



New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc.

www.nzchinasociety.org.nz

—Building new friendships on solid foundations



Christchurch Branch January Newsletter 2020

Articles for submission can be sent to nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com

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Monthly Meetings Held

Last Thursday of the Month (except January, September, November and December)
7:30 pm
Rewi Alley Education and Cultural Centre
(Wharenui School)
32 Matipo Street, Riccarton

Seasonings Greetings

Contacts

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Hon Patron: Simon Deng Li

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Executive 2018:
Ailsa Dodge
Anna Chen
Anna Lu
Bill Willmott (Honorary Patron)
Craig Ashby
Dave Adamson
Graeme Tinkler
Izzie Guo
Michelle MacWilliam (VP)
William Qiu
Matt McKenna
Felicia Chang

**HAPPY CHINESE
NEW YEAR.**

**XIAN NIAN KUAI
LE.**

**THE YEAR OF
THE RAT.**

Chinese New Year Festival

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2020

11AM TILL 10PM

VICTORIA SQUARE



A HELPING HAND IN GANSU

Christchurch and Gansu province in north west China have enjoyed a strong and active sister city relationship since 1984. The relationship came about at the direct request of Rewi Alley, and this newsletter has reported on their various activities over the years. Since the opening up policy adopted in 1978, China has lifted over 700 million people out of poverty. Its central government has set out the goal of eradicating poverty in rural areas by the end of 2020. As one of the most poverty-stricken provinces, Gansu determined to send its government officials from provincial departments to the poorest villages to do the job.

Here is a heart-warming story of good deeds in Gansu. Since August 2017, the Gansu Foreign Affairs Office (GSFAO) has had an annual programme of helping two poor mountain villages in the Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture in southwest Gansu. These areas, 2200 metres above sea level, have one of the poorest economies in China, as well as a lack of education and industry and see lots of early aged marriages. The young men usually go to Qinghai, Xinjiang or other provinces to earn a living. Each family grows potatoes, winter wheat, and cattle.

One of the villages is Yebuwan, home to 1088 people from 232 families. Over the past two years, the GSFAO has helped the village with two million Yuan of goods and money.

Some measures of support from the GSFAO are as follows:

- Send two staff to work at the village committees, each term for two years.
- The GSFAO gives rice, flour, edible oil, candies, clothes and stationery materials to each family, and 200 – 400 Yuan around New Year's Day.



The village committee giving blankets to virtuous families voted by the villagers.

- Installed disaster warning broadcast system and solar power road lamps, built a small library complete with books and built a sports ground and gave facilities, like basketball stands.
- Trained young men the skills for growing, planting and beef noodle making.
- Trained teachers at village schools.
- Donated to a school 10 PCs, printers and dozens of T-shirts.
- Provided first aid bag and booklet.

- Helped establish rural co-operatives and training of the management team. This was achieved by the GSFAO finding a businessman to donate 500,000 Yuan to the village. The money goes to the co-op, which lends small amounts to willing families to raise cattle, sheep and chickens, which they can sell at markets.



GSFAO staff helping villagers to plant pine trees to sell to market.

- Helped villagers grow medicinal herbs and pine trees to sell.
- Visit aged, disabled men and women, and those who lost family members.
- Donated money to college students from the village.



GSFAO donating money and a wheelchair to an aged woman.

- Donated 60 wheelchairs to the disabled.
- Donated goose down clothes for children.
- Donated 10 tons of chemical fertilizers.
- Supported the village committees in cleaning and whitewashing the walls of the houses along the roads, and painting pictures and writing slogans to encourage the rural families to work hard and love the country and rejoice always.
- Invited eight doctors and nurses from Lanzhou University First Hospital to give free and common medical examination and medicine.
- Donated three tons of coals to village committees for heating in winter.
- Helped apply for government housing funds to repair and rebuild houses in danger.
- The upper Party committee gave a gift of tea to all villagers as a gift at the Party's anniversary day.

- Repaired office rooms of the village committees.
- Built concrete road from village to city, grew trees, and collected rubbish.

In addition to the two million Yuan of goods and money given by the GSFAO over the last two years, funding to support these activities has also come from businessmen and foundations in Gansu, Hong Kong, Macao and other overseas Chinese, as well as foreign foundations.



GSFAO built a small square for villagers to gather, basketball playing and amusement.

Each GSFAO staff member links with two families, and visits the village every season, usually four times a year. Each time they spend about 7-8 hours on the road, and about 3 hours visiting families. They don't live in the village, and pay their own lunch and dinner. The staff members work with the village committees and help with most jobs. The staff are paid a stipend of meals and transport and mobile fees, in addition to their monthly office pay. They live in the town government building and go to work in the villages every workday. At the weekend they take the bus to Lanzhou if there is no temporary work.

This is called grass root working experience that will benefit their work career in government.

Before August 2017, the GSFAO supported another two villages for a couple of years, where they did similar work. 2020 is the year the Chinese government has promised to get rid of absolute poverty and realize a well-off society in both rural and urban areas. The central government has made it clear it will not cease in its efforts to support poor rural families after 2020. As part of this, the GSFAO will continue to send staff and support the village to make them stronger and better. It is expected to continue for several years.

Chinese New Year Banquet 2020



NZCFS

**CHINESE NEW YEAR
BANQUET 2020
SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 6PM
North and South Restaurant
300 Lincoln Rd, Addington
Seats are \$30 or \$300 tables of 10
RSVP by Wednesday 29th January
All payments **must** be made by Friday 31st January.
Book your seats by emailing nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com
Payment instructions will be sent by reply email
Limited seats are available for this event so get in quick**

**THIS EVENT IS NOW
SOLD OUT**

Upcoming AGM

Our AGM this year will be held on Thursday 27th February.

