

New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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GREETINGS FROM NELSON TO OTHER NZCFS BRANCHES

2015 CONFERENCE AND AGM TIMELINE:

Here, our branch is making plans for Conference 2015 to be held in Nelson May 22, 23, 24. We have a timeline which involves getting approvals from National Executive for delivery of the AGM and Conference programme at their meetings in November (22nd) and February. We are planning to circulate registration information in February and ask for Early Bird registrations by April 24th. This will enable registrants to book for early airfares, and also help our forward planning. After April 24th the registration fee will considerably increase.

CONFERENCE 2015 THEME:

After the inspiration of the Hawkes Bay Conference, we thought that some follow-up on the outcomes of the survey and workshop was appropriate. For 2015, Nelson would like to focus on ways NZCFS membership is working at converting goals into actions. Our constitution contains our general goals, and this year's Action Plan presents some practical strategies for Branches and members to select and apply to their activities.

The Conference theme we have chosen to recommend comes from Rewi Alley. When confronted with negative reactions, 'mei-yo banfa', (no way) Rewi turned people towards positivity with 'yo banfa' (there is a way). So our suggestion for a Conference theme is:

有办法 YO BANFA: There is a way!

We are planning to ask speakers to address this motivational theme, and for Branches and Committees to make presentations, should they wish, on how they are finding 'a way' to convert NZCFS goals into action.

BRANCH AND COMMITTEE REPORTING 2015:

While written reports (limited to one page) will be circulated as usual, we are hoping Branches and Committees will offer to present to Conference, some inspirational activity in which they are engaging. We urge Branches, if you have not already done so, to develop an action plan which addresses some society goal or goals, and prepare to report on this at the Nelson Conference on the Saturday. Some branches have, we know, already embarked, or even completed, goal-focused activities which can be shared productively in the context of our annual Conference. For others, your regional Vice President or Executive members will be ready with help and guidance if needed.

Suitable projects could be small or larger activities: some may be completed before May, or some may be in progress, or even 'just starting'. Interesting, entertaining and helpful presentations could involve young people, or those who have been involved with DENG or RAFE projects, or film/video, dance, drama, music, artwork. The aim, in general, is for the membership to share some fresh way they are pursuing or interpreting NZCFS goals.

So, you are invited to contribute your interpretation of 'There is a Way' at Conference 2015. We would appreciate some non-binding notification of your intention to participate before 15 November. We will send out a reminder the week prior to help our reporting to National Executive.

Kind regards and good wishes for pursuing 'your way in your own way',

Christine Ward,
Nelson Branch President