

Peace and Joy at Christmas
–with the compliments of a slimy maggot.

Announcing our 2023 Australian Cave Animal of the Year.

Who in ACKMA doesn't love glow-worms? These enthralling creatures bring us peace and joy and it is with great delight that we announce the 2023 Australian Cave Animal of the Year is Australia's eight species of glow-worms in the genus *Arachnocampa*. (There is a ninth species in the genus, *Arachnocampa luminosa* which is endemic to New Zealand.)

Inspired by the long-running German Cave Animal of the Year program (now in its fifteenth year) 2023 will be the fifth year of the Australian Cave Animal of the Year program. We commenced with a ten-year plan with the current promotional products (bookmarks, poster, sticker and mug).

While we've made a start on increasing awareness of cave animals amongst cave visitors, it's time to start thinking about how we can build on these efforts. It would be good to have some more people involved to take our ideas forward. You don't need to commit lots of time, and this would be a great opportunity to learn more about cave animals and contribute to their conservation. Want to be part of the Cave Animal of the Year team? I'd love to hear from you at hello@caveanimaloftheyear.org.au

Our 2023 Cave Animal products will be available from December. Thanks to our wonderful production team for their efforts, especially to illustrator Sam Lyne and graphic designer Kelly Eijdenberg/poco people. The intricacies of glow-worm threads and light has provided lots of challenges to everyone involved this year. Thanks to everyone concerned for their excellent efforts.

As usual, the stickers and bookmarks come free of charge, posters are also free of charge and available for display in public areas (sorry, not private offices or houses as the aim of the game is to increase public awareness). Payments to cover the cost of postage is desirable. Mugs are \$12.00 plus postage.

Supplies always run out, so don't delay on ordering at hello@caveanimaloftheyear.org.au

Thanks to the Karst Conservation Fund for support of the Cave Animal of The Year program.

For some glow-worm information go to www.caveanimaloftheyear.org.au

