



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,

I hope this finds you hale and hearty and ready to enjoy whatever festivities you celebrate at this time of year!

Welcome to a bumper end-of-year edition of the ACKMA Journal – many thanks to all those contributors who made this such an impressive issue!

I was intending to make the focus of this journal on New Zealand, to whet our appetites for the upcoming conference, but due to a variety of issues this has not eventuated. However fortuitously I did receive several very interesting articles with a Nullarbor focus, and due to the contentious issues of development there at present, this is probably very timely.

We also have the announcement of the 2023 Cave Animal of the Year – which will fit in very well with our conference location.

The good news story with an NZ focus is the purchase of the land at Takaka with the entrance to the Greenlink Cave System. This is very near our 2023 conference location, and we are hoping to be able to organise a visit. ACKMA was able to contribute to this purchase, so you can claim credit for this one!

There are a couple of new cave books that are reviewed, and both look stunning. Garry Smith has also found time to contribute a fabulous travel article on the highest altitude show cave in France.

Andy Spate has provided a summary of the LED workshop given by Liz Reed, and you can view the workshop on the ACKMA website.

Congratulations to Professor Andy Baker who has just received a prestigious award from the Royal Society of NSW for his karst research, and to all those who have assisted him in these endeavours!

On behalf of the Committee, I want to send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to all those who are unwell or caring for them, especially Neil Collinson and Geoff Deer – our thoughts are with you.

This issue marks the unveiling of the Takaka 2023 logo – and it is a ripper! Many thanks to the student of the Takaka High School for their vision and enthusiasm.

Reminders to submit nominations for the Ann Augusteyn Award for excellence and outstanding contribution of an individual to cave and karst guiding and interpretation. I am sure many of you know people that could qualify for this, and it is important that we recognise these efforts!

Finally, there is copy of the 2023 Conference registration form at the back of the journal, as well as the information on accommodation options – so get busy and get booking!

Wishing all an enjoyable and safe festive season, and I look forward to receiving all your wonderful journal contributions next year!!!

Kind regards,

Kirsty

