

Launch of 2020 Cave Animal of the Year—Australian Cave Crickets

Cathie Plowman

Amidst great excitement we launched the 2020 Cave Animal of the Year in Hobart on Sunday 1 December 2019.

The 2020 Australian Cave Animal of the Year is Australian Cave Crickets, a group of 22 related species of cave crickets in the Australian family *Rhaphidophoridae*.

Australian cave crickets are wingless insects and can be found in limestone, lava and granite caves in both moist and dry areas.

The Australian Cave Animal of the Year is based on a successful campaign that commenced in Germany in 2008. The program seeks to raise awareness of the small, specialised and sometimes odd-looking animals that live in caves and are specialised to survive and thrive in a world with little or no light.

“Cave Animal of the Year” is growing and in 2020 there

will also be programs in Italy, Switzerland and the United States to join those of Australia and Germany.

The 2020 Australian Cave Animal of the Year program has posters, bookmarks and stickers to raise community awareness of Australian Cave Crickets.

Our Cave Animal of the Year 2019 printed products won competitive design awards. The 2019 poster won three design awards and, as the 2020 poster is the same design, it is a work of art waiting to be displayed at your cave site or other public area.

Our 2020 posters, stickers and bookmarks are all free of charge and the mugs are \$10 each. (Postage might need a contribution, depending on the amount.)

Three ways that you can help grow the program and help raise community appreciation of cave animals:

Order your Cave Animal of the Year supplies at lueena@bigpond.com

Promote our website address on your publications: www.caveanimaloftheyear.org.au

Like and share us on Facebook.



Above—2019 and 2020 Australian “Cave Animal of the Year” posters (Gabriel Kinzler)

Right—self-evidently, “The Cake” at the launch! (Kelly Eijdenberg)



Above—Cathie Plowman (coordinator), Kelly Eijdenberg (graphic designer), Sam Lyne (illustrator) and Sil Iannello (cave ecologist) at the 2020 launch (Gabriel Kinzler)

Right—Anna and Ben Jackson cut the cave cricket cake at the launch (Gabriel Kinzler)

