

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Michael Chalker

I haven't seen or heard much from the ACKMA executive of late as everyone has been quite busy. However, I was fortunate to run into Ann Augusteyn in Canberra a while ago. I was at a trade show and Ann was passing through. It was good to have a chat.

A very pleasant surprise was a visit from my old mate Peter Bell. Peter is the Karst Resources Officer for the Augusta/Margaret River Caves. He and a couple of motor racing friends decided to visit the car racing at Bathurst over the October Long Weekend. Peter informs me that it was his "his first and last visit to the Bathurst 1000!! However, a visit to Wombeyan, Jenolan and Abercrombie cheered him up immensely. Peter tells me that all is progressing well in the West, in particular the new *Caveworks* centre at Lake Cave.

Congratulations are extended to the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust on the re-opening of the highly significant and spectacular Cathedral Cave at Abercrombie Caves. The work involved in the re-development of Cathedral Cave is a credit to Andy Lawrence and his team. The official opening was

performed by the Chairman of the Trust, Warwick Bennett, with guests attending from near and far.

The Directory of Caves published by Kent Henderson and Dennis Rebbechi is a very worthwhile publication. If you are looking for a Christmas present, please include the Directory on your list. All the entries offer exciting and educational experiences.

I trust that you all submitted your ideas and artwork for the ACKMA Logo Competition. My suggestion is a compilation of a camera, fax machine and a very large torch!!! Only joking Hendo, the torch is too big!! (Careful Mick, "Bertha" may sue!! - Ed.)

With the 12th ACKMA Conference looming for 27 April to 4 May at Waitomo in New Zealand, I trust that intending participants have completed their registration forms. More importantly, have you submitted your leave forms? As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a happy and healthy Christmas.