



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 to the September journal!

We have a very broad spread of items in this issue, which only highlights the diversity of cave and karst issues that come under the banner of our organisation! It is great to be seeing some contributions on areas that we don't often look at and see how they fit into the bigger picture!

Of course, we are ALL looking forward to the upcoming Conference and AGM in Takaka, NZ next year and our Conference Organising Committee have had done a great job in giving us some more information on what will be happening – and yes there is a registration form in this issue to download and print out. The Takaka 2023 conference and AGM information will be uploaded to the web, including an online registration form. Again, a huge thanks to Rauleigh Webb for looking after this for us!!!

Many congratulations are in order this quarter!

- Peter Matthews, who was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) on the 7 September for distinguished service to cave and karst surveying, documentation and publication, and to speleological organisations.
- Gunns Plains Caves for their 2022 Business Award for “Outstanding Customer Service, Tours and Attractions”, awarded by the Central Coast Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tasmania
- Jenolan Caves, who have at last managed to overcome all their trials and tribulations and announced they will be back to opening 7 days a week – well done to all!

Cathie Plowman reminds us: Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to cave and karst guiding and interpretation? The Ann Augusteyn Award will be open to receive nominations from 16 January until 13 March 2023 and recognises excellence from an individual to cave and karst guiding and presentation. This award honours the efforts of Ann Augusteyn to support cave guides to pursue excellence and new ideas in cave presentations. Full details can be found on page 23 of this issue.

For the December 2022 edition of the ACKMA journal, I am planning on having a full focus on New Zealand. We will have the final details for the Takaka Conference in May, but I would also like to present articles and information on anything and everything NZ – so please start thinking about all your wonderful experiences in the Land of the Long White Cloud and start putting pen to paper (or finger to keyboard)! It would be especially good to present information on places to go and things to do that might be of interest to those wishing to extend their time either before or after the conference.

Of course, I am still open to receiving articles of interest on any other karst related subjects, so please don't think you are off the hook just because you don't have anything on New Zealand!!!

Kind regards, Kirsty

