

For immediate release

11 June 2008

CHINESE ARTIST TALKS LANGUAGE

Several schools around Rotorua, and in particular those offering the Chinese language as part of their curriculum, will be visited by an interesting Chinese artist in August.

The well-known artist, Hu Zinan from the Shanxi University in Taiyuan China, has been invited to promote Chinese language through art. Hu Zinan will start his tour in Rotorua, before going to Hamilton, Wellington and Dunedin from 3 - 20 August 2008. Laytee George, National President of the New Zealand Chinese Language Association, said: "The Rotorua Museum will host Hu's exhibits and workshops for the public." He will also visit a number of schools offering an interactive art / language workshop. "An interesting aspect of the workshop is that Hu speaks no English so communication takes place through the art work."

Mrs George said the decision to host the artist's tour came after the success of last year's visit by the Beijing Moppets, a group of young Chinese children performing Beijing Opera, also sponsored by the Rotorua Trust. "The events allow us to showcase Chinese language and culture to New Zealanders as well as bring together the Chinese communities to explore and enjoy their heritage." The New Zealand tour is being organised by the Rotorua branch of the New Zealand Chinese Language Association. The Rotorua branch has been running for the last four years and has more than 20 members.

Library services for those people in the Rotorua region who are blind, deafblind or vision-impaired are about to receive a boost thanks to funding from the Rotorua Trust.

The Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) Library Service lends more than 400,000 talking books and audio magazines to its members every year. There are 177 Foundation members in the Rotorua area. Wendy Isaacs, RNZFB Regional Fundraising Manager Bay of Plenty, said funding from the Rotorua Trust will help local members stay informed. "Funding from the Trust will be used to support this free service so that Foundation members can access information and literature more readily in a format they can use. The service costs the Foundation \$90,000 to operate in the Rotorua area."

She added that more than 50 percent of Foundation members are in the over 80 year age bracket and are often alone or isolated, so the library is very important to them. "Members often take out eight or nine books at a time as talking books can be listened to pretty quickly," she said. Talking books were introduced in New Zealand in 1937, soon after they became

available in Britain and the United States of America. There is a catalogue available for members to ring up and order the books they want. To find out more visit: www.rnzfb.org.nz

A new concept, 'Nutrient Sensitive Zones', will be discussed at a symposium about the district's lakes being held in Rotorua in August this year.

Brentleigh Bond, treasurer of the Lakes Water Quality Society (LWQS), said the Society believes there are water catchments in Rotorua, and elsewhere in New Zealand, that are more susceptible to nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) pollution than others. "This concept is in line with overseas precedent and finds that these catchments are generally around lakes with nutrients from various urban and rural sources flowing into the lakes but not flowing out." Mr Bond said this leads to accelerated water quality degradation. "LWQS believes Rotorua's lakes are particularly sensitive to nutrient pollution and that this should be recognised and special management rules for their management need to be put in place."

'Nutrient Sensitive Zones' is a new concept to New Zealand and the symposium will provide the opportunity to open the issue up to informed public debate. Speakers will address the problems facing our lakes, the legislative framework, provide international and local case studies for policy guidance and address the issues facing the farming industry as well as consider the regional and national economic implications of our lakes' environments," he said.

The symposium will be held at the Heritage Hotel on 12 and 13 August 2008. It will be opened by Hon. Trevor Mallard, Minister for the Environment and will include a number of internationally recognised keynote speakers.

The local community groups and organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust in its latest donations round were:

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| Agriculture Industry Training Organisation | \$3,000 |
| Skills Day and Prize-giving | |
| Arawa Bowling Club | \$10,000 |
| Heating | |
| Arts and Language International Trust | \$5,000 |
| Boxwood Festival | |
| Institute for Child Protection Studies | \$2,000 |
| Workshop | |
| Lakes Water Quality Society | \$4,000 |
| Symposium | |
| Mary McKillop Hostel Board | \$10,000 |
| Refurbishment of Rooms | |
| New Zealand / Chinese Language Trust | \$2,300 |
| Chinese Artist Visit | |

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| Philips Search and Rescue Trust Operational Funding | \$50,000 |
| Rhapsody Rotorua Music Festival | \$12,000 |
| Rotorua Adventure Therapy Aotearoa Youth Activities | \$4,000 |
| Rotorua Brass Band Heating and Hall Upgrade | \$20,000 |
| Rotorua Lakes High School Role Model Student Programme | \$2,000 |
| Rotorua Seventh Day Adventist Church Heating | \$10,000 |
| Rotorua Symphonic Band Stepping Up Programme | \$5,180 |
| Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Library Services | \$30,000 |
| Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra Concerts for Rotorua | \$5,000 |
| Western Heights High School Role Model Student Programme | \$1,000 |

Ends

For more information please contact:

Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust

Stuart Burns

Chief Executive

Telephone 07 347 6239

Web www.rotoruatrust.org.nz

Lakes Water Quality Society

Brentleigh Bond

Telephone 07 362 4700

New Zealand / Chinese Language Trust

Laytee George

Telephone 07 347 2527 (evenings)

Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind

Wendy Isaacs

Telephone 07 578 2376

Issued by:

imPRove it Public Relations Ltd

Telephone 07 348 1444

Mobile 027 430 8876

Email annette@improveit.co.nz

Web www.improveit.co.nz

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