PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Chandler

Greetings,

From our recent AGM in Ulverstone no doubt the biggest challenge for our organisation, was to make the transition to a new Journal era, following Kent Henderson's long and dedicated term as publications officer. I would like to congratulate our Publications Officer, Steve Bourne on the result, and all those who have contributed material. The cover picture by Ross Anderson certainly has set a high standard for the future! And its not that Steve is idle with a new Job and a new house as well !

The ACKMA committee conducted a trial meeting via Skype in early August. This was a successful exercise, though technically difficulties reduced it to audio only and unfortunately without Geoff Deer at all due to interference.

Although this would be much better as a film review, Libby and I viewed   Werner Herzog's ' Cave of Forgotten Dreams' at the NZ Film Festival, Auckland, in July . For cave enthusiasts the sights of and the story of the discovery of Cave of Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave in southern France is a must see!   That it is in 3D is an added bonus.

To see the trailer in 2D   http://www.wernerherzog.com/index.php?id=64#c148
                    We understand it will return in October.

Locally it is interesting that this year some cave tour prices have increased a month earlier than the usual date of October 1. It is easy to conclude this is more about increasing sales revenue during a popular sporting event than covering increased costs during recessionary times . Note that the proposed theme for the 2013 Waitomo Conference is-" Triple bottom Line-Environment, People and Profit"

Although they have their opponents, the very good travel review websites and their not so good copies are driving the expectations of an increasingly discerning public .

And for those whose Cave and Karst livelihoods are affected by annual bulk funding, lets hope this work is continued and not cut back.

Above: President Peter Chandler and family
Right: Cave of the Spirit