

EDITORIAL

It is with pleasure that the major article in my second edition is one by Steve Bourne, my predecessor. Steve's caving travels in Vietnam and Laos, earlier this year, will provide the major article in this edition of the Journal and an anchoring article, as his description of his travels continues, in each of the next two editions. I have complemented, in a minor way only, Steve's recounting of caving in Vietnam in a piece I have written following my visit to Vietnam's Ha Long Bay with my 14-year-old son in July this year – a piece about what is happening to the caves dotted amongst many hundred limestone islands. At the President's suggestion, I invited Neil Kell to provide comments on my experience, particularly with respect to environmental cave impacts in this World Heritage Area. Neil's comments follow from my contribution.

As can be seen below (and as is noted in the President's report), the Association has been extremely fortunate in obtaining a grant from the Naracoorte Lucindale Council to assist underwriting the costs of the 2019 Guides' School and of the Association's Annual General Meeting.

On another front, your committee has agreed to make a contribution to the installation of interpretive signage at the Moa Bone Point and Moncks Caves near Christchurch. As the article in the December edition will explain, these caves are of Maori cultural and of paleontological significance. Discussions continue on how to achieve the appropriate outcomes and these will be reported (hopefully) in the December edition.

A publication I now have the privilege to read, as your editor, is the monthly newsletter of the US National

Caves Association, what might broadly be regarded as this ACKMA's equivalent for show caves in the United States. Some thoughts inspired by a recent edition concerning National Caves Day in the United States appear later in this edition.

I am pleased that I have received a strong response to requests for material to be published in the "Around the show caves" section that I trialed in the last edition.

Finally, I am delighted that I have received an unsolicited mystery shopper contribution concerning a visit to Wellington Caves.

I have been promised several more – for the next edition and for March 2019.

Although our first mystery shopper wrote of the shopper's family visit to Waitomo in New Zealand, the Wellington Caves contribution and those that I have in the pipeline are all from the eastern states.

For those of you who make visits to any of our cave systems without letting on that you are a member of the Association, I would welcome future mystery hopper contributions – particularly from visits elsewhere in New Zealand or from South Australia, Western Australia or the Northern Territory. As I indicated in the prologue to the first mystery shopper segment, anonymity is guaranteed!

Tim Moore

NOTE THE DATES!

The 2019 Guides' School

and

ACKMA's 2019 Annual General Meeting

will be held in Naracoorte, South Australia in May 2019

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- ◇ **Guides' School - Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 May**
- ◇ **AGM and associated field trips - Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May**

Further details in the December Journal