

OUR OVERSEAS ATTENDEES

- Kent Henderson



Karen Griffiths

We were delighted with the attendance of nine overseas delegates at the 17th ACKMA Conference at Buchan – that is, not counting our Kiwi cousins, of course, or the Tasmanians for that matter! Nor am I including Brian Clark, although technically he qualifies!



Mike Warner and Emily Davis

From North America we were blessed with the attendance of **Emily Davis** and **Mike Warner**. They

hail from upstate New York, and own and operate that wonderful cave and karst resource, *Speleobooks*. Both are long term members of the USA National Speleological Society, and have worked tirelessly for innumerable years on cave and karst management in their country, particularly in the area of cave management of conservancy-owned caves and show cave – caver cooperation.

Our third North American was **Karen Griffiths** from British Columbia, Canada. Karen is the wife of well-known ACKMA member and karst guru Paul Griffiths (who has attended previous ACKMA Conferences).

Karen is karst person of note in her own right, and she has worked as a wilderness cave tour operator for twenty-five years on Northern Vancouver Island.

Kim Ryeon was one of three Asian attendees. A close friend and colleague of Andy Spate, Ryeon is Vice-Director of The Cave Research Institute of Korea. He has been a cave explorer and scientist for fifteen years, and he has caved and undertaken research in New Zealand, China, Greece, Slovenia, Italy and Korea. He is also a cave diver, and he has contributed to many books and research reports on caves in Korea.



Kim Ryeon, with Chester Shaw

Bian Rumei is a senior guide at Mulu Caves, Sarawak, Malaysia, where he has worked for twelve years – in more recent times under the skilled tutelage of Brian Clark. He is a graduate from a course in park management and ecotourism, during which he did his research paper on *lampenflora*.

Last, but not least, of our Asian contingent we had the presence of the irrepressibly happy **Xaio Shizhen**, whose Australian Government-sponsored travel/research grant was arranged by Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith.

Shizhen is currently a post-graduate student, but is also a long-experienced caver with a very considerable expertise in karst sciences.

In particular, she played a key role in preparing the documentation for the South China Karst World Heritage nomination. Her intention is to continue working in the karst field, perhaps in the development of nature-based tourism.

Finally, we were delighted with three attendees from Europe, in the persons of **Albin Debevec** and his wife **Doroteja**, and **Tomaž Zorman**. Albin is the Director of Park Management at Škocjanske Caves, Slovenia, which are under World Heritage, Ramsar and MAB protection. Tomaž is the Chief Ranger – Service, at Škocjanske Caves.

We were delighted to have all our overseas visitors present. They all contributed to the full at the Conference and we learnt much from them, as I am sure they took away many ideas from us.



L to R: Doroteja Debevec, Albin Debevec and Tomaž Zorman



Xaio Shizhen, with Arthur Clarke



Bian Rumei

