



NEW ZEALAND CHINESE ASSOCIATION AUCKLAND INC

紐西蘭屋崙華聯會

PO Box 484 Shortland St Auckland 1140 www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz Summer/Autumn Newsletter 2010



Delegates of NZCA Leadership & Development Conference (LDC) 2010
Mt Victoria, Wellington

In this issue



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On John's Mind

John Kum - Editor



HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all – may you all be blessed with good health and all your stress and problems left behind in 2009. It's time to look forward and enjoy life! Be considerate to all –

share your love! Unload your burdens – share your problems! Learn to be a better listener!

How many people are as considerate as I am? Last year I decided to give my wife a holiday! Yes, a decent break! It really didn't take too much to come to this decision because she really deserved it. So I thought I'd join some friends to give her the break she earned and when a cheap fare to Cairns came up I didn't hesitate and booked myself a ticket! One whole week without having her having to fuss and stress over my being a pain around the house. What a glorious thought - one less mouth to cook for, less washing, etc, etc. etc.

For those of you that have ventured and had the time to go to Cairns will agree that it is quite an exciting and beautiful place with its tropical climate, constantly in the high 20 degrees (if it isn't raining like in the monsoon seasons).

The day I passed through Sydney it was a whopping 37degrees. Talk about baking in an oven! Thanks to the shopping malls I was able to take refuge where it was much more pleasant being surrounded by air-conditioning.

I found Cairns to be a very picturesque city and, because it was my first visit, I found the surroundings and friendliness like it was my second home town. Here I was feeling so guilty (yeah right), but I quickly put that out off my mind. No use spoiling the opportunity of being a tourist.

Home was staying at my friend Jack's sister's place which was pretty handy to the main city drag and better still was that I was treated with

the warmth of my host. Mary had a set of wheels so for my 5 days in Cairns it was very, very enjoyable and relaxing! How does one spend 5 days in Cairns? Well, apart from taking time to do the touristy and historical things there was the fruit. Tropical fruit. And for fruit lovers like me I just couldn't get enough of their Mangoes, Pineapples, Pawpaws, Starfruits and the ever popular Lychee!

Did you know that you can literally pick up Mangoes off the streets? This is purely a tourist thing as this is a bit low for the locals.

Our newsletter team hope that you enjoy NZCA Newsletters – it is becoming more of a magazine now because of its bulk and we have you to thank as members! Your annual subscriptions help pay for the printing and mailing of each of the 4 issues that are published!

Please remember to renew your subs for 2010!



The Editorial Team



Raymond Kwok



Alistair Kwun



Simon Wong

Disclaimer:

Neither NZCA Auckland nor any person or persons associated with it accepts any liability whatsoever for the contents of this newsletter which has been prepared in good faith without material reward and to the best of our knowledge is true and correct in all aspects.



From the Chairman



Welcome to the start of the second decade of the 21st Century. It is very pleasing to look back with nostalgic feelings about what NZCA Auckland has achieved over the past 10 years, but it is with great optimism that we look forward to the even brighter future

for our organisation.

In 2010, we now have the following:

- A wide range of regular activities catering for various age groups including weekly bilingual Chinese language classes, annual Leadership & Development Conferences, a next generation group, the annual Easter Sports Tournament, local annual sport tournaments, monthly women's group meetings & outings, weekly Senior Lifestyle Group meetings and regular out-of-town tours and trips to China
- A membership base of more than a 1,000 members (especially if members pay their annual subscription regularly) and the lowest annual subscription fee of all the NZCA Branches
- A very active Executive Committee with a relatively high number of younger persons
- A sound financial position built from many years of fundraising activities and effective management of major events such as the "Banana's Conference" and Easter Tournaments
- A strong desire to build bridges with the newer Chinese migrants and assist them to integrate more quickly and effectively into our modern NZ multi-cultural society

Upcoming events being held over the next few months by NZCA Auckland or our sister organization, Auckland Chinese Community Centre Inc, are as follows:

- ACCC Chinese New Year Festival & Market Day to welcome the Year of the Tiger in Halls 1 & 2, ASB Showgrounds on Saturday, 13 February 2010 from 9.30am to 4pm. Free admission for all, extensive entertainment and over 200 market & food stalls
- NZCA Chinese New Year Dinner at Imperial Garden Restaurant on Saturday, 27 February 2010 at 6.30pm to raise funds for the Auckland Easter contingent - \$35 BYO.
- An outing to Clevedon, Miranda Bird Sanctuary & Hot Pools, and also through one of the Regional Parks is being planned for Sunday, 14 March 2010.
- The launch of Future Dragonz, a network for young Chinese in their 20's & 30's at St Paul Street Gallery on Wednesday, 14 April with two Chinese personalities kicking off proceedings from 7-9pm.
- NZCA Annual Easter Sports and Cultural Tournament in Wellington on 2 - 5 April. The tournament is expected to be the largest ever held by NZCA with a contingent of 400 participants from Auckland plus an equal number of supporters.
- The Senior Yum Cha is being held at Sun World Restaurant, 2A York Street, Newmarket at 11am on Wednesday, 14 April 2010. Members over 70 years old are free of charge and other members \$15 each.

Please refer to our website www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz for the latest and constantly updated information on NZCA Auckland activities, and provide your email address (if you have one) to John Kum, so that he can send you important information as soon as it is received.

Gung Hei Fat Choi! Welcome the Year of the Tiger!

Kai Luey
Chairman
NZCA Auckland Inc.



Women's Group News

Gillian Young

Last year went extremely fast with the Women's Group being active with regular monthly meetings and outings. We are now currently working on our meeting programme for 2010. We hope you will be able to join us for more social meetings this year.

