30th Anniversary for Chinese Language

Wednesday 15 February 2012

MOUNT LAWLEY SHS AT TERRACOTTA FACTORY IN XI’AN, P.R.CHINA

ARRIVAL OF TERRACOTTA WARRIOR FROM XI’AN, P.R.CHINA
# Program

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10-50</td>
<td>Guests Arrive</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>Unveiling Ceremony Commences</td>
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<td>Welcome by MCs Head Boy Saxon Goodrick and Head Girl Jordan Caffery</td>
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<td>11.12</td>
<td>History of the Terracotta Warriors</td>
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<td>Matt Parry and Teleah Wilcox</td>
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<td>11.15</td>
<td>Address</td>
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<td>Consul-General Madam Wang Yiner, P.R. China</td>
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<td>11.20</td>
<td>Address and Unveiling of the ‘General’ Terracotta Warrior</td>
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<td>The Premier Hon. Colin Barnett, MEC, MLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>Refreshments served in Staff Room upstairs</td>
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Special thank you to the following:


Mount Lawley Senior High School Languages Parent Support Group member, Sondra Tate
Head Boy Saxon Goodrick, Head Girl Jordan Caffery, Matt Parry, Teleah Wilcox for speaking at the event.

Year 10 Students, Henry Thai and Jayde Wilson for the Terracotta Tour.

‘Dee Kafe’ for assistance with morning tea.

Jazz Trio of Mount Lawley SHS/WAPPA Music Students:
Shay Machoro (Saxophone), Thomas Freeman (Guitar) and Will Clarke-Tuck (Double Bass).

Mount Lawley Bush Ranger Cadets for the parking and valet services:
Ellie Prober, Hannah Paff, Conor Flynn, Hannah Davidson, Mia Simonette, Ian Tait, Josh Maiolo
Mikayla Barty, Elysse Hislop, Alison Werner, Chloe Hutchinson, Hannah Hall, Charlotte Jones
Kate Ashbil, Luke Mondy, Lara Pinelli, Liliana Liskos-Duryea, Sophie Di Benedetto

Mount Lawley SHS Staff: Mrs Anita Chong, Elaine Millea, Mrs Caroline Collins, Mrs Leanne McGrath,
Mr Brett Clements and Mr Gerson Patete
30th Anniversary for Chinese Language

The teaching of Chinese at Mount Lawley Senior High School began in 1980 when Mr Geoff Davis was appointed by the Education Department to introduce the first Chinese language teaching program in WA schools. In the first year at Mount Lawley SHS he taught two classes, a Year 8 class of 32 students and a mixed Year 8-9-10 group of 10 students.

As there was no syllabus, Mr Davis was also required to develop and have approved a course for Chinese. Good text materials were hard to find. Nevertheless of the original group 16 continued to Year 12 to sit the Tertiary Admissions Exam in 1984, a syllabus for which had been approved in 1982.

The course continued to attract some very talented students and at the end of 1987, Adrian Smith was the first student from Mount Lawley SHS to be awarded an Australia-China Council Scholarship for a full year of language studies in China. He was the first of many students who have been successful in winning similar scholarships and competitive awards in national and international Chinese language competitions.

With the continued popularity of Chinese language at the school, a second teacher was required and in 1992, Mrs Anita Chong joined the languages staff. Both Mr Davis and Mrs Chong, in addition to their teaching, became involved the development of new courses for the Education Department and the Secondary Education Authority/Curriculum Council, a role which both continue to fill today.
SNAPSHOTS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE
30th Anniversary of Chinese Language cont.

At the end of 1993 they organised and led the first student tour to China. In the years since, the school has expanded its direct links with the People’s Republic and, following the establishment of sister school relationships with schools there, has organised biennial tours with the hosting of Chinese school visits in the alternate years. In 2008, the largest group tour including 50 music, art and language students and ten teachers spent three weeks visiting Beijing, Xi’an, Hangzhou, Hefei, Anqing, Tunxi, and Shanghai. The band performed concerts in four Chinese cities.

A number of students have been awarded scholarships to study in China for periods of up to a month. Several have been awarded further assistance whilst completing university studies. Of this group, some have worked for the Western Australian Department of State Development, Aus Aid or Aus Trade. Their skills in Mandarin have assisted in improving ties between Australia and China.

Two students have studied at Chinese Universities, one currently in Nanjing. Both of these were also prize winners in the World School Hanyugiao Speaking Competition.

