

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

– Steve Bourne

I write this from a hotel room in Jeju City, after attending a workshop for the “Better Management of Protected Areas”. The Korean people have been incredibly generous and helpful and I hope they will benefit from the thirty international delegates they funded to attend.

The result was the preparation of the “Jeju Consensus”, suggesting areas that require consideration, improvement and support for the better management of protected areas in East Asia. Professor Kyung Sik Woo, who many will remember from our Chillagoe Conference and working with Andy Spate arranging the ACKMA presence at Samcheok World Cave Expo, generously flew to Jeju to show me the Dangcheomuldonggul and Yongcheondonggul lava tubes (I can almost pronounce the names now!).

The first tube was the focus of a presentation at our Wombeyan Conference and those at the New Zealand Conference last year will remember Andy's slide show of Yongcheondonggul.

This lava tube has artefacts left by people who used the cave prior to its entrance(s?) closing with sand infill and a lake that may connect to the sea. Both are very special places and these facts will greatly enhance the chance of World Heritage inscription. Security is second to none, but I sincerely hope that there is much careful thought

to their long-term management, because both are incredibly fragile.

Cathie Plowman recently held the first of her workshops at Naracoorte to commence the building of a cave guides resource kit. It was a successful workshop with Tantanoola and Princess Margaret Rose Caves' guides also participating. Naracoorte staff reported it was the best interpretation workshop they had attended. I was embarrassed by one point Cathie raised; we provide plenty of training opportunities and have a reasonable library of resources at Naracoorte. However, we have embarrassingly few books on interpretation. I would suggest we might not be alone. I also encourage other sites that have the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Cathie and to make the most of it.

As reported by Andy Spate elsewhere in this Journal, ACKMA was unsuccessful at the recent ISCA Congress in Bermuda in obtaining the 2010 Congress for Waitomo. On behalf of ACKMA, I thank Andy Spate, Greg Martin, Peter Chandler and various Waitomo members for their efforts in pulling together the submission and Andy for presenting it in Bermuda.

May the summer season be a successful one for all and don't forget to complete your attendance form for our coming Buchan Conference as soon as possible – that will greatly assist the organising committee.



Yongcheongdonggul lava tube is heavily decorated with calcite speleothems, derived from carbonate sands over the top of the lava tube. It is extremely fragile with many values and the scientific research program will require much thought and very careful management. Visitation should be limited, as evidenced by the track that passes between these very long straws.