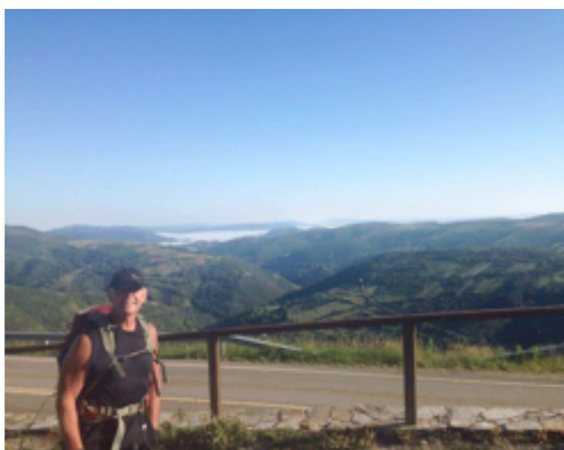


PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dale Calnin



Pilgrim Dale on the Camino de Santiago in Spain

As I sit and ponder what to write for my report for the journal, I am amazed how quickly we have arrived to the joy of Spring weather, farewelling the departure of the bleak winter weather conditions that have hounded us over the past few months.

But I shouldn't complain since I managed to dodge a large portion of the Australian winter season.

A fortnight after our fabulous AGM at Te Anau in New Zealand I flew to Paris, then jumped on a train to St Jean de Port in France, where the following day commenced an 800 kilometre walk across Spain, known as the Camino de Santiago.

People have walked the Camino de Santiago for over 1000 years and this time-honoured tradition is how most people experience the Camino.

The concept of the pilgrimage on foot was largely a necessity for the poorer Pilgrims in medieval times as few could afford to go by horseback. For the modern day pilgrim, walking offers the chance to slow down the hectic pace of modern life and revert to a gentler more reflective rhythm. Known as the Way of St James this 800-kilometre-long walk passes through breathtaking landscapes of Spain and France and takes you over the Pyrenees mountain range. For me it was a blend of "pleasure and pain", all at once. Walking approximately 30-35 kilometres each day in temperatures that reached the high 30 degrees by mid-afternoon.

Anyway, long story short, I survived. A tough way to lose weight, despite a high calorie diet of beer bread and pizza but a wonderful experience that I would highly recommend to anyone looking for a challenge and to escape the demands of life for a few weeks.

Moving onto more important things.

Following an invitation from the new Commercial Manager for East Gippsland Tanya Taylor, I recently visited my old stamping ground of 40 years, the Buchan Caves Reserve. It was fantastic to catch up with my old colleagues and those new to the Buchan operation to share knowledge in the Cave and Karst Management of Buchan and the wider Murrindal areas. With the inevitable prospect of current staff either moving on or transitioning to retirement over the coming years we are very keen to have in place well documented protection and maintenance programs for any new staff arrivals in the Buchan Caves operation.

On behalf of ACKMA, I congratulate the Organising Committee of the 17th International Congress of Speleology recently held in Sydney. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but from all reports it was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Also to Andy Spate and others, on their successful submission regarding the nomination of the Cliefden Caves to the NSW State Heritage Register. The listing was published on the 30 August 2017 in Government Gazette No. 96. Cliefden Caves Area was listed due to its heritage significance to the people of the state of New South Wales. Details including the statement of significance can be viewed on the State Heritage Register via the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage website at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

A big shout out and thank you to our Treasurer Tony Culberg who has worked feverishly since his appointment at the AGM in Te Anau, sorting out ACKMA financials, bank accounts, authorisations and other governance requirements. To finalise this good work in our business and administrative systems will make ACKMA stronger and enable us to focus more on the planning and management of Cave and Karst.

As time ticks closer to the 22nd ACKMA Conference in Margaret River Region of Western Australia, it is encouraging to learn that some of our members have already booked their flights and made the necessary planning arrangements to attend. I look forward to seeing program details on what promises to be another fantastic conference well attended by our ACKMA members.

Until then, keep up the good work you all do in cave and karst management.

		Level 6, 10 Valence Ave Parramatta NSW 2150 Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124 DX 8225 PARRAMATTA	Telephone: 61 2 9873 8500 Facsimile: 61 2 9873 8599 heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au www.heritage.nsw.gov.au
DOC no: 17448395 File no: 5F1552976			
Mr Dale Calnin President Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association dale.calnin@parks.vic.gov.au			
Dear Mr Calnin			
Listing on the State Heritage Register: Cliefden Caves Area — Natural and Cultural Landscape Notice pursuant to 37(1)(a) of the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)			
I advise that the Minister for Heritage has, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of NSW, directed the listing of the above-mentioned heritage item on the State Heritage Register. The listing, a copy of which is attached, was published on 30 August 2017 in Government Gazette No. 96.			
The item was listed due to its heritage significance to the people of the state of New South Wales. The details of the item, including the statement of significance, can be viewed on the SHR via the Heritage Division, Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) website at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au by selecting Search the State Heritage Register and following the instructions.			
Should you have any enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Christina Kanelaki Lowe, heritage officer at the Heritage Division, OEH on (02) 9873 8558 or christina.kanelaki@environment.nsw.gov.au .			
Yours sincerely			
			
05/09/2017 MS KATRINA STANKOWSKI Acting Manager, Listings Heritage Division Office of Environment & Heritage			
As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW			
end.			