

ACKMA EXTENDS its REACH!

Andy Spate and Tim Moulds

Dr Tim Moulds is now an Adjunct Secretary of the International Union of Speleology.

At 2017 at the UIS conference in Sydney, Tim was encouraged by several people including Dr Julia James and ASF President John Cugley to stand for the UIS Bureau. Tim was elected as Adjunct Secretary at the UIS General Assembly and now represents all Australian cavers, karst scientists and speleologists at the UIS. He maintains a strong interest in the biology and management of Australasian caves and karst.

Tim was born in the suburbs of northern Sydney in the late 1970s. His parents had a strong interest in the outdoors and Tim was fortunate to travel Australia widely during most summers camping and collecting insects for the Australian Museum as a child. His father Max had been interested in caves as a young man and was a founding member of Kempsey Speleological Society. This interest in caves was passed onto Tim at a young age and his first caving trip was into Weebubbie Cave on the Nullarbor at the age of five.

It was not until Tim started university studies that his interest in caving was reignited when he joined the Macquarie University Caving Group (MUCG) in 1996 as he started his undergraduate studies in geology. He caved variously in 1996 and 1997 with a keen cohort of other cavers and geology students all over NSW and into Buchan Caves in Victoria.

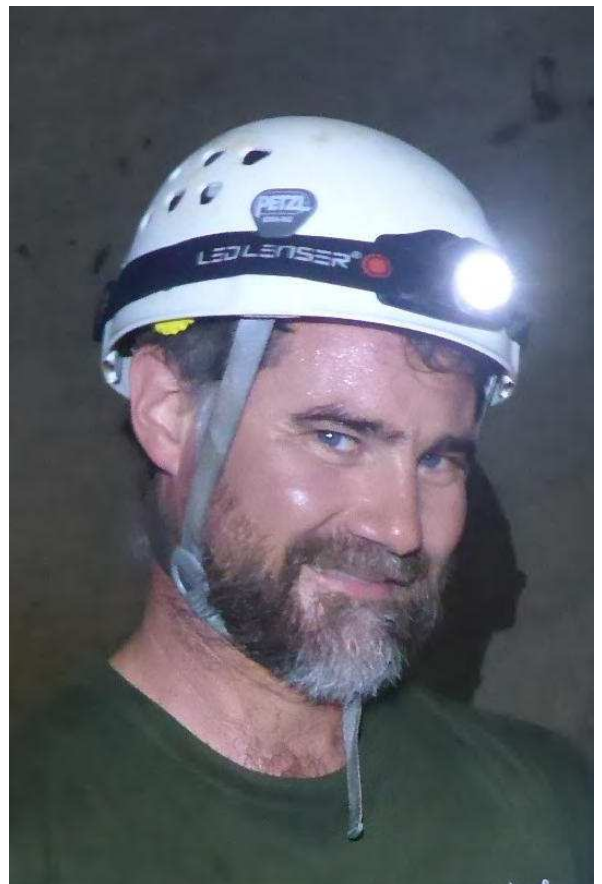
At the end of 1997 Tim joined the MUCG trip to Waitomo NZ and the world of international caving was awakened in him. He loved the caving in NZ for the high adrenaline and the cave rivers compared with what he had experienced previously in NSW. He went on to visit NZ caves many times over the past 20 years notching up some 17 trips across the ditch.

Following the completion of his undergraduate studies Tim spent several months caving in western Canada, on both Vancouver Island and the Rockies, exploring and mapping alpine caves with the Alberta Speleological Society. After working at the Australian Museum as a research assistant he was then able to combine his love of caves, entomology and geology to apply for a PhD scholarship at the University of Adelaide to study the guano invertebrates in Bat Cave at Naracoorte. Moving to Adelaide in 2002 he immersed himself in his PhD studies for the next three years whilst also attending his first ASF and ACKMA conferences in 2003. The guidance of then Naracoorte Cave manager Steve Bourne was invaluable in his appreciation of cave management standards.

Tim moved to Perth, Western Australia, in 2006 following the completion of his PhD studies to work as a mine geologist. While an interesting change from caves and entomology he quickly reverted back to working as an environmental consultant, specialising in subterranean fauna. For the past 12 years Tim has

combined karst science, cave management and subterranean biology to become an expert in Australian cave fauna, its management and the management of cave and karst. He has undertaken consultancies in Christmas Island, the World Heritage listed Phong Nha-Ke Bang karst in Vietnam and in the Mulu Caves in Malaysia. He was also accepted as a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Area (WCPA) Cave and Karst Protection working group in 2013, a position that he still holds. He currently runs his own environmental consultancy *Invertebrate Solutions* specialising in the diversity and management of subterranean invertebrates in Australasia.

Tim regularly participates in international caving expeditions and has caved in every major karst area in Australia as well as New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, China, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Madagascar, Slovenia, Italy, Czech Republic, UK and Canada. He is currently the President of the Western Australian Speleological Group.



Tim Moulds
Photo: Supplied