Double Feature, 5pm Rationalist House,

Sunday October 25

Don’t miss this special screening our much praised music video Aotearoa Jasmine featuring nearly 400 singers performing China’s best-loved folk song from iconic locations in Auckland and Wellington. You’re bound to recognise some-one!

Continuing the visual theme, Charmaine Pountney (photo left: Charmaine (right) with Jill Brame on their tour to China.) will give an illustrated report on her “experience of a lifetime” her recent visit to China as a member of the Prominent persons tour, her first since going on an NZCFS Teachers’ tour in 1981. Charmaine was fascinated by the approaches to tourism through theme park and performance. She found the most important change was how seriously China is taking environmental issues.

Gold coin entry. Stay for a meal with us a meal and wine afterwards. Meal only $5 wine $2 per glass.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Next Meeting

Date: 25 October 2009
Time: 6pm
Venue: Rationalist House, 64 Symonds St, Auckland CBD
(Parking available at 58 Symonds St, Auckland CBD, courtesy of the Confucius Institute.)

BIG 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic went off in style in Auckland. The anniversary coincided with the Moon Festival and began with a major concert at the Civic Theatre attended by the Prime Minister John Key and Opposition Leader Phil Goff. The story of our society and an interview with Past President Cecil Fowler was included, in Asia Downunder report on this event. You can watch Cecil on the web at:

http://tvnz.co.nz/asia-downunder/s2009-e32-video-3044092
Then more than 60 members from Hamilton, Hibiscus, and Auckland helped celebrate our China National Dinner at the Dynasty Restaurant on Sunday September 27.

The Presidents of the three branches hosted Consul-General Madame Liao and ten staff from the Consulate. Past President Cecil Fowler made sure we had members from the early days. Mme Liao brought boxed 60th anniversary commemorative badges for every guest and also provided wine juice and moon cakes for every table.

Hamilton President Ian Howat led a succession of toasts to Mme Liao, the Republic, Rewi Alley, and Kathleen Hall. Madame responded, and then not to be outdone, led the singing of the Chinese National Anthem, and then coaxed one of her staff to give a stirring rendition of a much-loved Beijing opera melody. The final song was, almost inevitably, Mo Li Hua familiar to many members as the song performed by nearly 400 singers in Aotearoa Jasmine, our singing birthday card to China.

SOCIETY VIDEO MAKES THE BIG SCREENS

The day after ARC Chairman Mike Lee and Madame Liao launched Aotearoa Jasmine at the ARC Council Chambers on September 30, the 4-minute music video was showing on New Zealand's biggest cinema screen at Sky City's Asia Cinema, preceding The Founding of a Republic.

This was an extraordinary achievement for a project that began as a bright idea at the NZCFS National Conference in May. It was brought to fruition by the talents and energies of Aaron Huang and Sylvia Yang of SODE Productions who from July to September assembled volunteers organised choirs, scouted locations and recruited film professionals. The Confucius Institute made their lecture rooms available for rehearsal, the Auckland Regional Council came up with cash to help pay for equipment, and Waitakere, Auckland, North Shore and Wellington Councils fast-tracked filming applications and waived location fees.

The crew shot their singers at Piha Beach, Mount Eden, the Michael Savage Memorial, the University, the Domain, Devonport Beach, in Auckland, and at Parliament Buildings, the Botanical Gardens, and the Weta Workshop in Wellington.

The latest news is that Aotearoa Jasmine will screen non-stop at the NZ Pavilion at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai from May to October. DVD Copies are available to members for $10.00

PRESIDENT’S NOTEBOOK

National President Eric Livingstone visited Beijing as a Guest of the Republic

It was a great honour to represent you all in Beijing on 1 October for the sixty years celebrations of the establishment of the People’ Republic of China. It started with a welcoming banquet by Madame Li Xiaolin, followed by a banquet of 4500 in the Great Hall of the People on 30 September that provided the warm up to the main events. On the 1st of October Beijing I woke to the sounds of the military vehicle parade forming up and that morning invited guests (perhaps 25,000) watched a reported 100,000 participants parade.
Firstly came representatives of the various military units marching on foot in impeccable unison, followed by 30 different squadrons usually of 18 vehicles each, from tanks, to missiles, to armored cars, driven in the same precision as the marchers. Overhead flew groups (flocks?) of varying types of Chinese made war planes from huge airlifters to helicopters. These were followed by 50 floats (or was it 60 for many things were of this number during the celebrations), representing areas of industry, agriculture, education, medicine and other areas of progress plus floats representing each province and region including Taiwan.

Then, after going back to our hotel for a late lunch, then an early evening meal less than three hours later, we witnessed the fireworks gala and dancing displays. I experienced sensory overloads as staggering fireworks displays rebounded on three sides, sky rockets roaring out of the 60 artificial pillars surrounding Tainanmen Square, the shock waves of some of the explosions and the non stop music and dancing.

