

NEWS FROM MULU

Notes on the April 2010 ACKMA AGM Week

– Brian Clark

Brian Clark greets Anne Wood
– ACKMA Conference 2009.



The April 2010 ACKMA AGM Week at Mulu grows steadily closer and I'm seriously thinking about the many ways in which to exact retribution from those responsible for this foolish plan! Some of you will be aware that a successful bid was made to hold the next Geotourism Conference in Sarawak during the week immediately prior to our AGM, and when the conference organizers saw Mulu they immediately insisted that the venue be changed from Kuching to Mulu. 'What a great idea!' I said. 'Just what I need'.

Two back to back conferences in the back yard and one of them just happens to be the ACKMA rabble with a big mouthed editor making none too subtle suggestions about having the 5 star resort open by then. Give me a break! Little did I know that moves were afoot to change the 3 star 'Royal Mulu Resort' to the 5 star 'Mulu Marriott' AAAAND that it was shutting down for a complete rebuild for all of 2010. The first step was to pull the pin on the Geotourism Conference and shift it to Miri. Mumble, grumble – twitch, twitch!

Now for ACKMA. All the good rooms (those with a floor AND a roof) were snatched up within a week and a half after Margaret River, some of them by people I've never even heard of – but they're coming to Mulu. (An AGM? – woo hoo, can't miss that!) Now what to do with everyone else who's threatening to come. Hollow logs? Tent on the heli pad?

The accommodation in Miri for the trip to Niah has been tentatively booked and will work out to around AU\$30 per night per person, as previously advertised on the Booking Form inserted in the last Journal. They have a variety of 1 and 2 bedroom hotel rooms and apartments. Some standard and some deluxe. You'll just have to trust me to work out who gets what and who shares with whom!

And not to overlook who gets the room just over the mosque where morning prayers are broadcast over a badly-tuned loudspeaker at 4am. Seriously – the feed-back squeal from this thing melts earwax at

half a km! Ahhhhh!!!! – who'd have thought revenge could be sooo sweet!

ACCOMMODATION AT MULU

The Royal Mulu Resort has agreed not to shut down for a major overhaul at the time of our meeting in April and have offered a special ACKMA deal of Rm185 per night inclusive of buffet breakfast. You can have this as a single or double occupancy and if you want a third person (up to you Julia!!) sharing it will be an extra RM60 including the breakfast. At present exchange rate that's about AU\$61.50 plus another \$20 for a third person. A good deal!

For the accommodation in Miri on the 21st and 22nd the Imperial hotel rates PER NIGHT are Rm150 (\$50) for a double standard hotel room or Rm172 (\$54) for a one bedroom apartment. A 2 bedroom apartment is Rm220 (\$72.50) and two bedroom executive suite is RM287.5 (\$96). These rates do not include breakfast which will be another Rm20 (\$6.50) if you want it. Most of the accommodation (except the dormitory) in the park is now full so let me know your needs **ASAP**.

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Bats emerging from Deer Cave at Mulu.
Photo: Courtesy Mulu NP and friends.