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1. Report from the NZASIA President

2004 is a landmark year for NZASIA. It marks the 30th anniversary of the Society's founding. And it sees the publication by the Society of a "stocktaking report" that we have called *Knowing Asia: The Challenge for New Zealand's Tertiary Education Sector*.

The anniversary prompts renewed appreciation of the achievements of the NZASIA founders during the Society's first three decades. The *Knowing Asia* report puts the spotlight on gaps and weaknesses, but it acknowledges that we would be barely at the starting block but for the pioneering work of Asianists in the early years. Many of the scholars who founded NZASIA in 1974 remain active contributors to the drive to expand and deepen studies of Asia in New Zealand's universities, colleges and schools. We thank them for the development work they have done in a field that at last is winning some recognition as important among policy-makers and education-sector leaders.

The *Knowing Asia* report documents and analyses the findings of the national survey of Asian Studies in higher education that NZASIA conducted in mid-2003. It recognises the significant achievements in the Asian Studies field at tertiary level over the last fifty years, but makes an issue of the weaknesses that the survey exposed and offers a strategic plan – a set of 25 proposals – for addressing the weaknesses. The key proposal is that, under the auspices of the NZASIA Society, we set up a Tertiary Asia Action Group (TAAG) that will function as a national policy, planning and coordinating body for Asian Studies research and teaching at tertiary level. The other 24 proposals are premised on the existence of such a body, and on it working effectively. One early task for the group will be to liaise with the Asia 2000 Foundation on follow-up to its Seriously Asia project, including the Knowledge Working Group and NZ/Asia policy network proposals. Another will be to consult with senior managers on all university and college campuses and to invite their help with the strategy-development project.

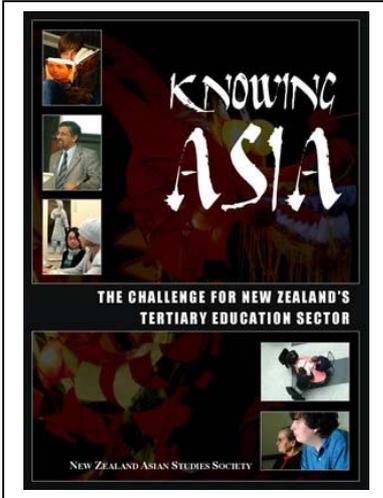
If NZASIA is to get the TAAG up and running and make it capable of doing what needs doing, the Society needs to be stronger and more representative than it is at present. The 2003 national survey counted 145 academics currently researching and teaching about Asia in 9 New Zealand tertiary institutions. But less than 80 of that number are members of the NZASIA Society. I propose that we begin planning now for a concerted new-year membership drive that will result in the great majority, if not all, of those 145 Asianists signed up as NZASIA members in 2005.

We need to draw as many people as possible into discussions about the *Knowing Asia* proposals, including important questions relating to the funding and constitution of the TAAG. A workshop convened on 8 July to discuss the report's findings and proposals made a very good start, and was followed by a few weeks of electronic discussions to debate amendments to the report. We should reactivate and extend that discussion now that the second edition of *Knowing Asia* has gone to press. Any NZASIA members who would like to join the email discussion group are warmly invited to do so. A notice about it will be posted on the NZASIA members listserver soon. For information about how to get a printed copy of *Knowing Asia*, see the insert on the page below. The full text can be downloaded in PDF format from the NZASIA web site: go to <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/Knowing-Asia/knowing-asia.html> (that page also features an executive summary of the report).

I have already taken up more space than a president's report deserves, but I cannot close without mentioning some of the other important NZASIA happenings since the last Newsletter. Our international conference is the major event in our two-year calendar, and we warmly congratulate James Kember, Richard Phillips and their University of Auckland colleagues on a most successful 15th NZASIA International Conference in late November last year. The *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* continues to do NZASIA proud, thanks to editor Brian Moloughney and contributors to the journal; information about the June 2004 issue is on page 13. We have just completed another round of Asia 2000-NZASIA-Malay Studies Research Awards, and five students at four New Zealand universities have been awarded scholarships to support fieldwork in Japan (2), Malaysia (2) and Singapore; see <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/awards/2004Awards/2004-AwardWinners.html> for details. Fieldwork reports by four of last year's award winners are published in this Newsletter (pp. 4-9). Again we thank the Asia 2000 Foundation and the Chair of Malay Studies at Victoria University for generously funding this scholarship programme.

Thank you, again, to all the people who helped with the Asian Studies survey last year and the production of the *Knowing Asia* report, and to the Asia 2000 Foundation from whence most of the funding for both projects came. If we can get the TAAG idea up and running, and if the TAAG can perform the role that *Knowing Asia* defines for it, then 2004, our thirtieth anniversary year, will become a major landmark year for the Society. I urge all members to get in behind the project to ensure that it really does do some shaking and moving.

Pauline Keating
NZASIA President
September 2004



URL:

[http://www.nzasia.org.nz/
Knowing-Asia/knowning-
asia.html](http://www.nzasia.org.nz/Knowing-Asia/knowning-asia.html)

KNOWING ASIA:

The Challenge for New Zealand's Tertiary Education Sector

Published by the NZ Asian Studies Society,
with funding from the Asia 2000 Foundation,
September 2004

Knowing Asia documents and analyses
the results of NZASIA's 2003 national
survey of Asian Studies in higher
education in New Zealand.

NZASIA members can purchase hard copies of
this report for the discounted price of \$15 (full
price is \$20). Send a cheque made payable to

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2. Reports from recipients of Asia 2000-NZASIA and Malay Studies Postgraduate Research Awards, 2003

Six postgraduate students at New Zealand universities were awarded grants of up to \$3000 in 2003 to support fieldwork in Asia. Four scholarships were funded by the Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand. Two scholarships were funded by the Malay Chair at Victoria University for studies related to the Malay world. The awards scheme is administered by the NZASIA Society.