In 2010 and 2011 Mount Lawley SHS established a Chinese Hub with several contributing primary schools. This introduced Mandarin as a language for study and an appreciation of Chinese heritage and culture. The Hub was funded by the Department of Education through the Commonwealth NALSSP initiative. The schools hope to continue this arrangement in 2012.

Mr Davis retired in 2006 but has continued to work in the school as a relief teacher and volunteer languages mentor. Mrs Chong continues to play a valuable role in the Chinese program, aided by Mr James Cheah and others. Mount Lawley SHS has a relationship with the Confucius Institute at UWA and the Australia China Friendship Society of WA.
SNAPSHOTS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE

HANGZHOU NO.14 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ZHAO BIYE VISITING MOUNT LAWLEY SHS SISTER SCHOOL 1998

MT LAWLEY VISIT TO SISTER SCHOOL HANGZHOU NO.14 MIDDLE SCHOOL 2010

YEAR 8 GATE CHINESE STUDENTS MENTORING PRIMARY HUB STUDENTS 2011

MT LAWLEY SHS CHINESE STUDENTS AT PANDA PICNIC WITH PRIMARY HUB STUDENTS 2011

YEAR 9 STUDENTS CELEBRATING DUANAWU - DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL 2011

YEAR 8 GATE CHINESE STUDENTS

MT LAWLEY VISIT TO SISTER SCHOOL HANGZHOU NO.14 MIDDLE SCHOOL 2010
Mr Davis and Mrs Chong working in 1984 to establish the Chinese Language Teachers' Association of Western Australia, (CLTAWA) each spending many years as president, secretary or in other roles. In 1994, they initiated the establishment of the Chinese Language Teachers' Federation of Australia, of which Mr Davis was president from 1994 to 2001, and Mrs Chong secretary until 2010 when she was elected president. Mrs Chong's contribution to CLTAWA over the years were recognised by her peers in 2009 when she was awarded the PTCWA Outstanding Contribution Award by the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia. in 2011. Last year Mrs Chong became the National President of the Chinese Teachers Federation of Australia.

In 2000, Mr Davis and Mrs Chong were awarded the title of “Outstanding Chinese Language Educator” by the government of the People's Republic of China and in 2006 Mr Davis was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to education including the introduction of Chinese into public schools in WA.
The figures, dating from 210 BC, were discovered in 1974 by some local farmers in Lintong District, Xi'an, Shaanxi province, near the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. (Chinese: 秦始皇陵 Pinyin: Qin Shihuang Ling) The figures vary in height, according to their roles, with the tallest being the generals. The figures include warriors, chariots, horses, officials, acrobats, strongmen and musicians. Current estimates are that in the three pits containing the Terracotta Army there were over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, the majority of which are still buried in the pits.

Background
The Terracotta Army was discovered in the spring of 1974 in the eastern suburbs of Xi'an, Shaanxi Province by a group of farmers who were digging a water well 2.4 km east of Mount Li (Lishan). The region around the mountain was riddled with underground springs and watercourses. In 195 B.C., Liu Bang — the first emperor of the dynasty that followed the Qin — had ordered that ‘twenty households’ should move to the site of the mausoleum of the First Emperor of Qin (Shi Huangdi, “Shi Huangdi” means the first emperor) to watch over the tomb. To this day, twenty villages sit in the immediate vicinity of the mausoleum, one of them the hamlet where the Yang family lived; the terracotta army may have been rediscovered by the direct descendants of the people left to guard it. For centuries, there were reports of pieces of terracotta figures and fragments of the Qin necropolis — roofing tiles, bricks, and chunks of masonry — having been occasionally dug up in the area. This most recent discovery prompted archaeologists to investigate. The Terracotta Army is a form of funerary art buried with the First Emperor of Qin in 210-209 BC. The Army’s purpose was to help rule another empire with Qin Shi Huang in the afterlife. Consequently, they are also sometimes referred to as “Qin's Armies.” The material to make the terracotta warriors originated on Mount Lishan. In addition to the warriors, an entire man-made necropolis for the emperor has been excavated. Up to 5 metres of reddish, sandy soil had accumulated over the site in the centuries following its construction, but archaeologists also found evidence of earlier, impromptu discoveries.

