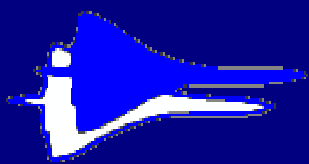


Edition 2/2009

The Interline Celebration 2009 is approaching!



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

WACA WORLD NEWS



What are you expecting in Borneo?



Editorial



led us, here in Germany also to realize how beautiful summer days are. I am sure that many of you are now enjoying your well-deserved vacations and I wish you lots of fun and joy!

Meanwhile, our next big venue, The Interline Celebration in Kuala Lumpur, is swiftly approaching its opening date and the organizing committee is extremely busy preparing everything well in advance in order to welcome all participants to Malaysia. While some of the participants are taking the journey as Delegates for the WACA Annual General Assembly, others, if not the majority of the Interliners, will have the opportunity to enjoy the relaxing pre tour to Langkawi, the Singapore Explorer Tour or the “adventurous” post tour to Borneo. Whatever the reasons for the journey are, we will all have the opportunity to enjoy the exciting and colorful life in Malaysia and the hospitality of the Malay people.

Constant updates about details of these events will be posted in the “all clubs messages” sent by the WACA Headquarters or sent by the Secretary General Julian Chau as well as from VP International Events and Special Projects Elaine Miller and the Regional Vice Presidents. In case of any further question, please do not hesitate in contacting them!

The difficult economical trend experimented worldwide is not only affecting our companies, but it also affects the global performance of WACA.. Nevertheless, we are very happy that we are able to report some good news. It is with great pleasure that we welcome our friends from the Nairobi Interline Club back to the WACA family. On this edition of your WWN, you will find a report of the visit of RVP AIM Region Yousef Yousef and members of the Jordan Interline Club to Nairobi. George Otanga, his Committee and members, warmly welcomed them.

As most of you may have seen in the news, South Africa introduced the “Nelson Mandela Day”, when people around the world was urged to perform 67 minutes of community service to honor the 67 years in which Nelson Mandela fought for racial and social equality. On this very special day, our President Maga Ramasamy visited Capetown and the Fikelela Organization, He met Beverley Hendriks and visited “Zonnebloem cottage”, one of the main projects of Fikelela, supported, amongst others, by the WACA Charity Fund. You will also find in this issue a complete report of the visit performed by the WACA President

In the meantime, the planned activities for our new WACA-Portal reach their conclusion. All details and forms were defined and the layout is ready to be introduced. The cost-benefit analyses will be presented to the AGA in Kuala Lumpur, while major efforts are being made by our President to get sponsorships for this and other WACA-projects.

Finalizing I would like to wish you all a good, safe and healthy summer. Enjoy your vacations, your summer or just nice quiet and enjoyable hours with your family and friends. I hope to meet you all in October – Malaysia is waiting for us!

Yours in interlining
Rosemarie Mamede
VP Public Relations

A good old friend.....

It is always a great pleasure to receive news from interliners who have been active members for so many years and who were not able to keep up their contacts for whichever reasons.

That is the case with Joseph (Yossy) Haffner, who recently contacted us after having been away from the Waca family for quite some time.

President Maga Ramasamy and the whole EC welcomes him back and we sincerely hope to meet Yussy either in Kuala Lumpur or during another event.

Happy Interlining, Yossy!

Joseph Haffner wrote us:

It seems a bit strange to have to identify myself but time and distance have done the damage.

My name is Joseph V. Haffner.

I created the Israel Interline Club in 1976 and was its President until I left Israel in 1981. I organised the first Holyland Tour of Israel in 1979.

I was involved in the encouragement for the creation of Interline Clubs in Cairo, and Amman and travelled extensively in my large Region to promote the name of our Association, its aims and values.

I served as the WACA VP for Middle - East and Africa under the Presidency of Gerry Philbrook and Malay Sakolviphak at the AGAs in Hawaii, Vancouver and HongKong, until my transfer as Air France Marketing - Sales Manager for Australia, NZ and South Pacific, based in Sydney.

I retired from the Airline in 1990, after 30 years of service.

For different reasons related to my new Life in Australia, I neglected to remain in contact with WACA but maintained correspondence with Jenny Schwily who replaced me as VP Waca and still keep a contact with David Larkin and Coleen Wagner who were both members in the then Waca Executive Committee.

I had the opportunity to read some old publications of WACA and was taken by a nostalgic sentiment.

Could you, kindly, find a way to forward to me some regular prints or info on the activity of my beloved WACA which in my old age has still a deep imprint on my heart?

