



NZ China Friendship Soc.  
Hibiscus Coast Branch

# Friends News

朋友們消息

*péng yǒu men xiǎo xī*

November 2008



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## Terraces of China

## 龙胜 龙脊 梯田

Lóngshèng Lóngjǐ tītián

I recently received some fabulous photos of terracing in China. Your editor thought he would like to share them with you. So, he did a bit of research on the internet. The following is the result of that.

The beautifully sculpted terraced hills cover about 66 square kilometers, located 28km (40 minutes) southeast of Longsheng in Longsheng Autonomous County (龙胜各族自治县), 90km (or 3 hour bus ride) NW of [Guilin](#) in Guangxi Province. The most famous are called the Dragon's Backbone Terrace Fields (Lóngjǐ tī tián\*<sup>1</sup>)

They were 'engineered' by the [Yáo people](#), and the [Zhuàng people](#), starting in the [Yuan dynasty](#) (1271-1368) and completing them in the [Ming](#) (1368-1644), i.e. over a period of about 375 years.

There are several villages in the area, nestling among the terraced paddy fields: Zhuàng villages - Ping'an, and Jinhua Zhai, and Yao village Huangto Zhei. Click on this link to "[Frommer's China](#)" for details about the villages.

The best times to go there are in May, just after the rainy season, when all the paddy fields are full of water and planting takes place, and September-October, just before the harvest and the fields are covered in waves of golden yellow. However, even in winter when the snow picks out the terraces, views are spectacular.

It was only after completing this article that I realised that the Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour 2008 visited the Longshen Terraces... [Is this a good example of 'serendipity'?



<sup>1</sup> 在山坡上开辟的农田,样子像楼梯,一级一级的,边缘筑有田埂,以防止水土流失

Sem-aerial view of some of the water-filled terraces



Ploughing using buffalo





Ping'an village nestling among the terraces. Note the young rice plants



Paths between the terraces. Note also the 'perched' fields on the tops of hills.

Copyright Li Yuan, Gui Lin





**Detail of one of the paths**



Here there is a suggestion of how the terraces were constructed. The green part of each terrace wall could be made up of ‘earth’ dug out from the original hill-side, and built out to widen each terrace (and having been ‘worked’ is permeable, hence allowing grass to grow). In contrast, the foot of each wall is bare comprising the ‘rock’ of the original hillside. Each terrace lip is probably of mounded clay, to keep the water in. It is also possible that each terrace is floored by clay.

There seems to be a number of what could be rocks at the foot of each wall. These could have fallen from the wall.





Water flowing as the terraces fill up.

Note that parts of some of these terraces appear to be overgrown and unused.



Bamboo water pipes are used to get water to 'perched' terraces.

It is worth a little reflection on just how all the terraces are fed with water.

One can but assume that all the terraces must be below some main input from a river or major stream. Then, from this main input, perhaps the water is distributed laterally into first one terrace, then by spill over (illustrated above) to lower terraces.





Terraces at harvest time. Glorious, eh?



*Copyright Li Yuan, Gui Lin*

Snow prevents work





Copyright Li Yuan, Gui Lin

And what of the people who work these terraces?

The Yao and Zhuang are two of the [56 minority \(non-Han\) ethnic groups](#) in China.

A typical house of the Yao is rectangular and made of wood and bamboo. Normally it has three rooms: a room and two dormitories in the lateral side. Each one of these rooms has a small oven for cooking.

The men and the women cover their heads with a black or red scarf. Some women substitute this scarf by a turban that can adopt different forms.

The traditional suit of the women is of bright colours. They also decorate their shirts with ornaments made out of silver.

The Yao women are famous for their extremely long hair. They will allow photos of their hair-combing ritual (at a price...).



Hair ceremony of the Yao women



Fixing back the hair  
Look at the huge earrings holes!



Harvest time

For details on how to visit the Longsheng terraces, and much more (for example, notes on places to stay) please go to this link: [Passplanet](https://passplanet.com)



## President's Notebook November 2008

The **PROMINENT PERSONS AND SOCIETY LEADERS DELEGATION** this month was an honour to be part of and lead. Youxie had an interesting programme for us including formal events and sightseeing. What a great delegation our branches had nominated and selected! The envy of many larger delegations for the youth, outgoing nature and diversity of our people. Friendships were quickly made with other delegations and experiences shared. More on our trip next month. *[See below for a more detailed report by Eric Livingstone]*

**SOCIETY'S NATIONAL HEARTLAND TOUR**- Trevor Linyard reports – *"A challenging tour visiting many wonderful places. The Tour Committee excelled themselves finding many stunning places to explore including Juizhaigo, Longsheng and Zhenyuan in Gizhou Province, an extraordinary find, a possible must for all future tours in the South. "*

