

新中友好協會

THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER

新中通訊



NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

12 Colchester Cres, Newlands, Wellington 6037. Website: www.nzchinasociety.org.nz

No 1001 February 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Xīn Nián Kuài Lè!

CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET

Come and join us to welcome in

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

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Sunday, 21st February 2010 at 6.30 pm

Dragons Restaurant, 25 Tory St

The Programme will include our traditional Quiz Contest and Raffles

Ambassador Zhang Limin and Mayor Kerry Prendergast will be attending

The cost is \$34 per person including wine and juice
To book, please send the attached form to the Treasurer by **Friday, 12th February.**
No last minute arrivals please.

MEETING DATES FOR 2010

Your committee has organised the following speakers for 2010. Please mark these dates in your diary. The programme for August/September will be confirmed later.



Wednesday 17 March: AGM, Dr Hongzhi Gao

Senior Lecturer in Marketing at Victoria University of Wellington
"The Impact of the 2008 Milk Contamination Crisis in China"



Wednesday 21 April: Barbara Francis

Biographer of Agnes (Nessie) Moncrieff
"A Remarkable New Zealander – Agnes (Nessie) Moncrieff
And Her Work with the YWCA of China 1930-1945"



Wednesday 19 May: Professor Brian Moloughney

Head of School of Languages and Cultures at Victoria University of Wellington
"China and World History"



Sunday 20 June: Charmaine Pountney

Formerly Principal of Auckland Girls' Grammar School and Dean of Education at the University of Waikato
"Returning To China After 28 Years – Some Reflections"



Sunday 18 July: Peter Harris

Formerly Representative of the Ford Foundation in China and founding Executive Director of the Asia 2000 Foundation (now the Asia New Zealand Foundation)
"China and Central Asia"



Wednesday 20 October: Stuart Fergusson

Chairman of the New Zealand China Trade Association
"The Challenge of Trading With China"



Wednesday 17 November: Michael Powles

Formerly New Zealand Ambassador to China and New Zealand Human Rights Commissioner
"Perspectives on Human Rights in China"

MANDARIN CORNER 汉语角 – Re-Starting on Saturday 20 February 2010

Seminar Room, 20 Kelburn Parade, Victoria University of Wellington, 3.15pm - 4.30pm every Saturday. Gold coin donation.

Want to practise your Chinese? Want to learn more about China? Come to Mandarin Corner!

- All ages, all levels
- One to one or small groups
- Friendly volunteers

For more information, please phone (04) 473-7558 or send email to mandarin.corner@gmail.com.

CHINESE FEATURE FILM - Thursday 11 February 2010, 7:30pm at Committee Room No. 1, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St. Gold coin entry.

(Please note that an extra documentary will be screening from 7.00pm and the door closes at 7.45pm. This year the Chinese feature films will be shown on Thursdays, and some are on the third Thursday of the month.)

Country Wedding (xiang cun hun li 乡村婚礼)

A village young man, Xiao Yuanfang and Feng Mengyan, a young woman from Beijing, are getting married. But differences emerge as to where the wedding should be held. Xiao's father wants to celebrate in the village in the traditional way, while Feng's mother demands that the ceremony be in the "big and luxurious" Beijing to belittle her ex-husband. This modern, racy film shows a lot through many twists and turns to a happy conclusion. You are bound to enjoy it.

Director: Yang Lixin; starring Ge Zhijun, Ding Jiali, Yang Lixin, Xie Yuan.
DVD 90 minutes; in Modern Standard Chinese with English subtitles.

CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL – 7, 13 & 14 February

Wellington welcomes the Year of the Tiger with a week of celebrations and entertainment including a parade, fashion show, marketplace and children's activities.

7 February, 12 noon - 3.00pm, Capital E - Sin Nian Tiger Party

13 February, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, Queens Wharf –

'New Clothes for the New Year' Fashion Show

14 February, 10.00am - 4.30pm, TSB Bank Arena - Asian Market

2.00pm - 3.00pm, Street Parade (Courtenay Place to Frank Kitts Park)

3.00pm - 4.30pm, Frank Kitts Park - Cultural Entertainment

For more information visit www.chinesenewyear.co.nz



SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Subscriptions for 2010 are now due. Please use the attached Banquet/Subscription form. We prefer that you fill in all the details on the subscription form each year to confirm that we have your correct details.

UPCOMING AGM

At the March AGM, we will be looking for new committee members, and a new Vice-President. Please think carefully about volunteering or suggesting someone to be nominated for either of these positions.

NEW PERSON(S) REQUIRED FOR THE EDITORIAL TEAM FOR "THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER"

With the current indisposition of Allan Levett and the imminent stepping aside of Christine Strickland, there is an urgent need for a new person(s) to be part of the Editorial Team for our monthly newsletter, "The Capital China Letter" (TCCL).

Members of the Branch will be aware of the developing quality of TCCL and the fact that the newsletter now has national recognition as a leading journal on understanding China and, in particular, the New Zealand/China relationship.

Anyone with an interest in joining the Editorial Team should make contact as soon as possible with Past President Douglas Day (Email: dwaday@xtra.co.nz/Tel: 568 8088)

Present members of the Team are Allan Levett (Editor), Ray Brownrigg, Douglas Day and Christine Strickland.

NEW MEMBERS - A warm welcome to Teng Zhang, Ian Armitage and Greg Ford.

SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO INVITATION

National Executive has considered and decided to accept a very generous offer from the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to send five Society members as a delegation to the World Expo during July 2009. This invitation has been extended to us because our Society and branches assisted with four delegations to New Zealand sent by Shanghai Youxie during 2009, and they wish to further strengthen exchange and cooperation between our two organisations. National Executive seeks nominations from all branches, with preference given to those members who are the most active in their branch.