The 2003 Research Awards went to a worthy group of recipients. The fieldwork reports submitted by four of the award winners are testimony to the very good use made of the award money. Two of the six recipients have now completed their dissertations (both MAs). Two of the three PhD candidates expect to finish in 2005. The one awardee who has still not spent her award money has encountered difficulties that, in the judgment of the Selection Committee, warrant the deferment of her fieldwork trip to India until late 2004. Most of the award winners have, in private correspondence and their reports, expressed their gratitude for the award money, and ask that their thanks be passed on to the Asia 2000 Foundation and the Chair of Malay Studies.

(This brief summary was supplied by Dr. Pauline Keating, President, NZASIA Society, 13 August 2004.)

Four reports of fieldwork were received from students and are reproduced below. The reports have been lightly edited.

2.1 Anton Griffith: Fieldwork report

Introduction

Anton Griffith is a MA candidate in Geography, at the Institute of Geography, School of Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington. His thesis title is "Contract Farming in Sarawak, Malaysia: A Study of Patterns of Participation."

The working title of his research project was "Participation in Contract Farming in Malaysia." Anton departed for Malaysia on 19 August 2003 and returned to New Zealand on 20 October 2003.

Fieldwork

The field-site was the Batang Ai area, in the Lubok Antu district by the border with Indonesia. The people involved in the farming scheme under study belong to the ethnic group Iban, the largest ethnic group in Sarawak.

The aim of the thesis was to use a case study of collective contract farming (lake-based aquaculture) in Malaysia to examine the effect of such a scheme on socio-economic outcomes. This involved a survey, interviews and collecting documents and figures, to work out who was involved and who was not (in socio-economic terms) and what had produced these outcomes. This took about two-months staying in the district, often working through an interpreter. The background to this is that contract farming, as a way of coordinating between agricultural producers and their immediate market, is becoming widespread in the developing world. In some cases, contract farming tends to bypass smaller farmers, and can lead to greater rural inequality and higher food prices for the poor amongst other things. Collective contracts theoretically have the potential to counter this outcome, and hence I wanted to see if they had done so in this case or not, and for what reasons.

On arrival in Sarawak, contrary to what I had believed, I found I would not be allowed to remain in the state for a continuous stay of longer than one month. Sarawak is not subject to the same rule of a 3 month entry permit for citizens of commonwealth countries as the Peninsula. The first week was spent in the capital, Kuching, gathering secondary material literature and statistics, arranging and conducting

interviews with current and former relevant officials, attempting to generate contacts in the field, and attempting to get a special visa to circumvent having to leave the country within a month. The latter endeavour was unsuccessful. I was also unable to procure suitable maps although as an alternative to this I was able to loan a GPS instrument from the University of Malaysia, Sarawak.

The following three weeks were spent at the 'field site', Lubok Antu. The first few days were spent meeting with the relevant officials for purposes of protocol, and finding accommodation. Some of the first three weeks was spent staying at the Agriculture Department's area station where aquaculture officers and other relevant officials are based, interviewing various staff, procuring statistics and other information and making general observations about the scheme. Unfortunately, I found some of my information about the scheme to be out-of-date, making parts of my survey design redundant. However, I found local staff and residents to be very forthcoming and was fortunate to rapidly accumulate a more accurate picture of the situation. I could then use this new information to adapt my study and its instruments. The remainder of the time was spent staying with scheme participants and conducting a preliminary survey of the study's target population, including a visit to each of the 22 settlements it consists of, interviews with community leaders and other selected individuals.

Under the advice of staff at the University of Malaysia, Sarawak, I then travelled to Brunei (the safer of two neighbouring countries not separated by ocean) before the expiration of the one-month visa granted to me by immigration authorities. I returned three days later, was granted another month by authorities, and travelled back to the field site. The remainder of the time was largely spent carrying out a survey of households amongst the 'target population', the largest single research task. I am proud to report that this survey was a success in that enough data was collected for me to be sufficiently confident in the results of statistical analysis. In addition, two remaining interviews with relevant officials and some open interviews with selected locals were completed. The last few days of the trip were spent in the capital again, collecting some remaining data from government libraries.

Difficulties I faced in the field that seemed significant at first, in retrospect appear to be trivial. However, having said that, there were undoubtedly some challenges encountered that enriched the learning experience. Problems with my visitor status were the major challenge, and cost me valuable time (not to mention money) at the field site. Following this, my false expectation that my initial information on the scheme was entirely accurate caused me some confusion and delayed the implementation of the main survey. In addition to this I experienced some minor ailments typical when travelling in tropical countries. I found my planned budget was somewhat stretched by the unanticipated trip to Brunei.

The fieldwork is by far the most important part of my postgraduate programme, in terms of both providing the basis for my thesis and in the improvement of skills I learnt as a researcher. Furthermore, it has deepened my personal understanding of small farmers from the developing world, which is of great interest to me, and of considerable importance to my postgraduate programme.

Completion date

Anton completed his thesis in July 2004 and is awaiting results.



Anton near a floating fish-rearing structure suspended on the Batang Ai reservoir

2.2 Susan Heydon: Fieldwork report

Introduction

Susan Heydon is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Otago. Her thesis title is "A History of Kunde Hospital, Nepal". Susan carried out fieldwork in Nepal from 8 March - 22 April 2004. She submitted this report in May 2004.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork occurred approximately two-thirds of the way through my PhD programme on the history of Kunde Hospital in Nepal. The hospital was built in 1966 by Sir Edmund Hillary as part of his ongoing aid programme to assist the mainly Sherpa people of the Everest area. The aim of this research visit was to work on resolving some of the issues that have arisen from the research already undertaken from primary and secondary sources and for which further material, either archival or oral, was needed to progress aspects of my thesis. Areas identified for further research were the historical use of the hospital and people's attitudes and other factors influencing choice of health care.

I spent the first few days in Kathmandu, where I was fortunate in being able to stay at the Himalayan Trust flat. Upstairs is the New Zealand Consulate. This location gave me easy access to Trust staff, enabling me to renew contacts, update myself on Trust affairs from the Nepal perspective and discuss various specific issues relating to my PhD project. I also visited the Central Bureau of Statistics to look at census material relating to the Sherpa and the Nepal Medical Association to find some early references to Kunde Hospital in the Journal of the Nepal Medical Association.

