

## FRIENDS OF ASIA PACIFIC WAGGGS – TAIWAN

As members of Friends of Asia Pacific WAGGGS, we were privileged to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> FAPW Regional Gathering in New Taipei City, Taiwan, which was held in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference. We were originally going to Sri Lanka but due to the bombing circumstances the conference was moved to Taiwan.

When we landed in Taiwan we were met at the airport by a friendly group from Girl Scouts of Taiwan and escorted to the transport to take us to the Caesar Park Hotel Banqiao, our home for the next week. The hotel was very nice and modern although we could suggest some ideas for improvement if they want to attract tourists. (Mainly food options).

At the Opening Ceremony we were entertained by students from Jitin Elementary School doing the Lion Dance. Also young Girl Scouts (called Tadpoles) sang for us.



**Lion Dance at Opening**



**Australian Conference and FAPW Teams**

In the evening, we had an International night and regional Bazaar. We were able to buy items to take home as souvenirs as well as sell the items we had taken for this event and the money raised went to FAPW.

The next day we went to visit Ping Xi and Shifen towns to see the Shifen Waterfall and then Ping Xi which is famous for its Sky Lantern Festival. We were able to write a wish message on a lantern which was then sent into the sky. Next we went pineapple pastry making. We were all given a template to fill with the supplied pastry and pineapple filling. The template had a number (which we had to remember) on it and we all received the pastries we made by the time we got back on the bus. We had time in their shop while our pastries were cooking.



**Shifen Waterfall**



**Sky Lantern**



### Pineapple Pastry Making

That night we had the pin ceremony where members who had just joined as Friends and those members who had upgraded received their badges (pins).



**New Supporter, Bronwyn,  
Upgrading Supporters, Judy & Gwen  
with Dame Dallas**



**Following the Pin Ceremony**

The following day we visited Da Dao Cheng and its markets, but firstly the Tze Sheng Temple where they believe they can find a partner if you are looking for one. It was fascinating to walk along the footpath where motor scooters are parked and also sometimes drive along. The food in the markets was interesting but no one bought any.

Next we went for activities at the Girl Scouts of Taiwan Centre. We made a delicious no bake sweet, Chocolate Buttercream Loaf, under their tutelage, with layers of biscuits and buttercream. We were entertained by the Tadpoles before doing a round-robin of Girl Scout activities – ring toss, bingo, spinning top, shuttlecock and snake dance. To see grown women playing with the *TOYS* they had us make was quite hilarious.



**Tze Sheng Temple**



**Dancing Snakes**



**Chocolate Buttercream Loaf**



**Ring Toss**



**Recognise the Song?  
Same actions, different language**

That night was the FAPW 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Closing Ceremony where we were entertained by traditional dancers and a masked man who changed his mask about 10 times and we still don't know how he did it.



**The Masked Man**

The following day we took the local Metro train and visited the 101 Tower which is the highest building in Taiwan. 360 degrees views from the 86<sup>th</sup> floor all over Taiwan were fantastic. When built, it was the tallest building (101 stories) in the world.



**101 Tower and view from the top**

That night we attended the Asia Pacific Region 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, another large banquet, with more entertainment from the masked man and we were still amazed at how he could change his masks. It was an incredible experience to participate in the Gathering and see parts of the Regional Conference in action. If you get the chance to attend a future event, take it.

Gwen Hunt & Judy Lucas