

新中友好協會 New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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Next meeting

Chinese Students at NMIT with Nisa Rose, students and staff

Our 'Lucky Friday' meeting will focus on Chinese students at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. These young people give us an opportunity to show friendship at a local level to students who are usually living in Nelson for a period of two or three years. They are recruited from institutions in China where they have been studying the first stages of a New Zealand business degree. Many of them arrive here without a suitable level of English, so their first placement is full-time at NMIT's English Language School until they can manage the requirements of the School of Business and Computer Technology.

At present there are about 100 students from China, from universities and other institutions as far apart as Heilongjiang, Henan, and Guangdong. In mid-August, a further group, including students from the Zhejiang Water Conservancy Hydro College in Hangzhou, will be arriving.

The students live in the international hostel, or in homestays or flatting situations in the central city. Often the homestays are 'independent', meaning the students look after their own meals and cleaning requirements.

There are many difficulties for international students away from their own culture, but the major ones are coping with academic demands in an unfamiliar language and coping with a different type of assessment process. This means learning by rote is not enough. They need to learn how to express opinions based on knowledge, how to analyse case studies and how to develop solutions to new problems posed in a test environment.



NZCFS member Nisa Rose works as Coordinator for Accommodation and Pastoral Care for International Students. For the last year, under Nisa's guidance, some NZCFS members have been working as volunteers with Chinese students, helping them to understand course requirements, training them in suitable study methods, and editing assignment work. Some of these students will share their Nelson experiences with us, Nisa Rose will talk about her role at NMIT, and some other staff members will discuss their courses as they relate to the Chinese students.

As usual, Branch business will be dealt with prior to our Chinese meal costing \$12. Our speaker will begin immediately after the meal. Friends and visitors are welcome but please notify Barbara when you ring so that we have accurate numbers for the meal. As Barbara will be away after the 10th, **please contact her today.**

Friday 13 August .. Hearing House .. 5:30 pm

To arrange catering please ring:

Barbara Markland Ph. 544 4712 by Tuesday 10 August (at the latest).



LAST MEETING: Kathy Beatson spoke to a well attended meeting about the 2009 Projects Tour. She had joined Dave Bromwich and other NZCFS members on a comprehensive tour of some of our NZCFS Projects which focussed on earthquake reconstruction and poverty alleviation in rural areas. Kathy's photographic presentation graphically showed the variety of our projects over an extensive area and the importance of starting at the grass roots level with hygiene and sanitation and the development of village co-operatives. Some of the highlights were:



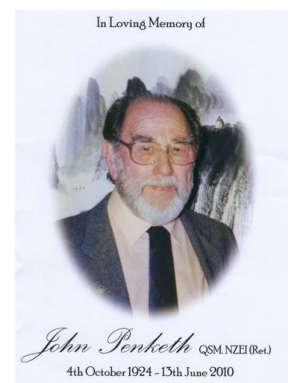
- the visit to Kathleen Hall's village, Songjiahuang, and clinic
- the chance to meet the three He Ming Qing scholars
- the new Health Clinic in Honguapu Township, one of the Earthquake Reconstruction Projects
- seeing the use of ultrasound in many villages which has greatly contributed to an improvement in the health of women and babies
- the visit to Shandan Baillie School and two Shandan co-operatives
- the sunflower project and dining at their home-based restaurant
- visiting a kaast village cut off for 300 years and now set to grow "Dragon Fruit".

Having seen the benefits of these projects, Kathy expressed concern at the New Zealand Government's decision to no longer subsidise money raised for such projects and the impact this will have on China's rural poor in the areas NZCFS has been working.



IN MEMORIAM - JOHN PENKETH, QSM: John was the first President of the Nelson Branch of NZCFS and died in Tauranga on 13 June, 2010. He will be remembered by the long-time members of the Branch as a very talented teacher, artist, musician, golfer and someone with a ready sense of humour. John was awarded the QSM for his services to education.

In the late 1970s and the 1980s he became involved in tours to China, first travelling on an NZCFS tour and subsequently leading the 1977 Teachers' Tour of China in the August school holidays. That tour visited Guangzhou, Guilin, Shaoshan, Shanghai and Beijing and its success lead to several more.