The delegation will be attending the World Expo in Shanghai at the time of New Zealand's Honour Day, 9 July 2010 for four or five days depending on arrival and departure times. Delegates' accommodation, meals, and transport costs within Shanghai will be met by Shanghai Youxie. Delegates will be responsible for their own international travel expenses such as airfares, insurance and visa, etc.

SHANGHAI CULTURE PERFORMANCE GROUP

A Shanghai cultural group of 18 people will visit Wellington and a concert will be held at Illott Theatre on Wednesday 3 February.

CHINA'S CAR MARKET OVERTAKES U.S.

On the opening day of the Detroit Motor Show 2010 – a century after the Model T Ford made America forever inseparable from its cars – China has roared past the United States to become the world's biggest car market. In 2009, Chinese sales of cars, trucks and other vehicles soared to 13.6 million, a 40 per cent rise from the previous year's levels and comfortably higher than the 10.4 million equivalent vehicles sold in the United States last year. Only 33 years ago, there were only one million privately owned cars in the whole of China. Four million private cars now clog the streets of Beijing alone and 2,000 new drivers become part of the capital's grim crawl of traffic every day. At one point last year, Beijing was handing out 12,000 new driving licences each week. *(from "The Times")*

BOOK CORNER (No. 3 in a series from Douglas Day)

(a) Non Fiction

The Chinese by Jasper Becker (pub John Murray, 2000) – A general introduction to the Chinese, including elements of history and politics

The City of Heavenly Tranquillity by Jasper Becker (pub Allen Lane, 2007) – A summary history of China told through the story of its capital and greatest cultural centre

The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II (pub Penguin 1999) – During November 1937, in the space of seven weeks Japanese troops murdered more than a quarter of a million Chinese civilians. Iris Chang's examination throws into relief the fact that Japan has never apologised for it

(b) Fiction

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See (pub 2006)

Genghis: Lords of the Bow by Conn Iggulden (pub 2009)

Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama (pub 2008)

SOME CHINA WEBSITES (No. 4 in a series from Douglas Day)

Here are some more commonly used websites:

My Beijing China (CITS site) www.mybeijingchina.com

The Beijing Guide www.thebeijingguide.com

Shanghai Guide www.shanghaiguide.com

Shanghai Highlights (CITS site) www.shanghaihighlights.com

Chinese Culture Club www.chinesecultureclub.org/

BRANCH OFFICERS

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NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC

President's Notebook December 2009

Website: www.nzchinasociety.org.nz

REWI ALLEY MAKES TOP TEN

Great news! Over 56 million votes cast recently on an internet survey organised by China Radio International to find the Top Ten Foreign Friends of China over the last 60 years saw Rewi Alley recording millions of votes to be number seven.

The final Top Ten Foreign Friends is an amazing list of outstanding individuals headed by the Canadian Doctor Norman Bethune for whom the New Zealand missionary nurse, Kathleen Hall smuggled medical supplies through the Japanese lines to keep his medical clinic operational.

The list includes John Rabe, the revered German working in Nanjing, who saved thousands from slaughter in that city during the Massacre in 1937. Each of the Top Ten has made memorable efforts in aid of the Chinese people, many of whom were friends of Rewi Alley like Edgar Snow of USA, Dr Joseph Needham of the UK and Israel Epstein of Poland.

PHILIPPA REYNOLDS GOES TO BEIJING

An Award Ceremony is to be held in Beijing on December 8th when a niece of Rewi Alley, Philippa Reynolds of Nelson, will receive an Award on his behalf in the Great Hall of the People. Philippa in 1997 on behalf of the Christchurch Gansu Friendly Relations Committee, wrote a biography "Rewi Alley - From Canterbury To China" to recognise the 100 year celebrations of Rewi Alley's birth and visited many of his residences in China during that year.

2010 GARDEN TOUR FILLING FAST

Next April / May the Society Tour two week tour is being led by Diana Madgin & Bill Willmott to visit China's most beautiful gardens and historical sites in southern China ending in Guilin. The places on this tour are filling fast so contact Des Kearns at House of Travel 0800 808025 early if you considering going....

HONGHU VISITORS

Rewi Alley's exploits on behalf of the ordinary people were remembered when a Delegation arrived 1st December in Christchurch from Hubei Province where he saved thousands from

starvation during 1932, only five years after his arrival in China.

In Honghu City where this event occurred, the small guest house Rewi Alley stayed in for seven nights is preserved as a memorial, the city library is named after him as is a major school. Honghu City remembers Rewi Alley because of his successful efforts in shipping grain through warring armies when he came under fire, to save people facing a second annual famine and flood. At that time Rewi Alley was working as a fireman in Shanghai, donating half his leave time volunteering for flood relief work.

Rewi Alley's efforts in forming thousands of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives during the war and later the Bailie Schools are more widely known.

REGIONAL MEETING

What a full agenda the regional meeting of Lower North Island Branches had on 7 November. Congratulations to Chair Christine Strickland and Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Whanganui, and Wellington branches and their presidents on what must have been a great occasion ending with a Chinese meal.

Good discussions covered tours, projects, events from the last national Executive meeting and delegations plus updates on branch activities. The exchange of branch newsletters, fundraising, and having a well stocked branch library were among many topics covered.

2010 YEAR OF THE TIGER

All the best for the Chinese New Year of the Tiger

Seasons greetings to you and to your loved ones. May you all enjoy memorable family times and restful holidays as we prepare for the New Year.

God bless,



Eric Livingstone, National President