

Rotary Australian World Community Service Eastern Region

Alliance for Smiles 4th September 19th September

China Harbin Project number 64/2009/10

Rotary districts represented were 6450 5020 9670 6050

The team was made up of 36 volunteers 7 of whom were Rotarians.

Countries of origin were United States Cuba Italy Britain Malaysia Germany Hong Kong China Taiwan Canada and Australia

The hospital was the Children Hospital of Harbin run by the Red Cross which with 4 other children's hospital services a population of 10 million. Harbin is an industrial city manufacturing cars and aeroplanes. It has very little tourism but is renowned for its Ice Sculptures. This city has Russian influence as it was once a Russian stronghold.

Day 1 we consulted 150 patients not all were poor but certainly in need of attention. Health is not free but the hospital provided all essential services to those who could pay. Hospital facilities were clean and well run and the medical staff was excellent in providing first class service. We often wondered why we were here.

A total of 100 Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate operations were performed. The Chinese Staff tried very hard to learn English and were at all times a credit to their facility. Our accommodation was good and was in walking distance to the hospital. Great care was always needed when crossing the road as the traffic was a nightmare.

Our mission was successful as it brought together a multinational team working together promoting international good will through building communities and bridging continents.

I was proud to have had the opportunity to service as a Rotarian.

Lyn Thorpe OAM

Rotary club of Newcastle Sunrise