

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 909 October 2009

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

Ms Olga Wang

will speak on

"China's Urban Elders"



Olga Wang is now well known to us in the Wellington Branch as the First Secretary, Cultural, at the Chinese Embassy. Olga is a graduate of the Shanghai Mechanical Engineering Institute where she first studied English and holds an Executive MBA from the University of Texas, San Antonio, USA where she was a visiting scholar in 2005.

Before coming to New Zealand Olga Wang was the Director for Foreign Affairs in the Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture. Prior to that, for ten years, Olga was Programme Manager in the Shanghai Cultural Exchange Agency. This work involved liaising with foreign counterparts, arranging and co-ordinating various arts festivals, cultural exchanges and other events held both in China and in other countries.

Connolly Hall

Guildford Terrace, off Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington.

Wednesday, 21 October 2009, at 5.45 pm

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 late arriving, please let the Secretary know in advance.

LAST MEETING DATE FOR 2009

November 18, Wednesday 5.45pm. Paul Clark, Professor of Chinese at the University of Auckland: *"Re-thinking the Cultural Revolution"*.

NEW MEMBER: Warm welcome to Dr Ron Crawford.

60 YEARS OF THE CHINA JOURNEY: ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In the long history of China, sixty years is a short period of time. In the 3000 years of recorded history many administrations have taken the Mandate of Heaven but few would have seen the kind of momentous changes that have occurred in the past sixty years as the country was transformed from the 'poor man of Asia' to the third largest economy in the world. However, we should see these changes in context: since 1949 other countries in East Asia have been transformed to the same degree, relatively, including Singapore, Japan and South Korea. What marks China are its immense size and its enormous human resources.

Many aspects of the PRC's 60 year transformation have been described in the media available to us here in New Zealand, including various celebratory scenes in China itself. There can be no doubting the great satisfaction and pride expressed by the majority of the Chinese people. Despite the pain suffered by many as the result of unsuccessful government policies, such as The Great Leap Forward, the continued repression of some minorities and the seeming intractability of income inequality – features experienced by most countries during their modernisation – the current Chinese government steadfastly pursued objectives of improvement for all the people. Perhaps it has been most successful in the areas of education, health care and housing. My most vivid image of the early expression of this vision is a 1940's photograph of PLA soldiers moving in line through a village each with a large Chinese character on his back. Universal literacy was a goal from the beginning and now, sixty years later, has been virtually achieved.

In Wellington the birthday was celebrated in typical style with a special banquet. In Beijing the celebrations included presenting Friendship Awards to foreign experts. There were two New Zealanders this year. It is a unique way of saying thanks to outsiders who have helped China in its remarkable modern journey.

Allan Levett, Editor



The parade in Beijing for the 60th anniversary of the founding of China. (AP Photo/Xinhua, Huang Jingwen)
See http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/10/china_celebrates_60_years.html?s_campaign=8315 for more.

THE BIRTHDAY BANQUET

Report by Douglas Day

On the evening of Sunday, 20th September 2009 there was a festive occasion at Dragons Restaurant, Tory Street, when the Branch celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The Banquet, with a record attendance of 128, had as official guests Ambassador Zhang Limin, Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast and the two Cultural Secretaries from the Embassy, Olga Wang and Yanhang Wang. Also present, to give unique colour to the occasion, were five of the seven surviving New Zealand Ambassadors to China: Tony Small (1982-1985), Lindsay Watt (1985-1990), Michael Powles (1990-1993), John McKinnon (2001-2004) and Tony Browne (2004-2009). Wen Chin Powles (wife of Michael) was also present. Wen earlier this year returned from her posting as NZ Consul-General in Shanghai and recently addressed a branch meeting.



Tony & Susan Browne, Tony Small, Mme Li Yajun, Ambassador Zhang Limin, Lindsay Watt, Wen & Michael Powles, Avenal & John McKinnon

Because they were overseas at the time, messages of greetings and best wishes for the Banquet were received from Chris Elder (1993-1998) and Peter Adams (1998-2001). As well, there was a message from Carl Worker (2009 -), the current Ambassador in Beijing.

Also attending the Banquet as official representatives were Neil Quigley and Xiaoming Huang (Victoria University), Ian McKinnon (Deputy Mayor), Grahame Morton (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), David Tai and Rosemary Jones (Wellington Xiamen Association) and Steven Young (New Zealand Chinese Association).

The programme for the evening included keynote presentations by President Bernie Richmond, Ambassador Zhang, Mayor Prendergast and previous Ambassador Small; a lively quiz on "China and the World Over the Last 60 Years" (won by the President's table); raffles with many, many prizes; and a delightful musical interlude from the Mandarin Corner Choristers. They sang a Sichuan folksong "Kanding", the 2008 Beijing Olympics Song, and the New Zealand song "Po Karekare Ana".



