

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 1004 May 2010

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

Wednesday, 19 May 2010, at 5.45 pm

Connolly Hall

Guildford Terrace, off Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington.

Professor Brian Moloughney

Will speak on

"China in World History"



Brian is Professor and Head of the School of Languages and Cultures at Victoria University of Wellington. He studied at the University of Canterbury, Nanjing University and at the Australian National University, and then taught Chinese history at the University of Otago for a number of years. He has been Editor of the New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies and has served as President of the New Zealand Asian Studies Association. Brian has research interests in Chinese history and literature, Chinese auto/biographical writing and the Chinese diaspora. His publications include *Disputed Histories; Asia in the Making of New Zealand*, and he has just finished a book on the transformation of Chinese historiography between 1895 and 1937.

An optional Chinese buffet meal, supplied by the Fujiyama Café, will follow the meeting at 7 pm. **Orders for the \$10.00 meal (please pay at the door) will be taken up till 6 pm.** If you think you may be arriving late, please let the Secretary know in advance.

MEETING DATES FOR REST OF 2010

May 21-23 National Conference, Hamilton "Building Bridges"

June 20, Sunday 2.30pm Charmaine Pountney, "Returning to China after 28 Years – Some Reflections"

July 18, Sunday 2.30pm Peter Harris, "China and Central Asia"

August to be confirmed

September 15, Wednesday 5.45pm HE Mr Michel Legras, Ambassador of France, "Some French Perceptions of China"

October 20, Wednesday 5.45pm Stuart Fergusson, "The Challenge of Trading with China"

November 17, Wednesday 5.45pm Michael Powles, "Perspectives on Human Rights in China"

NEW MEMBER - A warm welcome to Toni Kerr.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscriptions for 2010 are now due. Thanks to those that have already renewed. Please use the form included in the first two newsletters this year or contact a committee member. Notice that we now offer electronic banking for subscription payments, and that donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

LAST MEETING: "A Remarkable New Zealander – Agnes (Nessie) Moncrieff and Her Work with the YWCA of China 1930-1945". Report from Greg Ford

Barbara Francis gave an inspirational talk on Agnes Moncrieff (Nessie), an amazing woman with whom she boarded some years ago. The fascinating tales of her time in China with the YWCA - 1930-1945 - inspired Barbara to share Agnes' letters and stories with others.



Agnes Moncrieff was born in 1898 in Carterton and first went to China in 1922 for a World Student Christian Conference in Beijing (then Peking). In 1930, having gained her MA from Victoria College and following 2 years with the NZ YWCA "learning the ropes", she arrived in Beijing. The foreign women working with the YWCA were known as *Foreign Secretaries* (later changed to *International*); most were University graduates intending a career with the organisation. 'Nessie' was known in NZ as 'Our Secretary in China' - the only NZ YWCA Foreign Secretary ever.

She was a very hard worker, a 1932 NZ missionary magazine quotes a missionary secretary in Beijing (then Peiping): "*We have been very grateful to New Zealand for sending Miss Agnes Moncrieff to us. I suppose you know her – a Student secretary in the YWCA here. She has done so much for our students. It is not an easy job to work among our girls, and we admire her for her wonderful Christian spirit and patience.*"

This was a turbulent time in China, in 1932 Nessie had written to the YWCA: "*As to what is going on in Manchuria it is impossible to know. It will probably be a matter of generations before a new democratic China can be built.*" She lived in China during the second Sino-Japanese war; her reports from this time are both harrowing and inspiring.

She had some narrow escapes, with the Japanese attacking and occupying large parts of the country. In August 1937 she wrote of an attack on Shanghai where she'd been working, she and a friend fortunately away on a week's holiday "*perched up at Kuling in perfect safety, but foaming at the mouth at the things the Japanese are doing and our own enforced inactivity.*"

In December 1937 her letters tell of the "fall of Nanking", as the horrible news filters through: "*This morning I read two mimeographed letters written by two American men who have stayed in Nanking. I was very nearly physically sick.*" She also tells of traveling around the country by truck and train, under constant threat of attack and seeing the destruction and despair all around. Her letters are an amazing snapshot of the times but, following the outbreak of war in Europe, almost come to a stop largely due to censorship by the Japanese occupation. She rarely spoke of this time of deprivation, even after her return to NZ in 1946.

