



RLSSQ Delegation to Hong Kong - Xiamen December 2006

Report: **Russell Green**
 John McClelland
 Les Mole



Royal **Life Saving** Queensland

Touring Delegation



John McClelland
RLSSO State President



Les Mole
RLSSO State Treasurer



Russell Green
RLSSO Regional Manager

Accommodation

Holiday Inn – Kowloon Hong Kong

Thursday 30th November to Friday 1st December 2006

City Hotel – Xiamen

16 Hu Yuan Rd

Xiamen

Friday 1st December to Monday 4th December 2006



John McClelland with Hong Kong President Dr Patrick Yeung

Thursday November 30th Touring team personnel assembled at RLSSQ headquarters The Plantation to gather additional gifts for our hosts. We departed Brisbane International Airport for Hong Kong at 1.40pm.

We arrived into Honk Kong International Airport cleared customs and immigration and made our way via the air train into our accommodation at the Holiday Inn in Kowloon Hong Kong.

Friday December 1st We were met at our hotel by the Executive Manager of the Hong Kong Royal Life Saving Society Ms Apple Chan, Dr Patrick Yeung President, Mr Alex Liu Treasurer, Mr Raymond Chu.



John McClelland with Dr Patrick Yeung and Mr Alex Liu

We travelled to the Royal Life Saving Hong Kong Training Centre at Repulse Bay to oversee their facilities and operations. Whilst we were there we discussed:

- Beach Lifeguard Operations
- Organisational structure
- Partnerships and future exchange operations
- Mentoring and member development



Hong Kong Headquarters

Their facilities were impressive with extensive memorabilia from all other ILS nations and in particular photos of a young Queen Elizabeth II undertaking here Bronze Medallion as a 13 year old .



Memorabilia of Queen Elizabeth II receiving her RLSS Awards

We departed Hong Kong at approximately 11.00am for mainland China.

We arrived at Xiamen International airport and were met by Mr Xu Deputy Principal Xiamen Sports Academy, and Mr William Li our English interpreter. We headed directly to the new headquarters for the Xiamen Life Saving Association. The building was under construction and Mr Xu showed us through the design plans and concepts for the facility which will be impressive once completed sometime in 2007. The development and emergence of Xiamen Life Saving since our last visit in 2005 is impressive and a credit to the commitment and passion of Mr Xu and his fellow committee members.

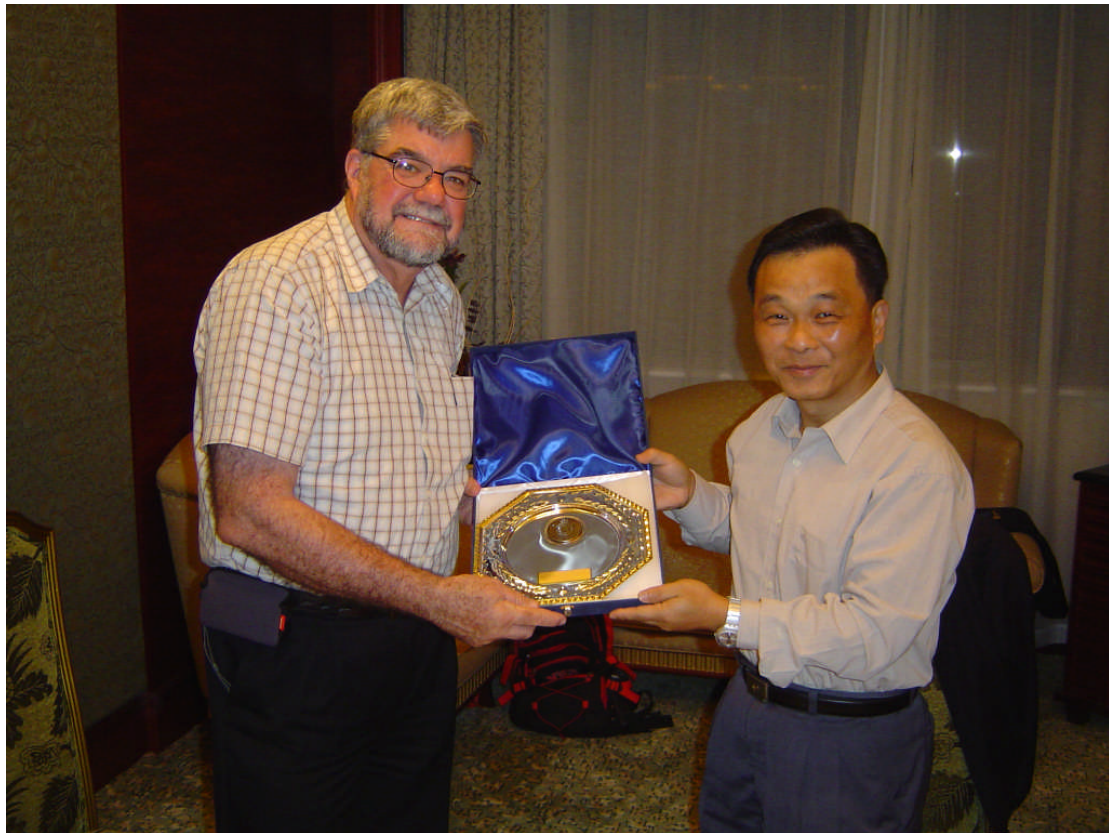


Artists impression of New Xiamen RLSS Headquarters



Works well under way at Training Centre Xiamen

We transferred thru to our hotel and evening meal with Mr Chen and Miss Wong.