I take this opportunity to ask you to please convey to all our EC Members, my most sincere wishes for success in the best of WACA spirit. God Bless you all !

Thank you sincerely,

Joseph (Yossy) V. Haffner

Past VP Waca for ME and Africa

Past Pres. of the Israel Interline Club

Email: cosimex@bigpond.net.au

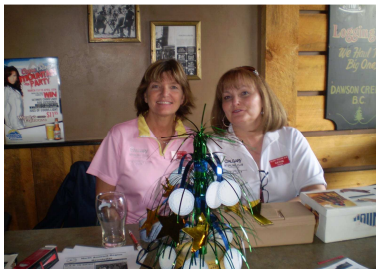
AROUND THE NORTH AMERICA REGION IN 80 SECONDS....

Despite the adverse conditions that the North American Interline Clubs' Executive Committees are encountering on the run of their Clubs, mostly due to the "worldwide crises" and the consequent measures taken by the Airline Industry to minimize the influence of it in their operational and financial status, they are nonetheless, facing the adversity with optimism and determination, continuing to offer to their membership friendly gatherings and international events for the benefit of their "WACA family".

The following is a "photographic" tour of the "life" of some of the North America Clubs in 2009

CALGARY INTERLINE CLUB

A night at Woody's Taphouse



Someone has to do the "dirty" work!!!



While others enjoy the fun and popularity....



What am I doing in Montreal???

FLORIDA INTERLINE CLUB



Susan, Beth and Ava at Skippers Seafood House- April 2009 event



Florida Interline Club members enjoying Pizza at Giordino's February 2009 event



Shirl and Jean enjoying their wine (what else is new?) at Giordino's...wondering if they even knew that pizza was also available?

MONTREAL INTERLINE CLUB

(Local gatherings)



Montreal Interline Club monthly dinner at Elixir Restaurant



Montreal Interline Club's, winter/spring seasons, closing "ceremonies" at the Vieux Kitzbuhel Restaurant on Ile Perrot



MONTREAL INTERLINE CLUB

(International Events – continued))



North America Regional Meeting



Quebec Winter Carnival



WACA Executive Committee Meeting in Montreal



The EC reception at the WACA member of Honor and MIC member Stan Fafoutirs residence...and Julian playing with the computer

SAN DIEGO INTERLINE CLUB

Gray Whale watch weekend



The local and "out of town" "explores" at San Diego wharf ready for the "meeting" with the Gray Whales

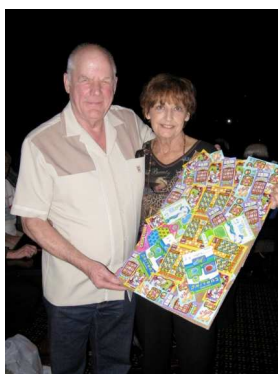


"Chow" time "pick nick style" after the missed "encounter" with the Gray whales...

VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB



Smiling "westerns" at the gathering at the Elephant and Castle pub



Joe Paauw was the lucky winner of \$47.00 worth of lottery scratch tickets. One cannot avoid but to wonder if they were all non-winners tickets or there were good "surprises" in any of them?

Francisco Valdez
RVP North America

VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB

(continued)



St Patrick's night at O'Hare's Pub



The Irish smiles...prelude of a good time and fun ahead!!!



Solving a clue on the Annual walking Rally

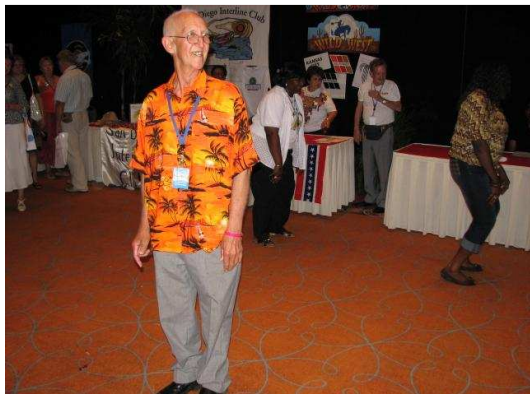


After the rally...a well deserved "replenishment" and relaxing time at the River Club



And the winner is....

Celebrating Life ...Frank Root *IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND AND A TRUE INTERLINER*



If we knew well Frank and, how he always was in control of his life, we are convinced that he decided when the time was right for him to leave and we can also hear him saying "Na Matata, life continues"!

When on duty, Frank was an experienced, meticulous and conscious professional (in the course of his professional career as an airliner pilot he hold thousands of lives and millions of dollars in equipment, in his hands) and when off duty, he fully enjoyed life according to his own categorization.

