

President's Report

Not much to report, really. Your committee has been very busy discussing a variety of issues most of which do not greatly affect members.

However, the committee is about to discuss changes to ACKMA's rules (constitution) that the redoubtable Tim Moore has re-drafted. There will be two phases of these – the first is a minimal set to address our Treasurer's immediate concerns and other minor matters. The new Committee will be discussing more extensive changes through the coming year. The minor changes will be presented to the membership prior to the 2019 AGM for ratification at that time. The other changes are mostly tidying up the rules, reducing ambiguities and the like. Like it or not, our rules are a legal document and must be clear and unambiguous. But if we agree to these amended rules, they must be submitted to the Victorian incorporation people. I am sure that Tim's legal background will smooth things.

Speaking of the AGM, several members of the Committee have indicated that they are standing down, and of course, we have, very distressingly, lost Ann Augusteyn. We will be seeking a New Zealand Vice President, an Executive Officer, a Treasurer and at least one Committee Member. Nomination forms are available at ackma.org in the Members Only area. My sincere thanks to John, Neil and Tony in the service of ACKMA.

So please get involved with ACKMA. We need you younger members involved in ACKMA matters.

On a slightly different tack you may be aware that we are having problems with the ACKMA mailing list – not all people are getting the posted emails – and the problem appears random. Rauleigh is working hard to resolve this issue – and it may have been fixed. Related to the email list - it seems that virtually only I and Rauleigh post items of interest to ACKMA people – surely other people must see things of interest – so please post - even trivia.

One thing I am trying to do is get a list of show cave/adventure cave locations and operators in Australia and New Zealand. I think I have Australia pretty much tied down, but New Zealand has been a bit enigmatic. Much due to the differences between our two countries. Please let me know if you can provide me with email addresses of operators – ACKMA members or not.

**One of the sights awaiting you at
Naracoorte in May 2019
The fossil bed (and friend) in Victoria
Fossil Cave**

This information is needed as Pete Bell and I are exploring the idea of a stand-alone, for sale DVD introducing Australasian caves based on a great Czech introduction to their show caves – more to come on this. This would obviously have a link to the ACKMA website. I may be able to show you the Czech DVD at the AGM.

I have reviewed the eight most recent editions of our Journal starting with No 106 – March 2017. From then until March 2018, there were only two editions with contributions about Australian or NZ show caves. These were:

- Buchan (June 2017)
- Capricorn (September 2017)
- Jenolan (June 2017)
- Naracoorte (2 articles in September 2017)

Since the introduction of "Around the show caves" in the June 2018 edition of the Journal, we have had the following contributions:

- Capricorn (June) & (December)
- Cutta Cutta (December)
- Hastings (September)
- Jenolan (June) & (September)
- Kawiti - NZ (September)
- Margaret River (September) & (December)
- Naracoorte (September)
- Nikau Cave and Café – NZ (in the "Conference First timers" – June)
- Wellington (September) & (December)

Since March 2017, just more than one third of Australia's 24 show cave sites and only two New Zealand operations have supplied news for the Journal. I know of one site that has a brand-new manager – it would be good to hear about him/her – and maybe get something from him/her about their perceptions of the job ahead of them. There may be departmental news as well?

Last, I am preparing, with assistance of John Brush, a submission on proposed changes to the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management dealing with camping issues in and around Yarrangobilly Caves. This will have been submitted before this edition of the Journal goes to press.

