



SHENHUA CEO Zhang ZhiMing presents Gunnedah Shire Library manager Sharon Tollard with a selection of the books at Wednesday's presentation.

Shenhua to shine light on Chinese culture

THE CEO of Shenhua Watermark visited Gunnedah recently to donate 200 books about China to the local library as part of a cultural exchange.

Shenhua CEO Zhang ZhiMing believes the exchange will be an important step in encouraging Chinese/Australian relations in the local community.

"It will improve the cultural exchange between these two countries and bring greater benefit to the people of Australia and China," he said.

"This exchange is a window for the citizens of Gunnedah to better understand Chinese culture.

"These efforts are part of Shenhua's long term commitment to the local community."

Currently, China is experiencing the Year of Australian Culture (June 2010 to June 2011) and yesterday's proceedings served as a prelude to the Year of Chinese Culture in Australia, which runs from June 2011 to June 2012.

The 'Year of Chinese Culture in Australia' celebrations are an initiative between the Australian and Chinese Embassies, and will showcase collaborations between Australia and China in art, music, dance, performance,

literature, film, fashion, design and many other cultural mediums.

Around 20 members of the Gunnedah community attended yesterday's presentation, which was followed by morning tea and an opportunity for locals to talk to Shenhua's executive.

Some of the themes explored in books available to loan from the library include art, landscapes, lifestyle, history, natural wonders and Chinese ethnic groups.

Deputy Mayor Colleen Fuller said she was "honoured" to be at the presentation, both as a councillor and as part of the Gunnedah Multicultural Committee.

"It's a great privilege for us to be able to work with Shenhua," Cr Fuller said.

Gunnedah Shire Library manager Sharon Tollard, after officially receiving the books, said that the collection will have its own section in the library, although the books written only in the Chinese language will be in the Chinese section.

She said that a small Chinese community exists in Gunnedah, however the books will be able to educate and entertain a wider cross section of the community.

"There really is something for everyone," she said.