**HAWKES BAY BRANCH TOUR** – Dave Bromwich reports – *14 members enjoyed an itinerary that ran according to plan apart from rerouting from landslides in West Sichuan caused by heavy rain on earthquake-destabilized mountain slopes. The itinerary had a broad range of activity from traditional to hi-tech 21<sup>st</sup> century farming. A major highlight was the visit to a project village in Guangxi, meeting and socialising with local colleagues and farmers.*

### REGIONAL MEETING – SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

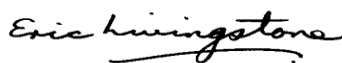
Early in the month, the five lower North Island Branches met in Palmerston North under the leadership of North Island Vice President Christine Strickland, reviewing the October National Executive meeting before Sally showed some of the earthquake project sites on her video camera. Then followed branch updates and discussion before all enjoyed a Chinese meal.

### KIA ORA NI HAO – MAORI TELEVISION

Great to learn that this production by George Andrews of six Maori students attending a Beijing experiential foreign language high school, will be repeated at the better time of 7pm on Saturdays beginning Saturday December 13. **Do make sure to see the six great episodes.**

### SOONG CHING LING FOUNDATION

Recently I congratulated the Chief Executive Officer of Fonterra for choosing the Soong Ching Ling Foundation as their vehicle for their charitable efforts following the disastrous milk scandal & offered our assistance. Andrew Ferrier responded "Its great to see an organisation, putting an emphasis on building strong relationships, especially between NZ and China. We too are committed to this relationship, & are encouraged to see that other organisations represent our views and enthusiasm. As you'll be aware the Soong Ching Ling Foundation has a proud history and is committed to the health, growth , development and welfare of children in China. ....Should we need further assistance in the future, we will be in contact with you."



Eric Livingstone, National President

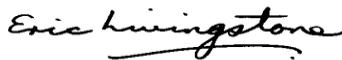


## **Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour 2008 – A more detailed report by Eric Livingstone**

Thankyou for the opportunity and honour of leading our Society's Prominent Persons & Leaders Delegation to China this month. The Society was very well served by its leaders- Ferry van Mansum of Nelson, Ann White of Timaru and Dave Adamson of Christchurch. All came to the fore in their own special ways during the delegations visits and represented the Society well.

Our six prominent people were a delight to be with and included three councillors - one from Hamilton, **Gordon Chesterman**, **Yani Johanson** of Christchurch and **Michael Goudie** of Hibiscus Coast. Along with **Nina Siers**, migrant settlement officer of Hastings, **Owen Jones**, author and adjunct professor of Timaru plus **Matt Lawrey** journalist, TV presenter of Nelson, the mix was interesting and fantastic. Other delegations wanted to know why ours was so young and we tended to attract different nationalities who liked our welcoming relaxed approach.

Apart from most of our group coming back with severe head and chest colds (that I am now only starting to recover from), everything went extremely well. The ***Friendship Conference in Beijing*** was a great experience of 500 plus delegation members listening to over 50 speeches that I hope to draw a summary from for you. The ***Friendship Forum in Hunan*** was more our size and at least questions and answers were permitted there, and we learnt more about other Societies like ourselves that I intend to report on later. **Shanghai** was fantastic as usual and their plans for the 2010 World Expo look like making the Olympic Games a practice run.



**Eric Livingstone, National President**



# Teaching English in China

*Would you like to do something very different from what your friends would think of doing?*

## **Why not try teaching English in China?**

**It could be the start of a whole new life-changing experience**

**- which may not come your way again.**



*Experience a culture that is thousands of years older than you ever imagined you would. Certainly something that your mother could never imagine you doing.*

You will be teaching spoken English,  
as we “speak” it in New Zealand.  
You will have accommodation supplied  
And [with some contracts] your airfares paid for.



*You will get to travel and visit some of the oldest historical sites and cities in the world. You will go into small villages and towns and meet the local community and learn how they live.*

We now have firm contacts in China that we are working with to enable all contracts and arrangements to be finalized long before you leave for China.

*We will help you obtain the necessary Work Permits that are required for you to teach in China*

*We make all flight arrangements for you from your nearest airport in New Zealand (or wherever), to your school in China*

## **For further information and answers to your many questions:**

### **Contact us:**

**Eric & Clarice Dittmer**

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**New Zealand**

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## Membership News

Our present membership stands at 22, comprising (14 families; 2 Corporate/Instl.; and 6 individual).

At the last committee meeting planning for the National Conference next year continues. This will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May, Fri 8<sup>th</sup>–Sun 10<sup>th</sup>. The venue will be Orewa Community Hall, Orewa Sq. Various preparatory tasks were distributed between the committee members.

**All HBC members** (along with members of Auckland and Hamilton Branches) are kindly **invited by Madam Liao Juhua**, the new Consul General, **to a New Year celebration buffet** and will watch “the opening ceremony performance of 2008 Beijing Olympics as well as some happy moments” **Friday 4pm, 19 Dec, 2008** at the Consulate General of PRC in Auckland

**Your editor wishes you all  
a very happy festive season**

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting will be at the Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library, on January 22, at 2.00pm.