The Banquet was a highly successful event and the Branch Committee appreciates the great support of our members. To view all the photos, go to

<http://picasaweb.google.com/WGTNZCFS/2009NationalDayBanquet?authkey=Gv1sRgCKOY0auN4-ffqQE&feat=directlink>.

CHINA FRIENDSHIP AWARD TO NEW ZEALANDERS

Report by Douglas Day

Two New Zealanders, David (Dave) Feickert and Lewis (Lew) Dagger, received the prestigious China Friendship Award as part of the recent celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

At the impressive ceremony held in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, on September 30 Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang presented the Award to the two New Zealand recipients among the 100 "foreign experts" from around the world honoured on this occasion. Up until now it has been 50 each year.

The photograph shows Dave (left) and Lew holding the tablet that is part of the Award, inscribed with the words, "This Certificate of Friendship is Awardedin appreciation of your enthusiastic support for China's construction and your friendly co-operation". A gold medal was also presented.



Dave received the Award for his work in coal mine safety programmes throughout China and Lew for his specialised involvement in the horticulture industry in Yunnan Province. Dave, a member of the Wellington Branch and President of the Whanganui Branch of the Society, is the second from the Wellington Branch to receive the China Friendship Award. In 2003, Past President Douglas Day was recognised for his work in the education and training of government officials and school principals in developing provinces of West China.

HISTORY OF THE CHINA FRIENDSHIP AWARDS

Compiled by Douglas Day

The China Friendship Award, set up in 1991, is China's highest award for "foreign experts" who have made outstanding contributions to China's economic and social progress. More than 200,000 foreign experts come to work in China each year. A total of 1,000 experts from almost 60 countries had been conferred the Award up to this year. The Chinese government via the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs confers the annual China Friendship Award, usually to 50 foreign experts (100 in 2009), in a special ceremony in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, on the eve of China National Day.

Thirteen New Zealander's have received the Award to date:

- 1996 Dr Phil Rolston – Grasslands development in rural Guizhou Province.
- 1998 Mr Peter Feickert – Animal husbandry training in Sichuan Province.
- 1999 Dr Bruce Trangmar – Sustainable rural development projects in Guizhou Province.
- 2001 Dr Alex Chu – Agro-grasslands development in Guizhou Province
- 2003 Mr Douglas Day - Education and training of government officials and school principals, W. China.
- 2004 Mr Tim Harvey – Pasture and seed development projects in Guizhou Province
- 2004 Mr David Strawbridge – Education adviser and trainer in schools of the Tibet Autonomous Region
- 2005 Dr Garth Smith – Development of the Luo Han Guo Industry (fruit concentrate) in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.
- 2006 Mr Roland van Asch – Improving environmental rehabilitation and living standards in the Huangshi River catchment, Qinghai Province.
- 2007 Dr David Heath – Introducing New Zealand technology for controlling hydatid disease in W. China.
- 2007 Mr Edwin Maher – The first non-Chinese news anchor for the state's television English-language Station, CCTV International.
- 2009 Mr Lewis Dagger – Horticulture specialist and Director of Shennong Variety Management Ltd in Kunming, Yunnan Province.
- 2009 Mr David Feickert, Coal mine safety training programmes in association with the State Administration of Work Safety.

2009 PROMINENT PERSONS AND SOCIETY LEADERS TOUR

Report by Ray Brownrigg

I was honoured and privileged to be selected to represent the Wellington Branch on this trip from 27th August to 5th September. The tour was hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC or Youxie for short) which is a "national people's organisation" - a large non-government agency which seems to have very good support from the Foreign Ministry.

There were 11 of us, including tour leader Dave Bromwich, who is heavily involved in Society projects in China. Here is a brief summary, plus the highlights from a personal perspective.

Our first morning in Beijing dawned sunny and clear with a bright blue sky, which proved ideal for an early morning walk to marvel at the varied modern architecture so much in evidence. The rest of the day included a visit to the former residence of Mme. Song Qingling, a brief walk in Tiananmen Square, a welcome lunch banquet at the Youxie Friendship Museum Courtyard, the former residence of Rewi Alley, an audience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a rickshaw/walking tour of the Beijing Hutong area. After dinner a small group of us travelled to the Olympic Games site to view the magnificent sight of the "bird's nest" and "water cube" all lit up at night, my highlight of the day.

