

New Zealand Vice President Report

Peter Chandler

We remember Derek Lipyeat, husband of Moira, who passed away on 10 June, a few weeks after his 90th birthday. Derek first caved in Wookey Hole in 1949 and arrived in NZ in 1962. He and Moira discovered the Canterbury Caving Group in the mid-1980s and were well known for being on rambling campervan trips intersecting with ACKMA and NZSS events. We remember Derek fondly.

Tuesday 8 December was the first anniversary of the Whakaari/White Island eruption where 17 Australians, 2 Americans, 1 German and 2 local guides died during or from this steam eruption. As would be expected after such a tragic event, standards in the adventure tourism industry are in the spotlight again. In the world of cave tourism and adventure tourism, there are no exact parallels, but plenty of the duty of care for cave visitors happens during times of heavy rain, and the ability to make a call to cancel a cave visit is an essential part of the site management. Perhaps now surprising, but on 27 April 2016 White Island did erupt in a similar fashion, but in

the evening when no one was visiting. Similar alarm bells ring when we hear of close calls on cave tours.

Earlier this year, a discussion document was put out for public comment, it being about how to tackle the problem of moa and other extinct species bones being removed from protected sites and sold.

We look forward to this new law being in place and thank members who made submissions on this.

It is very difficult to say what the international travel situation will be for Kiwis wanting to attend the 2021 Wellington AGM. At this stage, getting there is relatively easy, but returning requires 14 days of quarantine and it costs \$4000 if not eligible for NZ government funding....

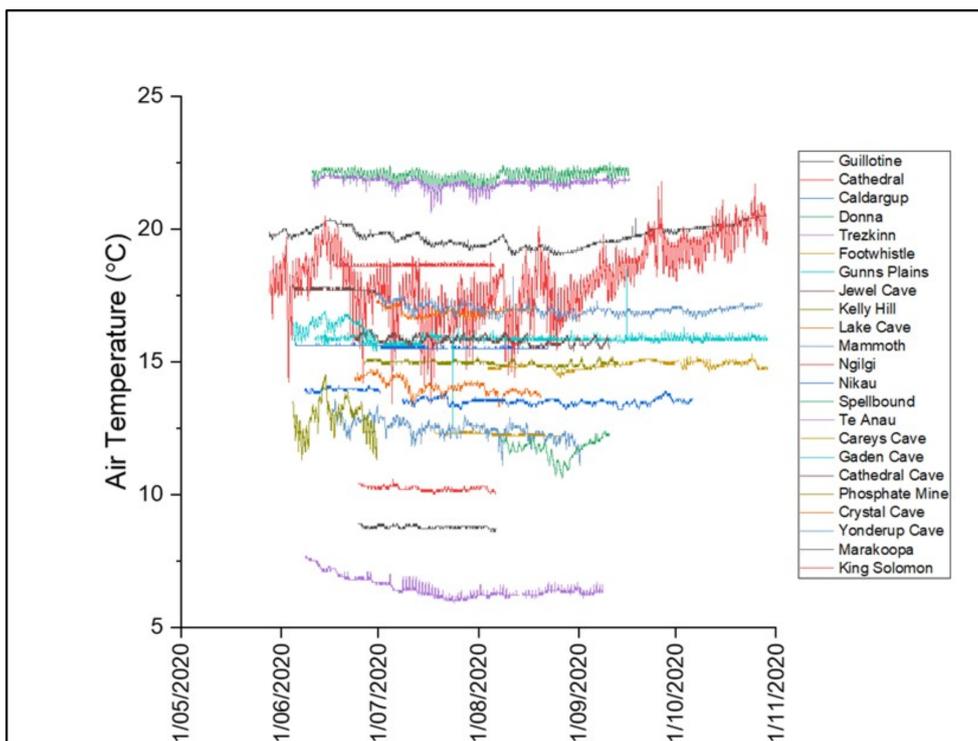
The New Zealand Speleological Society and The Waitomo Museum of Caves have both looked positively at events to be run in association with the 2021 Year of Caves and Karst.

Further out, planning is underway for a full ACKMA conference at and around Takaka, northwest of Nelson on the South Island in 2022.

