

# New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

**President:** Christine Ward 23 Suter Street, Stoke, Nelson.  
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**Secretary:** Barbara Markland 23 Polglase Street, Richmond.  
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No. 2 - March 2010

~ Next meeting ~



## Keith Marshall



Chief Executive Officer of Nelson City Council

## "Learning Chinese"

Keith took up his appointment in Nelson in 2008 and has recently returned from a private visit to China where, among other things, he continued his Mandarin studies and visited Huangshi, Nelson's Sister City.

He has had both public and commercial sector experience at senior levels during his extensive career. Some of the highlights have been management of the last New Zealand health reforms (the largest public sector reform in 15 years), participation in the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement negotiations and involvement in the bilateral education relationship with China as Deputy Chief Executive of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

Living with his partner, Louise Buchanan, on a small block of land to the south of Nelson, Keith became a member of our Branch when they came to the Chinese New Year Banquet in 2009.

Keith's talk will comprise his reflections on China based on his many personal and official interactions. With such a varied and experienced background, Keith's talk promises to make this a most interesting and unmissable meeting.



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.

**Friday 26 March .. Hearing House .. 5:30 pm**

To arrange catering please ring:

**Barbara Markland Ph. 544 4712 by Tuesday 23 March.**

**NZCFS WEBSITE:** Our Society website has had a makeover over the Summer and sports a new look. It is still a work in progress as new features are added and information updated but it is hoped that it will become more interactive and hence more useful to members. See [www.nzchinasociety.org.nz](http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz) and give us your feedback.

**EARLY NEWSLETTER:** Due to travel commitments, this newsletter is a little earlier than usual. Please mark the meeting date on your calendar now and ring Barbara to book in as soon as possible.



**LAST MEETING ~ CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET AND AGM:** The Chinese New Year and the start of the Year of the Tiger was celebrated on February 14 with a wonderful banquet at the Eastern Cuisine Restaurant in Richmond. Entertainment was provided by Dongrui playing her Guqin to a hushed and intrigued audience and an excellent evening of friendship and fine food was enjoyed by the 58 members, friends and families who attended.

**COMMITTEE:** At the AGM, the following officers were elected:

<b>President:</b>	Christine Ward	<b>Vice President:</b>	no nomination received
<b>Secretary:</b>	Barbara Markland	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Royden Smith
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	June Clark		
<b>Committee:</b>	Isabelle Jones, Ivan Kurtovic, Miaolin (Lillian) Li, Kathy Beatson, Bruce Ward, and Sally Warren.		



Thanks were given to Llyn Wells for her valuable contributions while on the committee and a welcome given to new member, Sally Warren. At the first meeting of the new committee last week, Kathy Beatson was elected as Vice President.



**THANKS TO JUNE:** On behalf of us all, Isabelle Jones thanked June for her work and achievements while President for the past 6 years:

"How fortunate we have been to have had June as our leader for the last 6 years. She has been a wonderful "hands on" President, highly organised but retaining a very personable approach to all those people she has been associated with, locally, nationally and internationally. Attending National Executive meetings and conferences she has carried the flag for Nelson Branch very effectively and showed great leadership skills when we ran a very successful National Conference here in Nelson in 2007.

June represented us very capably in Sister City activities as Leader of the Women's Delegation to Huangshi and in hosting reciprocal delegations. She was selected as a member of the NZCFS's Prominent Persons' and Leaders' Tour which went to Tibet and has always played a major part in approaching local people to be our "Prominent Person", ensuring that we have been well represented. Countless hours were spent writing applications for grants for the Chinese Garden, many of which were successful, and she was influential in keeping the Garden to the fore and ensuring its completion.

Along with these major activities, she has also run many successful branch meetings, found most interesting speakers and written much of the newsletter. June stands down as President, leaving the Branch in good heart. Thank you, June, for your wonderful contribution."



**National President, Eric Livingstone,** also sent his greetings to our AGM and Chinese New Year Banquet:

"I am particularly sad that I am not with you, especially as I have been informed that your long-time President June Clark is stepping down at this meeting. Six years as President is a long time for anyone to undertake such a role and I know June has been involved in many major achievements by your Branch during this time... June's friendly, all-encompassing personality and style, ably supported by Arnold, has certainly been a key in keeping your Branch alive and effective. The National Executive thanks June for so many years of support and sterling service. Well done and thank you.