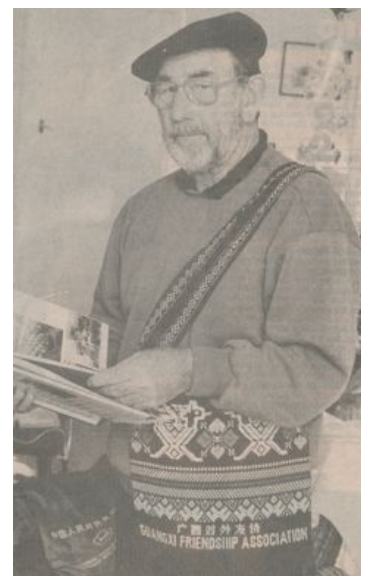
The Yangtse

*Within the Yangtse Gorges,
Hills, mountains rise,
Fold upon fold, ridge cutting ridge.
Village buildings nestle in impossible places,
Towing tracks are slashes across earth and rock.
Timeless temples vie with precipitous peaks
To make their ghostly entrances,
As they nudge aside the slowly lifting mist.
Boats ply the brown, silted, swirling water,
Following a pre-set zig-zag course of safety.
Poetic feature names are noted and quoted:
Panda Hill, Goddess Peak, Fragrant Stream,
The Valley of the Golden Helmet and Silver Armour;
Not forgetting,
The Peak of the Rhinoceros Looking at the Moon!
Open coalmines smudge the lower slopes,
Cultivated terraces, proudly on parade,
March up the hillsides.
Cameras click and whirr, hopefully to record the present
As it becomes a memory.
The October air is cool and damp,
As we cruise upstream for five never-to-be-forgotten days.
Thoughts, like the hills, rise to gain freedom
From the swaddling, misty shroud cloaking history.
But the interminable, relentless, age-old Changjiang
Flowing over its secrets
Is spellbinding, awe-inspiring in its mightiness.
And for me.... Just a passing glimpse
That will span my remaining lifetime.*

Tour participants enjoyed getting together to reminisce and hear from other travellers, so by 1991 Nelson NZCFS members-at-large (people who were not members of a Branch) were meeting regularly at Chez Eelco or in people's homes. In response to a meeting called by then National President, Bill Willmott, on 14 May, 1991, 25 people decided to form a Nelson Branch of the NZCFS. Arch Barclay chaired the discussion and the Officers elected were John Penketh as President, Bryan James as Vice President, while Alice and Grahame Keen volunteered to be Secretary and Treasurer.

John attended two National Conferences as Nelson President. In 1992 he was a member of the NZCFS Leaders Delegation to China. This was John's sixth visit to China and the new-found freedom and wealth of the Chinese were among his strongest impressions. He was amazed by the growth of small businesses and the greater variety of commodities on sale and even in the clothes worn.

John was a keen and able President of the Nelson Branch for over a year before he left to live in Tauranga.



- John Penketh



NELSON DELEGATION TO HUANGSHI FOR 60TH CELEBRATIONS: A Nelson delegation has accepted the invitation to attend the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the City of Huangshi and their first International Festival of Huangshi Mining, Metallurgical, Culture and Tourism. The three Branch members are Christine Ward, President, Kathy Beatson, Vice President and Bruce Ward, Executive Committee. They will be joined by Bill Findlater, CEO of the Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency, who will be the Nelson City Council's official representative, Dot Kettle, CEO of the Nelson Chamber of Commerce and, it is hoped, Maryan Street, Labour List MP in the Nelson Region.

As it is now five years since the last delegation visited Huangshi and nearly three years since the last Huangshi delegation visited Nelson for the opening of the Huangshi Chinese Garden, this delegation is of great significance in continuing the Sister City link and further cementing the ties of friendship forged over the years since 1995 when the Sister City Agreement was signed between Nelson and Huangshi. Barbara Markland, our Sister City Liaison person, has worked tirelessly, and with great determination, to successfully arrange this visit to Huangshi in late August. We look forward to hearing all about the celebrations and festivities on their return. 🐯

NZCFS AID PROJECTS 2010: After hearing Kathy's firsthand experience of our projects at the last meeting, members will be interested to know that Dave Bromwich and Sally Russell continue with current projects and look for new opportunities to assist the rural poor in China. These projects include:

- Reinforcing the health message and paying for women to have a general health check.
- Providing dragon fruit growers with materials to build a well-formed track that will make carrying the heavy fruit to the road for transport easier.
- Encouraging rabbit farming by providing 20 families in hamlets with 5 breeding animals (4 female and 1 male), training and inspection.
- Assisting tea production by giving 28 families tea seedlings, training and establishing a co-operative to co-ordinate the relationship between the farmers and the tea processing plant.
- Providing co-operative training for the Paifing Vegetable Co-operative. A NZCFS Earthquake Reconstruction project helped rebuild irrigation canals here.
- The establishment of a Trainer of Trainers programme at Shandan Baillie School Training Centre and extending co-operatives to 4 new counties.
- A Rural Women's Health and Family Civilisation Project is a trainer of trainers programme which will reach 120,000 people in 63 communities, including Honghuapu where an Earthquake Project built a Health Clinic. Auckland Branch has provided the funding for this project from a bequest and it is the last of our projects to be funded under the old NZAID:Koha 1:4 subsidy. 🐯

HE MING QING SCHOLARS: Our first two students, **Wei Yunjie** from Guangxi and **Shen Qianqian** from Southern Hebei, have completed their scholarships at the end of this Chinese academic year. **Wei Yunjie** has graduated from the Guangxi Medical University in Nanning, and **Shen Qianqian** from the Hebei Medical University in Shijiazhuang.

