



AITECE Ltd (Australia)

Association for International Teaching Educational
and Curriculum Exchange

NEWSLETTER Issue 19, November 2012

Editorial

O, Henry, that teller of tales, conjured up *The gift of the Magi* - or its title in a text-book I saw in China *The Gift of Maggie* - as a simple tribute to love. I am moved by this example to consider the range of skills and abilities that foreign teachers of English in China bring to their chosen task.

MICHAEL VINCENT O'CARRIGAN was such a one.

When Michael died in April at the age of 87 years (*see picture left*), he had spent two stints in China, finishing at the age of 76, after bringing all his teaching experience to bear on the students. With a zest that was his hallmark, he taught grammar, encouraged conversation, had them singing and play-acting, and cooked the occasional meal - in short, he won their confidence and friendship. He was, moreover, a talented artist and samples



L to R: Brian, Ho, Michael, Greg McCann,
Donna Marie

of his work are to be found in his apartments in China.

Thus do so many others, each in their own way, bring a gift, an influence beyond their dreams, and a bond is forged beyond measuring.

As Confucius would say, "Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart."

Brian Jeffers



A Fellow Tourist

I was with a group of Chinese tourists to Beijing and surrounds. The historic photo in Red Square (*below*) shows me next to a young girl aged 14, dressed in blue. Her mother encouraged her to talk to me regularly throughout the tour as part of her training in English. After the tour was over, we kept in contact by occasional letters. Here are some extracts from a letter which I received when I returned to Sydney.

"I was really delighted to receive your letter which is from Austria and I expressed thanks to you for your photo. It was really beautiful. the environment was great, I can't see any garbage to float in the sea, and the Sydney Opera House is fantastic. I can think everybody in your country makes their contribution to protecting the environment. The moral character is lacked by many Chinese people.

All of us enjoyed ourselves during the social activities, though it was really hard. The hardest thing was gardening. Fuzhou is very hot, especially the afternoon [written in August]. But we must plant. How tired we were! When we finished it, we can have a rest, and then we had supper. We must finish the supply quickly or we can't seize the bath room. If I was late to go to the bath room, I must stand for about twenty minutes to wait for them. And when I had finished the bath, I must quickly to seize a sink to wash my clothes, if somebody was slowly, he or she must wait! How busy we were! But we also had many interesting things. For example, the instructor brought us to see real pig and sheep. The boys helped pig take a bath, the girls fed grasses to the sheep. Finally, our teacher help the animals and us take a photo. Very interesting. But the photo [?] didn't give me, it only belonged to my teacher. The photo which I sent with this letter was taken at my first social activities. Can you recognise who is me?

Oh! I nearly forgot to tell you my mailbox [withheld for sake of privacy]. In a subsequent letter, came this: Just now I called on my teacher and knew that my chemistry mark was the best in my class. Oh!! How great I am! 100

Now I'm full of happies. I used smile to keep success and the hardest days became the most beautiful memory. This holiday I will buy some books and teach myself the knowledge of internet and learn to sing ten English songs. If I have time, I will go swimming to keep healthy. When I finish my university life, maybe I will go to Austria, though some old friends of mine are in the USA. I don't like America, I think it is the rule of might. Well, it is 23:30. I will go to sleep. Good night."

Kate



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Margaret Walsh, AITECE Australia Teacher Coordinator, November 2012

AITECE AUSTRALIA TEACHING Program 2012

"Everyone is entitled to an education" - Confucius

When recently looking at old photos of my students whom I was teaching at Sichuan International University in Chongqing in the 90s, I was reminded of the many happy times with these enthusiastic and gifted young people. Some of them have become teachers themselves now. One, Wang Jian (Daniel) was teaching at SISU when I visited there in 2007. What a treat it was to see him so competent in the classroom, so skilled in the English Language. Our AITECE program has enabled many such young students in China to develop their potential in the various careers they have chosen.

Our current AITECE teachers in China, Peter Downs in Changchun, Pat Lynch, Francis Cammiade and Greg McEnnally at SISU, Chongqing; and Ernest Cheung, are generously continuing the work of AITECE, not only by assisting the students p-with proficiency in the English Language but with care and support in their personal lives as well. Hopefully, others will be able to contribute to our AITECE Teacher Program. Many express interest and make application; and some manage to see their way clear to follow their desire. Five candidates hope to secure placements at Universities for the 2013 March intake. We wish them every success.

Meanwhile, past teachers enjoy the friendship that comes from having taught in China. A Yum Cha lunch for the "Year of the Dragon" earlier this year (*picture below*) saw twenty of us share very vivid memories of our students and experiences in China. Ray O'Donoghue was one of these teachers and we have fond thoughts of Ray now as he endures the illness which comes with aging. His contribution to educating his students over the eight years he was in China was indeed magnificent. In March this year it was good to have Hugh MacMahon, the Manager of AITECE HK pay us a visit. Hugh, and Rita Chiu the Secretary, assist our teachers greatly in their preparation, and while they are in China.