Last November, we took a day trip to the Whitford area in East Auckland. Our very kind bus driver Bill Houghton drove 35 of us on a fine day. First we visited the beautiful Zen Garden which was set on a steep hilltop with many statues, ponds, trees and plants. There were also oriental styled buildings including a large main house and some smaller ones that can be rented for overnight stays. It was a unique setting with wonderful sea views. After that we visited the lovely Ayrli's Garden, a large NZ themed garden with beautiful flowering plants, roses, water lilies, a waterfall as well as some beautiful ponds. It is a garden that has been tended with much love and care over 35 years.



Our day finished at the Whitford village to visit the interesting 'Prenzel' shop where a large variety of sauces, oils and condiments were available for purchase.

We joined a large number of around 300 NZCA members and friends for the annual Xmas barbeque lunch at the Mangere hall in December.

It was a very lively and festive event with plenty of food, fun. Excitement abounded for the children when

Santa arrived to hand out presents to them all. A team of Women's Group members organised many beautiful grocery raffle baskets to add to the fun. Congratulations to all the lucky winners! The annual Xmas party is always a very enjoyable event.

Coming Up:

On Saturday, 20 February we will meet at Cornwall Park for a casual walk and social picnic afterwards. Please come along with your friends and relatives. Please bring your own lunch, or make a booking at the Cornwall park restaurant if you prefer.

Meeting time: 9.30am - you do not need to reply for this outing – just come along!

Place: Lower car park - turn right at the first roundabout from Greenlane Rd entrance.

Our next bus trip will be on Saturday, 20 March. We are planning to visit the popular Silverdale Markets again. We were there two years ago and many people have requested a second visit. Afterwards we will visit two other venues that we have not explored before. They are Knox Cottage Gardens in Silverdale and Willows Reach Lodge in Kumeu. We will bring our own lunches to have at the Knox gardens.

Meeting Time: 8.30am

Place: Meadowbank Community Centre, 29 St Johns Rd, Meadowbank.

Please reply by Wednesday, 10 March to Gillian or Florence if you wish to come on this trip.

Gillian Young 09 528 9008; youngz@ihug.co.nz

Florence Hing 09 528 6920; bfng@xtra.co.nz

Festivities and food at annual Christmas BBQ

David Wong

More than 300 Mad Butcher sausages and meat patties were standing by for the annual NZCA Auckland Christmas function on 5 December 2009. Year after year the event gets bigger and better and the catering by the NZCA committee members is second to none. On the big day, volunteer members arrived at Mangere Hall early to prepare and set up the tables, but someone forgot to get the keys from Kai - so we were waiting around a little bit!



Richard Leung was great at backing up the huge Mad Butcher BBQ trailer as we all got ready for the big sizzle up. Susan, Virginia, Connie and the rest of the team took over in the kitchen, none of us are too sure who was barking out the orders, but I had to drain the boiling hot water from the potatoes which tasted a treat after a smidgeon or a rather huge dollop of NZ butter!

When the guests arrived they all enjoyed the traditional feast of ham, sausages along with other Chinese delicacies. Raymond Huo and Mike Lee were our special guests and they mixed and mingled with all the attendees, their families and friends. Raymond is the third politician of Chinese descent to become a Member of Parliament after National's Pansy Wong and ACT's Kenneth Wang. Huo is originally from Beijing, and immigrated to New Zealand in 1994.



He worked as a journalist for the New Zealand

Herald and has practised law for various firms in Auckland. He has also served as a translator and editor of Chinese-English publications.

Mike Lee, Chairman of the Auckland Regional Council, also attended and thrived on the food and festive atmosphere. Mike acknowledged the contribution of the local Chinese community and how it made Auckland the metropolitan and multicultural city it is today.

Melissa Wong also introduced some of the attendees for the January 2010 Leadership & Development Conference to be held in Wellington. The guys and gals did a great job talking about their aspirations and goals they wanted to achieve through the conference and how they have heard about the great legacy that LDC has developed over the past 3 -4 years.



Then, of course, Santa made a welcome appearance with lots of prezzies for the young and also the slightly older folk. The Chinese language school sang some great Christmas songs - the echo of a Cantonese version of Jingle Bells from young children is always memorable!



Memories of the Magnificent China Tour

Nancy Young

The joys of travelling with eighty other tour members to the Celebrations of the founding of the Peoples' Republic of China celebrations on 1 October 2009! We all met up at Sydney Airport to fly Air China to Shanghai airport, all of the group were Chinese or related plus Ian and Hilda Jones who were excited to be touring with us. The group was divided into two buses, ours had English speaking guides and the other had Mandarin speakers all the way. Kevin Sun and Lisa from China Travel Service provided two flags of NZ - one being the All Blacks flag. Both Kevin and Lisa were friendly, efficient and attentive to everyone's needs.

The Hotel Grand Mercure had the most magnificent breakfast on offer. Our local guide Simon led us through Shanghai to the best spot opposite the Bund to take photos of the bustling metropolis. We later visited the Central Park and Shanghai museum. It's a 'must see', showcasing the fascinating culture and past of China's people and crafts.



Highlights of the trip included an ethnic restaurant and lunch show experience, the Ming Dynasty Yu Yuan Gardens and Chinatown with ancient architecture - carvings and a curved roof, too many things to buy, Starbucks, dinner and an acrobatic show. Our bus took us to Suzhou, just west of Shanghai. The rest area on the way had nice shops and a most welcome building with dozens of Chinese style portals. The 'Venice of the East' treated us to numerous gardens, a Suzhou Museum, a Silk factory - which was full of temptation - and while the others went night shopping in Guan Qian Street, Gary and I met a Lowe cousin at the Garden Hotel who left his home village to work there as a civil engineer. Driving towards Hangzhou we visited Xitang. In Hangzhou, we took the West Lake boat trip and a visited a tree plantation to see a traditional Chinese tea serving ceremony

and although our local guide Mark (Marco) Polo persisted in offering us an outdoor show, we were keen to have an early night. On the morning of our 5.30 a.m. flight to Beijing, the new rapid rail lines to capital were being laid down. What a packed airport! Even at that hour of the morning.