Our third student, **Shi Hongli** from Minle County in Zhangye City District, is completing her first of four years at the Gansu Medical College in Lanzhou. The following email was received from her recently after Di Madgin had written to express our condolences on the loss of her grandmother:

"I'm glad to receive your email, and thanks for your care, I believe I would do better.

After my mother leaving [she lost her mother when she was young], I lived with my grandparents and father, so my grandmother played an important role in my life these years, she was ill, everyday she should take medicine. This is one of the reasons that I want to be a nurse. Although my grandmother has gone she will live in my heart forever and your help will give me courage, so I think I can do well.

I would study harder, because there are many kindhearted people helped me, I still live in a warm family, I appreciate your help.

If you like my handcraft work, I would make another to you next time. If you come to China next time I hope you come to Lanzhou, and I think my hometown Zhangye Minle is also a beautiful city.

How are you going recently? Wish you everything is better. Best wishes. Shi Hongli."



At the National Executive meeting in Wellington over this last weekend it was agreed that the next He Ming Qing Scholar would be selected from the Baoji District, Shaanxi, in conjunction with the local Women's Federation. 🐯

REWI ALLEY DOCUMENTARY SERIES ON CCTV: A television series celebrating the life of an extraordinary New Zealander premiered in China on 9 July to coincide with New Zealand Day at the Shanghai World Expo. The series on [Rewi Alley](#) aired on CCTV, which has an audience of 300 million viewers. The five part series is a co-production between China's state broadcaster, CCTV, Dunedin based production company Natural History New Zealand and the New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

On 7 July, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Honourable John Key, officially launched the series at a function in Beijing attended by distinguished guests from China and New Zealand, and co-hosted by the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Youxie).



The series explores the life achievements of Rewi Alley, a farmer from New Zealand who dedicated 60 years of his life to improving the lives of ordinary Chinese people. From 1927, until his death in 1987, Rewi Alley worked tirelessly in China, firstly as a fireman and factory inspector in Shanghai, and then as the founder of the "Gung Ho" industrial co-operatives, and the Bailie Technical Schools. After the formation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Alley was one of a handful of foreigners allowed to reside in Beijing, as a guest of the Communist Party, where he became a prolific writer about China, authoring 30 books in as many years.

The biographical series was filmed in New Zealand and China earlier this year and showcases rare archive film footage and interviews with Rewi Alley's family, colleagues and students. The series provides both a unique insight into Alley's incredible life and an extraordinary commentary on the tumultuous events of 20th Century China. In October last year, Alley won a posthumous award as one of "China's Top Ten Foreign Friends". "Today Rewi Alley is revered in China and probably much better known in that country than in New Zealand," says Natural History New Zealand Managing Director, Michael Stedman.

NHNZ is currently in negotiations to create a one hour version of the production for the New Zealand market.

Ministry for Culture & Heritage Press Release, 7 July

The five episodes, broadcast in Mandarin with Chinese subtitles, can be viewed online at the following links:

<i>Early Years</i>	http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100709/100868.shtml
<i>Shanghai Ten Years</i>	http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100711/100017.shtml
<i>Join the Gung Ho</i>	http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100711/100646.shtml
<i>Bailie School</i>	http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100713/100011.shtml
<i>In the New China:</i>	http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100714/100018.shtml

with thanks to the Wellington Branch newsletter "The Capital China Letter"



BILL WILLMOTT ON RADIO NZ NATIONAL: Prof Bill Willmott, Past National President, was interviewed on Sunday Morning with Chris Laidlaw on 25 July. In the Ideas section, Bill talked about the [Gung Ho Cooperative Movement](#) in the late 1930s, and recalled his first meeting with Rewi Alley back in 1936.

You can listen to the audio on: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/20100725>



FROM "ORACLE BONES" by PETER HESSLER: "My journeys between China and the United States came to feel the same way - a blurring of old boundaries and distinctions. When I first lived in China, I was mostly struck by differences, but over time the similarities became more obvious. Americans and Chinese shared a number of characteristics: they were pragmatic and informal, and they had an easy sense of humour. In both nations, people tended to be optimistic, sometimes to a fault. They worked hard - business success came naturally, and so did materialism. They were deeply patriotic, but it was a patriotism based on faith rather than experience: relatively few people had spent much time abroad, but they still loved their country deeply. When they did leave, they tended to be bad travellers - quick to complain, slow to adjust. Their first question about a foreign country was usually: What do they think of us? Both China and the United States were geographically isolated, and their cultures were so powerful that it was hard for people to imagine other perspectives.

But each nation held together remarkably well. They encompassed a huge range of territory, ethnic groups, and languages, and no strict military or political force could have achieved this for long. Instead, certain ideas brought people together. When the Han Chinese talked about culture and history, it reminded me of the way Americans talked about democracy and freedom. These were fundamental values, but they also had some quantity of faith, because if you actually investigated - if you poked around an archaeological site in Gansu or an election in Florida - they you saw the element of disorder that lay just beneath the surface. Some of the power of each nation was narrative: they smoothed over the irregularities, creating good stories about themselves." pp 439-440

