

HKNHS Diamond Jubilee Celebration Report

1 November 2009, Inspiration Lake and Disneyland Hotel Gardens, Lantau

This extra activity to mark the Society's 60th anniversary was supported by 24 members, (two of whom shared their 60th with the NHS this year), who met under the gazebo outside the Disneyland MTR station on a beautifully warm and sunny Sunday morning. Most members had not visited Disneyland previously and many commented how well-kept and attractively landscaped even the park's outer public areas surrounding the bus station were!

The group hopped on the R8 bus for the very short ride to Inspiration Lake Recreation Centre, developed by the Civil Engineering & Development Department and opened in August 2005. The Centre covers a total of 30 hectares, has more than 4,800 trees and 430,000 shrubs, an artificial lake, a jogging trail, playground, waterfall and service centre. The popularity with busloads of tourists!), and members enjoyed walking the 1.7km Nature Trail around the lake; with its backdrop of Lantau's majestic mountains on this particularly blue-sky day, it did look quite magnificent and provided a wonderful stroll. Cries of "You'd never think you were in HK, would you!" were heard from several quarters. As well as being such an attractive recreational setting, the lake does provide irrigation water for Penny's Bay, including Disneyland. The stroll also took in the four-hectare arboretum which features a wide range of local and exotic plants and trees.



After returning to the Disneyland bus station, members then walked the length of the Park Promenade, serenaded by various Disney tunes from the overhead speakers, with many stopping for a photograph or two by the Mickey-surfing-on-a-whale-spout statue. After arriving at the Disneyland Hotel, we met our guide, Rosalinda, Horticulture Service Manager for the Hotel, who walked us through the hotel gardens, pointing out various trees and plants of interest, and answering members' questions. It was obvious that no effort or expense had been spared when importing the plants for Disneyland, and many trees were shipped in their own 40ft containers. It was interesting how many species, although not originally indigenous to China, were now being grown and developed there, and so China was actually the source of the majority of the plants. As well as highlighting varieties that members could grow in their own gardens here in Hong Kong (if only they had them!), another interesting snippet Rosa



pointed out was a type of grass that thrived in the salty atmosphere next to the sea. Many of the trees Rosa talked about were unfortunately not in bloom at that time, prompting several statements of intent for a further visit!



This visit concluded with a buffet in the Enchanted Gardens restaurant, where the Society occupied a fairly secluded corner. Mickey, Minnie, Daisy and Goofy were unable to find us though, thank



with a sumptuous buffet in the Enchanted Gardens restaurant, occupied four tables in a Not so secluded that and Goofy were unable to find us though, thank goodness, and

introductions were duly made and photographs taken (mostly by Nyria!). The food really was excellent, and once we were replete enough to be dragged away from our plates for a moment, Chairman Dave gave a short speech, briefly recounting the history of the Society, telling one or two truly awful jokes, and toasting ourselves and the future of the Society - "here's to the next 60 years!"





Report by Jan Campbell, November 2009