ACKMA Cave Climate Project – December 2020

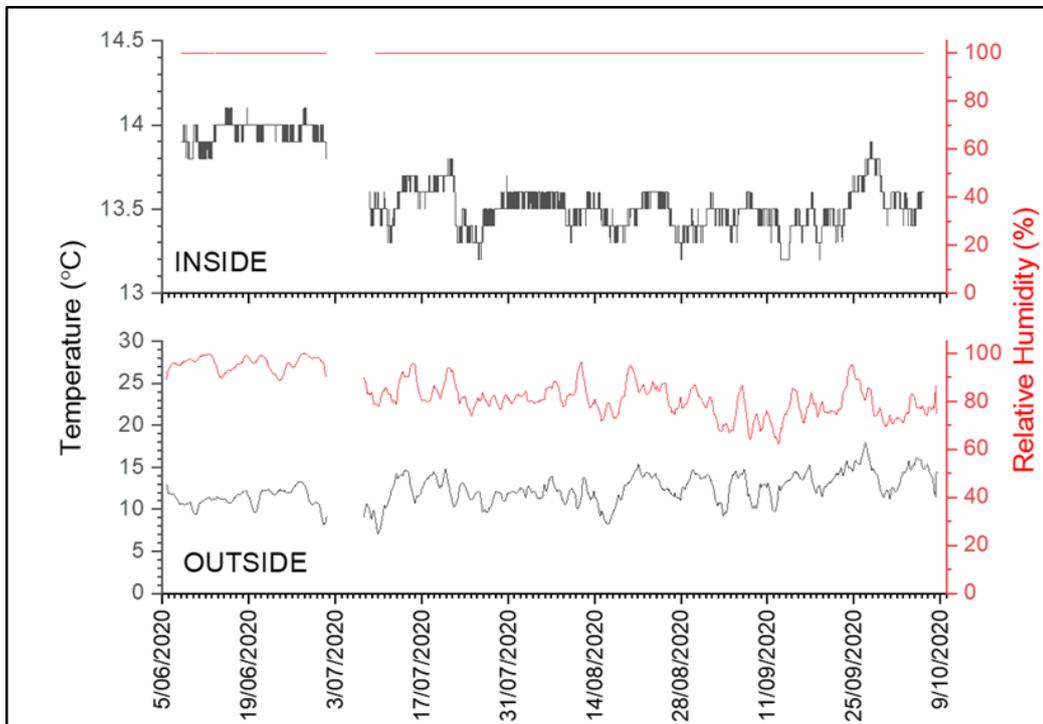
Andy Baker, Dave Gillieson and Andy Spate

The first six months of results has already improved our understanding of the cave climate at each participating cave. Ongoing results will help to inform the management of individual caves. The data so far identify the importance of conduction of heat from the overlying surface and ventilation of buoyant air from cave entrance(s). The next six months of data will cover the austral summer, a period of decreased cave ventilation. All data have been provided to participating organisations.

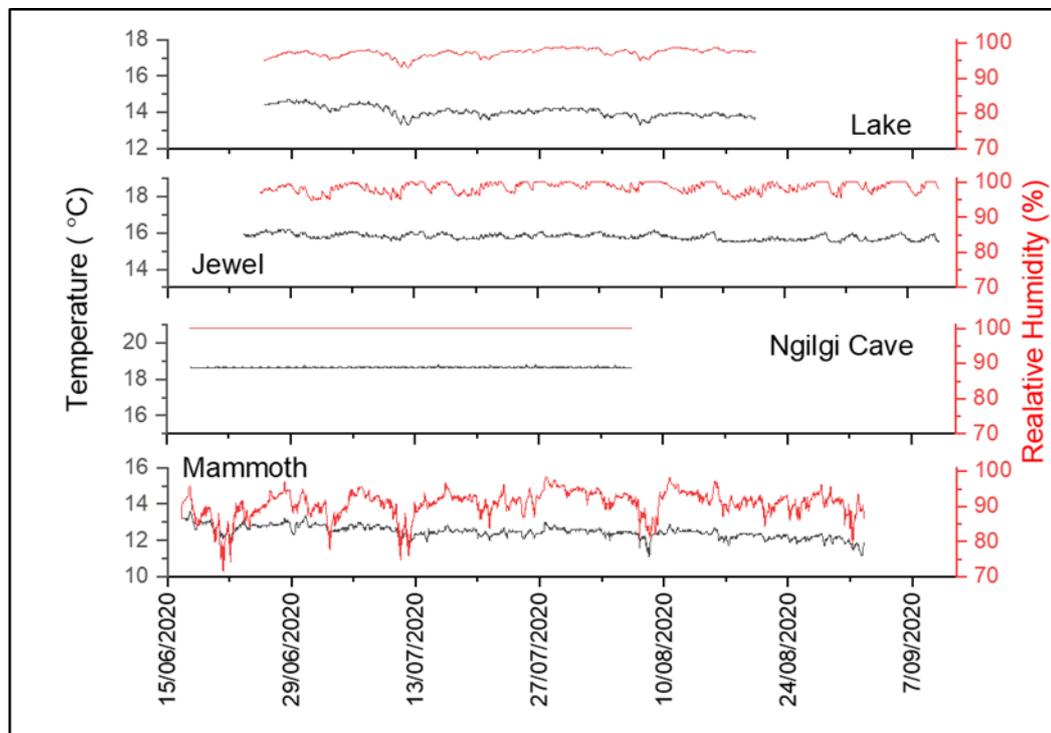


Results to date from participating cave sites

This project is running along relatively smoothly, given the large number of sites and loggers involved. We have had some technical difficulties, but these were not major. Most of our participating cave sites are supplying data, as you can see from the image above. We are working on ways of making the data easier to read and on ways of bringing out the data on individual sites on this complex graph below. Andy Baker continues to provide interpretation to individual sites on the data they submit. Some examples follow:



Nikau Cave, New Zealand. Nearly 100 tours run over three months, with 970 people walking through the cave.



Four caves from SW Western Australia, illustrating the individual nature of cave climate, depending on ventilation, cave morphology and surface heat environment

A highlight for us over the past few months has been a presentation by Andy Baker to a virtual cave science conference conducted by the British Cave Research Association (BCRA) in mid-November. You can view this presentation on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu_TDxz8KSU_OXItVlhvrzMJ1nI7nFOhJ

Andy Baker's presentation was followed by one from researchers at Poole Cavern, UK, using a similar approach to ACKMA.