

SIMON DENG LI ART AND CULTURE EXCHANGE FUND
TAURANGA PROJECT 2018
MEDIA/MAORI EXCHANGE FROM OTUMOETAI COLLEGE

With a priority of the Deng Fund being **“to promote Arts and Culture co-operation, exchange and understanding”** (The Guidelines), towards the end of 2017 Year 11, students from Otumoetai College involved in the separate disciplines of Media and Maori Studies were invited to develop two separate projects,

1. a performance programme (The Maori students) and
2. a Media project of their own choosing during their Year 12 (The Media Students)

and then, in April 2018, to go to China to undertake their research for these “projects”.

The proposed exchange programme for the students in China had them working with established contacts, the Middle School Attached to Nanchang University (MSANU), Jiangxi Foreign Affairs Office, Jiangxi Normal University and Nanchang’s **966artzone** where the students not only undertook research and interviews and recorded (still photographs and video) the Maori students performances but the reactions of their audiences as well.

A second part of the media students programme had them research the WANDA GROUP and how it has effected the lives of ordinary Chinese people with special reference to the challenges of the DISNEY GROUP.

For this exchange Tauranga Branch applied to the Deng Committee for \$19,000.00 using unused funds that had been allocated previously for Tauranga applications, this money was to be used just for the international flights for the eight students and two teachers: we were able to get these flights for \$16,690.00, this being paid on invoice by NZCFS to House of Travel Tauranga. All other expenses for the exchange (accommodation and travel in China, and other miscellaneous costs) were covered by our Reciprocal Exchange MOU with MSANU, the Jiangxi Foreign Affairs Office, and by Otumoetai College for the return visit of the Chinese students in New Zealand in July/August this year.

Sharing the China Experience widely into the community was a priority for this exchange and this has been arranged by the media teacher who accompanied the students to China.

With presentations to local groups, films and documentaries currently being made, a film about the exchange being presented at the May Conference and, an article, **“The 2018 Tauranga Branch Student Exchange with China”** being submitted for the NZCFS website I feel that not only were the goals **“to promote Arts and Culture co-operation, exchange and understanding”** achieved, but that the local community has benefited from the OTC students’ exchange visit to China.

A final word from one of the students:

Hello, I just wanted to thank you so much for the amazing trip that you provided for us. On behalf of the whole group I can say that we loved it so much and it has left a lasting impact on our lives that we will never forget so Thank you to you and the New Zealand China friendship society for making It all happen. I enjoyed every moment of it and was able to make some great friends and experience a whole new way of life which I never could've imagined. The trip has taught me a great deal about life and how I need to live in a way that I can treat others better and also about how here in little New Zealand I need to take more things for granted. I look forward to being able to pass on the experience to my new friend, James when he comes to New Zealand in July as I believe it will leave a lasting Impact on his life too as well as his and my Family. Thank you so much. I hope that one day I too will be able to give another child the same kind of life changing experience that you have provided for me.

John Hodgson
31 August 2018