

Tauranga China Friendship Presidents' report for 2018 year

I was unexpectedly placed in the role of President of the Branch after the resignation of John Hodgson as President for five years. This was not ideal as I am also the secretary of the branch.

Currently there are eleven financial members of the branch and fourteen non paying associate members who often attend dinner events.

Events in 2018

25th March Annual General Meeting, two new Members were voted onto the Committee.

May 25th-May 27th National Conference was held in Hamilton attended by myself and Haley D Rijk. Haley wrote an excellent report on the Conference. Well done.

April 15 a lunch time event at Maketu restaurant the Nautilus organised by Yi Small was well attended with new members Bill and Kim Biehler showing interest in future meetings.

June 10 a dinner event with Mandarin language teachers from the Chinese Community school. For your information the classes at Tauranga Girls College have terminated after eight years but will be reestablished under new management for the 2019 year.

June 31st A committee meeting attended by only 3 members at the Zest Restaurant illustrated the problems the Branch has had attracting new blood and planning events. Only two committee meeting were held in the year.

October 28th John Hodgson the Smalls and myself attended a Rotorua branch meeting at the Rotorua Arts Village. Some important contacts were made at this meeting. A visiting speaker gave an interesting talk and a demonstration of Chinese origami.

November 4th, Frank King organised lunch at the Beijiang restaurant, it was a successful event attended by twelve members.

December 1st, a special meeting was held at the Zest Restaurant to discuss the future of the Branch, this meeting was well attended. Frank King expressed interest in being President of the club in 2019. The conclusion of the meeting was meal events would be well attended by members but there was less interest in cultural activities. More visiting speakers might increase attendance.

Ahead to 2019

Committee member Yi Liang is undertaking to organise a Cultural event and dinner in early 2019 this should help promote the Branch and increase connections with the community.

For early 2019 I will continue as President until the AGM but would be happy for Frank King to take over the position at the AGM; I will continue my role as secretary of the Branch.

Andrew Hart President 2018 year.