



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,

As we pass the March equinox and slip into autumn, the time has come to finalise plans for attending the 2023 ACKMA Conference and AGM in Takaka, NZ. There is information available on the ACKMA website, including accommodation suggestions and the conference booking form. The booking form is also included at the end of this journal for your convenience.

More detailed information on the conference program and issues for consideration have also been included in this edition by the Conference Convenors. If you have any questions, please feel free to email [conferenceconvenor@ackma.org](mailto:conferenceconvenor@ackma.org)

I have attempted to ensure that correct language forms for Māori words and place names have been included throughout the journal, but if I have missed any please accept my profound apologies!

It is also time to elect a new ACKMA Committee at the upcoming AGM. On behalf of the outgoing Committee, we would like to thank members for the support they have given to Committee events and online activities over the last year. We would encourage members to think about nominating for a position on the Committee if you think you would like a broader role in developing the roles and functions of the ACKMA organisation going forward. It is not an onerous responsibility and we need broader representation to accommodate our role in a changing world. The nomination form is at the end of the journal should you require it. If you would like to speak with any of the Committee Members about questions or responsibilities, please use the email addresses at the beginning of the journal for contacting us. In addition, there will be a formal call for nominations for Committee positions circulated by the Executive Officer to the ACKMA mailing list closer to the date.

Nominations for Fellow of ACKMA and Life Member of ACKMA will also be considered. If there is anyone you feel should be nominated for these honours, please email the President [president@ackma.org](mailto:president@ackma.org) with suggestions and details for consideration.

It is perhaps timely to send a reminder to consider what you want from ACKMA as an organisation. We are in the process of developing some strategic plans to make sure that ACKMA is relevant and useful to the whole of the karstic community, and would highly value input from members to assist this process. There will be more on this coming in an email to the members list, so watch that space!

As Editor, I would also value insights into what people would like to see in the journal – bearing in mind that I can only publish what I receive. Journal submission deadlines have been standardised so they are easy to remember – the deadline will be the first of the month that the journal is published, i.e.:

- 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 1<sup>st</sup> June
- 1<sup>st</sup> September
- 1<sup>st</sup> December

The comment was made recently that from a guide's perspective... "the journal is very academic/scientific/proper which I understand makes it deemed more attractive in the management space but guides probably want a bit more fun". I am happy to consider any submissions – so if you have something you think would be beneficial or interesting – please put something together and submit it for publication!!!

I especially challenge any guides to come up with something they think would be relevant and interesting to their colleagues. This is on open request, so please pass this on to any cave guides you know, even if they are not presently an ACKMA member – I am happy to look at suggestions with a view to publication in the journal.

Stay safe and I look forward to the journal being inundated with submissions!

Kind regards,

Kirsty

