

Newsletter



Hong Kong Toastmasters Club

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December Fun Stuff

Hoi Ha Wan Eco-Tour - By Daniel Chan

It was a beautiful sunny Monday afternoon. HKTM member Daniel Chan led an ecotour of the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, located at the extreme north of the Sai Kung Peninsula. Facing the Tolo Harbor, Hoi Ha Wan is renowned for its rich reserve of corals and other underwater marine resources.

Before kicking off the tour, we had an extraordinary afternoon tea at a sidewalk "cafe" where we tasted fresh vegetables direct from the paddy field! Next, we continued our tour by visiting two old giant kilns where villagers once made lime out of marine organisms. Finally, we ended the tour with a delightful walk along the coastal path with scenic views over the foreshore and plenty of natural habitats. As we were not able to go snorkeling, we could see fish and starfish underneath the crystal clear water.

To conclude the tour, we rewarded ourselves with a traditional Big Bowl Feast (also known as "Pun Choi") prepared by the villagers of Hoi Ha Wan.

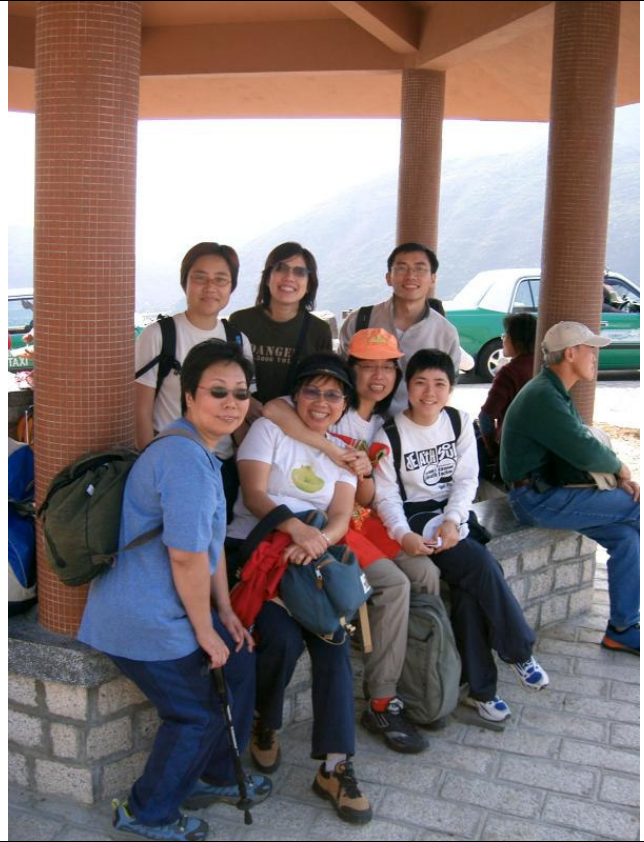


To the right is a picture of one of Sai Kung's beautiful beaches. It was too surreal to leave out of this newsletter. Thank you Queenie for this lovely picture.....



Maclehose Trail Hike – by Janice Pang

The day of December 27th, 2004 was cool, sunny and a perfect day for hiking. An energetic pack of toastmasters (Anne, Bryan, Elsa and her friend Tina, Queenie and I) went on a hike on the 1st and 2nd stages of Maclehose Trail. The first stage was an easy hike. We had a great view of the Man Yi Reservoir along the way. The far end of the water surface merges seamlessly into the blue sky as the crystal clear water is surrounded by orange soil and river rocks. The 2nd stage was more challenging than the 1st. The group was really remarkable in perseverance and physical strength. Altogether, we hiked more than 20km. In return for all the sweat we spent, we had magnificent views of the beaches along the Hong Kong northeast shore line and of the rolling hills in the New Territories.



New Member Flash!!



Mrs. Mandy Ko

Please welcome our newest member of HKTM. Mandy is married and a mother of 13 year old. Aside from being a mother, she is the manager (Corporate Services) for Tricor Services Limited.

Some of her interests include watching TV, reading, and relaxing. She is a friend of long time HKTM member Wendy Chan and was influenced by her to join our club. Mandy's objectives are to build and to improve her public-speaking confidence.



Grammar Section: Pronouns – Pronouns take the place of nouns and must agree with their antecedents in number, person, and gender. In addition, pronouns must have clear antecedents. A sentence that contains an ambiguous pronoun-antecedent relationship is grammatically incorrect.

The most important point regarding pronoun use is that **pronouns must agree with their corresponding nouns**:

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	I/me	we/us
2nd Person	you	you
3rd Person	he/him; she/her; it	they/them

Specifically, pronouns must agree with their antecedents in **Number**...

Incorrect: The team members celebrated after **it** secured the division championship.

Correct: The team members celebrated after **they** secured the division championship.

in **Person**...

Incorrect: The incumbent believes that voters will re-elect him despite **their** proposal to raise taxes.

Correct: The incumbent believes that voters will re-elect him despite **his** proposal to raise taxes.

and in **Gender**...

Incorrect: The newborn girl wore a yellow cap on **its** head.

Correct: The newborn girl wore a yellow cap on **her** head.

Relative pronouns ("that" and "which") that appear in clauses must also follow particular grammatical rules. In this case, pronoun use is determined by the clause's relationship to the meaning of the sentence:

The relative pronoun "that" is restrictive. What follows "that" is necessary to the subject of the clause:

Incorrect: The car which is parked next to the fire hydrant will be ticketed.

Correct: The car that is parked next to the fire hydrant will be ticketed.

The relative pronoun "which" is non-restrictive. What follows "which" is not necessary to the subject of the clause:

Incorrect: The car that is red will be ticketed.

Correct: The car, which is red, will be ticketed.

We also must be on the lookout for instances of **pronoun ambiguity**.



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