

## EDITORIAL

There is little about which to editorialise on this occasion. Although the Association's committee has been active during the period since the last Journal, that activity is later reported upon comprehensively by our President.

There are two matters to which I bring your attention. The first is that there will be a change of editorship of the Journal commencing with the preparation of the September issue.

Because our incoming editor, Christian Bom, the Chief Guide at Capricorn Caves, will not be able to fulfil the editorial role until his return from long leave, I have agreed to produce the June edition, the first under the new arrangement discussed below – a production which will enable a transition to the new regime for the Journal.

My term as editor will finish with the production of the June Journal (one edition more than I had hoped would be the case).

The second matter concerning the Journal is, at this stage, simply something that I foreshadow – as it remains subject to committee consideration and, subsequently, ratification by the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Full editorial and layout preparation for an edition of the Journal is a quite time-consuming task. For the past three years, the editorial functions (and proofreading which I share with Tony Culberg, who has been an enormous assistance to me) takes perhaps 10 to 12 hours spread out over the period during which material is submitted for inclusion.

This aspect of the editor's role I have found to be reasonably able to be accommodated within the ebb and flow of the demands of my judicial and family lives. However, doing the Journal layout is quite a different proposition. Toward the end of each period, preparing the layout of a Journal for distribution to the membership (whether in the old printed/electronic format or now in the solely electronic format) takes me a full weekend—an activity of two very lengthy days.

In a discussion within the committee over the past several meetings, it was agreed to explore the option of having an external party contracted to undertake the layout function – thus leaving it to the editor to prepare the material in a traditional editorial fashion. This only involves pre-layout checking and correcting copy; proofreading the copy (Tony has agreed to continue in this role and I thank him for this); selecting and captioning photographs; and identifying where, within the text, photographs were to be inserted. The final role is to check the page proofs.

A quote was sought from our former printers, Hansen Print in Naracoorte, South Australia, for undertaking this layout task. A sample of their layout work has also been provided to the committee. I have made a recommendation to the committee that the Hansen Print quote be accepted. I expect, from indications to me from members of

the committee, that that recommendation will be adopted after this Journal edition has been put to bed. I therefore expect that this new arrangement will operate after the Annual General Meeting and commence with the June edition.

It has been a pleasure, dear readers, to produce twelve editions (with one to come)!

As ever, however, your editor will be dependent on the contributions received – contributions which have, at a very general level, come from a comparatively small pool of authors. Although these COVID-19 times remain dark and potentially impacting on us all, I encourage you to “put fingers to keyboard” and produce contributions for future editions of this Journal.

### Tim Moore

In Andy Spate's article in the December Journal, he asked to be sent pictures of cave pearls. Ian Eddison sent three images (all from Cathedral Cave, Wellington NSW):