Arriving at 8:30 it was straight to the Bird's Nest Stadium. A dance of the mascots entertained us and a group photo was taken, we then moved onto the Water Cube which coincided with the 'officials', an international tour of 2000 international dignitaries on 50 buses. Roy Liu, with his many lengthy stories, was our guide for the next three days. There was not a boring moment in sight!



We were off to the Palace, with a leisurely look at all the splendours of past emperors (once forbidden to the locals) due to shut for security reasons until after the holiday. A group photo was taken with guides.

Our visit to the Great Wall, with both sides on an almost 45 degree incline, tested the bravest. The lower side had a longer leisurely walk over the road. The wall was surrounded in mist or fog, but had good sense of history. The well preserved National Theatre, called "The Egg", was recently built for cultural shows and operas, both European and Chinese. The theatre was a great example of contemporary Chinese architecture with a modern shape and an interior with splendid theatre fittings. Cloud seeding ensured a perfect sunny day for a National Day banquet which preceded the National Holiday.



The precision of the military parade march and floats was spectacular with 200,000 people marching, performing or dancing and also included an evening gala show and fireworks. Some bravely chose to go to the Summer Palace by tube or to the Heavenly Temple. We took a ride on a rickshaw with a visit to a local home and a visit to a new theatre with high tech stage effects which included a wire ball with 6 motorbikes, dancing and a Kung Fu show. In fact we packed so much into a nine day tour, we had to have a reunion at Fay & Raymond Ip's in November to catch up with what the others did.

A day of showing DVDs and photos was arranged and Kevin and Lisa attended.



NZCA Miranda One Day Trip

mark your diaries now!

We'll be visiting the:

- Very popular Clevedon Sunday Markets
- Miranda Shorebird Centre to see the amazing wader birds and hear the story of the world famous godwit
- Beautiful and historic Karangahake Gorge walk. This one hour walk will take you across suspension bridges, old railway tunnels (bring a torch!) and pass the side of a stream in a gorge



Please join us on our "Miranda One Day Trip" on 21st March 2010 to see all the interesting spots above!

Date: Sunday 21st March 2010

Gathering place: Greenlane McDonald's

Time: Bus will depart at 8am

We will be back to Auckland at around 7pm

Price including lunch:

\$45per adult; \$35perchild under 15

Dress casually and bring with you: drink/camera/comfortable gear for the sun or rain (trip will be cancelled if it rains heavily)

Limited seating - reserve your seats now!

Contact: Connie/John 625 8611 or Virginia 021 982 726 for reservations



Young Leaders

Yik Kun Heng & Natalie Sew Hoy

7 days

30 young leaders

6 embassy visits

1 challenge

It's difficult to articulate the experience that came out from our one week experience at the Asia:NZ Foundation Young Leaders Forum.

Our days were spent learning leadership theory and practise, engaging in networking activities, visiting Asian embassies and listening to New Zealand leaders from across all disciplines – ranging from and including academics such as Sir Paul Callaghan (fellow of the Royal Society of London), politicians such as the Attorney General the Hon. Chris Finlayson and Simon Power, to Rod Oram journalist of corporate, economic and political issues. Each presenter gave us their account of their leadership experiences, how Asia has impacted them personally and their perspective on why Asia as a region is important to New Zealand.



Sarah Bowman from Exclerator (the National leadership development institute) spent the week with us also. She took us for several sessions throughout the week where we got the opportunity to discuss leadership as a concept, the meanings and various definitions of leadership, and the differing styles of leadership. She challenged us to step outside of our comfort zones, push our boundaries and interrogate our own thinking; we were encouraged to think about and understand ourselves, consider the ways we engaged with the world around us – but perhaps more crucially, to really start questioning ourselves. This was a very informative experience that not

only opened our minds, but expanded our ways of thinking, broadening our possibilities and in the process developed us in ways we had not considered.

Part of the week long programme involved visiting one of several East and Southeast Asian embassies. We were split up into groups of 5 with each group sent to one embassy to meet the Ambassador. For Natalie, being a New Zealand born Chinese, visiting the Chinese embassy was a privilege. His Excellency Ambassador Zhang Limin was extremely open, friendly, and happily answered questions. He took particular interest in our backgrounds and what we were doing. Yik got the opportunity to meet with the Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Toshihiro Takahashi where the Ambassador discussed candidly about the exotic types of food he had eaten in his several postings. It was an amazing experience for us to be able to spend time and engage with diplomatic figures. In and amongst all the leadership and development activities, guest speakers, and meeting diplomats, we were also given a leadership challenge. Last year's challenge was to raise money for the UNICEF Waterworks project – setting precedence for all subsequent leadership forum attendees by raising a total of \$26,000. This year it was to produce a 5 minute short film on each of Asia New Zealand Foundation's programmes. We were placed into 3 teams of ten covering areas of business, culture, and education. The teams were diverse featuring lawyers, students, international students, journalists, language graduates, politics graduates, and business people – note the absence of film students.

This year's forum had individuals who had walked the entire length of the great wall, biked and skate boarded from Japan through to the European continent. We were talking hardcore over achievers, strong personalities with results to back it up, so naturally one would imagine a clash of egos. Surprisingly the teams got on well, but not just within the individual teams themselves, but with other teams well. Each of

the groups certainly had their ups and downs, punctuated by moments where we felt we had gotten nowhere. Reflecting on it now, that was the process. It was the pressure we were under, working towards a common goal, and everyone's commitment to achieve and produce something really fantastic. For team culture, the final narrative ended up being a personal one. Several members told their own personal stories in the film. While we shared our personal stories with each other during the forum – for team culture this was captured on celluloid. The experience of sharing stories, opening ourselves up to others made us feel very vulnerable, but the support from the teams meant that it didn't matter. We weren't bothered if others didn't like our story - we loved it! More importantly we believed in it because it was about us and we were personally invested. Perhaps that was something we realised in our one week down in Wellington – leadership was also about trust and team work.



