

THE VICTORIAN GEOLOGIST



August 2011

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
Victoria Division

Next General Meeting

Thursday 25th August at 6:15 p.m.

Managing Consultants: How to get the most from the experts

James Llorca

**Consulting Manager, Geology, Mining Plus Pty. Ltd
Vice-Chair GSAV**

Fritz-Loewe Theatre, School of Earth Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by drinks and nibbles in the tea room, 4th floor. Cost \$2

Talk will be followed by time for discussion

WELCOME TO JAMES LLORCA



The GSAV would like to welcome James Llorca who will be filling the position of Vice-Chair on the GSAV committee. James has over 26 years of practical experience in both technical and managerial roles in the exploration, mining and data processing industries.

Beginning work in the Philippines and Indonesia soon after, he has undertaken a wide-range of roles from Geology Manager to Data Processing Supervisor to Consultant Geologist. He has worked in Australia since the late 1990s with a brief stint in China. At current he is working as a manager consultant at Mining Plus Pty. Ltd.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Karst Underground Protection. The 19th International Karstological School 'Classical Karst' 2011 in Postojna, Slovenia.

Matej Lipar, Environmental Geoscience, La Trobe University

GSAV Student Scholarship Recipient

The main topic of the 19th International Karstological School 'Classical Karst' 2011, which was held in Postojna, Slovenia, was the protection of underground karst. This is the protection of caves and other karstic voids and fissures, which are important as sources of drinking water; regulators of the flow regimes of river basins; habitats of subterranean organisms; bearers of information about past palaeogeographic and climatic development; sources of information about the early development of human beings; and, last but not least, an economic category (e.g. show caves).

Due to this year's topic, not only karstologists, but also geographers, speleo-biologists and archaeologists presented their points of view. Through oral and poster presentations and excursions, multiple issues of the human impact on karst landscape were presented as well as possible solutions and better alternatives in management. All presented facts cannot be summed up in a short report, but there is a recurrent theme: for good karst management, karst knowledge must be supported with further explorations. Not only that there are still many poorly-researched karst areas and features in the world, but there are also not enough institutes, which would gather all the information.

One of the many key examples are databases of caves and other karst features, which represent the primary tools for managing the karst landscape, but are often inaccessible

or non-existent. In Slovenia, which was shown as a positive example, the cave database is managed by the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Cave Register of Speleological Association of Slovenia. The database is refreshed two times a year. With limited data it is available to the public. However, full data is available for research and management purposes. Nevertheless, it is positive that in many countries, where databases have been non-existent or scattered between the caving clubs, there are now efforts and actions taken to construct them in a way that is helpful when researching or managing the karst.

The International Karstological School in Postojna is in general a synonym to the annual karst conference where new ideas and results are presented by karstologists worldwide. In this occasion, the poster Eogenetic caves in conglomerate: an example from Udin Boršt, Slovenia was presented by Mateja Ferik (Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts) and Matej Lipar (Environmental Geoscience, La Trobe University, Melbourne; also sponsored by the Geological Society of Australia, Victoria Division). Also from Australia, an oral presentation Protection of Underground Karst Resources During Logging of Primary Temperate Forests: a Comparative Review of Strategies in Two Hemispheres was given by Kevin Kiernan (University of Tasmania).

To conclude with, it is important to mention that karst academics from Australia have participated and represented Australian karst in present and previous International Karstological Schools in Postojna. Hopefully, we will be at least as active in the future and show that karst science is gaining an importance, deeper knowledge and understanding in Australia and worldwide.



Water and flowstone in the Postojna Cave System, Slovenia. *Photo Credit: Matej Lipar*

CONFERENCE REPORT

Sangmin Lee, PhD Candidate, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University

Email: sangminl@deakin.edu.au

GSAV Student Scholarship Recipient

The 17th International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian (ICCP2011) was held at the University of Western Australia, Perth on 3-8 July 2011. Thanks to the support of a GSAV student scholarship I was able to attend the whole congress including mid-congress excursion. I had quite a wonderful experience in WA.

The Carboniferous-Permian (C-P) was a quite dynamic period in the Earth's history. The period was represented by dramatic climatic changes from icehouse in the Permo-Carboniferous to greenhouse conditions at the end of the Permian, the latter associated with the greatest extinction on Earth at the Permian-Triassic transition. On the other side, Permo-Carboniferous strata contain major fossil fuel resources which are also important for economic reasons. This has led many countries and companies to pay attention to C-P strata and also to invest in research relating to this time slice.

