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No. 9 – October 2018



October Meeting in November Mandarin Language Assistants



Friday, November 9, 5:30

Hearing House

Note the date of this meeting!



This meeting is not on the normal date, to avoid the masked parade and allow for a visitor. We are privileged to host Qianhua Yu (Janet), Deputy Director of the Confucius Institute at University of Canterbury. She will update us on the work of CI in the South Island before we have our meal break. Our main speakers will be the 3 MLAs presently in Nelson. We have asked them to tell us about themselves, their families, and their home towns. Wang Lingling has been in Nelson since February, but Mengyun Zhou (Joanna) and Lu Jiayi (Charlotte) are recently arrived so this is an opportunity to get to know them.

The meeting will be at the usual place, Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square (next to Synagogue Lane). 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, November 5
 ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
 Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

Chinese Language Week September 23 - 29



Nelson children who are learning Mandarin with our three Confucius Institute MLAs, prepared some work for display during Chinese Language Week. Our original plan to hang their work from trees in the Nelson CBD became impractical. A display was prepared for the Nelson Library and transferred to the Huangshi Chinese Garden for the NZCFS Garden Party on September 30.

We are grateful for the participation of the children of the schools where Wang Lingling, Zhou Mengyun (Joanna) and Lu Jiayi (Charlotte) were teaching in Term 3.

With Joanna, Clifton Terrace children used felt pens to practise writing some Chinese characters on coloured paper. The youngest classes made paper cut-out patterns.

At Nelson Intermediate School, where Joanna works with Friday elective classes, they did some straw-blowing of paint to make plum-blossom pictures. The following week they took rice paper, ink and brushes to have their first try at calligraphy.

In Term 3, Charlotte was working at Henley School and Nelson Central School. The Henley children discovered the characters for their favourite sports and food, and wrote the Chinese characters for these on coloured paper.

Lingling works full-time in the Nayland College Language Hub. She teaches at Nayland Primary, Nelson Christian Academy, Enner Glynn, and Broadgreen Intermediate, as well as Nayland College. All these students used straws to blow indian ink on paper plates to make the branches of plum trees. They then dipped a finger-tip in red paint to tap on their work to represent blossoms. The plates were hung in the garden on September 30, providing decorations for the Garden Party.

Many thanks to Charlotte, Joanna, and Lingling for their valuable contribution to NZ Chinese Language Week in Nelson, and to the students and teachers in the participating schools.

From Nelson Executive – October

- Yangjiang Exchange – The branch has submitted to the Simon Deng Li Arts and Cultural Exchange Fund a concept proposal for a return visit of students from Yangjiang to Nelson early next year. This has been processed and we have now been invited to submit a full application. This funding is intended to assist with the costs of the activities involved in hosting the group.
- Sister Cities – It was felt that while the links with Yangjiang are important, we also need to make an effort to maintain the relationship with Huangshi; a link which has existed for nearly 25 years.

November meeting

Our November meeting, which is scheduled for November 30, will be 'Our Chinese Stories'. This a 'Show and Tell' type event in which we invite members who have an item or a photograph which reminds them of an incident, to show the item and tell the story. If you have a story you could tell, accompanied by an item or not, we would like to hear it. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

NZCFS 'Explore China - the South East' tour (March 2019)

Here is another of the very highly regarded NZCFS tours to China - an opportunity to explore the provinces between Guangzhou and Shanghai.

This itinerary offers a range of experiences in a compact tour, designed to better explore one region – the south-east – with an efficient travel itinerary that captures the best cities modern and old, sites of historical and cultural significance, ethnic minority groups, beautiful ancient villages, breathtaking scenic wonderlands, and a brief connection to Rewi Alley.

It will be a tour of local experiences, enjoying the tea culture and tasting the cuisine typical of the area. A reasonable level of walking fitness is required to participate in all the activities.

