

REVIEWS

Caves—Mysterious Underground World through Water and Time, by Kyung Sik Woo. **Reviewed by Cathie Plowman.**

At the 2003 ACKMA conference at Chillagoe, Kyung Sik Woo gave a presentation of his whirlwind tours of caves and karst around the world in the twelve months to collect materials for displays to be exhibited at Cave Expo in Samcheok City, Korea in July and August 2002. Kyung Sik Woo took on the project at short notice feeling that there was no way that he could collect materials of the diversity and quality required within the short space of time allowed by the project organisers. However, knowing the potential to increase public awareness about karst by this event, he threw caution to the wind to make the world's first expo on caves and karst as fine as it could be.

A feature of the exhibition was the 64 page soft-cover book *Caves—Mysterious Underground World through Water and Time*. The book has a wide array of dozens of photos of karst, cave and lava features from around the world. A close-up of exquisite cave pearls is closely followed by a double-page spread of tower karst. There are photos of bats, glow-worms, crickets and other cave creatures as well as descriptive illustrations of karst and lava processes. The final chapter features human connections with caves.

The book is pictorial rather than text based, but extensive captions support the photos to make a great introduction to the underground world. The edition done for the Cave Expo was written in Korean. Andy Spate, Steven Bourne and I felt that such an outstanding publication would make a

great asset in increasing public awareness of caves and karst in Australia and New Zealand. With much encouragement and many emails between South Korea and Australia we now have the English edition of this lovely book.

Currently the book is costing Australian \$20.00 per copy, however, with some bulk orders we are hopeful of reducing the price. A few years ago, I worked with an honours student to review the written comments made by visitors to King Solomons Cave at Mole Creek. A consistent message from visitors was the lack of quality interpretive materials available as souvenirs. This is a comment that the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service regularly receives.

The trouble is that it's financially more rewarding for commercial operators to buy cheap souvenir products that can be turned over quickly rather than invest in products that add to the visitors appreciation of the extraordinary values of caves and karst. This is a reality when managing a small business. However, I would encourage businesses associated with cave areas to look at this book and consider adding it to your retail lines. For, those not running a business, this is an excellent book to give as a present to caving and non-caving friends or perhaps to donate to your local school library.

Copies can be obtained by contacting Andy Spate at: andyspate@aliencamel.com

CD ROM PROCEEDINGS of the 17th National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, held at Albany, New York (31 Oct – 4 Nov 2005). Edited by Tom Rea. **Reviewed by Kent Henderson.**



The just published 2006 NCKMS Proceedings CD Rom is a joy! It was edited by ACKMA member by Tom Rea, well known to many of us from his past down under Conference attendances, and the event

itself was convened by Emily Davis, who has just left us after her attendance at our Buchan Conference. The CD Rom contains over forty papers, and while some are unsurprisingly site-specific, a large number have a wider appeal and application. The papers are grouped in eight sections, viz: Biology; Caves, Karst and the Public; General Interest, Bats; Cave Management – National, Cave Management International, and Site-Specific Standards. A wonderful read!

A couple of papers come from familiar (to us) authors such as: *Thinking About Karst and World Heritage* – Elery Hamilton-Smith; and *Karst Management in British Columbia: The Transition to a Results-based Forest Practices Framework and the Legally Supported Practice Requirements for Karst Resource Features* – Paul Griffiths, Peter Bradford, Bob Craven, Bill I'Anson, Carol Ramsey, and Tim Stokes.

I thoroughly recommend this CD to all ACKMA members – essential reading really! To get it, contact Emily Davis and Mick Warner at: <speleobooks@speleobooks.com>