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No. 4 – May 2018



May Meeting Yangjiang Experience

Friday, May 18, 5:30p.m.

Jaycee Room, Founders Heritage Park



Our branch provided six senior students the opportunity to visit a school in Yangjiang, southern China, for a week of arts and culture exchange. The photograph is of the group of students and minders at Nelson Airport as they waited to depart on their adventure. Their hosts had a schedule with very varied activities planned for them. Come to hear and see what really happened, as the travellers report back to us on their experiences.

This meeting is at Founders Park, because a number of guests have been invited in addition to the students and their families.

A catered meal costs \$12, paid at the meeting. We start the meeting at 5:30, the meal arrives at 6p.m. and the reporting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

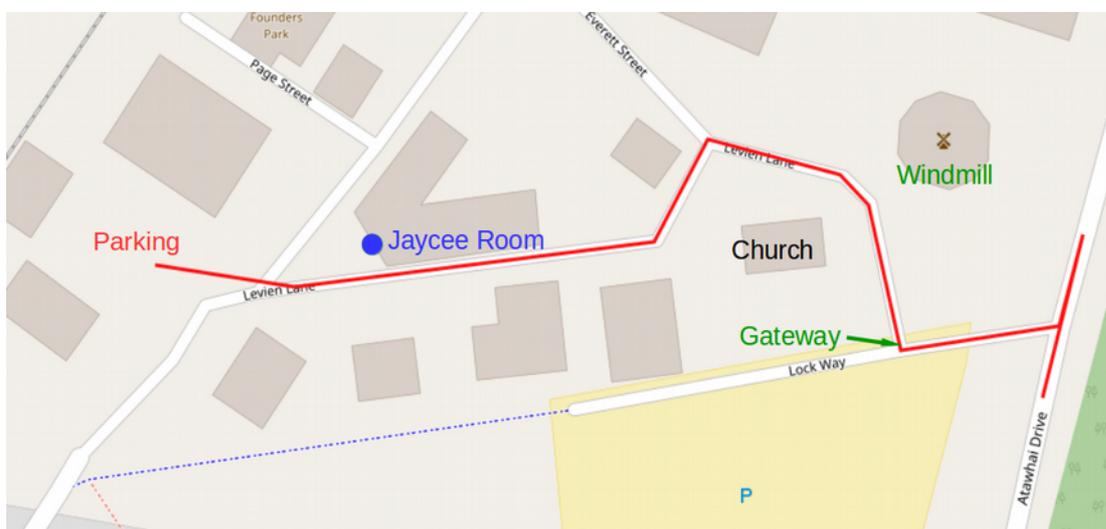
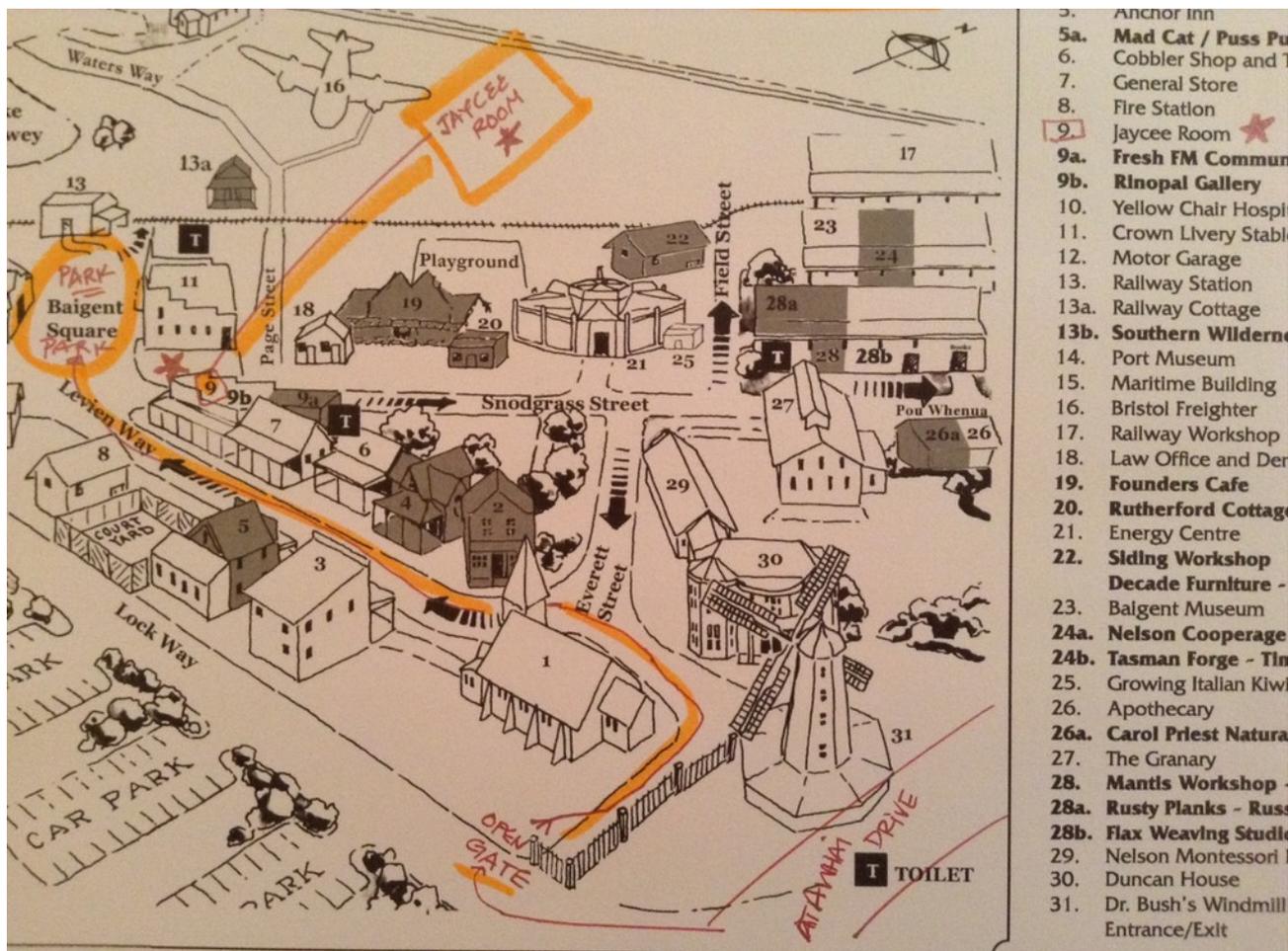
Note that this meeting is a week earlier than our usual date, as National Conference is in Hamilton the next weekend and Barbara and Christine will be away for that.

