

# Editorial

Christian Bom

It is with great pleasure that I can introduce myself as the new ACKMA Journal Editor, but firstly, I want to thank Tim Moore for the great work he has done in past journals. I certainly have a lot to live up to and I am looking forward to seeing what I can do with the journal in the future.

I am blessed to have worked for the wonderful Ann Augusteyn for several years. Ann inspired me to push my own boundaries and continuously grow, both personally and professionally. In my seven years as a tour guide, my interest in science has grown significantly. Starting out as just a job, interpreting our natural world has become a passion of mine. I have been to three ACKMA conferences, at the Capricorn Caves, Te Anau, and Margaret River.

I have recently been given the Head Guide position at the Capricorn Caves. This role involves the training of guides, the management of tour content (ensuring content is up to date and correct), and much more. It has been a time of major change here at the Capricorn Caves since Ann's passing. Now with new management and staff structure, the future of the Capricorn Caves is certainly in very good hands and there are many exciting projects in the making.

Now that I've introduced myself, I would like to share my plan for future editions of the journal. As this is the first time putting a journal together like this, it has taken me longer than I had anticipated. In the future I will strive to send out reminders to submit material (with the deadline) much earlier so I will have more time to plan the layout. I would also like to base each journal around a particular subject (or subjects). For example, I would like to add a large section in the next journal about the bushfire recovery and how we have all fared through this pandemic (and the strategies that have been put

in place to manage it). I strongly encourage feedback on this, so please feel free to let me know if you have any suggestions as to what should be added.

As a result of the continuing lockdowns and travel restrictions in much of Australia, this year's meeting and Guide School will be conducted online. It is certainly a new age in communication and this year will be the first time this event has been conducted entirely online. I, along with many of you, have grown a deeper love for all things caves as a result of our conferences and guide schools. I look forward to the day that we will all be able to gather once again.

As you will notice, this journal includes a section about Ernie Holland. He was the first president of ACKMA and contributed dramatically to the formation of our association. As many of us never had the honour of meeting him, you will find a wonderful story of his life that has been put together by Andy with comments from many others that were touched by the life of this charismatic man.

If you are not already aware, David Gillieson has released a new book, titled *Caves – Processes, Development, and Management (Second Edition)*. In this journal you will find a review of this book by Andy Spate and Kevin Keirnan.

As you may notice, we have some new names added into the ACKMA Fellows and Life Members section. I would like to congratulate John Brush and Tim Moore on becoming our newest ACKMA Life Members and David Gillieson and Andy Baker on becoming ACKMA Fellows. In my relatively short time in ACKMA, I have been blown away by the commitment I have seen from these wonderful members. Thank you all for everything you have done and continue to do.



Grand Entrance, Capricorn Caves