

FROM THE EDITOR

I have hardly seen a cave since the Waitomo conference, unlike many lucky ACKMA members who attended the International Union of Speleology (UIS) Congress in the Czech Republic, and participated in many pre and post conference excursions. I look forward to catching up on their experiences and hopefully sharing some of them with you in this journal.

Congratulations to the bidding team from the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) who were successful, so we can now look forward to the 2017 Congress being held in Australia. This is a major coup as over the next three years we will be able to showcase Australasia's caves and karst to the world with this Congress and the International Show Caves Association Conference at Jenolan Caves next year. Of interest to many ACKMA members was the appointment of Kyung Sik Woo as president of the UIS. Kyung Sik is well known to many of us having attended the Chillagoe ACKMA Conference with several of his colleagues and visiting Australia on other occasions. He also produced two excellent cave books which were sold throughout Australia and New Zealand for a short time.

This journal has a decidedly international flavour to it. As I stated in the previous journal, I thought Sasa Kennedy's paper at the Waitomo Conference was a standout, right on conference theme with an excellent thoughtful analysis of three cave experiences in Spain. Her work prompted me to look at TripAdvisor website; perhaps a future paper on how the visiting public views caves of Australasia?! You will also find Sasa's paper on the CD ROM of the conference proceedings.

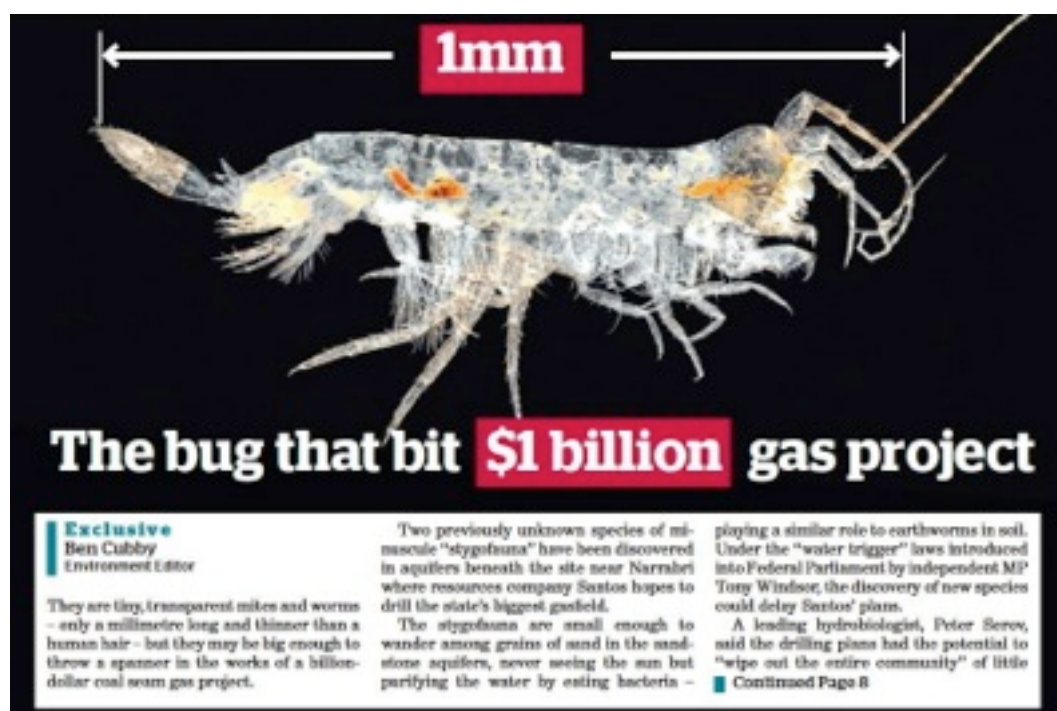
Likewise with Scott Melton's conference contribution. His paper discusses the impacts of digital technology on the delivery of cave tours from a guide's perspective. What is more important? Looking and listening to the guide of getting that photo that you share with your friends across multiple media? No easy answers to that question.

Kent Henderson and Garry K Smith have provided reports on their experiences in Malta and Germany respectively. I knew nothing of caves in Malta and have learnt there are some great fossil sites there! May need to take a visit. Garry's report covers a cave I had not previously have heard of either.

Kent and Garry's papers are excellent trip reports as they both include background geology, descriptions of the caves and landscape and comments of management. Keep this in mind if writing a report to share with members, these two papers serve as very good templates on how to produce a very useful report.

In keeping with the international flavour, we have a report from India by Yoav Bar-Ness. Written in the first person, this is a fabulous account of a visit to Cherrapunjee Cave in the Meghalaya Plateau. Now there is cave that very few people would have heard of!

We also acknowledge Julia James who was elected a Fellow of ACKMA at Waitomo. Julia has a long history of involvement in caves and karst and her citation covers a small part of this.



From the Sydney Morning Herald, 12 July 2013. Stygofauna halt plans for a gasfield in New South Wales. Thanks to Andy Spate for supplying this.