I did promise June I would come up to Nelson for one of your meetings during 2009 but I never did succeed in doing so. I will be making sure I put that right somehow this year. May you all have a fruitful and successful year of the Tiger."



**SUBSCRIPTIONS 2010:** It was agreed at the AGM that subscriptions for 2010 would remain the same as last year. These are now due and prompt payment is appreciated:

<b>Single: \$15</b>	<b>Couple/Family: \$25</b>	<b>School: \$25</b>	<b>Corporate: \$30</b>
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Please fill in the sub form on page 6 and either pay at the next meeting or post the form and cheque to the Treasurer: Royden Smith, 2/10 Ngaio Street, Stoke. Please let us know if any of your details have changed.

For those of you who prefer to use online banking, you can transfer your subscription directly into the Nelson Branch Westpac bank account. If you do use this method, it would be very much appreciated if you could ensure that you use your name as the reference code and also email Royden (royden@paradise.net.nz) to advise that your sub has been paid in this way.



**NEW PRESIDENT CHRISTINE COMMENTS:** Greetings and best wishes from your new President for the Year of the Tiger. I give special thanks to June Clark for her six years of splendid service and for her helpful training, which I'm sure will continue in her lovely generous way.



While I was sorry to miss the New Year Banquet and Branch AGM, I did enjoy celebrating with many Chinese friends at the Rewi Alley Chinese Cultural Centre in Christchurch where I was training a group of Beijing teachers and education leaders. This was the eleventh time I have cooperated with an education agency in Haidian Education District (the largest in Beijing, with more schools than New Zealand's total) to provide training in teaching methods based on neuroscience research.

The Rewi Alley Centre administers the course and arranges homestays in cooperation with the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society. Most of the visitors have limited English, and I have next to no Chinese, so it is quite a challenge to demonstrate modern teaching

methods when discussions and feedback need to be in Chinese and instructions need to be translated. It is a special privilege to be involved in the Chinese Education Reform process and to work with these enthusiastic groups of educators while they form lasting friendships with New Zealanders and learn how to say 'I very much love New Zealand'.

We had our New Year Party at the Rewi Alley Centre, decorated suitably with red lanterns, balloons and streamers. We began at 4pm with ceremonial dumpling-making. Our visitors worked around the table with their homestay families to make over a thousand dumplings while we watched a DVD of the previous evening's celebrations in Beijing. We then enjoyed eating the dumplings, supplemented by delicious 'pot luck' food, both Chinese and Kiwi, provided by the homestays.



Later, (we tried but did not manage to eat all the dumplings!) we were entertained by dancing and singing groups in colourful costumes presenting a series of traditional routines from western provinces, including Tibet. Also present were two women who were paper-cut experts from Christchurch's sister city who sat in the audience and snipped away tiny slivers of folded special paper and produced, before our very eyes, ceremonial tigers complete with whiskers, claws and surrounding flora. It was an amazing experience to see this being done in the time-honoured way, so quickly and expertly. Each of our homestay families combined with their visitors to present items with the usual combination of 'funnies', and the evening ended with a fairly 'tigerish' rendition of Auld Lang Syne to suit the occasion.



Your Branch executive are organising a great line-up of events for 2010 and I look forward to meeting you on these occasions. 🐅

**HE MING QING SCHOLARSHIP:** Thank you for your generous donations of \$178.50 made at the New Year Banquet which will help fund the three very-deserving Chinese nursing scholars. With the remainder from last year, this gives our HMQ account a total of \$372.10. 🐅

**RACE UNITY DAY:** Nelson's Race Unity Day is "an opportunity to affirm the value of all our different languages, beliefs and cultures, and our common belonging to a unique and diverse nation ... with the theme 'It's About Us - Whanau'". It begins with a welcome to our international students and continues with cultural performances throughout the day. Come and enjoy the relaxed, festive atmosphere and lots of yummy ethnic food on sale. Victory Square, Sunday 21 March, 11am to 4pm. More information at: [www.nelsonmulticultural.co.nz](http://www.nelsonmulticultural.co.nz). 🐅

**NATIONAL TOURS:** A large group of enthusiastic gardeners and travellers, including Philippa Reynolds from Nelson Branch, will be joining Di Madgin and Bill Willmott on this year's NZCFS Chinese Garden Tour in April/May. It is very pleasing that this tour has attracted so many participants from New Zealand and overseas without any paid advertising.