Kunde Hospital is situated at a height of 3840 metres above sea level in the Sagarmatha National Park and close to the border with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. From Kathmandu, the journey to the hospital, first by plane to Lukla and then on foot, took four days to allow for sufficient acclimatisation to prevent altitude sickness. The spring trekking and climbing season was underway and there were a lot of overseas visitors. Unlike the rest of Nepal, the Everest area is considered free from Maoist activities that have created problems elsewhere.

Most of my time was spent at Kunde Hospital, where I had been invited to stay. My work was divided into two parts. The first and main objective was to carry out a selective sample of consultations using the outpatient registers, as I had been finding that historical analysis of the hospital's work since its opening in 1966 has been limited. I also wanted to gather additional historical statistics for antenatal and family planning attendance at the hospital. This data has been collected and will now be analysed. As in Kathmandu, I was able to renew contacts and update myself about the hospital and the area, as well as gather further oral and archival material and discuss specific issues that had arisen in my thesis.



The shallow valley with the villages of Kunde and Khumjung. Kunde Hospital is in the bottom left-hand corner. Mt Everest is in the distance.

The last few days were again spent in Kathmandu and I continued with work begun at the beginning of my stay. I had intended to return to the Nepal Medical Association, but unrest on the streets during the limited opening hours of the library meant that it was wiser not to go. A further reason to stay in Kathmandu was that it has some excellent bookshops, with a large range of material on Nepal not available in New Zealand. I was able to look at and obtain several useful additional sources.

Overall, it was a very useful visit. I was able to gather additional archival and oral material that will greatly assist my thesis. I have received enormous support, both from Sir Edmund Hillary and Himalayan Trust people in New Zealand and the Sherpa people of the Everest area. Much of this contact and support was based initially on the two years our family spent at Kunde from 1996. The Sherpa and the area have a high international profile, but so much of what has been researched and written disappears from the reach of local people. From the beginning I have seen my research in terms of a two-way communication. The opportunity to continue my fieldwork in Nepal, therefore, was also particularly valuable in that it allowed me to talk to people about my research, methodology and anticipated outcomes. I am extremely grateful to Asia 2000/NZASIA for enabling me to do this.

While I made more progress in some areas than others, this was not unexpected and I did not experience significant difficulties or disappointments whilst I was in Nepal. The support of Himalayan Trust personnel in Kathmandu and Kunde both facilitated my research and ensured I had a very enjoyable time in Nepal.

While I found producing the initial proposal a challenge, it was a useful process. Also, being provided with the award money in sufficient time, and for use as required, enabled me to meet expenditure as it occurred. I was, therefore, happy with the overall administration of the scholarship programme.

My fieldwork was a very important part of my overall post-graduate programme, both in terms of my method of working and enabling me to gain further access to archival and oral sources that are only available in Nepal and on which my dissertation depends.

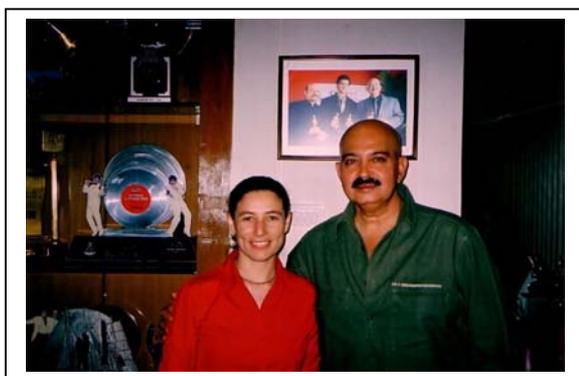
Expected completion

Susan expects to complete her PhD dissertation in 2005.

2.3 Rebecca Kunin: Fieldwork report

Introduction

Rebecca Kunin studied for her MA in the Department of Film Television and Media Studies at the University of Auckland. Her research project contributed towards her thesis titled: "Trouble in Paradise: An analysis of Indian film production in New Zealand (1993-2003)."



Rebecca with director/ producer Rakesh Roshan, *Filmcraft* offices, Santa Cruz, Mumbai

Fieldwork

The Asia 2000/NZASIA Research Scholarship partially funded my month-long research trip to India, in Nov/Dec, 2003. Since the early nineties, over 100 Indian crews have shot parts of their films/commercials and music videos in New Zealand. I wanted to investigate the factors that influence a filmmakers' decision to work in New Zealand, the pleasures and difficulties experienced by Indian crews who have shot here, how New Zealand and its filmmaking facilities are promoted inside India, and the future potential of the film relationship between the two countries.

My research was comprised of two parts. The first, located in Bombay, was made up of interviews with filmmakers who had previously worked in New Zealand and individuals who form an informal network promoting New Zealand and facilitating travel arrangements. I was fortunate to form a strong friendship with Jitendra Chacha (Jeet), a 'location consultant' who promotes New Zealand in Bombay. As business in India is often conducted through introduction, Jeet introduced me to many filmmakers and to the other members of the 'New Zealand' network in Bombay. I managed to collect 17 interviews over a period of 18 days, well beyond the number I had hoped to achieve.

My interview subjects included high profile director/producer Rakesh Roshan (*Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai*, 2000), stunt director Alan Amin (*Deewane*, Baweja, 2000 & *Main Prem Ki Diwani Houn*, Barjatya, 2003), director K. Ravishankar (*Kutch Tum Kaho Kutch Hum Kahen*, 2002), producer P. Som Shekar (*Daud*, Verma, 1997), and Vinod Kumar from the Foundation for Promotion of Film Arts and Crafts. I met with several individuals from Rajshri Productions (*Main Prem Ki Diwani Houn*, Barjatya, 2003), including production executive Zaki Kashvi, spot boy D. M. More, and production assistant Siddhartha Y. Ghodeswar. Members of the 'New Zealand network' included, location consultant Jitendra Chacha, Pranav Kapadia, Sales and Marketing Manager (India) for Air New Zealand, Devanand from *Travelmasters* travel agency, Kiran Nambiar, Country Manager (India) for Tourism NZ and Pradip Madhavji, the newly appointed Honorary Consul of New Zealand in Mumbai.