When we met Frank for the first time, (London Ball, his preferred interline event) he was First Officer in the South Africa Airways' B747 fleet. Later on we learned that he had declined several times a promotion to Captain, because, according to him, it would interfere with his seniority as a First Officer and consequently with his priority on the choice of destinations coinciding with the interline events that he had planned to attend. That was the interliner spirit on Frank.

As a friend, he was always ready to extend a helpful hand with no questions or conditions attached.

During the many years that we shared moments, in the Interline events that we participated, we noticed one constant on Frank's habits of "sitting". How he managed that, is still a secret that he kept very well....



See what we mean?

But then again that was Frank....

We believe Frank's article about the 2008 WACA Interline Celebration is the best way of describing his personality. WACA has lost one of its best Ambassadors and, for many of us, we lost a true friend. Na Matata, we know where he will find us in Kuala Lumpur!

R. Mamede and F. Valdez

WACA SPRING GET TOGETHER 18-20 APRIL 2009 IN VIENNA AND SALZBURG

After a successful European Meeting in Vienna, 15 interliners from Portugal, Canada, Hungary, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain spent an interesting cultural time in Vienna and Salzburg.



One day excursion took us via Wachau, Weissenkirchen and St. Michael to the romantic Danube bend in Spitz from where we took the boat to Melk to visit the Abbey. The abbey was founded in 1089, Benedict monks lived there and in the 12th century a school was founded. The monastic library soon became renowned for its extensive manuscript collection. Today's impressive Baroque Abbey was built between 1702 and 1736 and noteworthy are the frescos and the famous collection of medieval musical manuscripts.



Back in Vienna we had a typical and tasteful Austrian dinner and we did not go to bed late as the next day we left very early for another cultural day excursion to Salzburg, the city of Mozart.

After a beautiful and picturesque trip via Salzkammergut, Gmunden, Traunsee), Traunkirchen, Bad Ischl, St. Wolfgang the Austrian lakes and mountains we reached Salzburg.



Salzburg means "salt castle", referring to its massive fortress and the white gold of the mountains in the South. Its approximately 150.000 residents make it to the fourth biggest city and it is said to be Austria's most beautiful spot ! The magnificent baroque town centre is rated as



Unesco World Cultural Heritage site.

Many thanks to Barna, György and Anna from the Hungarian Interline Club to make this an unforgettable event where we spent two intensive cultural days in Vienna and Salzburg.

Mia Zwahlen
Interairline Club Zurich

Spring Get-Together in Vienna

April 2009

It was a nice spring day, when we arrived on Thursday, April 16th, in Vienna, to meet our interline friends.

Barna, Georgina and Anna welcomed us upon arrival at the Hotel Mercure Europaplatz and we learned about some changes in the program, so we had more time for visits. During the cocktail and the excellent dinner we had the opportunity to meet old and new friends.



For some of the group it was meeting-time on Friday morning. RVP Heidi chaired the European Regional Meeting, where 11 clubs were present. Several items about actual problems within the airline industry and WACA were discussed. The rest of the group enjoyed their morning with shopping or joined Barbara to visit a training session at the famous Spanish Riding School and see the Lipizzaner stallions. Everybody was thrilled about the presentation of the oldest riding school, where classic dressage is still practiced in its purest form and we all hope to come back and attend a full performance. After Lunch, a visit to Schönbrunn

with all the splendor of the Schönbrunn Palace, its ancillary buildings and beautiful park stood on the program. After a short rest in the hotel we went to a cute and cozy restaurant for a typical Austrian Dinner at "Heurigen Hannes" in Strebersdorf. Barbara and her friend welcomed us there. We never forget this wonderful dinner and the excellent white wine from the region. We all enjoyed such pleasant evening! Saturday, some of the group returned home, and others drove along the romantic Danube bend until we reached



Spitz. From there we took the boat until Melk to visit the Abbey of Melk, which represents the most brilliant and baroque art style in Austria. Remarkable are the cloister of the prelates, the Imperial Gallery, the library with its more than 100.000 books and 2.000 scriptures and the octagonal dome. We returned straight to our hotel, as the next morning started very early.

It was still 07:00 a.m. on this Sunday when we left by bus to Salzburg. The 4-hours drive took us to the region named "Austrian Switzerland", a seldom beautiful landscape with the sinuous road along the Mondsee and we saw the snowy peaks of the Alps in the background. It was an unique trip! Arriving in Salzburg, we did the most possible within the



given 4 hours of time, walked through the parks of the Baroque Museum and the narrow streets of the old town centre. We took the cable car to visit the Abbey of Nonnberg, remembering scenes of the famous film "The Sound of the Music".