**To arrange catering, please contact Barbara Markland
by Monday, May 14
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

Instructions for the meeting at Jaycee Room, Founders Park – Turn off Atawhai Drive towards the Founders parking area. On the right is the gateway which allows vehicle access. Pass through the gateway, keep the church on the left and go LEFT at the junction, into Levien Way. At the end of this street, is an open area where we can park in front of the railway station, Baigent Square. You will have passed the Jaycee Room on the right, at the intersection of Levien Way and Snodgrass Street.

If you need help finding the building PLEASE call Bruce (021 024 19734) who will help you with directions.

Important: If you are only attending the 7:00pm presentation you will want to arrive 10-15 minutes early for parking and seating purposes.



Last meeting

An Introduction to the history of Chinese on the West Coast

Julia Bradshaw's book 'Golden Prospects: Chinese on the West Coast of New Zealand' was published in 2009 and covered many years of her research into the lives of Chinese miners and their impact on the West Coast during the gold mining era in the period from 1870 to 1900. A maximum number of nearly 1800 Chinese miners in 1883 had declined to a couple of hundred at the beginning of the 20th century.

Julia's presentation of the pictures, graphs, and statistics related to the topic, came mostly from her book, and provided an excellent framework for her stories. There were personal family histories, stories of the rise and fall of the mining towns and settlements, follow-up tales of what happened to some of the colourful personalities and, throughout all, the over-arching concept of the effect of the miners' contribution to the social fabric and economic progress of the region.

The pictures show (top to bottom):

Stafford in the 1880s - there is a Chinese mining claim near the dust cloud.

Chinese mining operation near Blackwater, Inangahua.

Greymouth about 1900, showing the Chinese business district.

The family portraits are:

On left, the well-known Greymouth Young family, 1898

On right, Ah Loo and husband, Wong Sik Hum, and family, 1907.



New He Ming Qing scholar - National President, Dave Bromwich, has recently met the new scholar who is in the first year of a four year nursing course in Xi'an. Her name is Chen Yuan, and both her parents have illnesses which makes the family situation difficult and is motivation for her nursing studies. She was able to attend middle school with the support of the county government. When Chen Yuan went to start her studies in Xi'an, was the first time she had travelled outside her county. The family village is in a remote area in the Qinling mountains which are often regarded as being the feature dividing China into North and South. They have been difficult to cross and separate the (northern) Yellow River catchment from the Yangtze catchment in the south.

Whanganui Branch rebirth - Dave Feickert was a pivotal member of Whanganui branch and an internationally recognised advisor on mine safety, until his death in 2014. The branch found it was not possible to replace him and fell into recess. However, Whanganui recently hosted the Rewi Alley photographic exhibition for a month and the interest generated by this has provided a number of people keen to revitalise the branch.

Washington Post article on allegations of 'Chinese Colonialism' in Africa - An American academic questions the popular narrative that Chinese investment in Africa is bad news for Africans. There have been similar claims recently about the investment in the Pacific and the 'Belt and Road' initiative. The conclusion, along with figures to support it, is that 'researchers who have explored China's role in Africa suggest that many of the things our politicians believe about Chinese engagement are not actually true'.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/theworldpost/wp/2018/04/12/china-africa/>

From Nelson Executive:

- Huangshi Basketballer: The internship with The Giants has been deferred until 2019 to give more time for organising and for the intern to be better prepared.
- Nelson - China Liaison: While China interests are no longer included in the Nelson Regional Development Agency's brief, their website is referring China matters to Bill Findlater for continuing and extending our valuable connections.
- Yangjiang Report: Jane Lister noted the success of the student exchange which exceeded all expectations. The school's level of welcome, care, friendship and enthusiasm was excellent. The Nelson students were superb ambassadors, performing admirably, and forging links for the future. Official thanks and congratulations were expressed to the Listers for all their work and to Barbara Markland for the original idea.
- Sister City Air NZ Award Application. Ian Lister is working quickly on this as it needs to be submitted by May 8th, through Nelson City Council.
- Future exchanges with Yangjiang: A working group with co-ordinators Jane and Ian Lister has been set up to develop a plan for a visit to Nelson from Liangyang Senior High School, possibly in October this year.
- AGM Remit: At the 2018 NZCFS Annual Meeting, an alteration in the rules of the society will go to the vote. It was decided that Nelson Branch would agree with the proposal to replace the present Object clause 3(c) which states:

To affirm the historical significance of the establishment of the People's Republic of China
with a new clause 3(c) stating:

To support the people of China

The Society Rules can be found under the 'About Us' heading on the NZCFS website

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Rules-of-NZCFS-May-2012.pdf>.

Note: NZCFS has been proud of its non-political stance and, although at the beginnings in 1962, this clause could have been regarded as important, it is no longer necessary as the PRC is recognised world-wide. NZCFS functions to support friendly connections between the people of New Zealand and the people of China. The change could also serve to avoid the charge that the society is politically allied with the government of the PRC and does not have an independent voice.