

President's Report

Things have been relatively quiet since the successful Guides' School and the AGM – apart from Committee discussions about concerns expressed by Rauleigh Webb about the ventilation of Jewel Cave at Margaret River. I have responded, on behalf of ACKMA, in a letter to Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association expressing our concerns and, more importantly perhaps, offering assistance from ACKMA members' expertise.

The Committee has experimented with an audiovisual communication linkup (Zoom) to try and reduce the number of inter-Committee e-mails. This has not worked well, given the time stretch from New Zealand to Western Australia – plus the many busy involvements of all the Committee players.

Jodie's group, convened to develop a strategic plan for ACKMA, will have met on line by the time the September Journal is published. We await the group's deliberations with interest. I have seen Jodie's Jenolan strategic plan and was very impressed. But plans require implementation ...

For my (many) sins, I have been shanghaied into organising the papers for our next conference at Jenolan in May next year. In the December Journal, I will be calling for papers and posters for the conference – so please start thinking about what you might present.

ACKMA, ASF, Nicholas White, John Watson, other ACKMA members and I made submissions to the South Australian Nullarbor Parks Draft Management Plan.

These seem to have been largely ignored, as we have come to expect across Australia. The final plan has been released – it is a total travesty. No discussion of what happens in Western Australia – in this 'one nation'. The previous Nullarbor National Park, reduced to a narrow rectangle 10-12 kilometres wide and ~140 kilometres long, a total travesty of the IUCN definition (to which Australia has agreed) of what constitutes a 'national park', and errors of facts. The document says 50,000 people a year cross the Nullarbor. This is about 135 vehicles per day – 65 each way.

The Western Australia annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes suggest the number of vehicles is between 430–760 per day. That's up to about 250,000 vehicles – many with at least a passenger. The Eucla Police Sergeant suggested about 400 vehicles a day in a recent phone conversation, citing discussions with highway people. What else have they got wrong?

However, the finest part of the "plan" recognises the role and input of the Mirning indigenous people who have used and managed the Nullarbor landscape for many



Photo—Maureen Oates OAM

millennia. They are, properly, involved in the management of the Nullarbor - a place that has been demonstrated to be of World Heritage significance but our (silly) Federal/State setup means that World Heritage status will be almost impossible to achieve. Very, very unfortunate.

Elsewhere in this Journal you will see mention of the Ken Grimes Award for support to attend the 2019 Conference at Jenolan in May next year. Please promulgate this information to all your contacts. Let's get some new, interesting people in our great ACKMA!

I again thank all those who congratulated me on my recent Honour.

POSITION VACANT—May 2020

Journal Editor (unpaid)

As noted in my editorial and foreshadowed in earlier Journals, I will not be seeking to continue as Editor beyond the May 2020 AGM.