In addition to helping arrange interviews, Jeet also took me to Mehboob Studios (where I was able to observe a song shoot) and to Dev Anand's dubbing studio. Stunt director Alan Amin gave me a tour of Bombay's famous 'Film City' in the outlying suburb of Goregaon. The extensive grounds of Film City are often host to around 15 simultaneous film shoots, which use elaborate outdoor sets and massive indoor studios. I accompanied Alan for two days while he directed fight sequences at Film City. The time spent 'on set' exposed me to the day-to-day working environment of the Bombay film industry. This provided a fresh perspective from which to analyse Indian crews shooting in international locations.

I also had the opportunity to observe the wider structures of the Bombay film industry by attending the International Film Festival-Mumbai (hosted by the Mumbai Academy of the Moving Image (MAMI)), and a Cine Mint conference on domestic and international film marketing. Speakers included directors Shekhar Kapur and Sudhir Mishra, actor/director Rahul Bose, and representatives from Switzerland, Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

The second part of my research consisted of 4 days in New Delhi visiting the New Zealand High Commission. I met and interviewed Peter Hobbs, New Zealand's Trade Commissioner to India, Neera Arora, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise's (NZT&E) Trade Development Manager for film in India, and Alan Barry, Service Manager for the New Delhi Branch of the New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS). These interviews were extremely helpful as they provided historical perspectives on policy formation and insights into the future development of the film relationship between the two countries.

The major difficulties I faced were the long travelling times, pollution, and the heat of Bombay. To get from one side of the city to another can sometimes take over an hour in each direction, especially if one becomes trapped in Bombay's infamous traffic. Even though it was the beginning of winter, temperatures remained around 35 degrees centigrade, with high levels of humidity and pollution. Spending close to three weeks in the city, far longer than I had previously experienced, proved much

more demanding on my body than I had expected. By the final week I was physically exhausted. After a dubious meal, I became quite unwell, and was forced to slow my pace for the rest of the trip. Another major difficulty was staying alone in a hotel instead of with other travellers or a family, as I had become accustomed to on previous visits to India. Although staying with a family can limit your mobility as a researcher, coming home to an empty hotel room every night was also challenging, and an experience I was unfamiliar with.

The four weeks I spent in Bombay and New Delhi have allowed me to construct a thesis that gives equal weight to the perspectives of both the New Zealand and Indian film industries. It would have been impossible to incorporate viewpoints from India without the information I gathered during the interview process. I collected a strong set of arguments from the Indian industry that balance discussions surrounding sensitive issues. These include the immigration process for Indian crews, the employment of New Zealand technical crew, workplace safety, location management and the structure of Indian productions when working in New Zealand. I was also able to use the interview process as an opportunity to test my provisional conclusions in the Indian environment. This process revealed several important areas where my work needs modification. One area that needs greater emphasis is the fact that India, at present, has a long list of countries competing to host Indian film crews abroad. Eager to enjoy spin-offs such as an increase in Indian tourists, nations as diverse as Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey are lining up to welcome Indian crews. This newly competitive environment has fundamentally altered the way New Zealand is perceived inside the Indian film industry. Another aspect that requires more attention is the critical importance of personal relationships in the Indian business world. A high number of interview subjects regarded the personal relationships developed while working in New Zealand as an essential element in their decision to return to or recommend New Zealand to others. Meetings with the New Delhi staff of NZT&E and the NZIS provided historical perspectives not available in New Zealand, and highlighted the critical need for the development of infrastructure at home in New Zealand.

My trip also provided me with an opportunity to create relationships with a network of individuals in the Indian film industries. The relationships I formed on this trip will help me considerably if I choose to continue with activities in this area in the future.

Completion date

Editor's note: Rebecca was granted an extension for her Masters thesis until June 2004 so that she could integrate the information from her research trip into her existing work. She submitted at the end of semester one 2004 and is awaiting a result.

2.4 Alistair Shaw: Fieldwork report

Introduction

Alistair Shaw is enrolled in a PhD (Asian Studies) at Victoria University, Wellington. His thesis title is "Telling the Truth About the People's Republic of China: How have images of the People's Republic of China been represented to New Zealanders through the practice of people-to-people diplomacy from 'liberation' in 1949 to 2004?"

Fieldwork

I went to China primarily with the intention of interviewing current and former Chinese participants in people-to-people diplomacy. 'People-to-people diplomacy' is a term used to describe the efforts of a country to seek to influence public opinion or otherwise project a positive image of itself through the use of activities that take place 'beneath' state-to-state relations such as those conducted by official diplomats. It is sometimes referred to as 'cultural diplomacy', 'public diplomacy', 'informal diplomacy' or 'NGO diplomacy'. The term 'people-to-people diplomacy' was particularly used by the PRC when it had no state-to-state relations or antagonistic state-to-state relations with other countries. New Zealand's people-to-people relationship with the PRC involves friendship societies, trade organisations, sister cities, and

the legacies of Rewi Alley and Kathleen Hall. In the past it also included communist party-to-party contacts and 'study tours' comprised of students, teachers, academics, doctors, 'workers', 'Maori', and 'women'.

The Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs is 'an important social organisation engaged in people's diplomacy and implementing the nation's independent policy of peace' (Tang Jiaxuan, Foreign Minister in 'Fifty Years of the CPIFA 1949-1999', CPIFA, 1999). In essence the CPIFA hosts important guests, such as leaders of political parties or past leaders of countries (plus 'social celebrities'), whereas the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries hosts 'ordinary' guests, such as members of friendship societies, trade unions, etc. Bob Hawke was hosted by CPIFA in July, whilst a delegation from the Australia-China Friendship Society was simultaneously hosted the CPAFFC. Like the CPAFFC the CPIFA is officially an NGO but is headed by former foreign affairs staff and staffed by personnel on secondment from the diplomatic corp. It was established and nominally headed (until 1964) by Zhou Enlai.

In this research project I was far more successful than I had expected. I set myself a target of interviewing a dozen people and managed twenty-four. I came home with more than fifteen hours of tapes and around forty kilograms of publications and other materials that the interview subjects made available to me.

