

In December 2007, the Chinese Language Foundation (CLF) organised its third annual Chinese language and culture camp. The event took place over three days and two nights at Shakespeare Park, where students enjoyed the great outdoors while learning to speak Mandarin.

An innovative residential programme for intermediate students from the CLF's school network, the camp aimed for a full immersion experience – learning through fun activities, games, food and cultural appreciation – with an expectation that this would enhance the students' Chinese-language proficiency.



# Laying a language foundation

by Tessie Chen



Some fifty students were selected by their schools to attend the camp, on the basis of their ability and interest in the Chinese language. The schools represented this year included Kristin School, Royal Oak Intermediate, Sutton Park School,

Kowhai Intermediate, ACG Parnell Junior College, ACG Strathallen School, Christian Renewal School, Farm Cove Intermediate, Glen Eden Intermediate and St Mary's School.

The camp was delivered by a group of Chinese volunteers passionate about sharing their language and culture.

Some were New Zealand-born, while others came from countries such as Singapore, Taiwan and China.

Students were able to learn from the volunteers how Mandarin was spoken in many parts of the world. They also learned to perform the lion dance, play the diabolo, write

