



Christchurch Branch Newsletter

July 2010

Secretary Annette Hill, Phone 3228182 email:tomnahurich@xtra.co.nz

Next Meeting

Sunday 25th July 2.00pm

Rewi Alley Education and Cultural Centre, 32 Matipo Street

Gold coin donation (suggest \$2). Bring-&-buy table.

Movie Afternoon – “ Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress”

(Movie followed by afternoon tea)

Set in China during the Cultural Revolution of the 1970's, the story follows Luo (Chen Kun) and Ma (Liu Ye), two young men from the city who are sent to a mountain village for a “re-education” in Maoist principles through hard labour in the fields. Amid the back breaking work both fall in love with the little Chinese Seamstress (Zhou Xun), the daughter of the local tailor, and they read her forbidden works of Western literature, including Balzac and Dumas. A stirring of emotions, both intellectual and romantic, sees Luo's teenage crush turn to passion and his tutoring of the seamstress opens the girl's eyes to life beyond the village and the boys. Featuring beautiful mountain scenery, this lyrical coming-of-age story is directed by Dai Sijie, and based on his own best-selling autobiographical novel.

Branch News.

June meeting – Christchurch Boys' High School group who attended the International Youth Science and Technology Expo. At the end of 2009 an invitation was extended to Christchurch Boys' High School for a group of seven boys and one teacher to submit a thesis on Climate Change for presentation in Shanghai at the time of the World Expo. The timing deadlines meant that the completion of the project was under extreme pressure but the boys managed to successfully meet all the requirements with their Greenhouse Controller. Their enthusiastic presentation, which included touches of humour as well as detailed information from their research, was well received by the members. They were warmly congratulated on their achievement and given best wishes for their trip.

Letter from Christchurch Boys' High School:

Dear Judy and Eric

Thank you so much for your kind support. A donation of \$169 is gratefully received. The boys really enjoyed the experience of their first public presentation for their projects and they truly appreciated all the feedback and advice they were given. I can ask the group to do another presentation on their return if you like.

Kind regards,
Huili

Welcome to our new members – Chris Goodwin, Kate Wallace, Stan Stott, and Ellen Yule.

Get well wishes – Unfortunately two of our members are unwell. Norman Roberts has had a stroke and John Barnett has been admitted to St Winifreds.

Supper helpers needed – please contact Ailsa 365-6863 ailsa@ihug.co.nz

Programme: Thursday 26 August - Acupuncture
Friday 1st October – Banquet – China's National Day.
Thursday 28 October – NZCFS Garden Tour to China.

Notices

Chinese Lessons at Hagley High School – For people planning to visit China the Term 3 Course “Holiday Travelling Sentences” commences on Monday 19 July. It is held from 5.30 – 8.30 pm. If you are interested contact Anna Lu at Hagley High School or email lu@hagley.school.nz

“The Free China Junk” - New Zealand filmmaker Robin Greenberg uncovers the remarkable adventure of five inexperienced young fishermen who set off from Taiwan in 1955 to cross the Pacific in an old junk. Frank and funny interviews complement superb colour footage of their voyage. **“The Free China Junk”** will be screening as part of the 2010 NZ International Film Festival.

The Art of Living – Our main purpose in life should not be to hanker after a heaven in the sky, which probably does not exist, but to create a heaven on earth for each other by effecting compete harmony between the yin and yang forces within us and around us. **I Ching.**

Dave Bromwich and **Roger Davies** visited NZCFS projects in Gansu during April. These projects aim to continue **Rewi Alley**'s legacy of assisting Chinese people in Shandan and neighbouring counties to lift their farming economy through agric. education, research, and the forming of farmer /producer cooperatives.