I was able to interview a broad cross section of people engaged in people-to-people activities. These included foreigners resident in China, people involved in hosting people-to-people activities, people in leadership positions in the key organisations, and people retired from people-to-people activities. Interviewing the latter in particular gave me an understanding of the changes and continuities in people-to-people goals, activities and outcomes throughout the life of the People's Republic of China.

I was fortunate in having some contacts arranged before I left New Zealand but in addition, each interviewee was not only helpful with their own time, and often with material, but they also suggested other subjects.

The issues I wished to deal with could have been considered sensitive given their political nature, my focus on the changing representation of China and the suggestion, outside of China, that people-to-people activities constitute propaganda (and that foreigners engaged in them are somehow treasonous to their own country). Undertaking research into such sensitive issues, while relying on official government connections (in this case quasi-official), is notoriously difficult. Although I found some hesitancy with some of the organisations and individuals I approached this did not become a real barrier.

Most of my interviews were conducted in Beijing. The support of NZASIA/Asia 2000 also enabled me to travel outside of the capital to other parts of the country to investigate how the activities of two New Zealanders are remembered in present day China.



Alistair outside the He Ming Qing (Kathleen Hall) Clinic in Songjiazhuang (near Baoding), Hebei Province

I spent a short time in Songjiazhuang, the small village in which New Zealand nurse Kathleen Hall tended the sick during what the Chinese refer to as 'the war of resistance against Japanese aggression'. Hall also helped the 8th Route Army and was described by Norman Bethune as 'an angel'. She is fondly remembered, with the local medical clinic and primary school named after her. I interviewed school children, local peasants, the headmaster, the clinic head and village leaders.

I also traveled to Shandan, via Lanzhou. These two cities are homes to schools originally started by Rewi Alley, remembered in China as 'a great internationalist and social activist'. I was able to discuss Alley, his memory, and ongoing contact between the schools and New Zealand with school managers, local Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), foreign affairs officials, students, and others who knew Alley personally.

Of course, with contemporary methods of communication, the contact with those I met is ongoing. I expect that one of the main outcomes of the fieldwork that I was able to undertake, with the support of NZASIA/Asia 2000, is that I can now engage in a continuing conversation with those people I have met and established personal contact with. The material I obtained and the interviews I conducted were essential for my current research project. The ongoing relationships are much more significant.

Although it was much easier to make contact than I had thought it would be, at the same time some people weren't all that helpful.

The organisations involved in people-to-people diplomacy claim that they have not looked at the issues themselves theoretically, they 'just do it in practice'. This is of course disingenuous. At the very least changes, and they are obvious, must have been based on some reflection, and most likely there would have been periodical reviews to confirm that practice was in accordance with the correct 'line'. I think I'd prefer if I was simply told I couldn't have access to them.

I found that retired people (who of course are still incredibly active in lots of things) were wonderful, open and generous with their time and materials. Since my principal interest is in how things have changed those with some personal perspective on such have probably been the most useful anyway. There were a couple of people who had left Beijing because of the heat but I think I probably got to talk to nearly everyone I wanted to.

It had also been my intention to meet with Chinese academics involved in the study of International Relations in a multi-sided way, that might include people-to-people activity in a way that so much Western scholarship does not. This failed to eventuate although I had conversations with people from Beijing University, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Foreign Affairs University, plus half a dozen other academics I ran into. There seemed to be the same paucity of Chinese academics involved directly in a question such as mine as there are in other countries.

The fieldwork was absolutely vital for my project. I needed to meet people actually engaged in people-to-people activity and compare their understanding of what they are engaged in to how it is understood in the western academic literature.

In addition, now that I have actually met people, I have an established set of contacts who I can follow up for further information or clarification when I need it. I also received an offer to publish my work. As a result of my fieldwork I feel that I have now completely come to grips with the theoretical elements of my research and therefore am a huge step down the track towards completion. It was hard work but incredibly satisfying. My Chinese is better too.

Expected completion

Alistair is expecting to complete his thesis by the end of 2005.

3. News and Announcements

3.1 Membership Renewal and Society Promotion

Members are reminded that their 2004 NZASIA membership should be renewed as soon as possible. See membership notice at the end of the *Newsletter*. In a publicity drive, a promotional flier has been placed on the Society's website. Members are requested to use this flier in a campaign to increase membership of the Society.

3.2 Asia News from Australia

Australian Research Council Asia Pacific Research Network

The Australian Research Council recently announced the successful applicants for its Research Networks. Among the 24 awarded was the Asia Pacific Futures Network to be hosted at The Australian National University (ANU). This program received \$A1,500,000 over 5 years and was one of only four humanities projects to win support.

The Asia Pacific Futures Network resulted from the combined energies of academics and administrators at La Trobe University, the Asian Studies Association of Australia and the ANU. Professors Robin Jeffrey and James Fox oversaw the application process and drew on the expertise of four-dozen scholars around the Australian tertiary sector.

Its broad goals are to provide stimulus for innovative research that makes links across disciplinary and area boundaries to enhance Australia's interactions with and knowledge of the Asia Pacific region. The Network brings experienced researchers into collaboration with government and industry with a view to stimulating new research directions, partnerships and training opportunities. In its five-year plan the Network will focus on Governance and Security, Culture and Religion, Media and Communications, Health and Population, and Trade and Industry. A significant component of the Network is to ensure that new generations of expert Asia Pacific researchers are nurtured through collaboration with experienced researchers.

The Network's website contains further information about the scope of the goals as well as source data on the current state of Asia Pacific studies in Australia. [<http://www.sueztosuva.org.au/>]

ANU academic Louise Edwards, from the Faculty of Asian Studies, will convene the Network with the support of a Management Committee. Management committee members are located around the nation and as well as having local responsibilities each member will oversee region-of-study initiatives (noted in brackets below).

