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No. 10 – November 2018

November Meeting
Our Chinese Stories
Friday, November 30, 5:30 p.m.



At our 'Show and Tell' meeting last year we saw some very interesting objects and heard stories which had transformed the object into treasures for the owners.

This year we wish to repeat the event with more treasures, photographs, anecdotes, and memories. At this meeting we would like to see some more of the interesting items that members have and hear the stories that make them personally valuable.

Stories could be cautionary tales, strange or interesting situations, or just memories of a particular place and time.

If you have a story related to China, an article with a China story, or a photograph and story, we would be delighted if you would share it with us. Please let Barbara know of your intention when you contact her to book your meal.

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 speakers 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, November 26
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

Farewell BBQ to Wang Lingling

Each year at this time, one of our visiting Mandarin Language Assistants returns to China, having been working here for a year. Wang Lingling is leaving in December, and we intend to give her a Christmas party and Kiwi summer barbecue as her farewell. This will be on Friday, December 14, at the barbecue area on Bisley Walk, Tahunanui beach. We will meet at 5 p.m., come when you are able. Bring your own food and drink and plates.

Honouring Appo Hocton

A proposal to name the access way connecting Pioneer Crescent to Valley Heights Road is currently out for consultation with six local iwi and NCC is awaiting feedback. This is on the North side of Washington Valley, above Pioneers Park.

Yangjiang Inspired Composition

Sidney Barron, one of the students who went to Yangjiang earlier this year, has composed music inspired by the students visit. He says "A few months ago I wrote a composition inspired by our experience in Yangjiang - something I had wanted to do since we went, and it has won the NSO's young composer competition. This means it will be played by the Nelson Symphony Orchestra on the 24th."

Deng Fund Award

Nelson Branch's application for funding to help with the plan to bring 8 students and 2 teachers from Liangyang Senior High School to Nelson in March has been approved. This fund, established by Simon Deng Li is for art and cultural exchanges, especially focussing on young people.

Confucius Institute Prize-giving

Held at NMIT on November 8, the prize-giving ceremony saw students from Nelson Schools rewarded for their progress in learning Mandarin. A fascinating fan dance was performed by a group of students from Clifton Terrace School, trained by Mengyun Zhou who also did a solo fan dance. A Martial Arts teacher from Confucius Institute impressed with a fearsome demonstration, and Nigel Hucklesby was awarded a certificate for the top marks in New Zealand for calligraphy this year.

October Branch Meeting

This was held on November 9 so that Professor Qianhua Yu, Deputy Director of the Confucius Institute at Canterbury University, could be with us. She brought us up-to-date on the progress of their work with 39 MLAs teaching in 117 primary, secondary, and tertiary schools around the South Island.

After the meal Charlotte and Joanna told us about their hometowns and families with excellent slide shows, and Joanna performed her fan-dance. Joanna comes from Pengdun, a small village within Zhongxiang City in Hubei Province. She plays the guzheng, and learned to dance in Han styles.

Charlotte comes from Mianyang in Sichuan province. Her primary school had to be rebuilt after the Sichuan earthquake which badly affected her area. Charlotte loves visiting a local fun park where she can fly around in a wind tunnel. Her favourite foods are spicy in the Sichuan style, especially mi fen, a local rice noodle soup.

Then it was Lingling's turn to say her farewells. She has been teaching since February at Nayland College and the surrounding schools of the Nayland Hub. Her family lives in Chongqing now and she studied in Huazhong University and Technology in Wuhan. She comes from a large family due to her parents both remarrying. Her favourite food is hotpot, and she loves her grandmother's cooking. She has loved being in Nelson, homestaying with Tessa, plus the cat and George the dog. She has enjoyed all her classes in Nelson, especially Enner Glynn School. It seemed obvious that her students have enjoyed her teaching. Travelling around NZ in the holidays has been another highlight.

This is the last newsletter for this year. Our next event will be the New Year Banquet, Sunday, February 10. We wish all members a happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year.