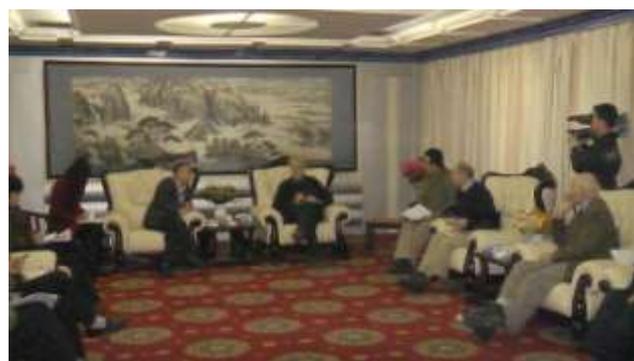


The respect and affection with which George Hogg and Rewi Alley are still regarded is illustrated by the wreaths left at their graves on Qing Ming, the day when Chinese people pay respect to ancestors.



Dave Bromwich speaking in Chinese on Zhangye TV at Qing Ming.

The fond regard for New Zealand and its people in China is due in part to the work of Rewi who "laid the foundation for economic and cultural development in Shandan" [Shandan Govt.]. Continuing his work is one way to assist the friendly and commercial relationships between our two countries.



Meeting with **Shandan** County Governor Liu XiaoYun and his staff: centre to right: Dave Bromwich, Ma GuoHua [interpreting /SBS], Roger Davies, and John Kirby [NZCFS teacher: SBS] discussing

Shandan Government's requests for cooperation and exchange:

Education: NZCFS' ongoing teacher supply /student exchange programme with SBS [Shandan Bailie School]; the difficulty for Shandan families in affording no school fees; extending teacher exchange to kindergarten, primary, and secondary schools; NZ teachers to assist with teacher training; cooperation to improve listening and speaking ability of teachers and students.

Agriculture: sheep farming [incl. feeding /pasture management /forage species selection]; plant breeding; agricultural produce processing; specialised farmer cooperate; livestock improvement.

Grapes: table grape production, cold storage, and marketing.

Red Pear: introduction of new species; technical guidance.

Shandan Cooperative Federation: NZCFS has assisted in the establishment /development of 29 producer cooperatives, and is continuing this work through training; information exchange, and technical assistance [see below].

Culture: Rewi Alley Museum: rebuilding; training 1 to 2 English expositors; Shandan Bailie Library: rebuilding 2,800 m² library; Folk Crafts: production, promotion /marketing, sales. Performing Arts: exchange. Tourism: product development.

The meeting was a prelude to Selwyn District delegation July visit.



The Great Wall [dried mud here] between Shandan and Zhangye.

Rewi Alley established SBS farms, and initiated a geological survey of the region, which led to local minerals being used for chemical manufacture; the chemicals being needed for the many industrial processes carried out by SBS students for training /school supply.

Zhangye Vice Mayor Kang Qing and his department heads also discussed with us the potential for nz-cn cooperation. Zhangye City administers six counties in the Hexi Corridor region:

Shandan, Minle, Ganzhou, Linze, Gaotai, and Sunan Counties.

In recent years there has been a move to add value to Zhangye's local resources, for example manufacturing dried lucerne pellets, tomato ketchup, and potato flour for export. Zhangye Government would welcome our cooperation and expertise, particularly in food [incl. beef] processing technology, introduction of pasture and lucerne cultivars, education, mining, and chemical processing.

Details of the 64 cooperation and investment opportunities in the region can be sent on request by contacting Roger Davies: luojiedv@gmail.com / +64 3 6974870 Our assistance can lead to improved farm income, and increase in employment opportunities; in turn encouraging migrant workers to return home.



Desert village main street. A local farm supplies agent has his roll of plastic mulch [left] for dispensing: essential to reduce water loss in spring sown crops which will exploit moisture from winter snow.



Following the 2006-2008 **cooperatives** establishment projects in Shandan County, visits to Zhangye District farming cooperatives highlighted the success and value of the SBS /NZCFS 'trainer of trainers' programme begun in 2008, and the valuable involvement and contribution of **Zhangye Agricultural Bureau** and **Womens' Federation** towards that success.