On Day two in Beijing we went to the Great Wall at Juyong Pass where a strenuous 40 minute climb to the top of this section followed by a 25 minute descent was the day's highlight. We visited the Temple of Heaven and the Hong Qiao Pearl Centre then took an overnight train to Pingyao.

Day 3 was in Pingyao, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the ancient financial centre of the Qing Dynasty, now preserved with its historical city wall. We toured the Rishengchang Exchange Shop Museum, an ancient County Office, the old Pingyao city wall, the Shuanglin Temple and the Wang Family Mansion.

On Day 4 from Pingyao we saw the Qiao Family Compound, spent an afternoon at the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Company and took a fast train to Zhengzhou the capital of Henan Province which cradled the Chinese culture thousands of years ago.

In Zhengzhou on Day 5 we visited the Yellow River Scenic Area, the Henan Provincial Museum, and the Zhengdong 'New Area'. My highlight for this day was the Museum. We saw a magnificent display of ancient artefacts from the dawn of civilisation in China. We were impressed by the porcelain cabbage, complete with root, ladybird and cricket. You can see some of the artefacts with their descriptions at the Museum website <http://www.chnmus.net/Template/home/chnmus/index.html> (perhaps click on the English link).



On day 6 we travelled from Zhengzhou to Dengfeng, saw the White Horse Temple, the amazing Longmen Grottoes and in the evening a marvellous outdoor performance. The "Zen Music Shaolin Grand Ceremony" was my highlight for the whole trip. It was a spectacle of music, lighting, song and dance with a cast of hundreds of all ages and included a white horse and a herd of goats. The setting was a natural valley surrounded by steep mountains – hundreds of metres high – with lights, adding to the effects. The particular highlight for me was the Kung Fu sequence where the performers were adorned with many bright lights,

which would flash briefly to capture a mid-air pose in the darkened setting. This culminated in a mid-air fight sequence where the fighters were suspended tens of metres above the ground, acting out the trademark flying and leaping actions so commonly portrayed in the movies. Throughout the whole performance, of more than an hour, there were seven Shaolin monks, each sitting meditating motionless on a rock at the front of the setting. There are some segments of the show available on YouTube site. Search for "Zen Music Shaolin Grand Ceremony" for half a dozen hits.

Day 7 saw us at the Shaolin Temple, the Pagoda Forest within the same grounds and the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts Training Centre, my personal highlight, where we were treated to a Kung Fu demonstration by a selection of trainees of different ages and levels of achievement.



We travelled to Kaifeng on Day 8 where we were met by local Foreign Affairs officials who accompanied us around the 40 hectare Millennium City Park, based upon a 1000-year old 5.25 metre long scroll painting depicting life in those times. We saw the Iron Pagoda Park and the Shanshangan Merchants' Guild Hall. Finally we flew to Shanghai and walked around Nanjing Rd.

On day 9, our last day in China, we went past the 2010 Expo site on the way to the new Shanghai airport, from which the trip home was uneventful.

My overall impressions, compared with just a few years ago, are of a much cleaner, quieter, more modern China, where the citizens are aware of international developments and where their country fits into the international scene. While we were obvious foreigners, and potential targets for a sale, we were always treated as special guests. I agree with this comment made by a fellow delegate: "...I was able to see the enormous changes made since [1981] in many areas of Chinese life – especially urban architecture, preservation of historic and religious sites, personal freedom, and environmental issues."

MANDARIN CORNER

Report by Ellen Yang

Mandarin Corner will resume on Saturday 17 October. There is no session on 24 October as it is the Labour Day long weekend. Again, the free monthly Wednesday Mandarin Corner will be held before the film in the foyer of Wellington City Council meeting rooms Time: 6 - 7.30pm. Tea and juice provided.

We are going to have the end-of-year Mandarin Corner dinner at Red Hill Restaurant (Mala Jianghu), 119 Manners St, Wellington, on Saturday 14 November, 6.30 - 9pm. \$20.00 per person. Booking confirmation is required by 30 October. So please mark your calendar, if you are interested.

For more details, please contact Ellen Yang on 473-7558, mandarin.corner@gmail.com.

Chinese female, 24 years, graduate of Waikato University, member of the Wellington Branch and Deputy Coordinator of Mandarin Corner, seeks board in the Wellington area. Please contact Diwen at 027-392-7853, or Diwen.Cao@gmail.com.

CHINESE FEATURE FILM – Chinese Language Association, Wellington Branch

Wednesday, 14 October at 7.30 pm at Committee Room No 1, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St. (Please note that the door closes at 7.45 pm.)

The Tokyo Trial (Dongjing Shenpan).