John McClelland and Mr Chen

Saturday December 2nd After meeting Mr Xu for breakfast we departed for an inspection of the new Xiamen Sports Academy Swimming Pool. The new complex will contain:

- 50m outdoor pool
- Indoor LTS / Hydro pool
- Cardio and free weights Health Club / Day Spa

The new complex is proposed to be completed in March 2007 with an official opening of it and the Beach headquarters in May of this year. John McClelland gratefully accepted the invitation to be at the opening of both facilities and gave a commitment on behalf of RLSSQ to provide a stone plaque for the opening.

Mr Xu spoke of his vision for Chinese lifesaving and his gratitude to RLSSQ for its support over the years to assist with this vision.

厦门海湾游泳馆方案设计

鸟瞰图



北林苑 深圳市北林苑景观及建筑规划设计院
SHENZHEN BLY LANDSCAPE & ARCHITECTURE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE

Artist's impression of new aquatic facility



To be completed by March 2007

After touring the new waterway district we departed for the Hillford Health Spa which contained an indoor 25m pool, large amounts of leisure and recreation water all being part of an international hotel. Interestingly the provision of water jets / bubbles provided patrons with an opportunity to massage away a wide range of ills and ailments from haemorrhoids to urinary tract and cellulite. An interesting concept but widely used by the patrons who were in attendance.

Ample provision was made for childrens recreation water with both passive and active components for patrons to enjoy.

An interesting concept that was displayed both at Hillford and at the Xiamen Sports Academy Pool was the current testing levels and readings for the pools, PH, Chlorine, and Water Temperature.



Children's water feature Hilltop Health Spa

After lunch in Xiamen we left for Gulangyu to meet with the lifeguards who patrol the beach during the summer months. We caught up with lifeguards who had participated in our last education program 2 years ago and who were still actively involved on the beach.

Gulangyu is a small island 5 minutes ferry ride from the main city of Xiamen where large numbers of locals and tourists recreate during the summer months, even though it was coming into the autumn there was still very large crowds visiting and enjoying the beaches (not in the water).



On The Beach Gulangyu with Lifeguards

Sunday December 3rd

The morning was spent with a visit to the Jimei University precinct where Mr Xu went to university. We were accompanied by Miss Anne our interpreter who explained in detail the rich history and cultural significance to this site and the role it plays in the future education of Xiamen's citizens.

We returned for lunch at our Hotel prior to departing to the main business and retail precinct in Xiamen.

In the evening we dined with Mr Xu, Mr Chen and Mr Lui and engaged in discussions on future opportunities that may be available to continue the partnership and friendship that has been developed between the 2 organisations. These included,

- Future tours to Xiamen for opening of Pool and Headquarters.
- Lifeguard exchanges during each others summers involving the Xiamen Sports Academy and The Plantation.
- Participation in each others National Championships and assistance with development of coaches and athletes.



Farewell dinner and presentation of gifts.

Summary

The Delegation visit to China would not have been possible without the support of the following:

- RLSSQ Board of Directors
- Ken Chandler and staff at the Plantation.
- Xiamen Sports Academy for providing meals and accommodation in Xiamen
- Mr Xu and his team of staff and interpreters
- The Government of Xiamen, China

China Life Saving is now well and truly moving ahead. The contribution made from both members of both Royal Life Saving ACT and Royal Life Saving Queensland should not be understated. Much of the direction and the guidance offered by both branches of the Society have been enacted in Xiamen.

The Chinese Government solidly supports the development of life saving in their country and this has resulted in China becoming an active member of International Life Saving.

Some of the outcomes that have eventuated because of the exchange in visits by delegations to both Australia and China have been:

- A fully integrated National Lifeguard Curriculum.
- The construction of the China national Lifeguard Training centre in Xiamen.
- The National China Lifeguard Pool and Beach Championships conducted annually.
- A proactive involvement of China Lifesaving in the aquatics industry both in public swimming pools and the beach.
- Recognition of China Lifesaving by ILS.
- Competent Officials and Coaches.
- A vigilant lifeguard patrolling system in Xiamen servicing both local residents and the tourists who visit Southern China.



Main Bathing Reserve Gulangyu



Delegation at Xiamen Sports Academy Aquatic Facility