Back in Vienna we think about returning to these places and to spend more time to admire all the monuments and historical places of the cosmopolitan city of Salzburg.

Before closing these impressions about Austria, we want to thank our friend Barbara for the special way she received us in her Vienna and Barna, for organizing the European Regional Meeting in this city and the most enjoyable tours.

A final greeting goes to Peter - we all know the reasons why he was unable to join us. However, he was always present and we all wish him very quick recovery!

Victor Carvalho
Interline Club Portugal

Discovery China Tour 9. – 15 May 2009

Mystical Landscapes of China -(Guilin, Yangshuo, Longsheng)

Guilin lies in the northeast of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and boasts “the most beautiful scenery under heaven.” It literally means “osmanthus tree forest “ named after this local tree whose scent wafts through the city in autumn. Everything a tourist wants can be found here – green mountains and plateaus, crystal clear waters, unique caves and magnificent landscapes. The beautiful Li River caps all this by winding through the city.

On the evening of 9 May, I joined 18 fellow interliners and their friends at the Hong Kong International Airport to catch our flight to this favoured destination. After just over an hour, we arrived at Guilin.

Mr. Mo and Jesse met us on arrival and after a short exchange of formalities, we were driven to our hotel, The Sheraton, in town. Most of us then ventured out for supper and to savour the local atmosphere. Guilin was still bursting with activity deep into the night.

10 May – Guilin

En route to the first scenic spot, we passed ballroom dancers on wide street pavements. Many retirees use the great outdoors as their gymnasium for exercise, from dancing to tai chi and more. It is a beautiful sight. There were a few inconspicuous shop signs displaying the sale of “dog meat hotpot” – a very local delicacy, but not recommended for our international travelers!

Our first stop was The Reed Flute Caves, a gigantic cavern of impressive limestone caves with stalactites and stalagmites and exotic neon lighting blazing at the rocks. During World War II, the cave was used as an air raid shelter as the interior is huge and can hold thousands of people. It took more than an hour just to admire the highlights of this cave. It was definitely worth a visit.



The Reed Flute Cave

The “icon” of Guilin is the Elephant Trunk Hill, which looks like an elephant dipping its trunk into the Li River to get a drink. The climb to the top of the hill is steep but worth the effort for a splendid view of the city. Lunch followed and it was the deep fried local river prawns and Guilin rice noodles washed down with a free flow of local beer that was a hit with all. The spice was yet to come.



The Elephant Trunk Hill

After lunch, we headed north to the Longji (Dragon’s Backbone) Rice Terraces in Ping An, a pleasant bus journey of about 3 hours. From the base, it was a 30-minute climb up a string of spiraling peaks to our special accommodation for the night. This was a 600-year-old village of the Zhuang minority group. Zhuang women help tourists carry their bags, big or small, up to their destination and charge a mere 20 yuan. Sedan chairs can also be hired to carry weary tourists for a negotiable price. The 30-minute climb was rewarding to say the least. The whole landscape is covered with spectacular terraced rice paddies.



The Longji Rice Terraces

The Longji Rice Terraces are amongst the most spectacular in the world. It took the Zhuang, Yao, Miao, Dong and other minority people centuries to build and perfect these terraces. The fields link mutually and cover the steep mountains, spiraling from hill foot up to the top, rising as high as 1180 meters from the valley floor. It is a magnificent sight.

Li An Lodge is charming and exquisite and there is no comparison possible. It is built entirely of wood and looks over endless endless paddy fields. Each room in this small boutique hotel is beautifully decorated with museum quality deco. For example, the Melody room is adorned with old Chinese musical instruments. We had the “Calligraphy Room” with the added bonus of learning about the origins of Chinese handwriting, its evolution and the instruments used to produce the writing.

Dinner was an intimate affair as we were the only guests on this night. The food was sumptuous and as close to home cooking as one could get. Following dinner, some of us adjourned to look for the stars from the patio. The nightcap was red wine or beer with accompaniments of smoked salmon and other snacks brought in from Hong Kong and afar. We were surrounded by old and new friends, in the middle of terraced rice paddies. It was a fairyland situation! What a beautiful surprise the day had been.

11 May - Ping An to Guilin

After breakfast, the group was divided into two. One group took a leisurely walk around the rice paddies and the village with one of the guides. They visited different vantage points and witnessed how the ethnic inhabitants here lead a simple rural life. The other group did a longer hike. I joined the latter group.

