



Newsletter June 2009

TAURANGA BRANCH

新中友好协会

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Proposed calendar

Late July Guangdong Goodwill and Education delegation
to visit Tauranga after 20th July, here for four days. Suggested venue Eastern Ocean restaurant.

Late August Mahjong afternoon

Martin and Michelle to organize after they return from China in late August bring a plate, maybe combine with mid-Autumn Festival.

1st October China National Day 60th Anniversary

Venue China Town Restaurant celebrate with 60th anniversary cake.

November A movie evening or Tai Chi Evening



Peter Cornwall and John Hodgson were delegates at the National Conference

The National Conference of the Friendship Society in Orewa in May was an inspiring event. Inspiring addresses were given on a range of topics mostly related to China in the last sixty years and possibilities for the future, but the workshop discussions were most worthwhile. Most inspiring was the talk on what the Society is doing at a grassroots level in China in helping the farmers increase their productivity and the reports on the reinstatement of irrigations systems, etc after the Sichuan earthquake a year ago. Meeting with many Society members from around New Zealand who had warm and humanitarian stories to tell of the people China was particularly rewarding.

Please read about new committee member John Hodgson's work experience program on the next page.

AGM 26th April Election of Committee

President Rosanne Groom, Secretary Andrew Hart

Treasurer Martin Huang

Committee members; Margaret Cooper, Michelle Huang, Frank King, Roger Graham, John Hodgson

Financial Report

Tabled by Treasurer Martin Huang total assets of \$9,457.41
\$5,791.09 in current account, \$3,628.32 in savings account.

Peter Cornwall inquired why there was no income from the Tour Committee. National Executive reply "there was no surplus to distribute to the branches in 2009."

Future Direction of Club for 2009

Less Chinese Delegations are coming to New Zealand. The committee will ask the National executive to bring interesting speakers to New Zealand to talk about China at our Branch meetings. We need membership participation to organise an interesting program! Please tell the committee if you have good guest speakers or can help with telephoning members.

Bad Karma

The Shandong delegation. Dinner on March 17th made the front page of the BOP Times. Heavy rain flooded the restaurant and forced the party of 28 to move to the nearby Peking restaurant. This run of bad luck followed the delegation having their bags stolen after visiting the Hamilton gardens. I hope they left with a good impression of NZ despite the bad luck.

Prominent persons delegation tour

Tauranga resident Murray Hill has been invited to China by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Youxie).

Murray is a Solicitor, Board member & Past President Export NZ, Priority One (Economic Development Office)

Subscriptions to remain unchanged for 2009

Ordinary Members \$20.00,
Senior (over 65) \$15,
Student \$10.00, Host
Family \$20.00, Couples
\$25, and Corporate \$50.00.
Anyone still to pay post to;

China Friendship
92 Fraser Street,
Tauranga.

New Zealand China Friendship Society:
Tauranga Branch Project 2009:

The New Zealand Fenglin Work Experience Programme.

New Zealand Fenglin Work Experience Programme is a plan whereby selected students on a three year horticulture course at Fenglin College in Jiangxi, China, after completing one year of theoretical studies at their college will come to New Zealand to gain practical experience with selected contractors in the greater Tauranga area. They will then return to China for their final year of studies before they graduate. Many of the Fenglin College students come from impoverished homes in rural Sichuan, Hehan, Anhui, Jiangsu and Jiangxi

Students will come to New Zealand under Immigration Department's **Skilled Stream Temporary Worker Policy**.

Issues that have been identified as challenges to getting a visa include:

English levels, Occupational Safety and Health, Finance and Fraud. **All of these issues have been addressed.**



Students in rural China often are taught in tightly packed classrooms sitting in rigid rows and lines where lessons are frequently blackboard centred chalk and talk lectures. These students at Fenglin College have a novel group seating arrangement, they are participating in a discussion being chaired by one of their own.
Here the students have been working on a unit about life and work in New Zealand.
Most classrooms have totally unadorned Spartan plastered walls: note here some student work on display in the background.

NZIS has two general requirements for students to enter New Zealand under this policy:

1. that they have the support of their college, and,
2. they have a formal offer of work from a NZ employer.

Both these requirements have been met.

There are of course other requirements concerning individual students such as identity, personal relationships at home, health, etc which are dealt with within the visa application process.

A wide range of support has been expressed for this programme from in and around Tauranga from business and community leaders and from horticulturalists, contractors, packhouses, etc and work is ongoing to consolidate this all recognising that these are trainees practicing the skills that they had previously learned in China.

Strong support has been expressed by at least three local education/training organisations and this is being further discussed with NZIS as to whether this support is education or training.

Parallel to, but separate from the work experience programme, is The Tauranga Nanchang Friendship Trust. This charitable trust has been set up to help bankroll students for their airfares to New Zealand. During the time that they are working here students will repay monies advanced to them by The Trust.

In the near future Tauranga Branch Committee will be exploring ways that the branch can further support The Work Experience Programme and The Trust.

If you want to know more about the projects talk to one of your committee members or to John Hodgson (Ph 577 0583)



Students are always keen to know what is happening in horticulture in other places in the world, they feel that in China that they have very little opportunity to experience new methods nor see new different varieties of crops.

Helping people to help themselves.