

FROM THE EDITOR

This journal once again has an international flavour, with articles covering caves in Brazil, Malaysia, Morocco, Slovakia, and, Slovenia. John Brush provides a report on caves he, Marjorie Coggan and others visited as part of the International Union of Speleology Congress in Czech Republic in July. When you travel that far you should make the most of it and the Australians certainly did by visiting a host of caves. I enjoyed his description of Krizna Jama in Slovenia which he visited with guide Alojs, the same guide Andy Spate, Kent Henderson and I had when we visited there in 2006. I smiled with John's description of Alojs assisting with the cave photography and insisting that his visitors take as much time as they need – we had the same experience.

Many months ago, I wrote to Prof Heros Lobos in Brazil after reading a paper on interpretation in Brazilian caves. Copyright issues meant I could not reprint this paper in the ACKMA Journal, but Heros agreed to prepare an article especially for ACKMA. I appreciate the time and effort that he and co-author Luiz Travassos put into this review of Brazilian caves, first writing it in Portuguese and then translating into English.

Tim Moulds, Ross and Jay Anderson present the second part of their research from Mulu Caves, accompanied with Ross's brilliant photos. Miles Pierce provides a snapshot of the Batu Caves, like Mulu, in Malaysia.

We also acknowledge the contribution of John Callaghan to Australian caves with a tribute from Dan Cove and Sasa Kennedy. Sasa also provided a second article titled Memory Keepers, highlighting the value of people who gain extensive knowledge of a site through many years of association, and how this needs to be shared and not lost when they retire or move on.

Naracoorte Caves had an unusual visitor in October when the Melbourne Cup came to Naracoorte. The local racing club had been successful with its application and was the only regional site in South Australia selected as part of the tour. The club approached me in my role at the local council regarding the visit and how best to maximise promotion. The company that tours the Cup indicated that they liked to take it to a local tourist attraction, and so the idea of taking the Cup caving was conceived. The \$175,000 18 carat gold cup was taken into Alexandra Cave and carefully placed by the "Mirror Pool" and under the straws for a series of photos. Most people also had their photo taken with the Melbourne Cup in the cave as well. I uploaded the photos for the promotion company and within a few hours it appeared on the Flemington Instagram site. I hope the images are used in next year's Cup tour promotion.

Naracoorte has had some heavy rain again this spring and one severe downpour opened up a cave in a Wrattontully vineyard, about 15km south of Naracoorte Caves National Park. The site was on a hill between two



Top. The 2013 Melbourne Cup in Alexandra Cave, Naracoorte

*Bottom. Collapse in a Wrattontully vineyard
Photos: Steve Bourne*

large water filled dolines, but alas, did not extend very far at all. Interestingly, there were numerous small slumps across the vineyard, so maybe there could be a reasonable cave in the hill.

Kent Henderson informed me that ex-Jenolan guide and historian Rob Whyte has recently moved from Sydney to Rutherglen in North East Victoria, where he purchased an olive farm. It is about 15 minutes off the Hume Highway at the Rutherglen turnoff. A bonus is that the property came with its own wine cellar and more interestingly, one that you walk through the side of the hill to enter. As finances permit, Rob plans to extend it and make a subterranean experience out of it! Any ACKMA members who happen to be in the area are most welcome to drop in.

See: www.gooramaddaolives.com.au

Those interested in the AGM at Yarrangobilly in May next year are encouraged to provide George Bradford and his team with an expression of interest in attending and to think about travel and transport arrangements. Yarrangobilly is remote (~4 hours safely from Canberra Airport and ~3 hours safely from Wagga. A bus to Tumut is available but then transport to the Caves will have to be arranged. Accommodation may also be limited so book in early. Ph: 02 6454 9597

Email: George.Bradford@environment.nsw.gov.au



Cath Sellars, ACKMA member and our previous Executive Officer, married Hans Loder in September. They avoided a cave wedding, but caves have had a role in their romance. Hans proposed to Cath at Mulu after the ACKMA AGM week there in 2008!



*The entrance to the wine cellar - just like some caves!
Photo: Rob Whyte*



*Nice looking ice cave, but actually a defrosting building in Chicago.
Source: www.blueverticalstudio.com, thanks to Geoff Kell*

Coming Events

2014: 15-22 March	16th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
2014: 4-7 May	Cave Guides Workshop Yarrangobilly, New South Wales
2014: 9-11 May	ACKMA Annual General Meeting Yarrangobilly, New South Wales
2014: 17-22 August	International Workshop on Ice Caves, Idaho, USA
2014: 2-8 November	International Show Caves Association, Jenolan Caves, Australia
2015: May	ACKMA Conference, Naracoorte Caves, South Australia
2016: May	ACKMA Annual General Meeting and Cave Guides Workshop, Rockhampton, Queensland
	Do you know of an event that may interest ACKMA members? Please send to publications@ackma.org