Seven of us, under the guidance of Mr. Mo, set off for our hike from Longji to Dazhai, a distance of 14 kms, through rice paddies and scattered villages. Spring is a good time to hike here. The fields are filled and shimmer with water and farmers work in the fields. Along the way, we met Yao tribeswomen walking slowly with a bamboo basket on their back and making a living by having their photos taken with visitors. They were also picking up wild vegetables.



Cooking over chopped wood fire

We stopped at one of the villager's wooden house for lunch- vegetables, bamboo shoots and sweet potatoes from their back gardens and age-old air-dried meat cooked over chopped wood fire. The rice was, of course, homegrown. Even the cooking oil came from homegrown peanuts. Tea came from tealeaves plucked in the area. In fact, nothing, apart from bottled water and soft drinks, had been bought in for this meal! The wild vegetables picked along the way had also ended up as our lunch. It was a basic but nutritious meal, with enough carbo-loading for our onward journey. After lunch, the tribeswomen brought out their folk art to sell - from bandanas to embroidered belts. As a final money making opportunity, some of the women let down their extremely long hair for a photo session.



Yao tribeswomen with long hair

After 6 hours, we arrived at Dazhai to join the rest of the group for our journey back to Guilin. It is understandable why travelers fall in love with this place and its atmosphere, as have I!

Dinner that evening was at Yi Yuan, reputed to be the best in Guilin. The cuisine was Sichuan, which is noted for its spiciness. Yet, there were people in our group adding more chilli to the spice!

12 May – Guilin to Yangshuo cruise

The Li River, transverses between Guilin and Yangshuo, and is an inspiring highlight. Soon after we set sail, bamboo rafts with men and things to sell, raced up along side our boat to entice would be buyers to their wares from sunhats to jade ornaments. Sadly, there were few takers. Life is hard for these peasants.

On this 4-hour journey, over a distance of 60kms, we passed through spectacular landscapes, stunning mountains with exotic names, towering peaks that sometimes peep out from misty clouds, reflections of the hills, waterfalls and caves and much more. As the boat sailed through the clear waters, we could even see ancient villages and the Chinese peasants life style, buffaloes wallowing in fields and fishermen fishing from bamboo rafts. Memory card killing had started for many of us!

Sailing on the Li River is akin to visiting an art gallery. *"One hundred miles Lijiang River, one hundred miles art gallery."* A lot of Chinese poems, literary works and art appreciate her beauty and now, I understand why.



Li River cruise

It had been a special trip. Although we were warned, that the lunch on the boat would be so-so, it turned out to be quite good. The breathtaking landscape along this river is unforgettable.

Smooth sailing followed by a smooth coach ride soon had us relaxing with a cold and fresh orange juice, on a hot afternoon, in the bar of the Yangshuo Mountain Retreat where we would spend our next 3 nights.

What a gem this hotel is. It is located in idyllic surroundings, facing the Yulong River and backing the karst mountains – a very auspicious fengshui setting indeed! Yet, it is far enough from the hustle and bustle of downtown and the backpackers. Most of us had rooms facing the river. It was possible to swim in the river but most of us did not. It was more fun sitting on its bank, enjoying cold martinis and watching bamboo rafts sail by.



Yangshuo Mountain Retreat

That evening, we dined on Cloud 9 on West Street, in the heart of Yangshuo. Tonight we sampled the famous beer fish, with yet more chilli. By now, our group had been divided into 2 – those who liked their food spicy on one table and those who did not, on another. Tonight, there was a chance to sample snake wine (a whole snake soaked in wine for a very long time and, needless to say, a Chinese delicacy).

After dinner, it was time to explore West Street, to relax in its western style cafes, stroll along its cobbled lanes or indulge in retail therapy for an hour.

13 May - Yangdi and Xingping

On this morning, the group was again divided into 2 for different activities. Those who wanted to have a leisurely start to the day had a lie in and then were taken by bus to Xingping, an ancient fishing village. Those who chose to do a hike alongside the Li River, from Yandi to Xingping, had an early start at 7am. I chose the latter.



Hiking along the Li River

Seven of us, again guided by Mr. Mo, were bused to Yandi to start another hike of 14 kms. Unlike the first hike, this one was mainly flat. Also unlike the first hike, we passed through different highlights of endless processions of karst limestone hills, bamboo groves, water buffaloes patrolling fields and activities on (such as laundering) and off (such as farming) the river. Through one of the villages, I stopped to buy a pomelo. It cost 1 yuan. Not only did it quench my thirst, it was one of the sweetest pomelos I have tasted. Crossings of the river on bamboo boats from time to time gave us a chance to rest our weary legs and made the hike more interesting. We ended our hike at a historical location - the karst rock formations by the section of the Li River that is pictured on the back of the 20 yuan note. What an inspiring walk this had been.