For one week, our 'daily life' was put on pause. Our jobs were still there when we came back, our friends, family, nothing around us felt like it changed in the 7 days we were away. From the relationships that were built, the people we met it felt like we had changed – a paradigm shift of a most drastic nature. Those that attended the

forum had taken a week out of their daily routines to be there and the only common link that brought us together was that we all had an interest in Asia. By the end of the week long forum we weren't just individuals with shared interests – we bonded together because we were given a shared experience. This was not something that can easily be conveyed in words; you can't tell people what it is, and words don't seem to do justice to the experience we were given – all that can be said with honesty and conviction is that it is something that is best understood through experience of the forum yourselves. If you have the opportunity to go – do it. You will walk away with a whole new set of lenses to see the world with, and more importantly a whole new group of friends to engage in the world with.



Yik and Natalie are both past delegates of the NZCA Leadership and Development Conference

ACCC Chinese New Year Festival **Saturday 13 February 2010 from 9.30am – 4pm** ASB Showgrounds, 217 Green Lane West, Greenlane

The ACCC Chinese New Year Festival and Market Day welcomes the Year of the Tiger at Halls 1 & 2, ASB Showgrounds on Saturday 13 February 2010 from 9.30am to 4pm.

Free admission for all, extensive entertainment and over 200 market and food stalls.



NZCA LDC 2010 – Wellington

Rodney Wong

Not knowing what to expect from attending the LDC, I arrived open minded. To be honest, the decision was made more for the social aspects: meeting new and like-minded people really appealed to me. I did not have any idea who was speaking and the messages that they were to present to us. Some of those messages have really stuck with me and are actually quite powerful drivers that I hope I will be able to instil in other people: Reach one. Teach one.

The ice breakers were especially effective in my opinion. They loosened the group up a bit, got everyone comfortable and willing to become acquainted with each other. This followed throughout the night to the campfire where we all stayed up talking, getting to know each other over melting marshmallows. The Myers-Briggs test was interesting. The feedback report and presentation given by Carol Lineham gave me a totally new perspective into the way I saw myself. After finding myself being classified as an INFP, this report helped me realise and understand some traits about myself that I had never identified with, let alone given much thought about.

Downtime was good as it allowed us to get to know each other. More downtime couldn't hurt, but I think the overall schedule and the way everything was organised was great. The forums were something I enjoyed, as some of the issues that were brought up were issues I had actually thought about before coming to the camp. Being able to debate these issues allowed me to take home a different perspective and also taught me that on topics like these there is not just one way to look at things. The forums helped me gain a broader understanding of how Chinese have to adapt to a Western society, and the ill-informed mindset that young New Zealand Chinese have, outlined in Mark Ngan Kee's forum, is only too real. I think that the LDC needs more forums to raise different sorts of issues faced by New Zealand Chinese, however having two forums is understandable given that LDC is only a week long programme.

Andrew Young was my favourite because a lot of his presentation and speech about his upbringing I could fully relate to. In my younger years I reluctantly admit that I did not embrace my Chinese culture or heritage, rather I would avoid and ignore it until I got a bit older where I got a lot more curious as to where I came from. His speech also pointed out the significance of the winter camp and the important morals or ideas that the winter camp instilled in him. It helped me realise these things every time I reflect on my winter camp experience just last December. Sen Thong was also someone whom I admired. Having to follow Andrew Young's speech was not easy, but he was able to share a rough timeline of how it all started for him, and where he is at now. I think the main thing I admired was how much he had achieved at such a young age and the way he is involved with the youth community. Warren Young gets an honourable mention for his blunt honesty. I liked his speech for that fact, and because he pointed out that you have to find something you are truly passionate about and like doing otherwise you will undoubtedly regret it. He also pointed out the importance of dealing with people and that you never know what the contacts you make now can do for you in the future. Even though I knew these things, he really hammered that point across, and I hope that I remember the underlying themes of his speech every time I meet someone. Lastly, I admired Jonathan Ling for his insight into 'people skills' and 'money skills'. I thought that these principles were particularly relevant in the business world. Since I had just completed a BProp/BCom I found myself listening to what he had to say a lot more attentively.

Rodney Wong is an Auckland based delegate who participated in the NZCA LDC 2010



2010 is the year to visit China - *Bonus World Expo** in Shanghai

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* **Expo 2010 in Shanghai** is a sanctioned world's fair that is expected to be the largest ever, though many Kiwis may remember attending Expo 88 in Brisbane. They are held every 5 years throughout the world and the Expo 2010 theme is "Better City, Better Life" focusing on new thinking, new technologies and new practises for achieving healthy and sustainable urban living. It will be held 1 May to 31 Oct 2010. The main attractions at World's Fairs are the national pavilions, created by 193 participating countries to showcase their own architecture and culture representing their national image.



Costa Classica - Asia Cruise
 Shanghai & 6 nights Cruise to Cheju (Korea), Fukuoka (Japan), Nagasaki (Japan)
 Bonus World Expo Admission

11 days incl. Airfare & taxes from **\$2995**

2 Departures 2010
 18 Sept.
 23 Sept.

Plan an escape to the sun on the sea for your winter holiday. Cruise aboard the luxurious Costa Classica on a magical journey of breathtaking natural beauty, contrasting cultures and ancient dynasties.

