



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,

I am pleased and honoured to be re-elected as the ACKMA Journal editor (I am ignoring the fact there were no other nominations!). I am trying some new formatting options in this journal as some people have indicated that they were having trouble reading the prior formats. I would be very grateful for any feedback on these changes!

First and foremost, hearty congratulations to the Tākaka Conference Organising Committee for what we hear was a fabulous conference in a spectacular location! Unfortunately, there was not sufficient time for delegates to compose any detailed reports, but hopefully there will be more in the September journal. If you have photos you would like to share, please contact Rauleigh Webb at [webmaster@ackma.org](mailto:webmaster@ackma.org).

Secondly, I wish to thank those contributors who were patient with the publication of their submissions from the December journal – I am most grateful, and hopefully everyone will appreciate your contributions even more this time around.

We have a few changes on the ACKMA Committee this year. We say farewell and thankyou to Shannon Corkhill. A big thankyou to Scott Melton for his efforts as Australian Vice President and we are very glad that he will still be participating as a Committee Member. Dave Gillieson has moved from Committee Member to Australian Vice President, and we are exceptionally grateful for his skills and experience. We also welcome Jill Rowling as a new Committee Member and look forward to a new perspective and input into Committee matters. For those of you who may not know Jill, she is a caver from NSW and also an ASF member and has been active in several submissions on karst issues recently. It is also very heartening to see so many of the old Committee standing again, so thankyou to all of you too!

You may notice that there are a few formatting changes in this issue, as Rauleigh Webb particularly wanted the graphs for the Cave Climate update to be visible in landscape format, so they could be more easily read. If you still wish to print the journal out, these pages should auto-format, but if you have any difficulties, please let me know and I can send you a pdf with those pages rotated to a portrait view.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to those people who send in contributions to the journal. We have a wide variety of interests and experience in ACKMA, and it is great to see that being shared. I should have several international trips being reported for the next journal and will happily accept any other contributions.

An especial note of gratitude to Rauleigh Webb and Andy Spate for proof-reading this document in an extremely tight timeframe, so it could be completed before I went away!

Kind regards, Kirsty