There is in the NZ YWCA archives a thank you from Tsai Kwei, General Secretary of the YWCA of China. "*Miss Moncrieff has helped us in many ways. During the recent difficult years she has served as Business Secretary, Accountant, City Department Co-ordinator, Minute Secretary and many other capacities. Her tireless work, her understanding, sympathy and her wise counsel have been a tremendous source of strength to us.*"

Nessie died at the age of 90 – almost 22 years ago. None of her friends or family knew what she had really experienced and achieved, but Barbara has already completed a manuscript about to be published by the Wellington YWCA "Our Secretary in China", and now is transcribing her letters and compiling them into a manuscript "*From China to New Zealand – The Letters of Agnes Moncrieff.*" It is sure to be an inspirational and educational book, and we look forward to its publication.

NZIIA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The Wellington Branch has recently joined the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs as an institutional member. The membership entitles four branch members to attend any one NZIIA event. Notices of events will be forwarded to members and any members interested in attending should let the Secretary know.

MANDARIN CORNER 汉语角 - 3.15pm - 4.30pm Saturdays during school terms

Victoria University of Wellington, Seminar Room, 20 Kelburn Parade. Gold coin donation.
Want to practise your Chinese? Want to learn more about China? Come to Mandarin Corner!

- Open to all ages, all levels
- One to one or small groups.

Themes for the May Sessions are:

May 1 - How I learn Mandarin Chinese 老白的中文学法

May 8 - Mother's Day Special 母亲节专题

May 15 - Cross-talk 相声

May 22 - Chinese pop song 中国流行歌曲

May 29 - Children Day in China 中国儿童节

For more information phone Ellen Yang (04) 473-7558 or email mandarin.corner@gmail.com.

CHINESE FEATURE FILM - Thursday 13 May 7:30pm (Documentary screening 7.00pm, door closes 7.45pm.)
Committee Room No. 1, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St. *Gold coin entry*

Thei-go King and his son (棋王和他的儿子 Qi Wang he ta de er-zi)

Li Yishou, an amateur Go player, is called by his friends 'The king of Go'. With no other skills to make a living, he teaches Go in a training course for children. On an unexpected occasion, his young son Xiao displayed an amazing talent for Go, leading his father to support him in developing his gift for the game. Together they face challenges with persistence and courage, eventually achieving success. Director: Zhou Wei; starring Sun Song and Wang Chengyang. DVD 95 minutes; in Modern Standard Chinese with English subtitles. The NZ Chinese Language Association Wellington Branch apologises for the equipment breakdown at the April film evening.

CHINA AND CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINARS 17-19 MAY

Members are welcome to attend the following seminars, co-hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies, the New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute, and the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington.

China, Climate Change and Renewable Energy

By Dr Zeng Shaojun, China Centre for International Economic Exchange and Tsinghua University, Beijing.
Monday 17 May 5.00-6.30pm – Lecture Theatre 2, Old Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus, Stout St.

China's Contribution to Solving the Global Climate Challenges

By Yang Ailun, Climate Campaign Manager, Greenpeace China
Tuesday 18 May 5.00-6.30pm – Lecture Theatre 2, Old Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus, Stout St.

China and the Global Environment

By Dr Katherine Morton, Australia National University, Canberra
Wednesday 19 May 12.30-1.30pm – Lecture Theatre 1, Old Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus, Stout St.

For further information, please contact Sueryn.Ong@vuw.ac.nz (Ph: 4639549)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010: "BUILDING BRIDGES" - HAMILTON 21 – 23 May, 2010

It is not too late to register. Contact the Secretary for more details.

CHINESE KUNG-FU WUSHU PERFORMANCE 4 PM, SUNDAY 23 MAY - WELLINGTON TOWN HALL

This performance (one show only) by a 20-strong visiting troupe of Chinese wushu (kung-fu) elite athletes is organised by the NZ Kung Fu Wushu Federation, and supported by the Chinese Embassy. It is scheduled for approximately 2 hours with the first half featuring local items. Tickets are available from Ticketek (premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=KUNGFU10) or phone 384-3840. Enquiries to Glen Keith, President of the Federation, email president@wushu.org.nz or mobile (027) 249-3298.