Amazing Taiwan & Shanghai Expo

Shanghai-World Expo, Taipei, Sunmoon Lake, Chiayi, Alishan, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Kending

2010 Departure date from **NZ\$3495**
12 May

Beautiful Guilin & Romantic Hainan

10 days tour to Guangzhou, Guilin, Yangshou, Shanya, Xinglong, Bo'ao, Haikou

2010 Departure date: from **\$2675**
15March, 31March

Macau and Guangdong Discovery

8 days tour to Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Macau, Zhongshan, Shunde, Panyu

2010 Departure date from **NZ\$2160**
17 March



From \$1,699 **Basic Package**

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Fast Pass Includes

Shangri-La, the Lost Horizon

12 days to Guangzhou, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la (Zhongdian), Kuming, Jiuxiang, Stone Forest

2010 Departure date from **NZ\$2995**
10 March, 28 March



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Cantonese Music School

Connie Kum – Cantonese Music School Coordinator

Gung Hei Fat Choy! Welcome to the Lunar Year of the Tiger! The NZCA Cantonese Music School started in August 2005 with a vision of teaching children to speak Cantonese. The Cantonese language is a large part of our heritage – as it is for those that have come from the Guangdong province of China or Hong Kong. Many have since learned Mandarin at school and then become fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese.



NZCA Auckland gives you the opportunity to take your child to a school where the focus on learning is “The Fun Way”. The Music School focuses on oral language/conversation, role play, recognition and writing of simple characters. It is a fact that the best time for learning languages and music is between the ages of three to seven. It is amazing how quickly the preschoolers learn and absorb through play and music and movement. Parents can then continue this learning process by reinforcement at home and through the use of CDs.

Chinese culture and learning the art of Chinese cooking for the senior class is a part of the curriculum that the children find most enjoyable.

Its never “too early” (preschooler) or “too late” (senior citizens) to learn. The adults are learning Chinese etiquette, culture, customs as well as conversational language. Costs only \$5 per lesson when in attendance if every week is too difficult a commitment.

Term Dates and Fees

Term 1	20Feb – 27 Mar (short term)	\$30 per child; \$21 per person for 2 or more per family
Term 2	24 Apr – 3 Jul (no class Queen’s Birthday weekend)	\$50 per child; \$35 per person for 2 or more per family
Term 3	24Jul – 25Sep	\$50 per child; \$35 per person for 2 or more per family
Term 4	16Oct – 11Dec	\$50 per child; \$35 per person for 2 or more per family

Classes held at Oranga Primary School hall, Rangipawa Road, One Tree Hill.

Preschool (3-5yrs) 9.30am to 11am
Primary 1 (6-10yrs) 11.15am to 12.45pm
Primary 2 / Adult (separate) 1pm to 2.30pm

Our very enthusiastic teachers: Mr Tat Ming Tsui is an experienced Primary teacher who has taught for a number of years in Hong Kong. Tat is bilingual with a vast knowledge of Chinese culture and the children pay particular attention to the Chinese stories. Ms Irene Ho (Tat’s wife) has a degree in Counselling and has three grown up sons. She is very gentle with the children and is very successful in building up their confidence and self-esteem in their ability to learn the Cantonese language.

Both are very passionate that Cantonese children should know their heritage language. I urge you to give your three year olds this opportunity. My four year old grandson looks forward to this class every Saturday morning – he’s been for a term and knows four songs!

Enquiries for booking a place ring Connie on 625 8611, cojay@xtra.co.nz or Debbie on 634 1817 / 021 271 6010, qbee@ihug.co.nz

Special thanks to the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust for the grant received in support of Language, Cultural and Heritage education within the community.

NZCA Auckland Chinese New Year Dinner

Saturday 27 February 2010 from 6.30pm

Imperial Garden Seafood Restaurant, 12-26 Swanson St, Auckland Central

Welcome in the Year of the Tiger with us at Imperial Garden Seafood Restaurant. There will be a special New Year dinner menu which will please everyone's palates!

Price: Adults \$35; Children 12 and under \$25. BYO.



BOOKS FOR SALE

We currently have the following books about Chinese in NZ and globally available for purchase.

Contacts

Kai Luey 09 522 1840, kailuey@xtra.co.nz

Connie Kum 09 625 8611, cojay@xtra.co.nz

1. A Guide to Laws & Policies Relating to the Chinese in NZ - Nigel Murphy \$35
2. NZCA Manawatu Branch Inc 70th Anniversary - Tony Thackery \$25
3. Chinese Dimensions - Their Roots, Mindset & Psyche - Yow Yit Seng \$55

All prices include GST. Limited quantities available.

SS Ventnor Mailing List

Are you interested in what's happening with the Chinese bones buried by Maori over 100 years ago when the SS Ventnor sunk off the Hokianga coast? If so, register your interest by emailing wongkirsten@gmail.com. Read and watch more at http://www.osca.org.nz/osca_sup_activities and <http://www.3news.co.nz/Video/CampbellLive/tabid/367/articleID/111590/cat/84/Default.aspx#video>

Membership Renewal 2010

Your continued support is an important factor to NZCA Auckland. It funds activities for you as members such as these newsletters. Show your support in renewing your membership fees. The 2009 calendar year subs are now overdue and we are now accepting 2010 renewals.

Visit our website <http://www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz> to download our latest membership form.



INVITES YOU TO A NIGHT FILLED WITH
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ART, MUSIC, FOOD, DRINKS
& AN AWESOME OPPORTUNITY
TO NETWORK WITH
YOUNG CHINESE NEW ZEALANDERS
LIKE YOURSELF.**

14.04.2010 7pm • St Paul Street Gallery • RSVP on futuredragonz.org.nz*

NZCA Winter Camp 2009

Kirsten Young

It didn't really hit me how surreal this whole experience would actually be until a couple of days into the trip. I had heard heaps of stories from past China trippers before we had left about what to expect over there, the things to do and places to go, but I quickly learnt that you really have to experience it and take it all in for yourself to fully appreciate how much of an amazing experience it would in fact be. I started out actually knowing most of the people on the trip before we left, but most of them were just family friends so the trip helped me get to know them much better to the point that they are all now great personal friends.

