

EDITORIAL

Steve Bourne

This journal is largely a report of the Cave Guides' Workshop and ACKMA AGM held in Rockhampton in May 2016. I have endeavoured to provide a summary of the week's proceedings, complemented by excellent contributions from several who attended the Guides' Workshop. You will read plenty about the workshop and its content, and I was very pleased when John Pastorelli, of Ochre Interpretation, allowed me to reproduce one of his interpretation papers. I enjoyed the content of his paper, particularly as many of the key messages he puts forward in it are reiterated within the guides' reports.

The AGM had some great discussion on interpretation and supporting guides, and it was pleasing to see guides taking a lead role as well. It seemed that a group of staff across four sites had collaborated (conspired?) to visit multiple cave sites across three states - an approach I thoroughly endorse! Don't wait for it to happen - make it happen.

Apart from the Rockhampton reports and interpretation paper, Elizabeth Reed has provided a paper on a mystery photographer at Naracoorte Caves. Solving this mystery eluded Eleri Hamilton-Smith for many years, and I am sure he would have enjoyed this read.

A major item of discussion at the AGM and committee meeting was the cost of the journal. It is our major expenditure for the year and production costs are exceeding income from membership. Of concern is the large number of non financial members. ACKMA cannot afford to carry the burden any longer, so if members are not financial after one journal into the new financial year, you won't receive another. Of course we all forget whether our membership is up to date. Those who are behind will receive a reminder with this journal or via email and I encourage you to keep your membership current. At last I have a nice collection of material for future journals with some real quality to be enjoyed. You will notice some changes with the look of the journal too. There is less white space, tabs on the top of the page are gone, margins slightly reduced, a smaller font and reduced line spacings. I trust that it is still readable (I need glasses anyway to read it!) and that members like the new look. The journal will be reduced to 28-32 pages, but with these refinements, will have only marginally less reading enjoyment.

Other small changes include not providing photo credits for all images. Readers can assume images within an article are the work of the author and images within editorial reports are my work. I received a good selection of images from Rockhampton which have improved the offering in this journal, especially two stunning images by Ross Anderson of Resurrection Cave at Rockhampton, one of which adorns the front cover.

I have managed to see quite a few caves since the March journal; Tasmania where I attended the Australasian Bat Society Conference and then visited caves from south to north across the island, Rockhampton of course, and quite a few sites across my local region assisting with cave cricket research. More of this in a future journal.

I look forward to receiving your feedback on this journal and articles for future editions.



*Emmi Scherlies (left) and Perry Blasely-Hall catching cave crickets. Emmi is undertaking her PhD on the southern bentwing bats and Perry is looking at genetic variation across a geographic range in the cave cricket *Novatettix naracoortensis*. We had great success locating many crickets and expanding the current known range.*

ANDYSEZ 11¹ THE NEED FOR LIGHT

Just a note for all those lighting caves and guiding older ladies and gentlemen – such as myself through caves (some may well dispute my using the title 'gentleman' to include me?) – the need for more light increases very dramatically with age.

The following is derived from information that Neil Kell (former Yarrangobilly Caves manager) turned up many years ago. The graph below shows the relationship between age and the relative need for light. The need for light increases significantly with age about 40. Double the amount needed than that at age 20. By 60, three to four times more light is needed than at age 20 to carry out the same work or see the cave floor, steps etc.

¹Please note that there are ANDYSEZs with higher numbers and gaps below the higher numbers – confusion arising from miscommunications between Kent and I years ago. I will try and fill the gaps to avoid more confusion in the future. The ANDYSEZs are not time-dependant so this should not be an issue.

