



We recognise the traditional people of the lands of all our members and editorial contributors.

ACKMA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work, and all Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuing connection to land, place, waters, and community. We pay our respects to their cultures, country, and elders past present and emerging.

ACKMA recognises the unique role of Māori as Tangata Whenua and embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi recognising Māori as tino rangatiratanga of Aotearoa/New Zealand while embracing the three guiding principles of the Treaty – Partnership, Participation, and Protection. We will endeavour to implement bicultural policies and practices that incorporate and value Māori cultural concepts, values, and practices.

Editorial

Kirsty Dixon

Welcome fellow ACKMAites (sounds like it should be some form of speleothem), from your new journal editor!

Firstly, I would like to thank Christian (and Sharon Hansen!) for all the hard work in getting the journal prepared for circulation over the last 12 months and wish him and his wife all the best in their new tourism venture around Carnarvon Gorge.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Grant Gartrell for being awarded the Elery Hamilton-Smith Award 2022 recognising the most meritorious article published in the ACKMA journal over the previous two years. Grant's article "In the Blink of a Magic Eye" can be found in Journal 126, March 2022, pages 8 – 15.

In taking on the editorship, one of my aims is to broaden the scope of articles presented. While preferentially focusing on Australasia, I think it is also important to acknowledge that we are part of a larger whole and so I have instigated a new section called "Links to the Wider World". This section will include links to articles that are cave-related but perhaps encompass a broader interpretation of 'cave and karst management'.

As part of this broader-brush approach, I would also like to include information about upcoming events and conferences that are cave and karst related from organisations that ACKMA has affiliations or associations with. We have a long list on the contents page of the journal, and I think it would be good to become more interactive and collaborative with these bodies, as well as others which share similar interests and ideologies.

Perhaps the most important consideration however is that this is YOUR journal, and for it to continue to be relevant, it needs YOUR input. I would very much like to see this journal populated by articles from people whose surnames are NOT Bourne, Brush, Eddison, Gillieson or Spate (but these contributions are always welcome!!!! There are very many members who have some wonderful caving experience, stories and knowledge and it would be wonderful to see these being shared. I am happy to assist with guidance on topics and presentation wherever necessary, so if you have an idea, please let me know and we can work out how best to present your ideas!

I would also like to do a feature in each journal on two or three commercial caving operations. I will be contact cave operators individually over the next few months to sort out a timetable and the best format to present their activities – but if you want to get in early, please let me know and we can start planning for the September journal!

I am also very open to feedback and constructive criticism and would very much appreciate knowing what you want and don't want in your journal. If there is something you particularly like, then let me know. The same for something you don't really appreciate. If there is something you would like to see included, again let me know and I will do my best to organise it.

Please remember that you don't need to wait for a journal deadline to send me items for inclusion. If you see an article or a link that you think would be of interest – just send it to me straight away. If the inspiration for writing something comes over you – just do it and send it to me. I can sort out the formatting and layout, so don't let that stop you or hold you back. I can be reached by emailing publications@ackma.org or if you have some difficulties with that address, send it directly to my ACKMA email at kjd.ackma@gmail.com. I look forward to collaborating with you to make this journal the best it can be!

Kind regards,

Kirsty

