

FROM THE EDITOR

This journal is very, very late. I have written begging for material for several journals, and material only trickles in. I sincerely thank those who have provided their articles for this issue, which will be closely followed by the June edition (hopefully). The journal is also much smaller than the previous 70 or so journals, I have to go back to the first 20 journals/newsletters of ACKMA to find an edition of a similar number of pages.

This edition has taken so long to prepare for reasons that I won't divulge here, that the editorial has had to be rewritten. The conference is not approaching, it has been. But I won't publish conference proceedings and reports in a journal that precedes the conference!

In October last year, I was booked into a training course in Canberra. I looked at the flight options, which involves a 4 hour drive to Adelaide, wait in airport, take a flight to Canberra and then taxi to hotel - we all know what that's like. Or, I could drive over to Canberra via Yarrangobilly and spend a few days caving. Not a difficult choice really. John Brush and Marjorie Coggan were very obliging and came from Canberra to Yarrangobilly for a few days caving, and I am very grateful for this and their hospitality in Canberra.

George Bradford, Manager, Yarrangobilly Caves kindly provided permits to visit several caves. I am a member of the Canberra Speleological Society which may seem a little odd given where I live, but am not the most remote member of this club! We visited some very nice caves, but the highlight was the trip into Eagles Nest Cave. Like many, I read about the "deepest cave on the mainland" (I assume it still is) and had an image in my mind as to what it would be like. Who would have thought the deepest cave does not need a rope? The



Speleothems in Eagles Nest Cave, Yarrangobilly Caves.
Photo: Steve Bourne

cave is fantastic; some climbing, squeezing, big chambers and nice decoration. Marjorie was incredibly patient as John and I accumulated gigabytes of images on our cameras. I have come to the conclusion that Marjorie is the most photographed lady of Australian caving and quite possibly could be immortalised with a cave photography scale bar in her likeness in the future. Possibly a marketing opportunity! The cover shot is however a rarity, one with John Brush in *front* of the camera lens.

The Jenolan Caves saga rolls on, with many good people leaving the site, either voluntarily or by their own choice. I tried for months to get a response from management, Sandy McFeeters and Bob Conroy, but despite several assurances that comment was coming "next week", next week never arrived. It is a real pity, because until the government and senior management explain what the long term vision and plans are for Jenolan Caves, their decisions affecting staff and operations and removing good people seem baffling. I am tempted to reproduce the correspondence, but would serve little purpose. I cannot understand how senior government staff indicate in writing that a response will be forthcoming and fail to deliver. One day we will receive information and it will hopefully be clearer.

Mulu National Park Manager Alison Pritchard advised the caving world that the park has experienced a serious flood just after Christmas 2014. Her email reads as below.

*Dear Friends of Mulu,
Some of you may not be aware that Mulu and the region experienced severe flooding on 29th December.*

The Melinau River rose to 2.5m, (slightly higher than the bridge to Royal Mulu Resort) as water was pushed up stream from the swollen Tutoh River.

Although the Penan community of Batu Bungan were relatively unscathed, unfortunately Long Iman and many of the houses around the national park were completely flooded and families have lost the content of their homes.

As you have experienced, the generosity of this community is legendary and their resilience inspirational and the only sign of something different the next day was that some staff weren't wearing a uniform.

I still can't believe they turned up to work after spending the night watching the water wash through their homes and sweep away their possessions!

In such an isolated region their story goes unnoticed but I know that the people I'm sharing this news with have close ties with these communities and you might want the opportunity to help.

Mulu National Park comes to aid of Long Iman flood victims

MIRI: Mulu National Park manager Alison Pritchard and staff recently delivered much needed supplies to the Penan community of Long Iman after the Dec 29 flood.

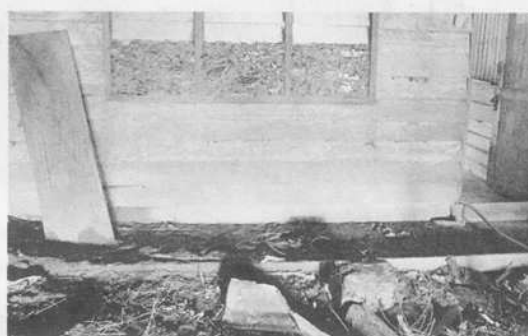
This was the worst flood in history for the area as the water rose in three consecutive waves, causing a raging Tutoh River to engulf their homes within 30 minutes. With little time to evacuate and with many families away for the holidays, most of their possessions were washed away or destroyed.