For more information see http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/?page_id=33337

Nelson Branch Garden Party



As usual over the last few years, we celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival, the first day of Daylight Saving, and National Day (October 1), by having a Garden Party in the Chinese Garden. This year it was fine, fortunately, unlike a couple of previous years. About 50 people passed through and stayed a while to enjoy a selection of Chinese teas, samples of moon cakes and tea-eggs. Both moon cakes and pickled eggs, when cut in half, reveal a 'full moon', are traditional symbols of Mid-Autumn Festival in China. We are grateful to Lingling for sharing her grandmother's recipe for 'tea eggs'. This involves a form of 'pickling' for preserving the eggs.

Possible Nelson Branch tour to Chinese Sister Cities

We are looking for expressions of interest in a tour to southern and central China, based around visiting our two 'Sister Cities'. This would probably be late October 2019 to avoid the hot summer season and the October 1 National Day holiday. It is envisaged that the tour would likely start in Guangzhou and end in Shanghai, with much of the travel on fast trains rather than flying.

If this might be of interest to you or friends, please let President Barbara know. The duration, itinerary, and scheduling are yet to be determined and could be created to suit interested people.

NMIT graduation

The NMIT graduation for the students in their Mandarin Language classes is to be held November 8. These are the classes taught by MLAs. Professor Qianhua Yu, Deputy Director of Confucius Institute at University of Canterbury, will be present at the graduation, and it is because of her visit to Nelson that we have moved the October meeting so that she could be present the following evening when the MLAs will be speaking to us.

Interview with Sir Don McKinnon

Sir Don McKinnon was New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1990 to 1999. He has been interviewed for the China Daily Hong Kong edition. Some excerpts from the published interview:

McKinnon said recently that as China's global economic significance rises, its international influence grows. "Some commentators like to compare 21st-century China to the Europeans in the 19th century and the US in the 20th. "Yes, there are similarities: Countries that become wealthy often spread their influence for strategic purposes or by following their investments. But there is a difference – the British Empire expanded with the motive of economic gain. The US extended its reach in large part for geopolitical influence."

McKinnon said China's expansion is based on the need for raw materials and food as it seeks to feed its vast population and continue to lift many millions out of poverty. "Hence, it is investing heavily in places with large agricultural and resource bases, such as in South America, Australia, Southeast Asia and Africa – and here in New Zealand."

Compared to Australia, its neighbour across the Tasman Sea, New Zealand has a far less antagonistic relationship with China.

McKinnon admitted that from time to time, some New Zealanders express concern about Chinese investment. "But when you look at it, Chinese investment in New Zealand is around 1.1 percent," he said. New Zealand, he noted, has maintained an attitude to "get on with it and do the things we do best". "That is probably why we have a solid relationship with China."

He said New Zealand was the first Western nation to sign a free trade agreement with China. "I think China trusts us as a nation. It sees us as a country which has its own interests at heart and which does not go out of its way to antagonize others."

McKinnon said diplomacy, however, can go only so far in forging relationships between nations. "True and resilient bonds are forged between ordinary citizens, face to face, over many years."

The full published interview is at <https://www.chinadailyhk.com/articles/184/79/99/1539576210739.html>

Hong Kong – Zhuhai - Macau Bridge (HZMB)

You may have noted that the "world's longest bridge over water" was recently opened. This is a 55 km bridge and tunnel combination connecting Hong Kong on one side of the Pearl River (Zhujiang) delta with Macau and Zhuhai on the other. This means that the previously four-hour drive between Zhuhai and Hong Kong will now take 45 minutes, and this was a major impetus for building the link. Of the 55 km total length, 6.7 km is tunnel, needed to allow the passage of large ships. Each end of the tunnel is on an artificial island. While there are suspension bridges over other shipping channels crossed by the bridge, such a bridge with its tall towers could not be used near Hong Kong airport.



Since the bridge joins territories of different authorities, there are border-crossing checkpoints to reflect the boundaries. Hong Kong's checkpoint is at a facility on an artificial island near Hong Kong International Airport while Macau and Zhuhai have their checkpoints on reclaimed land at their border. Total cost of the bridge is about 120 billion yuan (NZD26 billion), not including the border-crossing facilities which have been paid for by each authority.

At present the bridge is not available to the public, only to specially licensed vehicles, and shuttles run between border checkpoints, not across boundaries.