

Year 10 Chinese City Excursion

By Harry Chan and Inigo Tejada

Australia is one of the most multicultural and diverse countries in the world. To experience the culture and speak the language with our community, our Year 10 Chinese class went to China Town to visit the Chinese Australian Museum and ran a survey to interview the people on the street to understand the current lives of Chinese.

First, we walked through the beautiful Tianjin Garden, which was a gift to Melbourne by its sister city Tianjin. In the entrance of the museum, we were greeted by a wall of stories about Chinese people, businesses, restaurants, and books around them. We learnt about the early Chinese miners' experience during the gold rush as well as other Asian minorities, we also saw the massive millennium dragon, which only parades twice a year in the city.

After we left the museum, we continued to interview random Chinese people in the city. It was very challenging as we were rejected on various occasions, meanwhile it was stressful asking the questions in Chinese. Eventually we finished all our interviews and paid a visit to a Chinese bookstore and eat out at a Chinese restaurant. Delicious food was a reward to our hard work.



Students' reflections:

“游览完澳华博物馆后，我更好地了解了早期华人在澳的历史。他们在上世纪那种守望相助、勇于抗争的精神使我颇为震撼。”

“After visiting the museum, I understood much better about how Chinese lived in Australia in the early days. I was touched and inspired by their unity and fighting for justice and fairness.” (By Linda Lin))

“充分了解了过去华人淘金的不易与心酸，身为当时的外来者他们经历过歧视与压迫他们却依然坚强，依靠不懈的努力证明了自己的能力，利用团结的力量，勇于抗争，让他们走出阴霾并让其余人开始慢慢重视他们。我们也应该共同努力营造更美好未来。”

“Seeing the history of early Chinese Australian, I felt their pains and struggles caused by discrimination and was amazed by their tough fights for justice together, meanwhile helping and supporting each other to overcome the darkest period and gradually earned the respect. Together we could make a better future.” (By Gloria Gao)

“通过问卷调查，我发现尊重他人很重要，这也是我们学校的价值观之一。因为在街头访问的时候，哪怕没时间只要说一句抱歉，就让我们这些采访人感觉受尊重。同时，我也明白了有志者事竟成，虽然我们被拒绝了很多次，但是只要坚持一定能完成任务的”

“By doing the interviews, I realised the importance of respect, which is also one of our school values. Even if the person had no time to answer, a simple “sorry” made us, the interviewers, felt respected. Meanwhile, I also fully understood the meaning of “where there is a will there is a way” in the survey. Though we were rejected many times, by sticking to the goal, we eventually made it.” (By Mike He)



Photos taken by Nick Lee.