The 2009 Winter Camp was my first time visiting China, so armed with little knowledge of its history, culture and language, there was quite a cultural shock waiting for me at the other end of the plane ride into this unfamiliar territory.

Shenzhen and Xintang

As soon as our plane touched down in Hong Kong, we were thrown straight into the hustle of huge, pushy crowds and crazy Asian drivers that played their vehicle horns like an orchestra. Everyone on the bus was sitting up in their seats for the whole ride to our hotel, fully alert and holding their breath at the numerous near misses, random U-turns in the middle of the busy roads and lunatic drivers darting in and around us.

Our first stop was Shenzhen, where we stayed for a couple of nights to settle into our new surroundings and prepare ourselves for the great adventure we were about to embark on. We started off our tour visiting Magnificent

China, a cultural park filled with all sorts of scaled down models of the major attractions around China and I found this heaps of fun to explore as it was a great photo opportunity and knew that we weren't going to see all of these places on our tour. At night we watched a couple of cultural performances and from the beginning to the end of each of the shows, we were entertained by amazing costumes, laser lights, water and fire coming out of the middle of the stage and skillful acrobatics, introducing us to the brilliance of China's performing arts industry and leaving us all in awe.



One of the things I was definitely looking forward to in this trip was to visit the ancestral villages, and they didn't disappoint. Our village visits began in Xintang, an area known for producing the majority of China's jeans. As we walked around the village, on every street there were women sitting on the sides of the road cutting the threads off mountains of piles of jeans. It was fascinating to watch them work as none of us had seen a sight quite like this before, but the locals didn't seem to think much of it as it was just their normal way of life, and our group of camera clicking, English speaking students became the day's entertainment for them.

Guangzhou

We then headed to Guangzhou where we used the GD Overseas Chinese Vocational School as a base for the next 5 nights to visit more of the villages. While we were there, we learned Shaolin kung fu, calligraphy, mandarin and during a night of interaction with some of the students, some knot tying. Although we were



given the teachers' quarters in the hostel, the rock hard beds, showers standing over the squat toilets and 5 flights of stairs to our rooms were a change that took a couple of nights to get used to.

The kung fu was one of the highlights of the trip for me. The training grounds at the school looked like something out of a kung fu movie so it felt like a real privilege to be able to watch some of the students in training and learn a pattern of Shaolin kung fu from one of the great masters. There was a lot to learn, and the heat we trained in was a killer, but it was worth it in the end because after 3 days we had mastered the routine and got the opportunity to perform it in front of the rest of the class. After our final lesson, everyone was still pumped and keen for more as it had worked a lot of muscles we hadn't worked before and it provided us with the exercise we all needed from eating so much food on the trip.



I got to visit both of my granddads' villages in the second half of the village visits and it was such an eye-opener going into the houses they had actually lived in when they were kids and looking at the conditions they were brought up in. It gave me a better insight into the traditional Chinese upbringing and the hardships they had to go through to get to today, making me appreciate the sacrifices they made to ensure that us future generations had a more prosperous upbringing. Although my paternal granddad was reasonably well off back in the day, it was still a big contrast to see the difference between his 4 bedroom house and someone else's ancestral house which may have only had 3 rooms in the whole house. The translators were helpful in telling us about the history behind the places, and this soon became

one of my favourite parts of the trip as we found that each village was quite unique in its own way.

One thing I regret not doing is taking some photos back to the villages of my family to show the locals because even though my grandparents left at very young ages, some of the older villagers still remembered them and were more than happy to act as our tour guide.



At one of the villages we met two bus loads of young kids getting dropped off from school and they were immediately fascinated by the rugby ball we were passing around as they had never seen one before. Such small things such as bringing a spare rugby ball the kids could have kept would have made their day so it was sad to see their faces drop when it was time to head off on the bus to our next destination.

This year we were given the privilege of participating in the Guangzhou school's 30th Anniversary celebrations. Just like every year, our group had to perform a couple of items, but this time, our audience was pretty much the whole school and a group of extra officials. The pressure was on, and to make matters worse, we weren't told until 3 hours beforehand that our performance had been brought forward a couple of days and we were performing that very night.



With only the 2 hour bus ride to the school to practice our Waiata, we definitely were not quite prepared enough and our stage fright got the better of us. The boys did an awesome job with the haka however and the crowd just went wild.

Taishan

Taishan was our last pit stop for the village visits and one place that you definitely have to go to in Taishan is Freedom City. Clubbing in China was mean! There is no dress code and no ID checks, so as our first major group bonding night out, we all donned our bright blue turquoise Winter camp shirts and headed out for a jump and boogie on the club's bouncing dance floors. The locals must have thought we were crazy but we were having too much fun to care.

Hangzhou

Once all the village visits had finished, we headed up north to began our tour of the rest of China's main cities. Beyond all the smog and insane traffic, we found Hangzhou. Hangzhou, most famous for its Westlake attraction was home to one of the most beautiful cities I have seen and the setting for a fairytale-like love story involving both tragedy and romance. We took a boat cruise through the lake and hired bikes for the 15km ride around its circumference, admiring the landscape along the way and using the beautiful scenery as a back drop for more photos.



Shanghai

On our drive to Shanghai, we stopped at the Xitang water town and I was immediately amazed at how peaceful the picturesque town was. The buildings were just like what you see in the old Chinese movies and had beautifully

detailed carvings engraved into the windows and walls, red lanterns hanging everywhere and sculptures of dragons and lions all around the place. One of the things it showed me was how quickly the different cities in China changed from each other, as once we reached Shanghai we were quickly reintroduced to the thick black smog suffocating the landscape and massive skyscrapers it contained.