Management Committee composition

Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh: Monash University	[West Asian/Islam]
Prof Colin Brown: Curtin University	[Southeast Asia]
A/Prof Mary Farquhar: Griffith University	[Australia and Asia]
Prof. David Goodman: University Technology Sydney	[China]
Prof Purnendra Jain: Adelaide University	[Japan & Korea]
Prof Robin Jeffrey: La Trobe University	[South Asia]
Prof Margaret Jolly: Australian National University	[Pacific]

A number of industry and government leaders have generously agreed to serve on the Network's Advisory Council. Their expertise will ensure that the Network's academic program interacts with broad social needs in a mutually beneficial partnership.

(Louise Edwards, ANU)

3.3 *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*

The contents of the June 2004 issue of *NZJAS* 6, 1:

Nadirsyah Hosen, 'Nahdlatul Ulama and Collective *Ijtihad*,' pp. 5-26.

Nomita Halder, 'Female Representation in Parliament: A Case Study from Bangladesh,' pp. 27-63.

Zang Xiaowei, 'Ethnic Differences in Marriage & Household Structure in a Chinese City,' pp. 64-82.

Ji Fengyuan, 'Linguistic Engineering in Mao's China: The Case of English Language Teaching,' pp. 83-99.

Russell Smyth, Xin Deng & Junli Wang, 'Restructuring State-Owned Big Business in Former Planned Economies: The Case of China's Shipbuilding Industry,' pp. 100-129.

Rie Kido Askew, 'The Cultural Paradox of Modern Japan: Japan and its Three Others,' pp. 130-149.

Ying Wang, "'Homing Crane Lodge" Versus *The Story of a Palindrome*: Different Ways Of Redefining *Qing* And Employing Inversion,' pp. 150-175.

Geoffrey Moore, 'Forms of Belonging: 'Authenticity' in an Auckland Vietnamese Temple,' pp. 176-203.

Plus book reviews.

(Brian Moloughney, Editor, *NZJAS*)

The Reviews Editor is now Dr Tony Ballantyne. If you have a book in mind that you would like to review for the journal please contact Tony (tony.ballantyne@stonebow.otago.ac.nz) and he will try to obtain a copy for you.

4. Reports from the Regions

4.1 Auckland and Wellington

Asia 2000 Diwali Festival of Lights A celebration of Indian culture

Asia 2000 will once again be holding the Diwali Festival, India's Festival of Lights, in Wellington on Sunday 24 October and Auckland on Sunday 31 October 2004.

For the third year running, Aucklanders and Wellingtonians will have a chance to experience a traditional Indian festival right here in New Zealand with scrumptious food, non-stop free family entertainment, Bollywood dancing, traditional crafts and much more.

For more information:

Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand

<http://www.asia2000.org.nz/diwali/index.html>

4.2 Asian Studies Institute, Wellington

Conferences

Dr Tim Beal is associated with a conference in Seoul; the details can be found in:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/events/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=970>

Dr Beal is currently conducting fieldwork in Malaysia in September in collaboration with Dr Moha Asri Abdullah of Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, with financial support from the Chair in Malay Studies, VUW

Seminars

A variety of seminars and roundtables held throughout the year were reported from the Asian Studies Institute. These included a lecture on transgender traditions and change by Indonesian transgender dancer, Didik Nini Thowok in May and a roundtable discussion with Professor Anthony Milner, the Dean of Asian Studies at the Australian National University in July.

Asia-related cultural activities, arts, books, theatre, music

- **Concrete Horizons: Contemporary Art from China** was on show at the Adam Art Gallery 21 February - 9 May 2004. It featured 25 works by seven artists from Mainland China.
- **Visit to Wellington by Korean Shaman Troupe** on July 23 the Mansudaet'ak Preservation Group, spiritual mediums recognised and supported by the Korean government's cultural heritage preservation programme, offered a workshop at Victoria University with demonstrations of shaman ritual. At Te Papa on Saturday, July 24th, the troupe performed a ritual, open to the public, to bless the city of Wellington.
- **ASI Film Series**
 - 19 Aug: Only Yesterday (Japan)
 - 9 Sep: Millennium Actress (Japan)
 - 16 Sep: Shall We Dance? (Japan)
 - 23 Sep: Failan (S. Korea)
 - 30 Sep: Peppermint Candy (S. Korea)
 - 7 Oct: Green Fish (S. Korea)
 - 14 Oct: Take Care of My Cat (S. Korea)
- The Victoria University Indonesian gamelan orchestra Padhang Moncar mounted two events earlier this year. 'A Night to Remember' presented in the Soundings Theatre, Te Papa, brought together two gamelan traditions, Javanese and Balinese, and two unusual performers, renowned Javanese trans-gender dancer Didik Nini Thowok and Wellington dragqueen Lilith LaCroix, aka Gareth Farr. The programme included traditional music and dance as well as new compositions and choreographies.
- In July, well-known Indonesian puppeteer Dr Joko Susilo together with gamelan Padhang Moncar presented two performances of Javanese wayang kulit (traditional shadow puppetry) in Victoria University's School of Music, and on the Marae at Te Papa.
- Jack Body also curated a series of concerts and workshops entitled 'Celestial Sounds' featuring Thai musician Weeraphong Thaweesak playing the glass harp, and Japanese composer and player of the Ondes Martenot, one of the earliest electronic instruments developed in the 1920's. Their performance culminated in a concert with the Tudor Consort of Wellington and the GateSeven Ensemble, at Wellington's Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on August 21. The visit of Thaweesak

and Harada was made possible through the support of Thai Airways, Asia 2000 Foundation, Nisshi Iwai Foundation and the NZ-Japan Exchange Programme.

Other Asia-related activities

The School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies has a contract from NZAID for coordinating and teaching an English language programme to a group of government officials from Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, and Vietnam. We have been doing this work since 1991 but this is a new three year contract in which the officials spend 8 weeks either at the Eastern Institute of Technology or the Nelson Marlborough Insitute of Technology in a general English programme, followed by a specialised 12 week programme at Victoria where there is an emphasis on using English in the professional context of their work. There are 64 students on this programme each year and they arrive in two cohorts in February and in September. Alastair Ker is the coordinator of the programme and could give further information if needed.