Your National Tours Committee are working on organising more of these themed tours for this and the following years. Anyone interested in going to see what will be an amazing Shanghai Expo in August this year? 🐅



**PROJECTS TOUR 2010:** After two very successful NZCFS Projects Tours in 2008 and 2009, Dave Bromwich is organising another one for October this year. These tours provide a wonderful opportunity for our members and friends to visit rural communities in China and see first-hand how our NZCFS projects operate and just how far a small amount of money can go to assist impoverished communities.



This year's Projects and Rural Communities Tour will be for 22 days, from 9 October to 1 November, and will pass through Beijing to our projects area near Baoding, fly to Chengdu and visit our Sichuan earthquake projects in Pengzhou and Dujiangyan, travel West to the Tibetan area around Danba and Kanding, fly to Guiyang and visit the minorities' area around Kaili, and then drive to Yangshuo and Guilin via the dramatic countryside around Sanzhiyang township. Tour flyers will be emailed out separately to those who receive their newsletter via email and copies will be available at the next meeting.

For more details, contact Dave Bromwich at [dbchinz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dbchinz@xtra.co.nz) or phone 06-8779930.



**NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010:** The 2010 National Conference and AGM will be hosted by the Hamilton Branch from 21 - 23 May, 2010. The theme is "Building Bridges" and the programme includes presentations on:

- the 2009 Projects Tour by Meryl Lanting
- "'Kiwi Dragon' - The Chinese in Aotearoa/New Zealand - history, culture, hope" by Bill Willmott
- "Changing Images of China" by Alistair Shaw, National Secretary, NZCFS
- aspects of Chinese culture and entertainment, and
- Chinese in New Zealand - speakers from early to recent migrants - panel discussion and questions.

Registration forms and more information are available from Royden ([royden@paradise.net.nz](mailto:royden@paradise.net.nz) or at the next meeting). Come and join Christine, Bruce and Royden and have a delightful Autumn holiday in Hamilton - a great chance to learn more about the NZCFS and meet lots of wonderful people.



**APPO HOCTON EXHIBITION:** Several members of the Nelson Branch joined a large crowd who gathered to launch the fascinating biography and exhibition celebrating "Appo Hocton (Wong Ah Poo Hoc Ting) - New Zealand's first Chinese Immigrant" at the Nelson Provincial Museum. Isabelle Jones is generously donating a copy of the book to the Nelson Public Library and books are available to purchase from the Museum.

More information and photos at: [www.museumnp.org.nz/exhibitions/current.htm](http://www.museumnp.org.nz/exhibitions/current.htm)



## Hong Kong's Economy Surpassed by Shanghai as China Advances

March 5 (Bloomberg) -- Shanghai's economy exceeded the size of Hong Kong's for the first time in at least three decades after stimulus spending helped China skirt the global crisis and lead the world out of recession.

Shanghai's gross domestic product grew 8.2 percent to the equivalent of \$218.3 billion in 2009 compared with a 2.7 percent contraction to \$210.7 billion for Hong Kong, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The figures highlight 30 years of free-market policies that have spurred China to become the world's third-largest economy and its No. 1 exporter. Shanghai's rise may fan concern in Hong Kong that the mainland city will regain its position as China's dominant financial centre, after surpassing the former British colony as the nation's biggest port and stock-market operator.

"Hong Kong's role as the bridge linking China and the West is diminishing due to the further opening up of China," said Hubert Tse, 36, a partner at law firm Boss & Young in Shanghai, who moved to the city from Hong Kong in 2003. "I'm witnessing history as China continues to power ahead." - Sophie Leung at [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

Other thought-provoking articles found recently on the web:

**Tibet Through Chinese Eyes** ~ Many Chinese working in Tibet regard themselves as idealistic missionaries of progress, rejecting the Western idea of them as agents of cultural imperialism. In truth, they are inescapably both. Peter Hessler at [www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/99feb/tibet.htm](http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/99feb/tibet.htm)

