

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dan Cove

It continues to be an interesting and active time for our organisation. The ACKMA Committee has remained focussed on its review of organisational administration and developing systems to better manage membership information. Again, I must commend all members of the committee for continuing to invest considerable effort into these areas. Addressing issues of administrative processes is not exactly glamorous work, however it is necessary and I am confident that the result will be a stronger organisation. I must also add that being a part of this review process has given me a much clearer understanding of the commitment in time and effort that has been required particularly by the Treasurer to maintain the financial and membership records of the organisation. The job that Grant has done in this regard with his available resources has been quite miraculous.

It is a little daunting for me also to glance at the calendar and note that it is now only a year until the world of show caves descends upon Jenolan for the 2014 ISCA Congress. I continue to be amazed by the high level of enthusiasm being communicated to me from around the world for attendance at this Congress, and for provision of additional information regarding other Australian and New Zealand caves. I have also received several letters from interested ACKMA members enquiring as to whether attendance at the Congress is possible and whether advance booking is currently possible. I intend to publish additional information in the next Journal to aid ACKMA members. However, it is important to remember that the 2014 ISCA Congress is not doubling as an ACKMA Conference or AGM, and that attendance will naturally have to be prioritised for ISCA members. This said, I am hopeful that interested ACKMA members will be able to attend and that arrangements will be made to accommodate this. In addition, several prominent ACKMA figures are also Associate Members of ISCA, and this might be worthy of consideration by others considering attendance... More information to follow.

Although an obituary appears elsewhere in this journal, I must also acknowledge in this column the great sadness of the recent passing of John Callaghan. Few individuals have dedicated themselves so completely and over so long a period to the protection and promotion of caves as John, or been a friend and mentor to so many aspiring cave guides and managers. I am proud to count myself amongst those who were fortunate enough to benefit from John's guidance, and know that all ACKMA members will mourn his loss, whilst acknowledging and celebrating his abiding contributions to cave management in this country.



*John Callaghan receiving the inaugural Diamond Donut Award, from a dubiously attired Dan Cove
Photo: Sasa Kennedy*

Below. Copy of a letter from Rimstone Cooperative acknowledging ACKMA's contribution to the Scrubby Creek Cave purchase

