoyed every issue. She was one of the first people I met when I moved to the region and she always made me feel welcome, always had some great advice, always listened and always fixed my grammatical errors! (who will do that for me now?) I miss you Val, Love Sarah XO.



Val Speedie
– 15th ACKMA Conference 2003



Moa Cave damage

face were 'potentially unstable'... Thereafter, management of the site appears to have been close to zero... However, the problem of 'the cave entrance as a local eyesore' (to quote a more recent press article) was 'solved' by the earthquake – very sadly. Indeed, the owner of the cave (who operates the adjacent *Moa Cave Guest House and Motel*) had just completed the paperwork with the local council to use it commercially – for weddings, parties etc. The quake caused tons of rock to fall down over the cave entrance area, blocking it off. One would image, given the myriad of other reconstruction priorities in Christchurch, the cave entrance is unlikely to be cleared in any sort of a hurry, if ever.

Unfortunately International Show Caves Association (ISCA) President David Summers (pictured below), was unable to attend the conference due to business commitments, however new ISCA Director Dan Cove from Jenolan Caves read a message on his behalf. David has provided the following update for ACKMA.



During the Sixth Congress of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA) in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia, the membership implemented a bold new strategy to ensure that it fully embraced the world.

In 2006, the General Assembly of ISCA adopted a new constitution. This new constitution made provision for the Board of Directors to comprise a

President, two Vice

Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and five Directors. One person could hold the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

With the exception of the Secretary / Treasurer, each Officer and Director had to be from a different country. While this seemed ideal in 2006, the rapid growth of the member countries left the Board of ISCA in a position that it offered an extremely thin representation around the world.

During Congress 2010, the membership responded very enthusiastically to the call to "embrace the world" and changed the Constitution to allow for up to ten Directors, in addition to the President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

In addition to the enlargement of the number of Directors, a further change to the ISCA Constitution was adopted to permit up to two Associate Members of the Association to become Directors.

While there was a small degree of resistance expressed by some of the voting Full Members to the concept of Associate Members (individuals) being permitted to become Directors, the rallying call to "embrace the world" won the day, by a very substantial majority. The election of the ten Directors was very spirited and keenly contested. Again, the call to "embrace the world" was followed by the membership with the result that five continents are now represented in the ISCA Board of Directors.

The two new continents represented are Australasia and Asia. Australia's Dan Cove was elected from Australasia and Zhang Shouyue of China was elected from Asia.

Africa is represented by Hein Gerstner of Cango Caves and South Africa and North America is represented by Second Vice President Brad Wuest of Natural Bridge Caverns in Texas, USA.

The ISCA President failed miserably with his suggestion that Bermuda be recognized as another continent. As a result, he will continue in the state of being all at sea!

The following countries have a member on the ISCA Board of Directors:-

Australia	Bermuda	China	England
France	Germany	Hungary	Italy
Slovakia	South Africa	Spain	Sweden
U.S.A			

A new day dawns for ISCA following this election, or to be correct a new quadrennium has dawned for ISCA. The new Board of Directors is approaching this with a great degree of optimism, as well as enthusiasm, and is looking forward to applying this broader view to the world of show caves.