

## FROM THE EDITOR



The above sequence was taken by John Brush during the pre conference caving trip in Naracoorte. I took a small group to a cave in the Council-owned quarry, only to discover it had collapsed and entry was not possible. I guess bulldozers and caves don't mix. We spent some time looking for marine fossils, and being short of tools, I resorted to traditional means of breaking rocks.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Cave and Karst Management was held in Naracoorte from 10-15 May 2015. It was a very full week enjoyed by a smaller group of delegates than had attended the previous few conferences, but nevertheless enjoyed by all attendees. A report on the conference appears in this journal.

The biggest news in caving this year was the passing of Prof Elery Hamilton-Smith on 27 June 2015. Many tributes flowed in the days following the announcement. I was able to attend the service held in Melbourne, travelling over with Brian Clark and Cath Loder. Quite a few ACKMA people made the trip. The diversity of the crowd present reflected the breadth of Elery's expertise and interests, with the eulogy presented by Dennis Williamson comprehensively covering Elery's life. I think everyone present learnt a little more about the man. The September edition of the journal will be dedicated to Elery, and include the eulogy, tributes and information I have been provided and able to gather.

Please feel free to send more information and images for this edition. It is fitting that the 100<sup>th</sup> ACKMA journal remembers a man who did so much for caves, karst and ACKMA itself.

This journal includes two papers presented at the conference. Cathie Plowman discusses the issue of coins in caves and Sasa Kennedy explores the power of connection to a site.

I was very pleased to be contacted by Luiz Travassos from Brazil, offering a paper on geotourism and geoconservation in that country. This second offering from his university is most welcome - perhaps Brazil is an option for a future ACKMA event? Kent Henderson provided a paper on Capricorn Caves, perfectly timed to whet members' appetites for the 2016 AGM.

About two years ago, I was emailed by Ralph Crane seeking cave images for a book. Usual story, educational book, no money for images. I obliged with a disc of images and had actually forgotten all about it when Ralph emailed asking for my postal address to send me a copy in return for the images used. Greg Middleton obtained an early copy and has provided an extensive review.

<b>Coming Events</b>	
2016: May	<b>ACKMA Annual General Meeting and Cave Guides Workshop, Rockhampton, Queensland</b>
2017: May	<b>ACKMA Annual General Meeting, Auckland (tentative)</b>
2017: 23-30 July	International Union of Speleology Congress, Penrith, NSW, Australia
2018: May	<b>ACKMA Biannual Conference, Wombeyan Caves, New South Wales (tentative)</b>
	Do you know of an event that may interest ACKMA members? Please send to <a href="mailto:publications@ackma.org">publications@ackma.org</a>