



NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

NEWSLETTER Jan-Feb 2015

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Coming up ...

*** Please join us at the Branch AGM... and take part in a traditional Chinese tea ceremony with hosts Ming Du and Jenny Chan**

Time: Thursday 12 February 5.30-7.00pm

Place: Tower Room Dunedin Chinese Garden



*** Join branch President Paul Fawcett on the NZCFS Mongolia and North Central China Tour (See below)**



The 2015 programme will include:

*** a presentation by Dr Paolo Voci, an expert on Chinese Film. Dr Voci is a Senior Lecturer in the University of Otago Department of Languages and Cultures. She teaches Chinese language and culture, as well as a paper on Chinese cinema. Dr Voci's research focuses on visual culture and in particular, film and videomaking practices in contemporary China.**



*** a special evening ...combined with Otago Southland Chinese Association – an intro to MAHJONG.**

*** a forum of guest speakers – Friendship visits to China through the decades**

*** National Conference in Nelson- May 22-24**

Theme: 有办法 YO BANFA: There is a way!



Further to our December news item:

Dunedin writer Tony Eyre won second prize in the Shanghai Library's international writing competition.

His essay, "Friendship First, Competition Second - a Story of How Ping Pong Diplomacy Led to an Enduring Friendship over 40 Years", detailed his wife and former New Zealand table tennis champion Yvonne Fogarty's trips to China in the 1970s.

Mr Eyre collected his award in Shanghai on December 19.

Read the report from Liao Fangzhou

Source: Global Times Published: 2015-1-4

Ping-pong diplomacy

Story of New Zealand table tennis champion

New Zealand's 62-year-old former national table tennis champion Yvonne Fogarty visited Shanghai last December for the first time in 40 years. Only this time, she was not with her table tennis teammates, but with her husband, the writer Tony Eyre.

Eyre won an award at the government-supported writing competition Shanghai Get-together 2014 with a page-turning story that charts Fogarty's Chinese adventures in the 1970s.

Eyre borrows the title of the prizewinning story, Friendship First, Competition Second, from a popular slogan China adopted in the 1970s when sporting exchanges were part of foreign policy initiatives. The best-known of these initiatives, namely "ping-pong diplomacy," took Fogarty to China.

The essay chronicles Fogarty's two visits to China, first as a member of the New Zealand national table tennis team to play a series of matches in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in 1974, and then at the invitation of the General Administration of Sport of China to receive six weeks of training by leading Chinese coaches in Guangzhou in 1975.



New Zealand former national table tennis champion Yvonne Fogarty, her husband Tony Eyre, and Fogarty's Chinese coach Wang Shuyun pose at an award ceremony in Shanghai. Photos: Courtesy of Shanghai Library and the couple

"It is also a story about the friendship between Yvonne and her coach in Guangzhou, Wang Shuyun, over 40 years," said Eyre at the award ceremony in Shanghai. Wang traveled from Guangzhou to attend the event.

Eyre narrates how Fogarty finally received a reply from Wang seven years after she sent her first letter to Wang in an attempt to regain contact with her. At the time, the political situation in China made it difficult for people to communicate internationally. The story highlights the two friends' unexpected reunions at the World Veteran Table Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Australia in 1994 and in Auckland, New Zealand in 2014. "And like old times, Shuyun coached her old pupil from the

sidelines as Yvonne took to the table once again," Eyre wrote.

The couple comes from Dunedin, Shanghai's sister city in New Zealand. Eyre heard about the writing competition at the local public library and decided to participate.



A special story

An accountant by profession, Eyre has been writing regularly for magazines and newspapers for four years. "Yvonne had a special story. I would have encouraged her to write it, but as a writer I thought the competition is an opportunity for me to tell that story," Eyre told the Global Times.

Fogarty said her husband has a good way with words and she was very happy for him to write the story in the way that he chose. "You should have enjoyed the pleasure of digging into the story," Fogarty smiled at Eyre.

Eyre did. A lot of Fogarty's memories were quite dim, so Eyre tracked down newspaper articles, scrapbooks, diaries and photographs to draw them out. "Even the places Yvonne visited - I needed to track down where they were if she didn't know," Eyre said.

During Fogarty's 1974 stay in the city, she played the Shanghai table tennis team, visited the Shanghai Double Happiness Table Tennis factory and Long March People's Commune, and saw an opera based on the battle of Shanghai.

Fogarty has a strong impression that she was part of a spectacle when she and her teammates jogged down Nanjing Road. "Foreigners were a rare sight. Everywhere, people were staring. Not anything was worrying. It was just amazing attention that you got all the time," Fogarty said.

"All the bikes going, looking out the window and seeing people doing tai chi in the mornings and everyone could hear the music was playing. It was an incredible scene of uniformity," Fogarty added.



The changes

She now works as an international student advisor at Otago Polytechnic in Dunedin. She has many Chinese students who told her she should go back to China and see the changes.

"I was not sure if it would be that different, but it really is," Fogarty said. "It is just a modern city now. When you look more deeply there is the old China, but all the shops, all the ways of being, it's just unbelievable."

The couple visited the city together and appreciated the grandeur of the architecture in the Bund area, including the Fairmont Peace Hotel where Fogarty stayed in 1974. "It is very incredible to be here, just a circle of life in a way," said Fogarty.

