

*New Zealand China*

*Friendship Society*

### July Newsletter 2018

#### Next Meeting Saturday July 21st

#### Meet the Visiting Teachers from China

A potluck lunch and BBQ will be held on Saturday July 21st  
at 1 pm, 542 Pahiatua Track, Palmerston North.

( first gate on right past the 'S' bend )

This will be an opportunity to welcome part of the new group of 35 young academics recently arrived at Massey to study teaching methods from courses compiled by the Centre for Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE). The teachers are from central and west China and are sponsored by the Chinese Scholarship Council. They will be auditing Massey courses on agriculture and animal science plus learning new methods of teaching with the Institute of Education and enhancing their English language skills with PaCE.



*The newly arrived 2018 Chinese Scholarship Council teachers on the steps at Massey University*

#### At Our Last Meeting

Dr Wendi Roe described her experience at the China Bear Rescue Centre run by Animals Asia in Sichuan, examining sections from gall bladders of rescued farmed black (moon) bears. These bears had previously been farmed for the harvesting of bile for use in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).



#### Report on the National Conference Hamilton May 2018



*A lively and entertaining lion dance performed by children from Hillcrest High School set the stage for the conference theme of "working together" Addresses by Local and National Presidents, the Chinese Consulate and Hamilton Deputy Mayor were followed by a keynote presentation by Dr Miles Barker. His talk "Robin Hyde, Rewi Alley and the varieties of Mahi Tahī" was undoubtedly the highlight of the conference. It covered the historic meeting in war-torn Shanghai of two single-minded and intense New Zealanders and the events which followed. Although the two shared humanitarian ideals they were totally different personalities, one a pragmatic social reformer and labour organiser and the other a determined and emotive journalist. Rewi spent two weeks showing Hyde the carnage in Shanghai and introduced her to Soong Qin-Ling, Agnes Smedley, Peg and Edgar Snow and Jim Bertram. Robin Hyde then travelled north to the war front before returning injured and exhausted to write a haunting account of her experiences.*

In 2000, the Chinese government agreed to the rehabilitation of up to 500 bears from bear bile farms to be housed in facilities organised by the Animals Asia Foundation. Once stabilised, bears entering the facility had surgery to treat damage caused by bile extraction, including removal of gall bladder tissue. Any rescued bears that die had a full post-mortem examination at the rescue centre. Post mortem records from 188 bears revealed that liver tumours were extremely common. Examination of removed gall bladders showed that almost all had moderate to severe inflammation and over two thirds contained single or multiple masses, including some malignant gall bladder tumours. Other common findings included foreign bodies from suture material and fragments of catheter as well as gall stones and bile peritonitis. Only three gall bladders were classified as 'normal'; these were all from bears that had never had bile extractions



These findings call into question the ethics of current bear bile farming practices. TCM practitioners are aware of the increasing public concern over farmed bear welfare and support the use of either herbal alternatives or synthetic ursodeoxycholic acid (the active component in bear bile).

At the AGM the following office bearers were elected;-

President: Maurice Alley

Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Henderson

Committee: John Brunsdon, Josie Randall, Yi Luo, Dorothy Alley

### The Yellow River Concerto at the Regent



Palmerston North was one of only two cities in New Zealand to host a performance of the Yellow River Concerto in May this year. In this concert the Manawatū Sinfonia and Manawatū Youth orchestras combined under the baton of Canwei Li to perform several works rarely heard in this country.

The concert opened with a vigorous performance of Mozart's *Overture to the Marriage of Figaro*, followed by a charming performance of the concerto for pipa and orchestra, *Little Sisters of the Grasslands* written by Wu Tsu-Chiang. The pipa, a popular Chinese lute-like instrument was played by Min Gao, a widely recognised and talented exponent.



In the second half of the program the combined orchestras tackled Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* followed by the highlight of the concert Xian Xinghai's *Yellow River Concerto*. The piano soloist for this work was Xing Wang a gifted musician, whose performance was full of colour and expression, which had wide audience appeal and provided a most satisfying conclusion.

The concert was presented with the support of the Chinese Cultural Centre in New Zealand in association with the Manawatu Chinese Community Trust.

### Coming up Soon

On Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup> "Tracking New Zealand shorebirds to China and beyond" by Phil Battley. Phil will cover among other things, the state of the godwit feeding grounds in Yalu Jiang.

Annual Subscription Now Due (see attached form). Thank you to those who have already paid.