

**Rotary Australian World Community Service Eastern Region
Alliance for Smiles 132/2010 /11
China Qiqihar 25/06/2011 to 09/07/2011**

Team members

The team was made up of 30 Medical and non Medical volunteers from United States of America, Hong Kong, England, Canada, China and Australia

Sponsorship for this Mission was China Population Welfare Foundation and R/C of Hong Kong D 3450

Rotary volunteers were from districts 5050 5040 5630 and 9670 (Lyn Thorpe R/C Newcastle Sunrise and Kim Ritter R/C Adamstown New Lambton)

Kim Ritter and I joined the team in Beijing and flew to the Northern Province Heilongjiang's capital Qiqihar. We were welcomed at a ceremony at the hospital which was reasonably equipped but lacked a lot of consumables. Patients had already been processed and all medical stations set up for consulting.

First clinic day we saw 80 patients who had travelled thousands of kilometres seeking treatment for cleft lips and cleft palates. The end of the mission we consulted 140 patients and operated on 75 repairing lips and palates.

There were 2 operating teams 1 English speaking and 1 Chinese .Our translators were Chinese University students studying English. There was a great understanding and respect amongst all the team members as we were all there for the same reason. Humanitarian work has no boundaries but brings understanding and tolerance between different cultures.

I found our Chinese hosts and co workers very disciplined and eager to learn and as International team we certainly did "Reach within to Embrace Humanity"

Lyn Thorpe OAM
Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise
District 9670