

New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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No. 7 – August 2018



August Meeting Richard Chen -



How Confucianism is Related to Communism with Chinese Characteristics

Friday, August 31, 5:30 p.m.

Hearing House

Richard's background:

Born in Beijing in 1950s and had a tumultuous childhood and early adult life due to my father's Kuomintang background. Had re-education in the countryside for three years after junior high school and served in the army for five years. Went to university in China after the Cultural Revolution, majoring in mechanical engineering. Studied MBA in State University of New York in 1985 and then had a 13-year business career as senior executives in a few domestic and foreign-invested firms in China. Immigrated to New Zealand in 1995. Have been engaging in the homeschooling of two sons since 2000 and meanwhile doing research and writing on the educational and cultural front, author of the books '18 Years of Homeschooling', 'Health Is Gold, Knowledge Is Capital, Communication Is Bridge'. Currently live in Nelson with my wife.



The meeting will be at the usual place, Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square (next to Synagogue Lane). A catered meal costs \$12, paid at the meeting. We start the meeting at 5:30, the meal arrives at 6p.m. and the guest speaker may begin after 6:45 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

If you wish to have the catered meal it costs \$12. Pay cash at the meeting or by Internet banking to NZCFS Nelson, a/c 03-0703-0369680-00, use your name as reference, and contact Barbara Markland as below.

To arrange catering, please contact Barbara Markland

by Monday, August 27

ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz

Please make sure she knows you are coming!

July Meeting

It was a full house again at Hearing House last month. We welcomed Nelson's MLA homestay hosts, the parents of Robert van Trierum, new member Howard Fairbanks, and the two new MLAs, recently arrived for their year of teaching in Nelson.

After the business meeting and the enjoyable meal brought in from Nelson Oriental Restaurant, we settled down to hear about Robert van Trierum's first visit to China to explore Beijing with Susie Su, followed by a trip to Panyu (Guangdong) to meet Susie's family and explore her hometown.

For many of our members who have toured Beijing, it was interesting to experience it through the eyes of a Kiwi and a Chinese both visiting for the first time, although Susie, of course, knew a lot about Beijing history and culture without actually having been there before. They did it all: Forbidden City, Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Peking Duck, Underground Malls, Peking Opera, Summer Palace, Olympic Stadium, National Museum, Shadow Puppets ... Robert and Susie agreed that everything was amazing.

Then they were off to Guangdong to Susie's hometown, Panyu. As it was Chinese New Year, there were many family gatherings as well as time spent cleaning everything, preparing and eating special food for the season. Robert had his hair cut as part of the process for preparation. It is also the time for buying new clothes and new shoes. There were so many of Susie's relatives to meet. Her mother has five sisters, known to the family by numbers, and hence there are many cousins. Every day they went to a different family. Robert says he ate too much and got sick, but he had a great time with a special little nephew called Sam. They travelled to a family wedding and made a trip to a temple for burning incense for good fortune for the Year of the Dog. A very special journey indeed for two of our members.

New Mandarin Language Assistants



Two new MLAs arrived in Nelson late in July, in time to attend our last meeting. They are Lu Jiaxi (Charlotte) and Zhou Meng Yun (Joanna), who has already been an MLA in Dunedin. Both are based with NMIT, teaching there and at Clifton Terrace, Nelson Intermediate, Nelson Central, Waimea Intermediate and Henley Schools. Wang Lingling, who has been here for a few months, is associated with the Nayland Language Hub and teaches at Nayland College and local primary schools. We hope that the new arrivals will be made welcome and will enjoy their time in Nelson.



Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour

We are very pleased that Philippa Wells, nominated by Nelson Branch, will be included in the Prominent Persons and Leaders delegation to China. Pip is an educator, currently Principal of Nelson Central School, and has held a range of roles in education.

Nelson Central School offers education in both English and Maori and is supportive of Mandarin Language, offering classes with a Confucius Institute Mandarin Language Assistant. Nelson Central has also hosted Chinese Exchange students and was supportive of our visit from Huangshi's Guang Chang Lu School, arranging home stays and hosting children at the school.

This PP&L tour is going to the Eighth Friendship Forum which will be held in November in Haikou, Hainan Island, followed with a short study tour to Sanya in the south of the island. Haikou City has a population about 2 million; Sanya is smaller, and is a tourist destination noted for its tropical climate.

Death of Mary Gray, Life Member and National President

With sorrow we note the passing of Mary Gray at age 94, just 15 days after the death of her husband, Vincent. Mary was a long-serving member of Wellington branch, National President from 1994 to 1996, and was awarded Life Membership in 2008. Mary believed that language is the gateway to understanding and motivated and encouraged many New Zealanders to continue to extend local knowledge and understanding of China, especially through language.

More about Mary and Vincent can be found on the NZCFS web-site at <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/?p=33055> including a link to an interesting newspaper article about their background and history, and a link to the tribute given by Duncan Campbell, Chairman of Wellington Branch.