One highlight was meeting our Wanganui Branch President, Dave Feickert, who had received (along with 99 other foreigners) a Friendship Award for his mine safety work in China. We were sitting about five metres apart watching the parade and were able to catch up and also during the gala evening was well. We all in the Society can be very proud of Dave’s award for his work in safety in the coal mining industry and Wanganui (or is it Whanganui now), should be very proud to have Dave as their President. During the events, all around the Youxie invited guests were these honoured foreigners proudly wearing their awards.

Another highlight was being hosted by some of our friends from Youxie, Boming, Linda and Karen, on a visit to the Beijing Exhibition Hall the next day, and to find a key display was of two Kiwis receiving Honorary Ambassador Awards some years ago, namely our very own Past President and Life Member, Professor Bill Willmott and our good friend Hiwi Tauroa of the NZ China Maori Friendship Association. That was a big surprise. And what a showcase of the developments in all areas of industry, commerce, agriculture, health and the countryside, was the exhibition. And hints of more to come in hydroponics, to nuclear power stations, to advances in crops and lifestyle of the everyday villager.

KATHLEEN HALL SCHOLARS REPORT

The Auckland Branch is proud to support the NZCFS initiative to provide financial assistance to deserving Chinese who wish to become nurses. Bill Willmott from Christchurch provided this update:

**Our He Ming Qing Scholars**

**Wei Yunjie:** Our first HMQ Scholar, her final year of study at Guangxi University, a practical year at a hospital in Nanning, continuing improvement. Christingstone is making a congratulation certificate from NZCFS. Wei’s father died of hepatitis, which sparked her desire to become a nurse. Her mother helps her when she can in the busy summer season.

In her report, she wrote, “You
encouragement for which no language can express my gratitude. I will always remember your guidance and advice and be a loving person. People who have gone through hardships can understand more deeply how much they long for help. Please trust me. I will make greater efforts. You are all kind-hearted people and kind-hearted people will be requited.”

Shen Qianqian

Our second HMQ Scholar, Shen Ming Qing worked in the Taihang arship under the support of orary member of NZCFS, who Songjiazhuang when he was re-Madam Ma writes that “Her but she is getting better and bet-scholarship so she need not daughter’s tuition fee and so on. harder than before, and she has rising from 32nd to 22nd in her Ma Baoru will take her to Song- who remember Kathleen Hall. classmate because she is going cling”, writes Ma.

Shi Hongli

This year’s HMQ Scholar, Shi lage in a very poor county, far from Shandan. She is in her University in Lanzhou and was eration of Zhangye, who are scholarship, she would not nurse, and she is determined to she has completed her training.

The Women’s Federation write vorced, and she lives with her ents. A younger brother is studying at high school, so the family struggles. The family income is very low.

Branch Officers
President: George Andrews ph: 307 9196 george@aqua.co.nz
Immediate Past President: Cecil Fowler ph: 620 6710 cecilf@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Sylvia Yang ph: 021 660082 sylvia@sode.co.nz
Treasurer: Sophie Wang ph: 021 2500 189 w_sophie@hotmail.com
Newsletter: Sylvia Yang,
Learn Chinese at Concession Rates

Here are the details of the Confucius Institute Mandarin classes starting in Auckland soon. NZCFS members enjoy 10% discount on the quoted rates:

**Basic Chinese**

**Course Description:**

This course will appeal to learners with little or no knowledge of Chinese language who want to use basic Chinese in social activities, travel or business situation. Course contents include most commonly used vocabulary, everyday expressions, situational conversations and Chinese culture briefs. The course will help learners to lay a good foundation for further study of Chinese.

- **Duration of the course:** 6 weeks
- **Dates:** 29th Oct. – 3rd Dec 2009
- **Time:** Thursday evenings: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- **Class Limit:** 12
- **Pre-requisites:** Nil
- **Venue:** TBC
- **Course fee:** NZ$ 150 (course materials included)
- **Teacher:** Julie Zhu

(To register, please contact: meiju.wang@auckland.ac.nz)

**Intermediate Chinese**

**Course Description:**

This course is designed for the learners who have studied basic Chinese and want to use Chinese in various situations confidently. The course will not only help learners to improve their proficiency in Chinese, but also to increase their knowledge of Chinese culture.

- **Duration of the course:** 6 weeks
- **Dates:** 27th Oct – 1st Dec 2009
- **Time:** Tuesday evenings 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- **Class Limit:** 12
- **Venue:** TBC
- **Course fee:** NZ$ 150 (course materials included)
- **Teacher:** Julie Zhu

(To register, please contact: meiju.wang@auckland.ac.nz)