Shanghai was a city buzzing with motorbikes zooming throughout the streets, and food carts on the sides of the roads serving what looked like hot nuts and kumara. Here we also visited the local Silk factory and watched the workers spinning the silk off the cocoons and stretching it to make a silk duvet, showing the high quality of the silk and the reason why it is so expensive! We also went to see the Yu Gardens, Nanjing Pedestrian St and the Shanghai History Museum before going on another night cruise through the Huangpo River. The night cruises were amazing as the whole city was lit up with spotlights and the skyscraper buildings were decorated with brightly coloured flashing lights. It was definitely a sight I missed once I got back to New Zealand as the buildings here come nowhere near as amazing as the ones in Shanghai.

Beijing

The Great Wall of China was of course another highlight of the trip. It was definitely an amazing opportunity to be able to climb one of the world's largest man-made structures, and every aching muscle in our legs climbing the uneven steps was worth it once we reached the top.



The scenic views I found personally were more fascinating than the museums we visited, however every place we went to seemed to have something special about it. I liked how our tour guide Oscar entertained us with many

stories about the land's history and how everything we saw had a particular story behind it.

During our week in Beijing, we tried authentic tea tasting and took rickshaw rides through a small town, visited the Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Olympic village and the Forbidden City. There was just so much to do and places to see that we ignored our fatigue from the lack of sleep and amount of walking we were still getting used to and pushed on.

Throughout the whole trip, I can't even begin to describe the food that we ate. It was amazing! Every meal – breakfast, lunch and dinner – felt like a feast to us as none of us were used to eating so much food back at home. We got the chance to try a whole variety of food including the specialty dishes from the various areas we visited such as pigs trotters, goose, pigeon, carp, some sort of purple kumara and the peking duck dinner at the very end of the trip, which was definitely the icing on the cake.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong was our final destination and before long, our 4 weeks together had gone by in a flash. Our time in HK was free for us to do whatever we liked so on the first day we all went took the cable car up to the big Buddha statue on Lantau Island and visited the Avenue of Stars in Causeway Bay. Me and a couple of the other China trippers decided to stay an extra 6 days after the main group was scheduled to leave and I'm glad that we did this as the two days that we spent in HK was definitely not enough time to shop and see



everything we wanted. We did most of our shopping after everyone had gone and found

some really good bargains and knick-knacks at the Ladies market, Temple Street markets, Causeway bay and TST, leaving us praying that we wouldn't be charged for overweight luggage on our way back home.

After living a whole month with 22 other people, I immediately missed having everyone there to hang out with and the knowledge that whenever you get bored, you can always just go to the hotel room next door and find someone to chat to.

Now home sweet home and back to reality, we have had a number of China Trip catch ups and are still sharing stories of the great times we had on our trip. I have collected over 60GBs of videos and photos from everyone and have still not gotten sick of looking at them because each one puts a smile on my face, remembering the good times we had and that they will be remembered for a life time.

This Winter Camp I found was a great place to bond with such an amazing group of people and meet other Kiwi Chinese in the same boat as myself. I would definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of going on the trip because you make so many new friends and get the opportunity to do and see so much more with a group than if you went on your own. The trip was really well organized and flexible enough so that everyone got to do and see everything they wanted to do. Janet was a human book of knowledge and it was great having her with us, giving us tips on how to haggle, the best places to shop and eat, and just in general how to survive in China, so a huge thanks to her for keeping us all in line and making sure we had the best trip ever



At two speeds

Chris Tse

Chris Tse is a poet and writer. At two speeds was the winning entry in the 2009 New Zealand Listener/New Zealand Chinese Association Short Story Competition. This competition was part of the Rising Dragons, Soaring Bananas International Conference 2009.

It wasn't quite the way I had planned to finish the night off. After a mere two hours we were already calling it quits, a tough decision no young male out on the piss wants to make. Ned, my cousin from China, had arrived in New Zealand two weeks earlier, a trip he had planned for as long as we could remember. He said he wanted to visit us and practise his English (typical Chinese pragmatism there), but once he'd arrived, after the encouragement of a few tequila shots, he confessed that he'd come to appreciate (his word) the Kiwi girls.

The last and only time the two of us had seen each other was 12 years ago in Hong Kong at a family reunion. We were the closest in age out of the cousins, and though we came from completely different upbringings – him born and bred in a tiny Chinese village, me a little NZ-Chinese runt with no interest in my heritage – our similarity in age meant we got on well.

Ned thought it amazing that I had friends from a variety of cultural backgrounds. He'd seen European tourists before in the village, but he'd never had the courage to talk to one. He wanted to know their world so bad, to know what it was like to stand out amongst a crowd. I, on the other hand, had found Hong Kong somewhat unnerving. The faces around me were familiar and my parents clearly felt at home here, but for me there was the underlying sense that I did not belong, not even here.

At twelve I quite stubbornly announced that being Chinese was not cool and not another word of Cantonese would slip through my lips. Ironically I made this announcement in Cantonese, which is probably why my parents didn't take it so seriously at first. But from that point every time my parents spoke to me I'd reply in English, or feign ignorance. This became our dysfunctional norm until I really could no longer respond in fluent Cantonese.

My phone conversations with family in Hong Kong would last all of twenty seconds before I ran out of words and the awkward silence set in.

When we met Ned at the arrivals gate it was a strangely disquieting experience. We'd ended up about the same height – he was a few centimetres shorter – but we had both inherited the family chin and somehow picked similar glasses frames. Anyone who didn't know better could easily assume that we were brothers, perhaps even twins. I made a mental note to switch to contacts for the next two weeks.

My parents had planned his two weeks down to every tea break. We hired a van and took a road trip up to Taupo, winding back through Hawke's Bay. Ned, while appreciative, clearly did not care much for sightseeing or patting livestock. He didn't even pull the peace sign in photos – and here I was thinking I was the only reluctant Asian in the family. But he smiled and nodded in agreement with everything my parents said or suggested like a good Chinese boy should, whereas I stayed in the van and slept if it was too cold out, much to my parents' disappointment; I told them a hundred times I didn't need to see another sheep show or Māori culture demonstration.