To be able to stand or vote in the AGM you **MUST** be a financial member of the society.

We are delighted to announce that our speaker after the AGM section is our National President Mr Dave Dromwich.

Upcoming Events

Chinese New Year festival Sunday 26th January Victoria Square

NZCFS Chinese New Year Banquet Sunday 2nd February 2020. **"SOLD OUT"**

NZCFS Upcoming Tours

NZCFS EXPLORE CHINA: The North-East and NORTH KOREA September 6 to September 26, 2020 NZCFS Tours are QUALITY TOURS, providing REAL experiences, with enthusiastic companions in a cohesive small group, escorted by knowledgeable people who provide an in depth understanding of China. Have a quick look at the SE Tour report. NZCFS are pleased to offer this special tour, going far into the North of China, with a four day excursion into North Korea. Is this a glimpse at how China may have been in earlier decades? We will have opportunity to find out for ourselves. Further information and itinerary is here in a revised presentation. The tour plans to visit the following locations and sites . See over for detail. Jilin Province • Changchun • Manchu Guo puppet state Liaoning Province • Shenyang • Dandong • Dalian For expression of interest and enquiry, contact tours@nzcfs.org.nz Heilongjiang Province • Harbin • Wudalianchi Unesco Scenic site • Qiqihar www.nzchinasociety.org.nz Contact tours@nzcfs.org.nz Fully escorted, 4 star twin share accommodation. All inclusive price \$8250 (estimated, subject to currency exchange), includes domestic flights in NZ, all meals, etc, (excludes Chinese visa and insurances). North Korea • Pyongyang • Demilitarised zone • Tianjin, • Beijing September 5 Depart NZ September 6 Day 1 Arrive Harbin St.Sofia Church, Central Street and Stalin Park. Stay in Harbin. Day 2 Siberian Tigers, other sites in Harbin Day 3 Bus to Wudalianchi (4.5 hours). Visit geological sites, Wudalianchi Day 4 Further sites in Wudalianchi Day 5 Bus to Qiqihar(3.5hrs); Zhalong National Nature

Reserve, Qiqihar Day 6 Bullet train to Changchun(10:02-12:45), Pu Yi's Manchu Imperial Palace, Babadu Manchu offices, Changchun Day 7 Bullet train to Shenyang(09:53-11:16). Former Palace before Qing government settled the capital in Beijing; Marshal Office of Zhang family: the warlord leaders in NE China in 1920s . Stay in Shenyang. Day 8 World Horticultural Exposition, once the site of Shenyang botanical garden, "9.18" Historical Museum; Zhongjie pedestrian street, Shenyang Day 9 Bus to Dandong(3.5hrs). Broken bridge on Yalv River, a witness of the war to resist U.S. and aid Korea; Hushan Great Wall, the east end of the Great Wall of Ming dynasty. Stay in Dandong. Day 10 Train to Pyongyang via Sinuiju, North Korea(DPRK) 8:30-17:30, check in the hotel in Pyongyang Day 11 Day trip to Kaesong, visit demilitarized zone, Panmunjom, other sites in Koryo, subway stations back in Pyongyang. Day 12 Various city sites in Pyongyang Day 13 Strolling in Kim Il Sung Square before go to the railway station for Pyongyang-Sinuiju-Dandong (9:40-16:35) return to Dandong Day 14 Bus to Dalian (4hrs) On the way visiting Yalvjiang Nature Reserve where the godwits fly to and from NZ; Bangchui Island, depending on the arrival time in Dalian Day 15 City sites in Dalian, Baiyu hill to have a panoramic view of the city and visit the naval armory Naval port park, Xinghai Square, Binhai Road, Beida qiao: also called long-lasting love bridge. Dalian Day 16 Train to Tianjin:10:06-14:18, one of the 4 municipalities Check in the hotel. Ancient cultural street and dinner there Cruise for night views(50min) Tianjin Day 17 City sites in Tianjin: strolling in Wudadao: thousands of Europeanstyle buildings, mainly as the former residences of celebrities in 1920s. Cifangzi: a French-style house decorated by porcelain, Shijizhong Square, Dagukou Fort Ruins Museum(1h bus, single way)Tianjin Day 18 Shi's Grand Mansion: one of the best preserved large-scale civil building complexes in North China. Bus to Beijing (2.5hrs) Check in the hotel in downtown Beijing Days 19 and 20 City sites to be arranged :Ti'anmen Square, Forbidden city, Songqingling Former residence, hutongs, Great Wall, Summer Palace . Stay in Beijing Day 21 depart for airport, arrive NZ. September 27 NZCFS EXPLORE CHINA: The North-East and NORTH KOREA For full itinerary go to http://tours.nzchinasociety.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/northeast_and_northkorea.pdf

Contact tours@nzcfs.org.nz

Subscriptions are now due for 2020

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2020 (the financial year is January to December):

<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$50 (Includes Advertising in our Newsletters)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged	\$20

Payment Methods

Please send your cheque (with clear name and contact details) to:

Vivien Qin
C/- P O Box 7366
Sydenham
Christchurch 8240

OR

BANK TRANSFER Society Bank Account No **38 9010 0816274 00** (Kiwi Bank).

IMPORTANT: please be sure to enter your name as a reference.

**Remember to send an email with your Name, address and a contact number to
nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com.**

We are always looking for new members so please do not hesitate to bring along any friends who may be interested in our society.