## Programme

**January 22:** Talk by Michael Goudie on his **Impressions of China** following his participation on the Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour, at 6.30pm, Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library.

**January 26: Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration**  
BBQ on Orewa beach

**February 19:** Talk by a Kiwi Seismic Engineer on his visit to the **Sechuan earthquake area** (*to be confirmed*)

**April 23 or 30:** Talk by Prof. Chan of the Confucius Institute on **Chinese Calligraphy and Chinese Brush Painting**

**Further possibilities are not in date order as the details have yet to be established:**

- Visit to Hamilton Museum to view reputed “Ancient Chinese junk” relic, discovered at Kawhia
- Talk by Dr Richard Grant:  
An introduction to the **Asia:New Zealand Foundation**, and comment on some of the recent

changes taking place in the Asian regional environment.

## Forthcoming Events 最新動態

### 2008 (2nd) “Songs from Home Town” Concert

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre & The-Edge*

29 November 2008

Time: 7:00pm

*ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre*

Admission: Tickets for Sale

### 2009 First Night Auckland Celebration

*Presented by: The-Edge*

31 December 2008

Time: 6:00pm on 31 December 2009 – 2:00am on 1 January 2010

*Aotea Centre, Auckland City*

Admission: Free

### 2009 Chinese Lunar New Year Market Day

*Presented by: Stage program coordinated by Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre*

Date: 17 January 2009

Opening Date & Time: @ 10:00-5:00pm

*ASB Showground*

Admission: Free

### 2009 (11th) Multicultural Festival and Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration.

[To be performed by overseas & Local Chinese and other ethnic Performers]

*Presented by: United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.*

Date: 25 January (Sunday)

Opening Date & Time: 3:00pm

Venue: *ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre, Auckland city*

Admission: Free

### 2009 (10th) Lantern Festival

*Presented by: Auckland City Council and Asia Foundation of New Zealand*

Date: 6, 7 & 8 February

Time: 5:00pm – Midnight everyday.

Venue: *Albert Part, Auckland City*

Admission: Free

### 2009 (2nd) New Zealand Chinese Photography Exhibition

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge*

Date: 19 April – 10 May

Opening Date & Time: @ 5:00-7:00pm on 19 April

Opening to Public: 20 April – 10 May

Venue: Level 5, Air NZ Foyer, Aotea Centre  
Admission: Free

### **2009 Shanghai International Film Festival**

*Presented by: Chinese net and Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre*

Date: 16 – 23 June (Tentative)

Venue: Film City, Shanghai, visit Beijing and Xian

Admission: Participation

### **2009 (7th) Table Tennis Tournament**

*Presented by: United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.*

Date: 19 July (Sunday)

Venue: North Harbour Table Tennis Stadium

Note: Pre-selection process for players starts on June 2009

### **2009 (8th) New Zealand Chinese Arts Exhibition**

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge*

Date: 2 August – 24 August

Opening Date & Time: 5:00-7:00pm on 2 August

Opening to Public: 3 August – 24 August

Venue: Art Gallery, Aotea Centre

Admission: Free

### **2009 Beijing Cultural Week including Beijing Photography Exhibition and Beijing TV week**

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge*

Date: 6 – 13 September

Press Conference and Photography Exhibition Opening -  
Date & Time: 5:00-7:00pm on 6 September on level 5 of Aotea Centre.

Exhibition Opening to Public: 7 – 13 September on level 5, Aotea Centre,

Admission: free

TV Week: 6:00-6:30pm on Triangle TV and 7:00-7:30am on Free View 21 and SKY 89

**Status: tentative**

### **2009 (11th) Moon Festival and China 59th National Celebration Concert and China's Today Photography Exhibition**

To be performed by Overseas and Local Chinese performers

*Presented by United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.*

Date: 20, September 2009

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Town hall and Foyer of Aotea Centre

### **2009 (6th) Chinese Film Festival in New Zealand**

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and New Zealand Film Commission*

Date: 1 Nov – 30 Nov 2009

Cities: Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch. .

### **2009 New Zealand Chinese Young Piano & Violin Talent Concert**

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and Telstra Clear Pacific Event Center*

Date: 2 November

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Genesis Energy Theatre, Telstra Clear Event Centre.

Admission: Ticket sales

### **2009 (3rd) "Songs from Home Town" Concert**

*Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre & The-Edge*

Date: 23 November 2009

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre

Admission: Tickets for Sale

### **2010 First Night Auckland Celebration**

*Presented by: The-Edge*

Date: 31 December 2009

Time: 6:00pm on 31 December 2009 – 2:00am on 1 January 2010

Venue: Aotea Centre, Auckland City

Admission: Free

<p><b>Prepared by Jim He, Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre</b></p>
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