



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

Greetings fellow ACKMAites,

With the easing of travel restrictions, it seems that our members are once again getting out and about to visit karstic wonders all over the globe, and we have some great trip reports in this issue.

I would like to give especial thanks to Mary Trayes for waving the ACKMA flag for the NZ caving community and Garry Smith for his wonderful summary of the Tākaka Conference! I have endeavoured to ensure that correct Māori spelling and accents are included, but I ask your forgiveness if I have missed some – please let me know so I can correct these in future journals!

More good news with the awarding of a King's Birthday Honour to ACKMA member Tim Moore. Andy Spate has kindly written up a summary of his achievements. Congratulations Tim, but they left out most of the good environmental stuff you have done!

On a sadder note, Liz Reed has felt compelled to resign as an ACKMA Committee member due to potential perceived conflict of interest with her work at Naracoorte. We are very sad to see Liz go from this position, but totally understand her position and hope that at some stage in the future we can welcome her expertise back into Committee deliberations. Notification of what will happen with regards to filling this position will be circulated to members via the mailing list after the next Committee meeting on the 24th of September.

As the general age of ACKMA members increases, it is not unexpected that we will start losing people. We were very sad to hear of the death of Moira Lipyeat, a long-time ACKMA member. Cathie Plowman has provided some remembrances of Moira's time with ACKMA and her indomitable spirit and caring nature, and Mary Trayes kindly provided accompanying photos. Our thoughts are with her family at this time, and we will definitely miss her cheery disposition at future ACKMA events!

We also send a sad farewell to Mike Grey, who was Senior Fellow in Arachnology at the Australian Museum. He did some wonderful work with ACKMA and ASF on cave spiders and was also on the Jenolan Caves Scientific Advisory Committee. I have included a wonderful obituary from Helen Smith for those that may not have seen the email.

To end on a positive note, since we now have a memorandum of understanding with NZSS, I would encourage you have a look at their excellent website <http://caves.org.nz/>

Kind regards,

Kirsty