Pomelo ready to eat for 1 yuan

At Xingping, we united with the rest of the group for a sumptuous lunch. As usual, there was far more than we could eat or drink. My favourite dish was the water chestnut and celery stir-fry – non spicy for a change – but most delicious.

Xingping is the oldest town in Yangshuo. It was established in 265AD and was the most important town for 1700 years. Today, it is a sleepy town with stone houses and cobbled lanes, a small population and a few speciality shops. An art shop with a resident artist in attendance was popular with our group, with many appreciating what they saw and parting with their tourist dollar.

Soon it was dinnertime back at the Retreat. After another satisfying meal, we head to see the “*Liu Sanjie Lightshow*.” This is the world’s largest natural theatre that uses the Li River as its stage. The show depicts the beautiful scenery of the regions with local people (cast of 600) and minorities showcasing their way of life off the land and the rivers here. They sing traditional songs about rich harvest periods and marriage celebrations. Local farmers ride their bamboo rafts to catch fish with cormorant birds. From time to time, the background lights up and reflects from the karst mountains.

We ended the evening with beautiful memories and an ice cream in West Street before we reluctantly headed back to the Retreat.



Lightshow on the Li River

14 May - Yangshuo

Mountain biking in the Yangshuo countryside was on offer today and about 8 of us could not resist it! First we rode to a section of the Yulong River, accompanied by our expert guide, Mr. Mo, to join the rest of the group to start bamboo rafting.

Sitting 2 to a raft, we glided along the Yulong River powered by young and energetic punters. Our serene rafting was occasionally punctuated by moments of excitement when we traversed a weir to a lower level of the river. When the raft plunged over the weir, it made welcome splashes and caused laughter in many of our faces. This is a Kodak moment, often captured beautifully by a candid camera of some enterprising entrepreneur on a floating booth. Minutes later, it was possible to view and buy the picture. I ended up buying 3 different poses!



Bamboo rafting

There were more entrepreneurs selling cold beer and souvenirs from other floating booths along the way.

After more than an hour of rafting, soaking in the sights and some 8 kms downstream, we arrived at Gong Nong Bridge where our bikes were waiting for us. We continued cycling to Moon Hill, so called because the hole in the hill looks like the moon.

We met up with the non-cyclists for lunch at the base of Moon Hill. After lunch, some of us ventured up some concrete steps to the top. Fantastic views of the surrounding landscape, mountains and rivers, rice fields and villages greeted us on arrival. After a quick photo shoot, it was time to descend, get back on our bikes, head back to the Retreat, freshen up and set out for our next action. Mountain biking in the Yangshuo countryside was easy and rewarding.

An intrepid dozen signed up for the hot air ballooning experience this evening. I was one of them and on the way asked myself what I was thinking when I agreed to do it.



Hot air ballooning

The most frightening part of the experience was the ascent – getting into a hot balloon with robust flames just above your head is not for the fainthearted. It was, however, reassuring to be accompanied by a loved one. My fear was soon overtaken by a sense of serenity as the pilot glided us expertly over the peaks of Yangshuo. The breathtaking scenery of the region – the mountains, rivers, rice fields, orchards and villages, verdant fields and spartan surroundings were all below us. After just over an hour, we touched down safely. This was definitely an experience to savour and another item ticked off on my list of things to do.

After a relaxing and good dinner at the best Italian restaurant of Yangshuo, we boarded a boat to see how a local fisherman on a bamboo raft uses trained cormorants to catch fish. This practice is fast disappearing, which is just as well, as these birds are virtual slaves of the fishermen.



Fishing with a cormorant bird

15 May - Puyi – Guilin – Hong Kong

The last day of the tour and the feeling of having to leave this place and friends was heavy, but all was not done yet, as there was more to savour.

After breakfasting and checking out, we were bused to Pudi to catch a wooden boat, to the home of our guide, Jesse. Most of us had bags to carry for this journey – bags of books, stationary, educational material and snacks from across the world - for the children of the local primary school, which we were to visit.

This authentic Chinese village, far, far from the hustle and bustle of Yangshuo, has not seen foreign tourist groups of this size and diversity and we were gazed at by the curious inhabitants.

On the walk to Jesse's house from the bank of the river, we passed through rice fields and orchards, isolated houses, chicken dens, cowsheds, and buffaloes soaking in canals to shelter from the hot sun. Some of the villagers came out of their humble houses to watch us pass by and invited us into their homes – a Chinese welcome, that is seldom seen in cities.

