



KOREAN SHOW CAVE ASSOCIATION VISITS AUSTRALIA

– Cathie Plowman

Part of the Korean delegation, led by Prof. Kyung Sik Woo, with Neil Kell, Cathie Plowman and Trish Deer at Gunns Plains Cave, Tasmania.
Photo: Kim Lyeon



Three Australian show cave sites were recently graced by a party of twelve people from the Korean Show Cave Association. The group was led by ACKMA member Professor Kyung Sik Woo and included the Deputy Governor of Uljin County (responsible for Seongnyu Cave), Director of Tourism and Culture Division, Taebaek (responsible for Yongyeon Cave) as well as managers from Yeongwol County (Gossi Cave), Samcheok City (Hwanseon Cave and Daegeum Cave), Donghae City (Cheongok Cave) and Jeju Province (Manjang Cave).

The group's one week Australian visit included two days at Jenolan Caves to see the range of

visitor opportunities including guided tours, the Nettle Cave self-guided tour, adventure caving and the Temple of Baal light and sound effects.

In Tasmania, the Korean visitors enjoyed trips to Gunns Plains Cave, Marakoopa Cave and King Solomons Cave. As guided cave tours are almost non-existent in Korea, group members were keen to see how caves are presented in Australia.

The glow-worms in Marakoopa Cave and the large shawl in Gunns Plains Cave were definite highlights. Neil Kell joined to group in Tasmania to discuss cave lighting issues and the soft effects of the new lighting in King Solomons Cave received wide acclaim. (Neil flew from Sydney to Korea with the group for ongoing work with cave lighting there.)

As well as visiting caves and extensive discussions of cave management issues and the taking of many, many photos the group had opportunities to see popular sites in Sydney and Tasmania's Tamar Valley as well as sampling some local wines and other produce (while the local hosts had the opportunity to sample the Korean alcoholic beverage *Soju*).

Thanks are due to everyone who assisted in hosting this trip. Our ACKMA colleagues Kyung Sik Woo, Kim Lyoun (Ryeon) and Don Won Choi are looking forward to seeing some Australasian members at the volcano-speleology Conference at Jeju Island, Korea in September 2008.

