

FROM THE EDITOR

The ACKMA Wee Jasper weekend is almost upon us! It will be great to catch up with old friends and visit a part of Australia that has had some rain this year.

This journal features articles covering a wide variety of topics. Kristen Lear is on a one year Fulbright scholarship from the US working at Naracoorte. Kristen has been a real asset to the bat research having the time to dedicate to solid data gathering that is so desperately needed with the critically endangered southern bent-wing bat. She provides an update of her progress.

Naracoorte features again with the latest palaeontological research from Liz Reed. Liz is currently funded through a Caring for our Country project and as mentioned in the last journal, has been keeping me busy assisting her.

Jenolan Caves won not one, but two, awards at the the Australian Tourism Awards. Congratulations to Jewel Cave in Western Australia for making the final, but there can only be one winner. Jenolan Caves is really at the forefront of cave tourism again, with state of the art infrastructure and lighting complemented by excellent interpretation. The ISCA Congress in 2014 will certainly open a few eyes by the standards being set by the Jenolan team.

Kent Henderson keeps finding out of the way caves on his journeys and reports on Thunderbolt's Cave, with Andy Spate contributing some information on additional Thunderbolt's Caves in Australia. I suggest someone might like to do a paper on "Cathedral Caves" and see how many they can find!

Garry K Smith reports on a visit to Sulewesi, a place that not too many of us have visited I suspect. As show caves, they are a long way from the Jenolan experience and they could learn a lot from Australian cave managers, although I suspect budgets may constrain desired development. As usual, the photography is spot on from Garry.

Many of us will travel from Wee Jasper to Yarrongobilly at the AGM weekend and Pauline Treble and her team have provided an update on their research at Yarrongobilly.

Parts of Australia has received huge summer rainfall and Buchan Caves has not missed out. Dale Calnin reports on flash flooding that swept through the valley. Dale has also notified me that the Caves Guides Workshop will be held at Buchan caves from 2-4 September 2012. Lock in the dates and further information will be provided in the next journal. These workshops are invaluable for staff involved at the "coal face" of cave presentation and I urge managers to budget to allow some of their staff to attend.

Another exciting happening at Buchan is the purchase of the significant Scrubby Creek Cave and land by the

Rimstone Cooperative. They are seeking financial support to reach their target and secure the future of this cave.

Some fond memories of a trip across the Nullarbor were revived with a report provided by Lorna Charlton. Lorna worked with a number of people including ACKMA members to develop interpretation for Cocklebidy Cave. Its a long drive to view it first hand but I am sure it will enhance the visitor experience for those visitors to make it there.

The International Show caves Association (ISCA) has formed a Commission on Interpretation in Show Caves. This is chaired by Zsuzsay Tolnay from Hungary with Dan Cover from Jenolan as vice chair. I look forward to seeing their work.

ISCA is busy preparing for its conference in November and for those who have been involved i conference convening, imagine the challenge facing the organisers for this event across two countries, Greece and Turkey. The circular reports increased complexity because of two different currencies, especially with volatile currency markets at present.



ACKMA's ISCA membership

Underground cavities are routinely found in the south east of South Australia, more by heavy machinery than cavers nowadays. I was more than a little excited when the photo below was sent to me, as I recognised the shed and tank in the background as the Tank Cave location. Tank Cave is a popular diving cave that almost connects to Fossil Cave (Green Waterhole is some texts) and has over seven kilometres of explored underwater passages. The cavity was discovered during roadworks on the Princes Highway but was unfortunately just a small cave with no passages and no connection through to Tank Cave.



Small cave adjacent to the Princes Highway



Savannah Guides is a network of professional tour guides with a collective in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural assets of the tropical savannahs of northern Australia, north Queensland, Northern Territory and the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Savannah Guides Sites and Stations have been developed by privately and publicly owned enterprises and feature nature and/or culture based interpretive activities, while mobile Savannah Guides Operators and Master Operators conduct roving tours within and through the region. All Savannah Guides enterprises must incorporate natural or cultural interpretive activities as a prominent part of their business and demonstrate a commitment to conservation values.

Some good news just in from Andy Spate for Ann Augusteyn and Capricorn Caverns.

A Savannah Guides School has just been hosted by Capricorn Caverns at which they were endorsed as a Savannah Guide Site and Enterprise joining similar enterprises at Kakadu, Undarra, Cobbold Gorge and Adels Grove as well as a number of tour operators across northern Australia. Savannah Guides is a fantastic operation dedicated to better interpretation of the wonderful resources of that region. Ann and Amanda
 xxxMore details from their website: <http://sgltd.com.au>
 Part of their site appears below.



Well done, Ann and team!

Coming Events	
2012: 4-6 May	ACKMA Annual General Meeting, Wee Jasper, New South Wales
2012: 5-10 Aug	Brisbane: International Geological Conference with a symposium on Geotourism & Geoparks
2012: Sept	12 th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, Galicia, Spain
2012: 6-15 Sept	World Conservation Conference. Jeju Island, South Korea
2012 13-15 Sept	International Congress of Scientific Research in Show Caves, Socjan Caves, Slovenia
2012: 3-11 Nov	International Show Caves Association Conference Greece/Turkey
2013: 6-11 Jan	Australian Speleological Federation, 29th Biennial Conference, Galong, NSW, Australia
2013: 12-18 May	ACKMA 20th Conference, Waitomo Caves, New Zealand
2013: July 21-28	Brno, Czech Republic: 16 th International Conference of Speleology
2014: October	International Show Caves Association, Jenolan Caves, Australia