It wasn't until we got back to Wellington that Ned and I finally had the chance to escape and do our own thing. The plan for his penultimate night had originally been for my Mum to take him to visit some family friends, the Yans, who quite conveniently had a single daughter our age. When I asked if she was up to her covert match-making tricks again she vehemently denied it and said if she were doing any match-making wouldn't she worry about her own hopeless son first? (She had tried so hard to hook me up in the last year; it was just a shame all the young Chinese girls she knew were either criminally dull or in secret relationships with white boys.)

Shortly before they were scheduled to leave for the arranged marriage meet-and-greet my parents received a call from the Yans asking them to accompany them to a ballroom

dancing night at the school hall. Knowing that we'd rather be caught naked in a blizzard than join the oldies for an evening of foxtrots and waltzes they gave me permission to take Ned out into town. There was the usual pre-night-out parental admonition about not drinking too much or doing drugs. Ned's eyes lit up at the word "drugs", though I couldn't tell if it was from eagerness or terror. As soon as had scuttled off we jumped on a bus for town.

I arranged to meet my friends Brad and Suresh at our favourite club, the kind of place you could have a drink at without being intimidated by over-muscled jocks or wasted scumbags wanting to pick a fight. At first I was reluctant to offer anything stronger than a wine cooler to Ned. He said he didn't really drink and that the most he'd ever had was a few sips of rice wine, but now that he was in New Zealand he felt he owed it to himself to let go a bit. We started off with a few rounds of Coronas before moving on to something harder. Ned downed shot after shot of tequila with frantic zest, a man with a mission.

One hour and fifty-six minutes into our night out he was throwing up in the bathroom, a solid effort considering his lack of experience. Brad and Suresh weren't so impressed, yet they took photos nonetheless and threatened to tag him on Facebook, a concept I knew I'd have to explain to him later.

Still, Ned loved every second of it, and once he'd evacuated the first lot of drinks he was ready to go again. Brad suggested we take him to Salty-Wet, the local Asian haunt, so he might feel a bit more at home. Ned politely declined, saying he could appreciate Chinese girls back home. He wanted to meet some nice Kiwi girls and, besides, I'd already warned him that Salty-Wet was notorious for the fights that were guaranteed to break out – it was bloody East Side Story there every weekend, guaranteed.

We finally agreed on the next bar. As we were getting up to leave Ned tripped, so to steady himself he reached out but in doing so accidentally shoved the guy next to him, a big Samoan guy with a posse of six equally imposing brown boys that looked ready to back

their mate up. Ned attempted an apology, but in that split second he lost all his useful English and could only alternate between Cantonese and wheezy gasps.

I stepped in and explained that he'd had a bit to drink, was just a visiting lightweight and didn't mean any disrespect. The big guy looked at the two of us and asked if we were brothers. I told him Ned was my cousin from China, which for some reason quelled the potential altercation. "Your English is better than his", he said. "Thought you might have been the smart one."

We left pretty quickly after that, Ned fumbling through another apology as we bolted out the front door. Brad and Suresh decided they'd check out a party in Kelburn; the two of them didn't even ask if Ned and I wanted to join them. As their taxi sped off I asked Ned if he'd had fun only for him to vomit on my new shoes. This was clearly a sign to call it a night.

We walked home to give Ned a chance to sober up. My feet were sticky with spew and Ned clung to my shoulders to stay upright; I knew this was a moment both of us would treasure. He thanked me for the best Kiwi experience of his trip, which made me chuckle. Had my parents known all he wanted to do was get trashed like the rest of New Zealand's youth they probably would've sent him straight home before I could corrupt him.

As we wandered through the half-rain the two of us looked like a not-quite-matched pair of socks. Anyone watching might think we were brothers, cut from the same roll of cloth, just assembled in different parts of the world. For a second I wondered what it would be like to swap lives with Ned, to have his longing to be different, but before I could allow myself to commit to the thought I banished it to the rest of the what-if's that bother me from time to time.

The neon night was racing ahead of us as the drunken revellers began to emerge from their hiding places. Ned and I continued home at our own pace, our heads already heavy with the night's effects



New Zealand-Chinese couples wanted for documentary

Film students at Unitec's Department of Performing and Screen Arts, in Auckland, will join with students from the Beijing Film Academy (BFA) to create a documentary project in 2010. The documentary will take a look at relationships between Chinese and New Zealand people, exploring the unique challenges that such cross-cultural relationships present. It will be filmed over a three week period during February, and completed in Beijing in July.

In preparation for the documentary, students are hoping to speak to many different couples in New Zealander-Chinese relationships, who are happy to share a story.

People in the Auckland area who may be interested in taking part can contact Rose Damon, a Unitec film student:

Email: rose.damon@hotmail.com

Phone: 021 023 01808

Skype: rose.damon

Bill Gates' 11 High School Rules

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School and he spoke about 11 things they will not learn in school. He also spoke about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.



Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will not make \$100,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping; they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many chances as you need to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to anything in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Photo Corner

Michael Lowyim recently went on his first fishing trip and shares with us his impressive catch(es) of the day!



WE WANT YOU!

to contribute...

Would you like to write for us?

Got a story to share?

Identity stories, food recipes, book/film/travel/
event review?

We'd love to hear from you!

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cojay@xtra.co.nz

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Laugh a little every day

A special poem for older folk

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyze myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know
Is what tells each one where to go!

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here right now thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

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Back: Elsie Wong, Lynette Wong, Michael Ng, John Kum, Raymond Kwok, Alistair Kwun, Ken Ginn, Melissa Wong.
Front: Edmond Yee, Virginia Chong, Connie Kum, Kai Luey, Susan Wong, Meilin Chong, Percy Kai Fong, Donald Sew Hoy.
Absent: David Wong, Estella Lee, Justin Yang, Richard Leung, Robert Wong, Vivian Chow.



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04.2010

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