The families fled to higher ground at a nearby hill and returned when the river subsided early in the morning.

Through fund-raising efforts and donation from the community as well as explorers and researchers from across the globe, Mulu National Park was able to purchase food and kitchen equipment, provide clothing and encouraged volunteers to help with the clean-up, but Long Iman still needs more help to get back on track.

"It seems that the communities downstream were more heavily impacted and thankfully, the national park survived without any damage as park tours resumed when water subsided the following day.

"After seeing Long Iman first hand, I realise the scale of work involved to get this community back on track, but with an army



Mud on the ladders show the high tide mark.

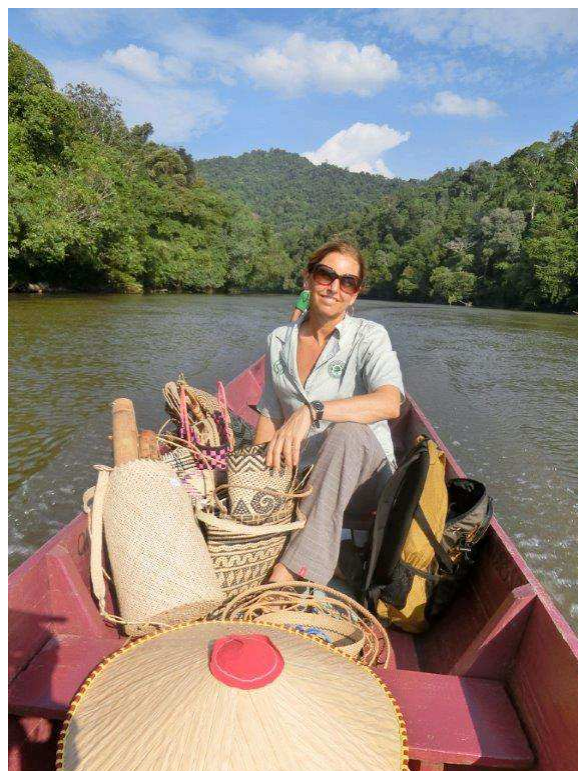
of passionate volunteers we can rebuild and reinforce the river bank (which was washed away), remove the debris, and restore and paint the church.

"Thankfully the bricks and mortar can be replaced and everyone reached higher ground in time to avoid the rising water," said Allison.

Borsarmulu Park Management Sdn Bhd has opened the doors of the research centre to universities

and corporate groups who would like help tidy up and rebuild, while musicians from Miri Country Music Festival are raising funds to replace the lost instruments in the church.

For details on how to help track their progress or send support, visit Facebook group - I CARE, supporting flood affected families of Mulu, Sarawak or email via the park's website www.mulupark.com.



Left: Newspaper article on the flood.

Above: Mulu National Park Manager Alison Pritchard on a shopping trip.

A follow up email indicated that the appeal had been generously supported. I understand the Mulu community rebounded quickly and the site is operating as normal.

Tony Culberg is my primary proof reader. With someone as precise as Tony, a pool of editors seems a little unnecessary! He has provided some advice to writers that will make his job and mine simpler. I encourage everyone to note and endeavour to provide your article in a state ready for publication. Before Tony's proof reading notes, I remind submitters to provide;

- the main body of text as a word document; PDFs need to be altered for incorporation into the journal format and image quality is lost - and its very time consuming.
- identification within the text where images should be placed.
- images should be sent as individual jpg files. Others can be managed if necessary. The largest image will be printed at 18.5cm wide, so high resolution images over a metre across are unnecessary.

- captions for images! these are ideally placed at the end of the main body of text from where I can extract them.