The village primary school is small and sparse compared to those in the west, but the atmosphere was electrifying as soon as we arrived. The children gave us a rowdy welcome and the excitement was evident in their faces. We were not their everyday visitors and most of the teachers, let alone the children, had not seen a foreigner before.



Cash and other donations to the school

Soon all the children, teachers and the headmaster were gathered in one classroom. Some of us sat amongst the children and talked to them. The time of giving had arrived. First a cheque of 5000 yuan was presented to the school headmaster. This generous donation came from a philanthropist from Hong Kong, to contribute to upgrading facilities for the children with equipment such as blackboards. Then, it

seemed like Christmas time for the children as the rest of the presents we brought were distributed to each and every child as fairly as we could.

The excitement, and the smile on the faces, of the children receiving a present, as simple as a pencil, is firmly etched in my mind. Before we said farewell, we gathered outside the school for a group picture.



WACA members and children

Our final meal in Yangshuo was a home cooked lunch at Jesse's parents' house – an unforgettable meal of stuffed snails, organic meat and vegetables. There was one final chance for the discerning to have more chilli before we left this land where chilies grows abundantly. With our stomachs full and minds rich, we reluctantly started our way back to town, then airport and homeward bound. But the final retail opportunity was not to be missed, as time was on our side.

And so, we proceeded to West Street again for a final hour and last chance to spend our remaining yuan. This proved to be another happy and successful time as many in the group snapped up more bargains and souvenirs of this memorable trip.

The journey to the airport on the Yangshuo/Guilin highway seemed to be over all too quickly. Soon we all boarded our flight back to Hong Kong. It was not easy to bid farewell to friends, old and new, but happy in the knowledge that we may meet again someday on another WACA tour.

Summary

This trip had been a journey of surprise, a week of awe and a time of happiness. The scenery in and around Guilin and Yangshuo is spectacular, if not unique. The Li River cruise is a Chinese classic. The activities – hiking, cycling, rafting and hot air ballooning are but a few of the temptations. It is hard to find another place that offers so much diversity and pleases so many – from food to scenery and activities. Guilin indeed has it all. Even the weather could not have been better during our week's stay.

It was evident that the planning of this trip, from the places to stay, the activities to experience and everything in between, had not been left to chance. Julian and the Hong Kong Interline Club, the tour guides, Mr. Mo and Jesse with their efficient and safe driver, had ensured that we had a holiday of a lifetime. Their success was unanimously agreed. It had been huge!

Text By:
Evelyn Lim
WACA Rep, HKIC

Photographs By:
Julian Chau
WACA Secretary General

Visit to Fikelela – 17.07.2009 Report from the Organization

Firstly lots of love and greetings from all of us at Fikelela to Maga, Yousef, Rosemarie, Glen and the rest of the members of WACA.

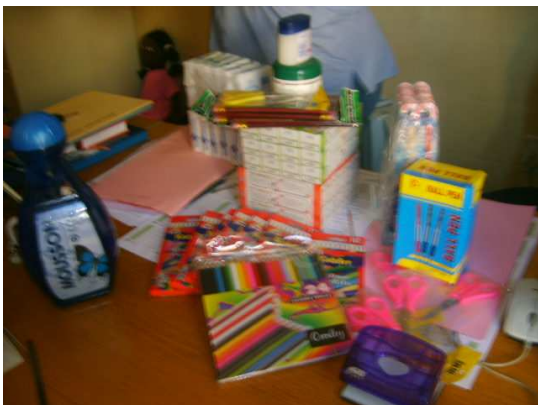
We appreciate your kind donation of stationery as well as toiletry items they will be put to great use at the children's centre in Khayelitsha.

Your cash donation of R6000,00 was received and we have given a receipt to Maga for that as well.



A little bit of an update in terms of what Fikelela has been busy with. We are encouraged to be in partnership with Home from Home orphans/foster children are placed in a home environment with foster parents. At Zonnebloem Estate, where the head office is for Fikelela, we have a home in existence for the past 7 weeks. Lots of excitement, hard work and emotion together with the team as well as our house parents Emmy and Raymond, we bring joy to 4 boys. Gershwin (4), Marlin (6), Jay Jay (9) and Omari (12). Background history of the children are known to us and we feel blessed that we could make a difference to the lives of the boys at Zonnebloem cottage.

