

Field Staff

We are very privileged to be joined this year by **Selwyn and Natalie Yeoman** from New Zealand. Selwyn is to take over project and personnel management and the community project negotiations in Zhiduo County. Natalie is coming to teach and work particularly on the education projects. They have landed running – moving straight out to the remote project area upon their arrival...

For work in 2004

We extend a huge thank you to **Laurens and Heidi Wester, Bob and Christie Loney, Maynard and Dorothy Seaman, Tricia Anderson, Ben Henderson and Peter Foggin** who have contributed a huge amount of work in this first year in Zhiduo County.

Laurens and Heidi Wester helped run the project and set up the office building and garden.

Christie Loney taught at the Middle School and **Bob Loney** set up the solar electricity supply.

Maynard and Dorothy taught two groups of doctors and did much of the work running the centre.

Tricia Anderson, a midwife and development worker, contributed to the community projects in the Spring of 2004.

Ben Henderson carried out an ecotourism feasibility study in the Spring of 2004.

Peter Foggin provided logistic support for doctor training and monitoring.

In 2005

Marc and Marion Foggin continue to work this year in Zhiduo County.

Selwyn and Natalie Yeoman will work in project management and education.

Jenni Wilson will teach in the Maternal and Child Health Programme.

Colin and Sarah Wilcock are preparing to come in September of 2005.

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The first year of the current project in Qinghai went well with more achieved than we had hoped for. This year, we were warmly welcomed back by the Governor of Zhiduo County who promised any help needed to enable our continued working there.

Community Health

Doctor and Women's Health Worker Training In 2004, 50 village doctors



completed a one-month basic medical training in patient assessment, diagnosis and management of the commonest and more serious conditions (as identified by our community health survey and focus group work with doctors). The course also included training in preventative health, community development and environmental protection. The doctors and the Health Bureau

were very appreciative and requested further training in 2005. The Health Bureau leader specifically requested that we prioritise the training of a group of young women who have been selected by their communities, to be trained to provide health care for women for whom health care has up to now been inaccessible.

Community Health Centres Some of the communities have now decided that they want to build a health centre / community centre. In this sparsely populated area there is



no natural place to meet. The physical presence of a health centre would allow the administration of an insurance scheme, subsidised by the government, and the safe storage of medicine. The doctors of each proposed clinic will have attended our training. Facilities will be built to enable safe waste and needle disposal, safe toilets and the modelling of healthy practices.

Immunisations At the end of 2004, we were given a unique opportunity to provide the logistics and funding for an immunisation campaign to one of the remote areas. A doctor from the epidemic station trained four of the local women health workers to assist in the immunisations. The aim of including the women health workers was to advertise the campaign and to show the young girls of the community that women can do this kind of work and hence to motivate them to take up educational opportunities. There was a large turnout for immunisations and several communities are now asking for more this year.



Education

This year we are supporting two village schools:



construction of a kitchen and dining room.

Yaqu school is another village school we helped establish in a remote area. To encourage more people to now send their children, there is a need for a good kitchen. The government will fund separately the roof repairs needed for the dormitory buildings.

County Middle School An American teacher, with 8 years of teaching experience in China, came for about 6 months to train the teachers and also gave some joint classes to the pupils.

Environmental Protection



Much of our work area in Zhiduo County is now a core zone in a huge national nature reserve – the largest in China. People's lives are totally dependent on the land, which is being degraded, and many of the wildlife species are threatened. Working with the local pastoralists and our local partners, herders have been set up as wildlife monitors.

This year a bird survey was to be carried out on the migratory birds. We produced a tri-lingual field-guide to help the monitors identify the birds of the area. A joint trip was planned this month but has been postponed because of concerns about the health of migratory birds. However, our partners are keen that the environmental work continues and our plans include the following:

- Environmental training
- Wildlife surveys
- Facilitating meetings between local herders and Nature Reserve planners and policy makers.

One major area for development is that of the construction of a **conservation centre**. This would enable :

1. Provision of environmental training for the wildlife monitors and nomads from a much wider area.
2. Provision of vocational training to the many people coming to town – encouraged to move off the land but with no alternative income.
3. Provision of continuing professional development of village health workers, teachers etc from a much wider area than is currently possible.
4. Testing and modelling of innovations in land management and income generation.
5. Project Management offices.
6. Environmental awareness Information Centre.
7. Provision of accommodation for visiting experts and resource people.

The conservation centre would thus serve as a visible sign of a long-term commitment by Plateau Perspectives to this place and people. However this project depends on the availability of funding, which still needs to be raised.