

## FROM THE EDITOR

The AGM weekend was another successful ACKMA event attracting around 60 members to Wee Jasper. A number of reports appear in this journal and I thank Cathie Plowman, David Wools-Cobb and Mary Traves for their accounts, and a number who provided images. I have only been able to use a small sample, but will endeavour to provide an electronic pictorial account of the weekend on the website.

This journal again covers a breadth of issues, with reports from Garry K. Smith of Eisriesenwelt Cave in Austria and John Brush on the Vulcanospeleology Conference in Jordan. John also provides an interesting account on a number of US caves. Both Garry and John provide their thoughts on the cave management at the respective locations.

Rolan Eberhard's contribution covers a rehabilitation project on a site in Marakoopa Cave, Mole Creek, Tasmania, that was visited during the ACKMA conference in 2011. The result is spectacular and I encourage everyone to view the colour version on the website to see just how effective this work has been.

We acknowledge the enormous contribution by Peter Berrill to cave conservation in Australia. I only met Peter once, during the ACMA AGM weekend in Rockhampton, but admired his determination and perseverance to conserve Mt Etna's caves. Unfortunately, Peter was never an ACKMA member. I am sure we could all learn from his experiences - I am grateful for the time we had with him in Rockhampton.

Andy Spate reviews an excellent new volume for any interested in caves, and having seen his copy in Wee Jasper it won't be long before I purchase a copy.

We have the first information regarding the 2013 Waitomo Conference in this journal, and a suggestion from Moira Lipyeat on a side visit while we are in New Zealand.

Dale Calnin is preparing for a Guides' Workshop at Buchan Caves in September. I hope all cave managers support their staff and Dale has a strong turn out for this workshop.



**Parks Victoria invites you to the  
2012 Cave Guide Presenters Conference**

The aim of the 2012 Cave Guides Conference is to develop a new generation of informed cave guides, well learned in cave and karst of various areas, and voiced with the greatest interpretative techniques. Parks Victoria will showcase not only the Buchan Caves Reserve and its amazing show cave system but also several old show caves including the Shades of Death Cave, visits to nearby karst areas and the magnificent Snowy River National Park. As usual the event will be a mixture of formal presentations, outdoor activities and tours with some adventure caving for those that are interested. All participants are encouraged to present on their cave and karst operations and collectively we should all learn more about the world of show cave interpretation. At present we hope to have presentations from our good friend Elery Hamilton Smith, Weidmuller Lighting, a PHD student studying climate and cave relationships, the Friends of Buchan Caves and members of Victorian caving clubs.

If you are interested, a formal registration form will be sent out shortly or please feel free to call the Buchan Caves on 03 51621900 for information.

**When:** Sunday 2 September - Tuesday 4 September 2012

**Where:** Buchan Caves Reserve

**RSVP:** 1 August 2012

**Email:** [BuchanVisitorCentre@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:BuchanVisitorCentre@parks.vic.gov.au)



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