Thank you to our AITECE Australia here in Sydney, and to all our teachers and friends, for your support and efforts to recruit teachers to continue our fostering of AITECE ideals. Hope to see you at our next Yum Cha.



Margaret M Walsh, Teacher Coordinator



Hugh MacMahon

For many years, Hugh has been the Manager of the Hong Kong Office which promotes and supports foreign teachers of English in China. He has decided to step aside and to continue in an active rôle in Ireland with duties still compatible with his abilities and interests.

Hugh has had the responsibility of placing teachers in Universities that are less-affluent; he has visited colleges over the vast area of China satisfying himself, his teachers and the authorities. In this capacity, he has won the confidence and respect of the parties involved. His patience and firmness have gone hand-in-hand. In absences from his office he has relied on the quality and kindness of his long-serving secretary Rita, to whom nothing was a trouble.

The AITECE Committee had the pleasure of welcoming Hugh to Sydney at the quarterly meeting in March (referred to elsewhere in the Newsletter) when he took the opportunity to expand on recent trends and difficulties in engaging teachers for China.

Brian Jeffers

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An Interesting Letter

Some years ago, when I was a comparatively new teacher in Anglo-Chinese College in Fuzhou, I was interviewed by a reporter of the local newspaper "Fuzhou Wan Bao". One reader decided to write to me (in Chinese). One of my students translated the letter, portion of which I now reproduce exactly as she wrote it-

When you receive this letter, you should feel so strange. I respect you very much after I read the story about you in the computer that you go to Fuzhou alone from Australia to develop education career. I understand the life you live alone in Fuzhou. You must miss your family members very much. I hope that I can share your joys and sorrows of life in Fuzhou. But I just a common citizen in Fuzhou. I still interested in your free life style, so I would like to understand your way of life. I hope that I can live with your life manner after we contact. Maybe I'll live much comfortably. But I don't know how to contact with you.

Sorry, I forget to introduce myself. My name is Wu Ke Wei. I'm a optimist. I hope that I can make friends with you, that difference in age is not an obstacle in our communication, and that you will consider me as your lively student.

Please write back to me if you have spare time, or tell me your E-mail address. Thank you very much.

E-mail: withheld for privacy; My dormitory numbers: withheld for privacy; 2003/9/17.

Brian Jeffers



Beyond their studies



Peter Hancock

Three years ago, the Catholic Asian Student Society, associated with the Chinese Catholic Community and under the direction of Sr Teresa Marist (and now Sr Laura, a Salesian sister from Hong Kong) was looking for a volunteer to join weekly sharing groups as a presence and guide. My experiences in Asia as well as my thirty years of teaching at Australian Catholic University led me to accept this little service. I have been active at three of Sydney's university campuses over the years.

Each week, topics for the meeting are generated by the student leaders themselves and discussed. I usually have something extra in the way of a reading or prayer and afterwards invite the group to a "coffee eucharist" in the union to meet casually. It is no surprise to me what pressures overseas students face from time to time and this casual break together often is a supportive and liberating time too. As usual with university students, there is a range of personalities, language abilities and faith stages, but the idea of building a community sense, hospitality and shared values is always worth striving for.

Peter Hancock



AITECE Australia Committee Members 2012



*L to R (in front): Brian Jeffers, Ann Laidlaw, Hugh MacMahon, Robert Crowe
At rear: Peter Hancock, Michael Dredge, Margaret Walsh, Reg Howard*



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Information for Prospective Teachers

- ☐ Contracts with the Universities in China are available for six to twelve months (renewable)
- ☐ Teachers are placed in groups for company and support
- ☐ Visits from the office in Hong Kong are offered each semester
- ☐ Intakes are in February and late August/September each year
- ☐ Teaching in other subjects besides English language is also in demand eg Law, Business, Science
- ☐ TESOL Certificate is an advantage
- ☐ Adequate salaries, airfare allowance, medical bonus and free accommodation are usually provided by the Universities
- ☐ Personal expenses include insurance, visa, and medicals
- ☐ Initial interviews, preparation and orientation offered by the National Office in Australia
- ☐ An orientation program for new teachers is held in Hong Kong before teachers leave for China
- ☐ AITECE has a commitment to the poorer areas of China.

For Information

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“There is no doubt that I see the world differently as a result of my experience in China. Just the ordinary things we do as human beings, because we care for one another, meant so much to the teachers and students.” (A former teacher)