(The ASI report above was edited from a fuller report supplied by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay)

4.3 Auckland

News from the University of Auckland

The last time that detailed information about the University of Auckland appeared in the newsletter was in Newsletter 10 in 2002, for which I must take the principal blame, since, although being the Auckland representative on Council, I found my time overwhelmingly submerged in duties as the inaugural Head of the School of Asian Studies, followed by a period of study leave. Hence this report is by way of a catch-up, to provide an outline of staff movements in recent times. In subsequent newsletters I hope to report on the scholastic and other successes of staff at the University.

The School of Asian Studies was founded in 2000 and efforts were made from early in 2001 to attract a new Professor of Japanese for the School, to replace Professor Thomas Leims, who had resigned in 1999. The need for a second professor in the School, and in particular for one in Japanese, was recognised by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Hood, given the large enrolments in Japanese courses and the importance of Japan to the nation, and he was personally instrumental in energising the process. Nevertheless despite extensive efforts by professional consultants, as well as the receipt of applications through normal procedures, the search has proved in vain and has very recently been abandoned.

In the absence of a professorial appointment, staff appointments in Japanese have proceeded steadily at lower levels, replacing Dr Setsuko Ito and Mr Toshio Akima who retired and Dr Atsuko Kikuchi who proceeded to a lectureship in Japan. Dr Harumi Moore, with an ANU PhD, joined the School in 2001 to strengthen the field of language pedagogy and applied linguistics, whilst also undertaking graduate courses in Japanese translation. Dr Ellen Nakamura, also an ANU PhD in late Tokugawa history, arrived in 2002, offering courses in Japanese society and culture, whilst also undertaking some Japanese language teaching. Her Japanese husband, Jun Nakamura, has been employed as a part-time language tutor and is now enrolled for a PhD in Japanese linguistics. Dr Barbara Hartley is our most recent addition, arriving in February of this year. Her interests are in modern and contemporary Japanese literature, with particular responsibility currently for Japanese 240 *Introduction to Japanese Literature*, a course which, in part in 2002 and in full in 2003, was taught by Jonathan Dil, an outstanding graduate student from Auckland and Canterbury. Barbara has also undertaken language teaching. Dr Yukako Sunaoshi, our expert in socio-linguistics who joined the staff in 1999, has resigned as of July of this year, while Dr Matthew Allen has been promoted to Associate-Professor. NZASIA members will have received notification of two vacancies in Japanese currently on advertisement for the School.

Movements in Chinese have been less extensive, with Dr David Pattinson leaving in mid-2000, but no replacement being allowed by the university management until 2004, when Dr Robert Sanders rejoined us, after being here in the mid-1990s. Robert's expertise is in dialect studies (particularly the comparison of Beijing and Taiwan Mandarins) and language pedagogy, including a longstanding project to develop a textbook for learning Chinese within New Zealand tertiary institutions. Dr Manying Ip has been promoted to Associate-Professor and is a leading academic in a Marsden grant project investigating relations between Maori and Chinese in New Zealand, including intermarriage and individuals straddling the two communities. Dr Yongjin Zhang, an expert in International Relations, who had previously been with the University's Department of Politics, returned to the University as an Associate-Professor in the School of Asian Studies in early 2002, after a three year research fellowship at the ANU. Yongjin became the Head of School in December 2002, but had to take five months sick leave in the latter half of 2003, when Manying Ip served as acting head. Dr Grace Zhang, who joined us from Otago in 1999, has recently announced her resignation, to take up a lectureship in Curtin University, Perth, so the School hopes to be advertising a lectureship in Chinese before too long.

Korean staff have been stable, since the arrival of Dr Changzoo Song in 2002, but many of you will know that the teaching of Indonesian has virtually disappeared at the University of Auckland, and hence from within NZ universities in general. Dr Uli Kozok took voluntary severance in mid-2001 and Drs Eric van Reijn took early retirement in mid-2002, following a mild heart attack. Dr Tim Behrend has undertaken a range of new courses in Asian Studies and no longer teaches undergraduate Indonesian language. Dr Greg Bankoff, our expert in Southeast Asian History, has been promoted to Associate-Professor, and has recently returned to teaching after two years of unpaid leave, spent mainly in the Netherlands.

Elsewhere in the University, the New Zealand Asia Institute was reinvigorated after a vice-chancellor's review and Dr James Kember became its director in September 2001, as a three year secondment from his duties at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. James returned to Wellington early this year, ahead of the anticipated finishing date, and Emeritus Professor Barry Gustafson, of the Department of Politics, has been acting director on a half-time basis.

Richard T Phillips

Representing New Zealand in Chinese cultural competition

Belle Barber, a student from The University of Auckland was chosen to represent New Zealand in the final round of an international Chinese competition organised by the Chinese Government. Belle, who is studying for a conjoint BA/BSc degree in Chinese and Computer Studies at the University's School of Asian Studies competed against national winners from 43 other countries around the world at the final in Beijing in August.

Six other Auckland students, also from the School of Asian Studies, competed in the New Zealand round of the competition, all winning prizes. Chinese Bridge: Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students, an annual event organised by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, aims to motivate students' enthusiasm for studying Chinese as well as increasing their understanding of the Chinese language and culture. The winner of the final round will receive a three-year scholarship to study for a degree in China, a return airfare to China, and the title "Envoy of Chinese Language". As part of the competition, participants must deliver a prepared Mandarin speech as well as an impromptu speech in Mandarin, give a performance of traditional Chinese arts, music or theatrical arts, and answer a general knowledge quiz on a wide range of topics about China.

Medical and Health Sciences forges relationship with Peking University

The University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences has formed a close graduate teaching and research relationship with counterparts from China's top university.

Senior officials from Peking University were in Auckland recently to formalise the relationship, which will see the two universities working together on issues relating to Asian health, as well as drug development and immunology research.

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Dean Professor Peter Smith says the new relationship is an acknowledgment of the quality of research taking place at both institutions and would be beneficial to both countries.

“This agreement provides us the opportunity to expand our research focus, particularly in the area of Asian health, which will become more important with New Zealand’s changing demographics. It also means the Faculty can build its graduate teaching links with staff and students from China,” says Professor Smith.

The Vice President of Peking University Health Science Center, Professor Yang Ke, will be in New Zealand with other colleagues from the University in November to attend an International Asian Health Conference at Auckland’s School of Population Health.