According to historian Sima Qian (145-90 BC), construction of this mausoleum began in 246 BC and involved 700,000 workers. Geographer Li Daoyuan, six centuries after the death of the First Emperor, explained that Mount Li had been chosen as a site for its auspicious geology: it once had a gold mine on its north face and a jade mine on its south face, demonstrating not only its sacred value, but also perhaps how the tunnels had come to be dug in the first place. Qin Shi Huang was 13 when construction began. He specifically stated that no two soldiers were to be made alike, which is most likely why he had construction started at that young age. Sima Qian, in his most famous work, Shiji, completed a century after the mausoleum completion, wrote that the First Emperor was buried with palaces, scenic towers, officials, valuable utensils and “wonderful objects,” with 100 rivers fashioned in mercury and above this heavenly bodies below which he wrote were “the features of the earth.” Some translations of this passage refer to “models” or “imitations,” but he does not use those words.

Recent scientific work at the site has shown high levels of mercury in the soil on and around Mount Li, appearing to add credence to Sima Qian’s writings. The tomb of Shi Huangdi is under an earthen pyramid 76 metres tall and nearly 350 square metres. The tomb remains unopened, in the hope that it will remain intact. Archaeologists are afraid that if they do excavate the tomb, they might...
damage some of the valuables buried with emperor Qin Shi Huangdi. Only a portion of the site is presently excavated, and photos and video recordings are prohibited in some areas of the viewing. Only few foreigners, such as Queen Elizabeth II, have been permitted to walk through the pits, side by side to the army.

Construction
The terracotta army figures were manufactured in workshops by government labourers and by local craftsmen. The head, arms, legs and torsos were created separately and then assembled. Studies show that eight face moulds were most likely used, and then clay was added to provide individual facial features. Once assembled, intricate features such as facial expressions were added. It is believed that their legs were made in much the same way that terracotta drainage pipes were manufactured at the time. This would make it an assembly line production, with specific parts manufactured and assembled after being fired, as opposed to crafting one solid piece and subsequently firing it. In those times of tight imperial control, each workshop was required to inscribe its name on items produced to ensure quality control. This has aided modern historians in verifying that workshops that once made tiles and other mundane items were commandeered to work on the terracotta army. Upon completion, the terracotta figures were placed in the pits in precise military formation according to rank and duty.

The terracotta figures are life-sized. They vary in height, uniform and hairstyle in accordance with rank. The coloured lacquer finish, individual facial features, and actual weapons and armour from battle used in manufacturing these figures created a realistic appearance. The original weapons were stolen by robbers shortly after the creation of the army and the colouring has faded greatly. However, their existence serves as a testament to the amount of labour and skill involved in their construction. It also reveals the power the First Emperor possessed, enabling him to command such a monumental undertaking.

Pits
The four pits associated with the dig are about 1.5 km east of the burial ground and are about 7 metres deep. The outside walls of the tomb complex as if placed there to protect the tomb from the east, where all the conquered states lay. They are solidly built with rammed earth walls and ground layers as hard as concrete. In addition to delineating the site, these served to protect the ground beneath the site from springs in the area, as also mentioned in the Shiji. Pit one, 230 metres long, contains the main army, estimated at 8,000 figures. Pit one has 11 corridors, most of which are over 3 metres wide, and paved with small bricks with a wooden ceiling supported by large beams and posts. This design was also used for the tombs of noblemen and would have resembled palace hallways. The wooden ceilings were covered with reed mats and layers of clay for waterproofing, and then moulded with more soil making them, when built, about 2 to 3 metres higher than ground level.

Pit two has cavalry and infantry units as well as war chariots and is thought to represent a military guard. Pit three is the command post, with high ranking officers and a war chariot. Pit four is empty, seemingly left unfinished by its builders.

At the tomb of the first Qin Emperor, extremely sharp swords and other weapons were found which were coated with chromium oxide. This coating made the weapons rust resistant. Chromium only came to the attention of westerners in the 18th century. The alloys of tin and copper enabled weapons such as bronze knives and swords to avoid rust and remain sharp in spite of 2000 years of degrading conditions. The layer of chromium oxide used on steel swords was 10 millimetres and left them in pristine condition to this day. A Qin crossbow arrow had a range of 800 metres.
Mount Lawley Senior High School proudly supports Asia Literacy, starting in 1971 when the school became the first Education Department's Special Language School in the state. Today the school caters for five languages specialising in Mandarin (Chinese), Indonesian, Italian, German and French. Asia Literacy is also embedded within a range of curriculum areas across the school.

Mount Lawley has developed strong sister school relationships with various Chinese schools, such as Hangzhou No 14 Middle School with reciprocal exchange programs.

Successful programs in Asian Literacy for Mount Lawley Senior High School are:

Mount Lawley Senior High School's Two Terracotta Warriors came from Xi’an, in China after the 2010 China School Tour.

The ‘General’ was placed in the Front Administration Office and the ‘Captain’ resides next to the Library.

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