We are engaging in linking with our local hospitals/clinics to offer support to HIV + Moms as well as HIV + Adults and this has resulted in us now having two new support groups. We engage in a relationship with the Church who then makes sandwiches on a weekly basis and we take it to these hospitals. Then we are able to offer spiritual and emotional support as well as offering them something to eat. This is working extremely well for us, as we are getting more and more Parishes on board



The children at the centre are well and were of course enjoying the school holidays.

On Friday July 17th, our day started in the morning with us visiting the boys at Zonnebloem cottage where Maga, Emmy, Yuven and Bev engaged in wonderful conversation and also taking Maga through the house to see what we have done. It was quite an eye opener for Yu-

ven, Maga's son, and quite a lot of questions came from this young man when he realized, what we were sharing with him. We left Zonnebloem and visited the children centre in Khayelitsha. Maga handed over the bags of goods to Pozi, the Manager of the children centre. Maga was taken through to the clinic in the centre, where Jean was quite proud to share with him about the children's medication and how she administers it to them as well as the importance of storing it properly.



We are extremely proud to be an organization "adopted" by WACA and to have an association with all of you, we appreciate it. After the tour of the day we ended up at the Waterfront and enjoyed some fish & chips. Thank you Maga for that. Yuven had a great experience and loved feeding the sea gulls.

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to be in your company and I hope the pictures shared with you will warm your heart.

Lots of love
Beverley Hendriks
Fikelela



AIM-Regional Meeting Mauritius – 05,-07. June 2009

A melting spot where past and present smoothly blend together.

The oasis of peace and tranquillity ...this is Mauritius, the Star of the Indian Ocean

It was my third time visit to this paradise, the hotel was superb and we were lucky to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the hotel, Our regional meeting was a true success, weather was amazing and all of those who attended the AIM Regional Package were so happy and thrilled with the excellent arrangements and help received from Maga and his team.

On behalf of all, I would like to say that we will never forget this trip as it was so special.

Will never forget Jenny's singing in Chinese, Franky will never forget zak's (Jack Fruit...!) crazy actions, and all the laughs and dancing we had, and the interlanning spirit we speared for all the residents of the hotel who danced and laughed with us.

Thank you Maga, Krichen, Chentra, Monique, Jenny, Franky and all.

Suhair Mahmoud
Jordan Interline Club



Welcome back, Nairobi Interline Club!

Our dear friend Mr. George Otanga, took the initiative with some of his colleagues from the old team of the Nairobi Interline Club and new members from Kenya Airways, to reactivate the club in Nairobi. I visited Nairobi between the 25 and 28 of April with Suhair and Mohammad from the Jordan Interline Club and we attended the first meeting with new and old friends from Nairobi.



On the 27 of June, another meeting was held to elect interim officers of the club. NIC have started their activities, and we hope that they will put next year a Kenya package on the WACA Calendar of Events.

I think a very good step was taken by electing a Committee to adopt the strategy of the re-launching of the Club.



As RVP AIM, we have to say, thanks to George, Anita & the old team - Suzette, Arun, Najmuddin and all our new colleagues from Kenya Airways, Emirates Airlines, Qatar Airways and Virgin Atlantic in Nairobi.

Thanks and best regards

Yousef Yousef

RVP Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East

I have no specific words, except the Kenyan Word coined by the Founders of this Nation:

“Harambee” a rallying cry for unity of purposes.



In brief, mine is to say that in the “True Spirit of Kenyan Harambee” this team will be able to make NIC rejoin the WACA family worldwide!!

The interim officials of the club are from diverse airlines in Nairobi, namely Kenya Airways, Emirates Airlines, Qatar Airlines, Virgin Atlantic and Air Mauritius...

This get together took place in down town Nairobi on 27/06/09 at Tidy's Restaurant being a follow-up to the Initiative of the Vice President AIM, Mr. Yousef together with the Jordan Interline Club, which took place at Goon Gymkhana in Nairobi on 25/04/09 aimed at Jumpstarting the NIC.

George Otanga

Nairobi Interline Club



Jordan Interline Club Fun and Adventures



Horse Riding Day

Around (60) interliners gathered with their families and friends in Noor Stable / Madaba for a horse Riding day in Friday 1st of May 09.

Interliners enjoyed the surroundings of the place, the food was delicious and kids had plenty time horse riding and playing in the challenge fie

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Suhair Mahmoud
Jordan Interline Club



Jordan Interline Club Fun and Adventures

Bowling Night



Jamaica Jump-Up 2009

Year after year, this very traditional WACA-Event is attracting interliners from whole the world!



Regional Meeting Far East and Australasia

The representatives of the Clubs of the Far East and Australasia Region met in Singapore.



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