(Extracts from the University of Auckland website, 25 June 2004)

5. Conferences/Seminars

5.1 Inaugural International Asian Health Conference, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences University of Auckland: 4 and 5 November 2004. The conference will be held at the University’s School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus.

The aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity to exchange and strengthen the knowledge base in Asian health issues for practitioners, researchers, policy makers and funders in government and private sectors worldwide. This will increase the capacity of communities and services to face the challenges posed by future changes in the Asia Pacific region.

Conference website: <http://www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/conferences/index.cfm?P=6809>

Other enquiries contact Samson Tse (s.tse@auckland.ac.nz)

(From University of Auckland website)

5.2 Women and change in Korea: past and present, Auckland, 8-9 November 2004: preliminary notice of the conference

Hosted by The Korea Studies Centre, the University of Auckland.

From the evening of Monday 8 November and with a full day on Tuesday 9 November.

The keynote speaker is Professor Moon Ok-pyo of the Academy of Korean Studies, with other panelists from Korea, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Further details of the programme will be circulated as these are to hand.

Up-to-date information from the conference link at

http://www.auckland.ac.nz/cir_faculties/index.cfm?action=display_page&page_title=nzai_home

5.3 The Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP)

The Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) is holding its 6th biennial conference in Wellington, New Zealand, April 2-5 2005. AASP has more than 700 members internationally, including large numbers in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, and the USA. Typically about 250-350 people attend the conferences, centred in social psychology broadly construed (but with subgroups in education, health, cross-cultural issues, action research, etc.). Registration and abstract submission for AASP 2005, in Wellington New Zealand April 2-5 is now available on-line at the following address:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/cacr/aasp/>

Please note that the early bird deadline with reduced registration fees is December 3, 2004.

Although this is not a conference on Asian Studies, many issues in Asian social psychology (see, for example, the Association's flagship publication, Asian Journal of Social Psychology published by Blackwell) are relevant to Asian Studies. Hence, they look forward to your queries and submissions.

Dr. James Liu and Professor Colleen Ward, on behalf of the AASP 2005 organizing committee.

(This notice supplied by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay for the Asian Studies Institute)

5.4 The 16th NZASIA International Conference (2005)

The conference will bring together specialists in the study of Asia from New Zealand and the region as well as government, business people and members of the community with an interest in Asia. It is aimed at developing understanding of "Asia" in order better to inform future interaction – political, commercial, economic, and academic – with and among countries and peoples of the Asia Pacific region.

Dates: 20 November (Sunday) p.m. - 24 November (Thurs) a.m.

Venue: University of Waikato

Contact: Ken McNeil, Dept of East Asian Studies,
University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105,
Hamilton, New Zealand.

Phone: 07-838-4042

Fax: 07-838-4638

E-mail: eastasia@waikato.ac.nz

Please send your suggestions for keynote speakers to the above address.

The deadline for paper and panel abstract submissions will announced in due course. For further information on this public conference, either as a contributor or attendee, please visit:

<http://www.nzasia.org.nz/conference/ConferenceHomePage.htm>

6. People in NZASIA

Recent books

1. Jay Shaw, *The Nyaya on Meaning: A Commentary on Pandit Visvabandhu*, Punthi Pustak, Calcutta, 2003.
2. Jay Shaw, *Some Logical Problems Concerning Existence*, Punthi Pustak, Calcutta, 2003.
3. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, 2004.
4. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *Caste, Culture and Hegemony: Social Dominance in Colonial Bengal*, New Delhi, Thousand Oaks and London: Sage Publications, 2004.
5. Henry Johnson, *The Koto A Traditional Instrument in Contemporary Japan*, Hotei Publishing September 2004. Hardback.

The koto is a unique Japanese musical instrument. It has a history in Japan of over 1300 years and today does much to represent Japan's traditional past. This book examines this fascinating instrument in terms of its physical form, manufacture and instrument types, its performance traditions and social organisations, and its contexts of performance. Each of these aspects is explored in detail, providing ways of understanding the place of this traditional instrument in contemporary Japan.

Books can be ordered through the Monash University Bookshop or on the NET at www.seekbooks.com.au

(Extracted from publisher's preview)

A documentary

"New faces Old fears" is an hour long documentary first screened on TV One at 8:30-9:30pm, Monday 20 September 2004. The documentary is based on Manying Ip's (Asian Studies) book manuscript, and she is the co-director.

"New faces Old fears" aims to explore the similarities between recent anti-Asian feelings and the fear of the 'Yellow Peril' of yesteryears. Rather than recounting racist incidents and enumerating statistics, the documentary interviews a dozen Chinese and Korean people and lets them tell their personal stories in their own words. Viewers are likely to be jolted when they see the impact of racism on a visible ethnic minority, and many might ask why irrational racist fears should exist in a nation that is otherwise quite tolerant.

(From screening preview)

NZASIA Studies Society Newsletter editor

Robyn Hamilton, School of Asian Studies, University of Auckland was elected to the position of editor of the NZASIA Newsletter from 2004. Robyn was unable to take over the editing until the present issue (September 2004) as she was overseas on a postdoctoral fellowship.

7. Membership

We remind you that the membership fee includes a subscription to the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* (published twice yearly). The subscription period runs from 1 January to 31 December. Other benefits of membership include

- the *Newsletter*
- conference participation with reduced rates, including reciprocity with ASAA conferences
- the potential for networking with other members
- the benefits of keeping abreast of developments in Asian Studies in NZ, including scholarship opportunities
- the opportunity to become actively involved in those developments

Please send a cheque for the subscription amount, along with any recent changes of detail such as title, institution, postal or email address. If you are a new member, please contact us using the form found on our website: www.nzasia.org.nz.

New Zealand subscribers:	NZ\$50 for individuals and NZ\$75 for institutions
Australian subscribers:	AUD\$50 for individuals: AUD\$75 for institutions
All other subscribers:	US\$40 for individuals: US\$50 for institutions
Associate Membership:	NZ\$10; AUD\$10; US\$5

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The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributors and not the official position of NZASIA