SPACES STILL LEFT ON PROJECTS TOUR 9 October-1 November 2010

Dave Bromwich reports: *I have been visiting sites and partners to confirm details of arrangements as I wander around China, and have made some improvements from last year's tour. I am pleased with what is going to happen again this year. An emphasis on NZCFS project partners balanced with some travel into exotic regions. Excellent and varied food experience promised (tailored to the comfort zone of the group), countryside, culture, scenery, people, colour. Contact me at dbchinz@xtra.co.nz. See itinerary attached to last newsletter.*

SOCIETY 2011 TOURS

The Tours Committee is planning tours for 2011 and has been working with our local hosts to bring you the following exciting opportunities: a **Tour to Tibet** and a **Tour to Shanxi and Henan Provinces**. These will be escorted tours with a small group between 15-20 people to places not usually travelled by commercial tour companies in particular the second tour. To assist in planning, expressions of interest are invited now for the tours. For further information please contact Andrew Kemp at Kemp House of Travel, Telephone: 0800 808025 Email: kemp@hot.co.nz

Tibet Tour : 2 weeks end of May to beginning of June

Beijing 2/3 days
Fly to Xining (lake and ethnic minorities) 2/3 days
Depart Xining – train to Lhasa –
Stay Lhasa and surrounding area 5 days
Fly to Chengdu, visit Panda sanctuary – stay 3/4 days
Some fitness requirement may be necessary

**Tour to Shanxi and Henan Provinces:
2 weeks departing September**

Including Pingyao and Zhengzhou Cities
Travel also to Xian to see the Terracotta Warriors and the start of the Silk Road
This tour takes you to places not normally travelled by other commercial tours.

SISTER CITIES NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Dunedin, 15-16 April **Report by Greg Ford**

A major theme throughout the presentations at the conference was 'relationships' which can be seen as particularly poignant in reference to Chinese culture, where relationships (關係) are all-important in any social or business transaction. There is huge support and momentum for the Sister Cities initiative in China, where it is called "Friendship Cities". Qing Boming, the deputy Director General of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), introduced this important NGO. The CPAFFC was set up in Beijing in 1954, and has since forged friendly links with nearly 500 non-governmental organizations in over 160 countries. Official records list 27 pairs of China-NZ sister cities, and all of these agreements have passed through the CPAFFC.

Dunedin has particularly benefited from its Sister City relationship with Shanghai, both culturally and economically. The conference included a field trip to Dunedin's Chinese Garden, a fitting and permanent recognition of one of New Zealand's earliest Chinese communities. Pre-fabricated and assembled in Shanghai, then dismantled and transported to Dunedin and reconstructed using artisans and supervisors from Shanghai, the garden is truly a modern wonder.

Congratulations to Bill Woods, newly elected President of NZ Sister Cities, and much thanks to the outgoing President Peter Tennent for all his hard work.

HONG KONG/NEW ZEALAND WORKING HOLIDAY SCHEME QUOTA TO DOUBLE

In light of overwhelming response, the annual quota for the Hong Kong/New Zealand Working Holiday Scheme will increase from 200 to 400 with effect from April 1, 2010. New Zealand is the first country to set up the working holiday scheme with Hong Kong and the agreement was established on April 1, 2001. Under the scheme, successful applicants will be permitted to stay for up to 12 months for holidaying and to take up short-term employment during their visits. So far, about 1,000 Hong Kong youngsters have joined the scheme to visit New Zealand, while some 300 young people from New Zealand have experienced Hong Kong's vibrant way of life. Information is available from the Hong Kong Immigration Department <http://www.immd.gov.hk/>.

(From "Hong Kong Monitor" www.hkmonitor.org.hk)

NEW ZEALAND-HONG KONG, CLOSER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

The New Zealand-Hong Kong China Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (the "CEP") was signed in Hong Kong on 29 March 2010. Hong Kong is New Zealand's 9th largest export destination, and New Zealand's trade with Hong Kong is currently worth \$823 million per annum.

This deal will help New Zealand businesses boost trade with Hong Kong and take further advantage of growing opportunities in the region. The CEP also complements New Zealand's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China and enhances the potential for Hong Kong to be used as a platform for trade into Mainland China.

It contains measures to improve business flows and promote cooperation in a broad range of economic areas of mutual interest, and is supported by legally-binding side agreements on Labour and Environment that are in line with New Zealand's broader objectives for sustainable development. A legally-binding side agreement was also secured to negotiate an Investment Protocol within two years of entry into force.

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Agreements/Hong-Kong/index.php>

BOOK CORNER (from Douglas Day)

Non Fiction

Dean King, "Unbound : A True Story of War, Love and Survival", Little, Brown and Company, 2010

This is a remarkable story. 86,000 people embarked on the Long March, following their leader Mao Tse Tung across 6,000 miles of inhospitable territory, to escape the Japanese and eventually launch their bid for a Communist takeover of China. Only 10,000 survived the year long journey.

Now to the really interesting bit. Of the 86,000 that started only 30 were women. They overcame the most awful diseases. They lost husbands. They left newborns on the trail. They forged a new nation and a role for women worldwide. "Unbound" is their story.