The writing competition, which has been held three times, is hosted by the State Council Information Office, the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration, the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and the Shanghai Library.

You can read Tony Eyre's essay on his website here: <http://tonyeyrewriter.com/shanghai-get-together-2014/>

**Friendship First, Competition
Second
A story of how Ping Pong
Diplomacy
led to an enduring friendship over
40 years**



**Awarded Second Prize in the
Shanghai Get-together 2014
International Writing Competition**

Coming soon...

At the Dunedin Chinese Garden



Chinese New Year

Gong Xi Fa Cai. The Garden will be celebrating **Lunar Chinese New Year on 19 February 2015.**

This year we welcome the year of the **Green Wooden Sheep(/goat/ram)**. The sheep is the 8th animal in the 12 year cycle of the Chinese zodiac. The sheep sign is the eighth sign in the Chinese Zodiac calendar and 2015 is the year of the Green Wooden Sheep. Sheep like peace and quiet and getting on with life in their own individual way. Sheep are calm and easy-going people, who go with the flow and are content to be in the middle of the action rather than in charge of it. They enjoy cultural things and focus much of their energy on artistic hobbies. People born in Sheep year are artistic, kind, inspired, very empathetic, and naturally creative. They appreciate beauty in all its forms and are connoisseurs of the best life has to offer. Happy 2015!

Thursday 19 February 7pm – 10pm

- * 7.15pm Dragon Parade from The Octagon**
- * 7.45pm Dragon Dance, Cultural Performances and Food Stalls at the Garden**
- * 10pm Fireworks display**

Entry into the Garden for this evening is gold coin donation.

See more of what's on, bookings and contact
<http://www.dunedinchinesegarden.com/events/chinese-new-year>

See more of China with NZCFS



Chinese Gardens Tour, 25 April to 13 May 2015

Is this scene natural or man-made? The Chinese garden

mimics nature with elements of rock, plants, water and pavilions. On this tour, explore the depth of this art form and get insights into Chinese culture and philosophy as it is reflected through different forms of gardens, culminating in the spring showing of the beautiful Peony garden in Beijing.

We will also have a unique opportunity to learn more about the contributions of missionaries in education and health care in the early 20th century. Prof. Bill Willmott was the son of university educational missionaries in Chengdu. He will share memories and places of his childhood in Sichuan (his first language is Chinese). A highlight will be the new Museum of Missionary Photographs in the old Qing dynasty town of Xinchang ... [Read more...](#)



NZCFS Mongolia and North Central China Tour, July 9 to 29 2015

Genghis Khan – the man who made the modern world, or a violent marauder? How did his grandson Kubilai unite China? Explore this fascinating history, and experience the distinct culture of the Mongolian people in their harsh grassland steppe and Gobi environment in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia.

Back in north central China, participate in how NZCFS continues the legacy of Kathleen Hall – a New Zealand missionary nurse in China who was swept up in the war against Japan. Learn how NZCFS supports a community health project commemorating her. Add in a selection of China's best preserved sites – a Buddhist grotto, a hanging temple, UNESCO world heritage walled town ... [Read more...](#)



NZCFS Photographers China Tour, September 2015

Is there anything more photogenic than pandas close up lazily sitting back and enjoying their daily fill of

bamboo leaves? Shoot the frozen tundra of the Tibetan Plateau from the train, then stop the bus for high mountains, glaciers and yaks.

Following the successful Photographer's Tour to the South-east of China, NZCFS now offer a very different stage to capture. Cameras at the ready! ... [Read more...](#)

NZCFS Project sample:

Shandan Bailie School

山丹培黎學校



The NZCFS sends teachers, equipment and other support to help this school live up to the ideals of its founder, Rewi Alley.

Read teacher Jane Furkert's latest newsletter here:

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/19152/january-2015-in-sbs/>



Tree pruning class



Grape harvesting

MERBERS' NEWS

Dunedin NZCFS member **Annie Zong** is helping youth choir **Barock** (mixed choir from Otago Boys' and Girls' High Schools) with the preparation of Chinese song as they work towards their Shanghai trip in May this year. Barock will be performing at the Dunedin Chinese Garden as part of the New Year Celebration on Thursday evening 19 February.

Reminder: join us at the AGM Thurs 12 Feb – annual update, some business, committee action and plans for 2015....and then tea ceremony with host Ming Du – Chinese Garden Visitor Services Officer

"I enjoy working at the Dunedin Chinese Garden. It's a very beautiful place and not only do I get to practise my English but I get to speak and translate Chinese for many of our visitors. Although our staff come from many different cultures they are all friendly and enjoy a good joke, I like that."



2015 MEMBERSHIP

It's time to join up. Thanks to those members who have already renewed their membership for 2015.

There are advantages in membership of the branch.

- * Specific support for the aims of NZCFS, and national and local projects.
- * The New Zealand China Friendship Society has had sixty years experience working with China. This has given us strong connections and good contacts.
- * Opportunities for participation in unique NZCFS tours and delegations.
- * We need your membership support to continue the work.

Membership form - see attached

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

"Building New Friendships on Solid Foundations"

Learn more about the aims of NZCFS, its history, its current projects

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>



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