From Nelson Executive

- The August meeting was held, as usual, at the Nelson Oriental Restaurant where we have big round table and plentiful supplies of green tea. Afterwards some members stay on for their dinner.
- 2018 Friendship Forum tour. Nelson's Central School Principal, Philippa Wells, has been accepted as a delegate for this tour.
- He Ming Qing Scholarships. The Chair of this NZCFS Committee is now Miao Fan of Hamilton, with committee members Jenevere Foreman (Hamilton), and Barbara Markland (Nelson). The newest scholar is Chen Yuan, a second-year student at Xian Medical College. Her letter of thanks to NZCFS is being translated. Shaanxi Women's Federation is seeking a second scholar. Nelson's annual contributions continue to help support HMQ Scholarships, awarded to students from country areas, enabling them to study nursing at university level.
- President Barbara, along with Christine Ward and Nigel Hucklesby met with Philip Marshall-Lee, Confucius Institute Director, Will Tregidga (NMIT) and Christine Yan (NMIT) on August 1. This was to clarify the contractual arrangements with NMIT for the new MLAs they oversee. NZCFS Nelson continues to provide friendly support for all Nelson MLAs.
- Yangjiang Student Exchange, March 2019. We are searching for alternative sources of funding for the return exchange to Nelson of senior students from Langyiang High School.
- National Executive Meeting. Ian Lister, National Treasurer participated in a phone network link-up on August 11. This replaced the usual National Executive meeting involving trips to Wellington.
- Nelson Treasurer, Royden Smith, is to investigate changing our bank accounts to gain more helpful interest rates.
- NZ-Chinese Language Week September 22-29, 2018. We are planning to collaborate with the MLAs and the schools in which they teach, to prepare hangings to hang in the trees in Trafalgar Street for the week. They must be removed before Sunday, and then they could be hung in the Huangshi garden for our Garden Party meeting. Permission has been granted for this project by Nelson City Council. Funds from Appo Hocton book sales are being made available to cover the cost of materials.

National President Presents Significant Speech In China

It is evidence of the high regard in which Dave Bromwich is held in China, that he was asked to present a paper at the Symposium of Chinese Studies in Beijing in July. His speech, 'Understanding Chinese Culture: the challenge to the west' was a thoughtful analysis of the way that China's history and culture underlies its present-day position as a global player. Dave expands on the idea that international reportage on China is skewed by lack of understanding and misreading of its intentions. He says that China has not become westernised; rather it is creating an alternative to the west.

There have been 5,000 years of Chinese history and cultural development, and it is over 2,000 years since Taoism and Confucianism were the drivers of the culture, philosophy and social development of the country. Of great significance, Dave points out, is the Taoist concept of yin and yang. This cultural heritage of opposites creating balance is fundamental. For example, the characters for crisis, 危机, wei and ji, represent peril and opportunity. The necessity of balance of opposites creating harmony is obvious in Chinese art, food, medicine, as well as its development in the environment and energy fields. In spite of contrary reporting in the west, China is a leader in the transition to clean energy, in poverty reduction, and has has a balanced coordinated approach to ecological considerations not evident elsewhere.

Dave's speech, '*Understanding China's Culture: the Challenge to the West*', can be read in full at <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>'. One of the photos attached to Dave Bromwich's speech in the China Daily (shown here) is from 2010 and shows a travel group at the Kathleen Hall School in Songjiazhuang. There are three Nelsonians in the front row!

Dave also gave a speech earlier in July to the 10th Eco Forum Global Annual Conference, in Guiyang. It was titled '*Establishing a Sustainable Eco-society and Alleviating Poverty*' and the text can be found on the [NZCFS web-site](#).



From other branches

A recent Manawatu branch meeting featured Dr Phil Battley, Associate Professor of Ornithology, on the topic '*Tracking New Zealand Shorebirds to China and Beyond*'. Knowledge of the migration of the godwits (and other migratory birds) is a result of satellite tracking work done at Massey University. Concern at the effects on these birds of the industrialisation of coastal wetlands at Yalu Jiang and in nearby North Korea is widespread internationally.

Christchurch Branch newsletter mentions a special planting event which was hosted by the Christchurch China Sister City Committee at the Chinese Garden in Halswell Quarry Park. 80 volunteers were putting on the gardening gloves and helping make "a big jigsaw puzzle of plants". The enthusiastic volunteers are largely international students who are currently studying in Christchurch.

China and Clean Energy

China has a huge investment in coal-fired electricity generation, but that emphasis on coal is now changing. According to Greenpeace in 2017, China intended to stop or delay work on 151 planned and under-construction coal power plants. As the building of new coal-fired plants slowed, the International Energy Agency estimated that China was adding two new wind-turbines every two hours in 2015.

Well-known for its solar energy (photo-voltaic or PV) growth, a recent estimate is that China is adding more than a football pitch area of PV capability every hour of every day. Projections released by Bloomberg New Energy Finance in November 2017, suggest that China in that year could have *added* more solar generation than any other country has total installed solar capacity.

So, if someone gives you the line that "China builds a new coal-fired power station each week", it is 'fake news' and no longer a fair reflection of the country's energy situation.