The ICCP2011 succeeded in gathering many C-P researchers from all around world to the congress in WA. According to the record of the organising committee, 202 delegates from 26 countries including 41 students took part in the congress, with over 133 oral presentations given and 49 posters displayed. The five plenary sessions by prominent C-P researchers, such as Prof. Mike Benton from the University of Bristol, gave me a general background and broad views on various subjects relating to this period while numerous oral and poster presentations from 16 different sessions greatly enlightened me and introduced me to new discoveries with methodological developments. One of the most impressive things which I observed at this conference was a new trend; the strong cooperation between palaeontologists and chemists. This is quite positive as the fields are complementary to one another and the collaboration can build stronger arguments.

The mid-congress excursion to the sand dune area in the northern part of Perth also gave me an opportunity to observe a quite interesting geological structure, the Pinnacles (picture below), and also to see modern stromatolites. The limestone pinnacles which were developed along WA's coast including Perth, are known to be formed by the precipitation of calcium carbonate and subsequent dissolution around tree taproots. We were able to look at different stages of pinnacle development from different exposures, and the processes controlling their formation was made clear through active discussions between excursion leaders and participants.

My oral presentation about Permian antitropicality and convergent evolution in brachiopods was on the last day of the congress. Although a relatively small number

of people attended, I received an excellent variety of feedback. Attendance at this conference enabled me to both broaden my knowledge and to share my research with other workers. I hope to be able to attend the next ICCP which will be held at the Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan city, Russia in early August 2015. I am deeply grateful to the GSAV for providing me financial support that allowed me to attend the ICCP2011.



Pinnacles Desert, Nambung National Park, 250km North of Perth. *Photo Credit: Jenny Bevan UWA*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

University of Melbourne Upcoming Seminars

All seminars at 4:00pm, Fritz Loewe Theatre, School of Earth Sciences
McCoy Building, University of Melbourne, Parkville

Friday September 2nd

Prof. Kevin Walsh, *School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne*
"Tropical cyclones, medicanes and climate change"

Friday September 9th

Dr. Malte Meinshausen, *School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne*
TBA

Friday September 16th

Mr. Thomas Fromhold, *School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne*
TBA

Friday September 23rd

Dr. Robyn Schofield, *School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne*
"Atmospheric chemistry and its global influence - from ozone to geoengineering proposals to mercury"

Friday September 30th

Dr. Joelle Gergis, *School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne*
TBA

STUDENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Geological Society of Australia (Victoria Division) Student Research Scholarships

The GSAV are pleased to offer up to \$10,000 per year in scholarships available to honours and postgraduate students for assistance with travel costs associated with conferences and field work.



The scholarship is valued at up to \$500 for travel within Australia and \$700 for travel outside of Australia. The number of and value of the scholarships awarded each year is made at the discretion of the GSA(Vic) committee.

Funding will not be granted retrospectively and applicants are asked to submit forms no later than 6 weeks prior to their trip to give the committee time to consider the application.

Students that receive this scholarship are required to submit a report for publication in the newsletter, "The Victorian Geologist", following their trip. A presentation may also be requested by the committee, which will consist of a short, 10-15 minute presentation prior to the monthly seminar.

Applications forms can be scanned and emailed to: secretary@vic.gsa.org.au

or mailed to:

Geology Research Scholarships Victoria
Geological Society of Australia (Victoria Division)
GPO Box 2355
Melbourne VIC 3001

More information including eligibility criteria can be found on the form and by contacting Barbara Wagstaff (wagstaff@unimelb.edu.au)

Something interesting to share? Want to see your name in print?

Don't be bashful, contribute to the GSA(V) monthly newsletter!

If there are any events, happenings, news, or views that would be of interest to the membership, please send your details and information to Matt Bliss at mbliss@student.unimelb.edu.au

We'd be glad to hear from you

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS AND EVENTS

to be presented at
GSA (Victoria Division) meetings

Note: unless otherwise indicated, all 2011 talks will be held in the
Fritz Loewe Theatre, Earth Sciences Building, University of Melbourne.

September 29	Selwyn Lecture Steve Boger <i>Antarctica and Gondwana</i>
October 27	Sandy Cruden <i>"The emplacement mechanism of granite"</i>
November 24	Marion Anderson <i>Astrogeology</i>

Please join the GSAV in welcoming these new members



Rachael Roberts
Karen Kapteinis
Matthew Edwards
Zara Dennis
Roland Seubert
Marcus Thompson

Visit the GSAV on www.vic.gsa.org.au or the GSA on www.gsa.org.au
• Renewing your GSA membership is easy - it can now be done online. •

CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO TAG!

It is member contributions which make TAG a member magazine – please keep the contributions coming and assist with informing all of the membership (not just your Division) about your activities.

Please send your news to: tag@gsa.org.au



GSA (VICTORIA DIVISION) COMMITTEE

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First Friday of the month except Dec & Jan
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