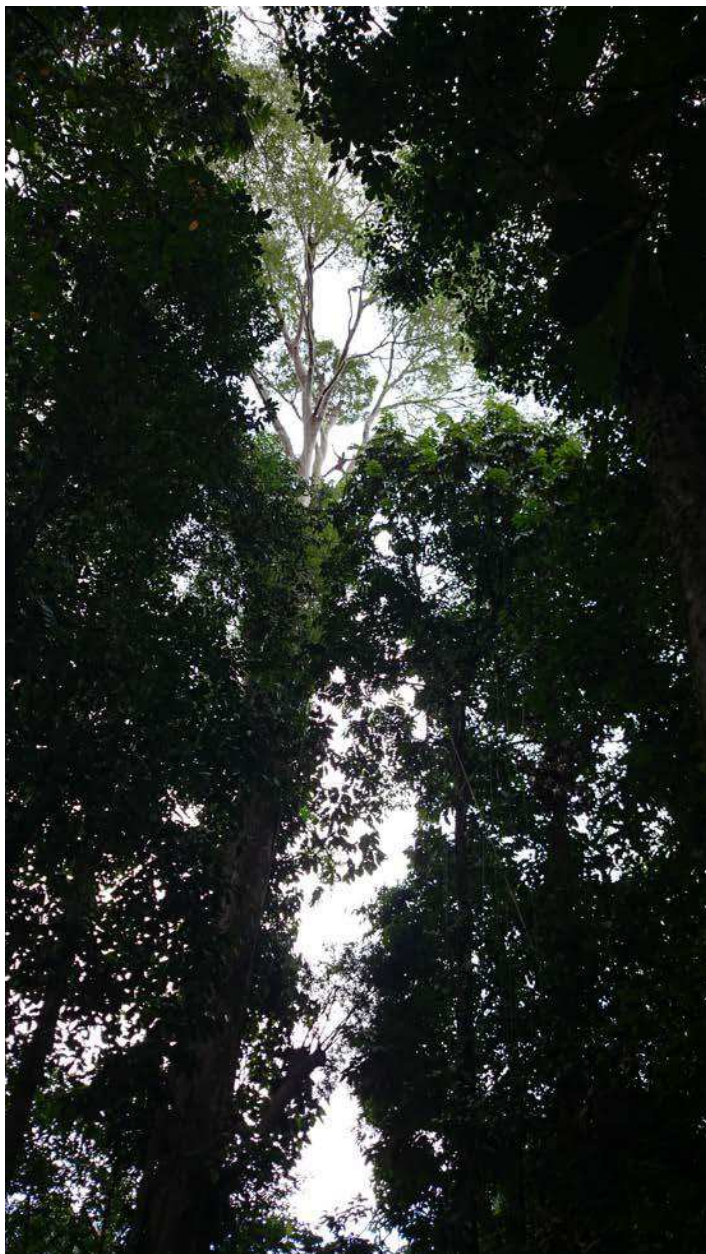
If you have any questions as to how to do this, ask John Brush. His articles are well presented and the easiest to prepare for the journal. Now the instructions from Tony Culberg.

One of the problems I find while proof reading is expanding the various abbreviations used by writers.

It is a long time since I wrote any papers which were reviewed by anyone else, but my recollection is that there are some conventions used in academia and other places.

The primary one is to give the name of the organisation in full the first time it is used in an article. It is expected that the standard abbreviation will follow in brackets

So, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) would be set out



that. It is then permissible to use UNESCO in the rest of the article.

That usually reduces any confusion. PSI has at least two expansions, Pounds per Square Inch and Personal Services Income. AU can mean Australia or Astronomical Units.

The second convention is to show clearly the jurisdiction in which the article is based. DEH I think means Dept of Environment and Heritage, but I have no idea whether this is in NZ, SA, Tas or a Federal department. The first time an authority is named its jurisdiction should also be carefully stated, eg South Australia's Dept of Environment and Heritage, DEH(SA). SA itself is ambiguous, it could also be South Africa or Societe Anonyme, so clarity is also needed here.

The ACKMA journal goes to all states and overseas; not all readers will be totally familiar with the abbreviations in present use. And with the rate of change of the names of various Govt departments (almost every department changes name with each change of ruling party, and often enough with just a reallocation of portfolios) it is critical to clearly identify who the organisation is.

A third convention is to either have at the beginning of the article or at the end a complete list of all abbreviations used and their expansions. This allows the reader to confirm the full name etc.

*Tree trimming at Mulu National Park.
Can you see the staff member in the tree?
Photo: Alison Pritchard*

like

Coming Events	
2016: 4-8 May	ACKMA Annual General Meeting and Cave Guides Workshop, Rockhampton, Queensland
2017: May	ACKMA Annual General Meeting, Auckland (tentative)
2017: 23-30 July	International Union of Speleology Congress, Penrith, NSW, Australia
2018: May	ACKMA Biannual Conference, Wombeyan Caves, New South Wales (tentative)
	Do you know of an event that may interest ACKMA members? Please send to publications@ackma.org