**Why China Won't Rule the World** ~ before declaring this the Chinese century, you might want to take another look at what's actually taken place in the country over the past year. Minxin Pei (Newsweek, December 8, 2009) at [www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=24291](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=24291)



# New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc.

National President: Eric Livingstone

National Secretary: Alistair Shaw



from National Notebook, March 2010

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING:** Last Saturday we had an excellent meeting in Wellington - unfortunately inside while the city bathed in sunshine. Further progress was reported on the extremely worthwhile Sichuan earthquake projects that we all raised money for. I am delighted to report that the results are as good as forecast and we can be very proud of what we and our Chinese partners have achieved. This is due to much hard work by our Projects team and to them we are very grateful. Other items discussed that you may be interested in are covered below.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAMILTON IN MAY:** Hamilton presented their well thought out and interesting conference programme – do not miss this event that includes notable speakers and aspects of Chinese culture. Commences Friday 21 May and finishes midday Sunday 23 May. The venue is the City Council Chambers, Garden Place. Registration forms will be available soon.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 23 MAY:** Of course our Society's Annual General Meeting is to be held during the Annual Conference and this year is scheduled to be run completely on the Sunday morning, 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Our National Secretary has given notice of the AGM and reminded branches of various deadline dates involving the conference.

**NOMINATIONS AND REMITS:** We have a number of long serving National Executive members retiring this year and if you are an experienced Branch officer we would like you to consider offering your services at a national level. Do approach your Branch committee or President to arrange your nomination. Portfolios in recent years have been allocated to National Executive Members in line with their preferences and interests.

If you wish to have an issue raised at our Annual General Meeting, there are two ways of doing this. The first is by your Branch raising a remit and forwarding it through our National Secretary for putting on the AGM agenda. The second way is by your Branch President (or any other member of National Executive) moving a motion at the Executive meeting held on the Friday to have the item placed on the AGM agenda as an item of special business. This would require a majority of the Executive meeting to agree to that for it to succeed.

National Executive is promoting a remit to alter our constitution to incorporate changes recommended by the Charities Commission to ensure branches fit the charitable definition. Your President has the details.

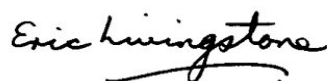
**2010 PROJECTS TOUR:** Once again, our very active Projects team are taking a small group of members to visit selected projects and rural communities during October this year. Make contact with Dave Bromwich if you wish to join this trip for a very memorable experience.

**YOUXIE VISITORS:** Thank you to those branches who have offered to host this important delegation after our Annual Conference. Their draft itinerary looks like Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Timaru, Christchurch and Auckland. The delegation members are Mr Wang Hongqiang and Mr Xu Fenghua, who have both visited New Zealand before.

**NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:** Shortly your Branch will receive entry forms for our annual National Achievement Award which will be judged for presentation at our National Conference. This Award was presented by the Chinese Embassy and past winners include Christchurch, Hawkes Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Hamilton and the Projects Team.

**SHANGHAI EXPO DELEGATION JULY 2010:** Our Nomination Committee have selected Trevor Linyard, Bernie Richmond, Eric Dittmer, Margaret Pierson and myself to go as the Shanghai Youxie sponsored delegation. Other members can join this delegation and, so far, we expect two wives to join this five day visit to the Shanghai World Expo in July. If you wish to join on a paying basis please contact me urgently.

Best wishes,



Eric Livingstone  
National President

More at: <http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz/news/national-notebook>



## Annual Subscription - 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to receive my newsletter by **email only**                      **yes / no**                      (Please circle)

I would like my emailed newsletter sent in **plain text / formatted text / pdf format**                      (Please circle)

Amount enclosed: \$15 (single)      \$25 (couple/family)      \$25 (school)      \$30 (corporate)

I would also like to make a donation to:

the He Ming Qing Scholarship of                      \$\_\_\_\_\_

the NZCFS China Projects of                      \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to:                      NZ China Friendship Society - Nelson

And post to:                      Royden Smith, Treasurer  
2/10 Ngaio Street, Nelson 7011

Or use online banking to transfer your subscription to our Nelson Branch bank account at Westpac:  
03-0703-0369680-00

Use your name as the reference code and then email Royden (royden@paradise.net.nz) to advise that your sub has been paid in this way.

