

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Chandler

Looking back over the last month, so much happened, the AGM weekend seemed like a whirl wind! I would like to thank the 60 or so people who made the time to attend at Wee Jasper. Of course this didn't just happen, a great many of this number helped to make the weekend special. Special thanks must go to Suzanne for all the admin and catering, with her helpers of course, and Geoff for being happy, for his peaceful valley to be invaded by ACKMA folk for 36- 48 hours , and of course to Andy Spate for the organisation including gathering of guest speakers of a high calibre, bringing everyone to his old home patch, even though home now is in W.A. Many of the long distance travellers to the event, including us, did extend the weekend in both directions, and the hospitality extended was much appreciated.

Being an AGM weekend there wasn't the formal structure of a conference week - in fact the main meeting point, on the eastern side of the converted shearers quarters around the bonfire, was very fresh but well attended by the usual suspects until the early

hours! It would be great to return to spend time with Geoff and Suzanne and their community – soon.

Also to be noted was the attendance of Elery and Angela Hamilton-Smith - thanks Elery for adding your wisdom to discussions over the weekend and to the Association of which you are still a large part. And Angela, it was great to see you again!

It was also great to spend time with our erstwhile publications officer, pictured below with Libby Chandler outside Castle Cave, Yarrangobilly .

At the Tasmanian AGM there was some discussion about raising profiles of small cave operators, certainly having up to date info on the ACKMA website is a great place to start. Congratulations to Peter and Dan and the Jenolan team, raising the profile of caves and karst by scooping the national tourism award- well done!

Here at Waitomo I can report the pre-conference meetings are helping to shape the event, at this stage we really would appreciate material for the Journal about the next conference theme- 'the triple bottom line'



Top left: President Peter, third from right, listening intently to Andy Spate's directions.

Bottom left: ACKMA Committee in session.

Above: 2013 Conference Convenor Libby Chandler with Kent Henderson.