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Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS)
Commission on Volcanic Caves

e-NEWSLETTER

UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter No.70

No.70 – August 2017

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<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>



<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/>

The Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter has been published regularly since December 22, 1993. The Newsletter is available free of charge to all members of the commission, and to others who are interested in Volcanic caves.

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UIS COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

Honorary Chairman
William R. Halliday, M.D.
wrhbna@bellsouth.net

Chairman
John Brush
Johnbrush@ozemail.com.au

Vice Chairman
Greg Middleton
ozspeleo@inet.net.au

Web Master
Dirk Stoffels
dirkjs123@bigpond.com

Editor
Ed Waters
Hayleyclark743@btinternet.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves encourages exploration and scientific investigation of volcanic caves, and hosts the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology about every two years



COVER PHOTO

Lava Plunge Pool in Kazamura Cave. Photographed by Ed Waters during the 17th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, Hawaii, February 2016.

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Editorial

It has been a long time since the last edition of the commission newsletter, No.69 being released well over two years ago back in April 2015. Hopefully after this lengthy pause I can get into the swing of things and get the newsletter to become the more regular publication it has been in the past.

Harry Marinakis set a really high bar in terms of both quality and frequency of the newsletter, and I would very much like to pass on my thanks to him (as I am sure all those interested in volcanic caves will also be) for carrying out this task for us all over the years. I will be really happy if I can do the job half as well as Harry did.

Although no newsletters have been published in the eighteen months since I took over from Harry at the symposium in Hawaii, I have not been totally neglecting my duties. The commission email list has now been (hopefully) brought up to date and we have 133 members on the list at present. The circulation list is managed via googlegroups, you do not have to join googlegroups to take part. Prospective members simply need to send me an email indicating their wish to join and I can add them directly to the group. Messages can then be sent to the commission membership simply by sending an email to ius-commission-on-volcanic-caves@googlegroups.com.

In addition, for those who use Facebook, a “secret” volcanic cavers group has been set up. If you wish to join, simply find me on Facebook (Ed Waters, profile pic of a load of muddy scaffolding) and send me a message.

Finally, it is not my newsletter but yours. I need material in order to produce them. Please send me any information, articles or photos in any format you like!

Ed Waters, 14th August 2017

Message from the Chairman

Hello everyone.

This is my first communication with you in my new position as Chairman of the IUS Commission on Volcanic Caves. I agreed to take on this role last month at a meeting of the Commission held at Penrith, Australia during the 17th International Congress of Speleology.

First, let me thank Kenneth Ingham for acting as Interim Chairman since February 2016. Those of you who were present at the previous meeting of the Commission, held during the 17th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology in Ocean View, Hawaii, will recall that after nobody expressed interest in taking over the Chairman's role from Jan-Paul Van der Pas, Kenneth reluctantly agreed to do so for 'a while'.

Several months ago, Kenneth and I arranged for Dirk Stoffels (Australia) to take over as Web Master and Dirk has been quietly working away to update the Commission's web pages. The hopelessly outdated membership/contacts list has been removed, the full complement of Vulcanospeleology newsletters is now available on line and details have been posted of the next Symposium, to be held in the Lava Beds area of Northern California in July 2018. More about that later.

It was also confirmed at the meeting as Greg Middleton (Australia) will continue as the Vice Chairman and that Ed Waters (United Kingdom) will continue as the newsletter editor. The Penrith meeting of the Commission was also notable in that several people expressed interest in joining, or re-joining the Commission. So, a big welcome (or welcome back) to:

David Foran (USA), Claude Mouret (France), John Taylor (Australia), Lyoun Kim (Korea), Kyung-Sik Woo (Korea) and Roberto Conti (Italy).

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It is my intention to run the commission in the relaxed and informal manner of Jan-Paul Van der Pas, the previous Chairman. It was Jan-Paul's view that membership of the Commission should be open to anyone who has an interest in volcanic caves and who wishes to be associated with the 'group'. That too will be my approach.

The 17th International Congress of Speleology at Penrith in Western Sydney closed a couple of weeks ago and with the last of the post-Congress field excursions now wrapped up, it is worth reflecting on what it meant for Vulcanospeleology.

The Congress was attended by more than 460 people. As to be expected, a good many of the delegates were locals; Australians. There were also many from the United States but in total delegates came from more than 45 countries right around the world.

The papers were many and varied, but of particular note were those presented in a small volcanic caves session:

Um Jirsan Lava Tube Cave (Saudi Arabia) by Mahmoud Ahmed Al Shanti.

The Complexity of Pyroduct ("Lava Tubes") Genesis: Bird Park Cave, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park by Stephan Kempe, Christhild Ketz-Kempe and Harry Shick.

Outstanding Universal Values of some lava tube caves in Jeju Island for potential World Heritage nomination by Kyung-Sik Woo, Lyoun Kim, Hyung-Chul Han and Jin-Seok Ki.

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In addition, there were two allied papers presented in the non-carbonate rocks session and the artificial cavities session. Both, by dint of the associations of subject matter and their authors involvement in the Commission on Volcanic Caves are also worthy of mention here:

Historical Notes and Research History of the non-karst caves of Hungary by István Eszterhás and George Szentés.

A 100-km-long subterranean Roman Aqueduct in northern Jordan? by Stephan Kempe and Ahmad Al-Malabeh.

The Roman Aqueducts were an undoubted highlight of an excursion to northern Jordan during the 16th International Symposium of Vulcanospeleology in 2012.

I think it would be of interest to be able to reproduce these papers in a future issue of the newsletter for the benefit of all members and we will be approaching authors to seek their approval to do this.

The next Symposium:

Planning is well in hand for the 18th International Symposium of Vulcanospeleology. It will be held at the Lava Beds National Monument in northeastern California, USA from 21 to 27 July, 2018. Further details are available on the Commission's Website:

<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/sym18/ISV18.html> . These details have been available for some time now and while there has been a slight delay in working out final costings and thus in being able to finalise the registration form, I understand these matters should be resolved in the very near future.

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The timing of the Symposium has been chosen to enable participants to continue on the next NSS Convention, which is being held in nearby Montana (nearby that is, if you are from a big country).

Finally, I am sure all members will join with me in wishing Martin Mills (UK) a speedy and full recovery from major surgery. Late last month Martin was on the operating table for more than 9 hours and after a brief period in intensive care, he was released from hospital and is now continuing the recovery process at home. I hope to be able to join Martin for his first post-operative trip into a volcanic cave, on the Scottish island of Staffa, next month.

John Brush

Chair, IUS Commission on Volcanic Caves

14 August 2017