Fiction

Yiyun Li "The Vagrants", Fourth Estate 2009

In 1970s China, a young woman, Gu Shan, is executed for her loss of faith in Communism. Her father is unable to accept what his rebellious daughter has become, while her mother is devastated by the loss of her only child. Described by the "Observer" as 'An important novel, a requiem for forgotten victims and a careful, honest portrait of what China has been'. Yiyun Li was Winner of the Guardian First Book Award.

Both copies were borrowed from Hutt City Libraries.

BRANCH OFFICERS

President:	Bernie Richmond	phone 232 5912	bernie_richmond@nzf.salvationarmy.org
Immediate Past President:	Douglas Day	phone 568 8088	dwaday@xtra.co.nz
Vice President:	Ray Brownrigg	phone 971 4875	ray.brownrigg@ecs.vuw.ac.nz
Secretary:	Bruce Asher	phone 970 9952	bickleyasher@clear.net.nz
Treasurer:	Doreen Launder	phone 388 1707	delauder@xtra.co.nz
Newsletters:	Douglas Day, Christine Strickland, Mary Busch, Gregory Ford		mary.busch@paradise.net.nz
	Production: Ray Brownrigg		gregoryjohnford@gmail.com

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

PROJECTS TOUR VACANCIES

There are a few vacancies on this year's October project tour that has an emphasis on our project partners balanced with some travel into exotic regions. Excellent and varied food experience is promised (tailored to the group's comfort zone), varied countryside, culture, scenery, people and colour. Places that will be visited are associated with Kathleen Hall's work, Chinese Industrial Co-operatives and other projects, some stunning places including Tibetan townships, Chengdu, Duan and Guilin. Contact Dave Bromwich on dbcinz@xtra.co.nz for more details. Dave reports that he has just visited with the New Zealand Ambassador to China, a Miao minority village that this group will visit a project. This village has high impact, is exotic, very colourful, beautiful, with the villagers providing a very sincere welcome, far removed from being commercialised.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAMILTON IN MAY

Hamilton reports plans are going well for a great conference in three weeks time – The Conference runs from Friday evening 21 May to midday Sunday 23 May at the Hamilton City Council Chambers. Rush your registration to Meryl Lanting email meryl.l@clear.net.nz

QUALIFIED TEACHERS REQUIRED AT LANZHOU CITY UNIVERSITY, GANSU PROVINCE

Lanzhou City University that includes the Lanzhou Bailie Oil School, with whom we have had a long association, is looking for two qualified English teachers. The university has 13,000 full time students, provides a free flat and pay is 3700 to 4700 Yuan monthly, for a 10 months year, depending on the teacher's degree and teaching experience. There is a internal China travel allowance and return air tickets home once a year, depending on the length of the teacher contract. Contact me if this appeals.

PROMINENT PERSONS & SOCIETY LEADERS DELEGATION

Let Margaret Cooper or Alistair Shaw have your nominations before the deadline of 14 June.

DAVE BROMWICH – CHINA TRAVELS

Dave, recently in Guizhou on Society project work, had the New Zealand Ambassador Carl Worker plus the Embassy's Second Secretary Alex Pierard visit for two days. This was an excellent opportunity for them to be updated on our project activities of which they are well aware and most impressed by the outcomes. We can be certainly proud of our effective use of the NZ Aid funding granted for our various projects. The Ambassador is very supportive of our activities. Great news to learn that, with Dave's assistance, the Zhangye Women's Federation has been successful in their bid for financial support from the Embassy's Development Fund for their women's health project in Gansu. This certainly underlines our effectiveness in supporting projects beyond what we can cope with funding directly ourselves.

TWO GREAT NATIONAL TOURS FOR 2011

Good recent discussions with Youxie and House of Travel have resulted in plans being developed for two excellent National Tours for next year – 2011.

The first will be a two week tour to Tibet in late May to early June 2011 which will include Beijing, flying to Xining with visits to ethnic minorities and the lake before going by train to Lhasa where five days will be spent in surrounding areas, returning through Chengdu with three days there. The second will be a Chinese Autumn tour during September 2011 also of two weeks visiting Pingyao, Zhenzhou and Xian cities, concentrating on places not normally travelled to by commercial tours but also visiting the terracotta warriors. Interested? Let Ann White, Royden Smith or Trevor Linyard of the Tours Committee know so your interest can be recorded.

SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO

The opening date has come and China is on show in Shanghai. There is an extensive and interesting virtual website that will keep you up to date at www.expo.cn

Best wishes

Eric Livingston

National President