A moving re-enactment of the 1946-49 Far East International Military Tribunal, Tokyo, in which over 800 trials resulted in seven A-grade war criminals being sentenced to death. The Chinese delegation for the first time successfully safeguarded its own dignity in the world arena with the weapon of law.

Director: Gaol Qunshu; starring Liu Songren, Zhu Xiaotian, Lin Xilei, John Henry Cox, Daniel Ziskie, Koji Koike
DVD 110 minutes, in English, Japanese and Modern standard Chinese with English subtitles.

REGIONAL MEETING LOWER NORTH ISLAND - SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 1-5 PM

This annual meeting will be held in Palmerston North at the ETC Learning Centre, Broadway Avenue. It is a great opportunity for the five branches in the region (Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wairarapa and Wellington) to get together to exchange ideas and to be kept up to date on the Society's activities. Dave Bromwich will show us highlights of the October Projects Tour. A dinner at a Chinese restaurant will follow the meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Judging from previous years it will be a fun and friendly event. If you would like to take part please contact me or Bruce Asher, Wellington Secretary.

Christine Strickland, Vice President North Island

EXHIBITION AT THE NEW DOWSE - Cao Fei: Utopia 26 Sept 2009 - 31 Jan 2010

Discover the work of rising art star Cao Fei. Born in Guangzhou and living in Beijing, she represents a generation who have experienced urbanization at a giddy rate. The young people in her videos and photographs inhabit elaborate states of transformation, set against the fast patterns of the cityscape. Catalogue available from The Shopette.



OBITUARY: Sadly Chui Lin Young passed away on 9 September. Lin a branch member is the wife of long time Branch member Kee Young. Albert Wong first met Kee in Hataitai in the 1950s when he came to Wellington. Kee then moved to Nelson where he had a fruit shop business. He returned to China to marry Lin and bring her to New Zealand. Together they became market gardeners in Otaki.

6th ANNUAL CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL 2009 – Penthouse Cinema 29th Oct – 1st Nov.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the PRC

See www.penthousecinema.co.nz and contact 04 384 3157. Here is a brief description of the 9 films.

- Honeymoon 2006 – A family drama. Director Chen Jun
- Music Box 2006 – A drama featuring love, history and anti-Japanese war. Director Chen Ye
- Desires of the Heart 2008 – A romantic comedy. Director Ma Liwen
- My Dream 2008 – Performing arts, a musical play with singing and dancing. Director Wang Hon Chai
- The New Dull Ice Flower 2009 – A family story. Director Chen Kun Hoy
- Crazy Racer 2009 – A black comedy and action thriller. Director Ning Hao
- Walk to School 2009 – A drama featuring love, children in a remote village. Director Peng Chen
- Red River 2009 – Set in Vietnam at end of war 1975 featuring love and action. Director Zhiang Jiaru
- Freeway 2009 – A drama about new settlers in Shenzhen. Director An Zhang Jun



BOOK CORNER (No.2 in a series from Douglas Day)

(a) Non Fiction

Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China during the Cultural Revolution, by Moying Li. "Most people cannot remember when their childhood ended. I, on the other hand, have a crystal-clear memory of that moment. It happened at night in the summer of 1966, when my"

Chinese Revolution and Mao Zedong in World History, by Ann Malaspina. A depiction of Mao in his rescue of China from years of corrupt rule, foreign domination, and civil war.

When China Rules the World: The Rise of the Middle Kingdom and the End of the Western World, by Martin Jacques. Jacques' book is based on the extrapolation that, by 2050, China will be the biggest economy in the world, surpassing the US and India (by then, the third). By virtue of what Jacques calls the "merciless measure" of gross domestic product, China will be politically and militarily the most powerful world country.

(b) Fiction

Wild Ginger, by Anchee Min. A story of desire during the time of the Cultural Revolution follows Wild Ginger, who becomes a national model for Maoism.

Water Touching Stone, by Eliot Pattison. Former Beijing police investigator Shan Tao Yun heads for a remote Tibetan plateau to investigate the murder of a venerated teacher and subsequent disappearance of a lama.

The Bonesetter's Daughter, by Amy Tan. Over the course of one fog-shrouded year, mother and daughter find what they share in their bones through heredity, history and love.

SOME CHINA WEBSITES (No. 2 in a series from Douglas Day)

Here are some further commonly used websites/email addresses:

CCTV: <http://english.cctv.com>; China Radio International: <http://english.cri.cn>

China Internet Information Centre: <http://www.china.org.cn>; Beijing Review: <http://www.bjreview.com.cn>

China Development Gateway: <http://en.chinagate.com.cn>

A specialist bookshop in Brisbane for books on Asia: asiabook@gil.com.au

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