

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

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No. 7 - November 2010

Next meeting

OUR SISTER CITY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Nelson's sister city, Huangshi, in China's Hubei Province, recently celebrated 60 years of Municipal Government and 3000 years of metallurgy within the city boundaries. A delegation of five Nelsonians responded to the Huangshi Mayoral invitation and were hosted for five days of celebrations at the end of August. The delegation included three NZCFS members, Dot Kettle (CEO, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce) and Bill Findlater (Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency) who was our Mayor's official representative and the leader of the delegation.



The celebrations in Huangshi

Our final meeting for 2010 will focus on Huangshi, with various speakers covering the history of the Sister City relationship, the recent delegation visit, and some thoughts about future development. Our new Mayor, Aldo Miccio, has kindly accepted our invitation to join us, and all the new Councillors, along with some who have been involved with the Sister City in the past, have also been invited. We look forward to having some distinguished visitors and a good number of members at this very important meeting.



Bill Findlater and Dot Kettle,
Nelson Mail, 2/10/10

Please note the change of venue. Parking is available in Trafalgar Street, Millers Acre or Wakatu Square (parking meters expire at 6pm). You will need to enter the Council building from the door in Trafalgar Street - look out for our sign - that is directly opposite the "JK Kids Gear" shop and then use the lift or the stairs to reach the Council Chamber on Floor 2A. A security officer will be at the door to direct and assist.

Please also note that we will not be having the usual business meeting before the meal. Speakers will begin about 5.30pm, followed by the usual meal about 6pm and then further presentations will continue after the meal. Our visiting speakers will be Bill Findlater and Dot Kettle, with their impressions of Huangshi and the future possibilities for Nelson and the surrounding regions. Four NZCFS Branch members will also contribute, presenting the on-going story of Nelson and Huangshi delegations, from the initial links in 1995 up to this year.

Some arrangements are certainly a little different this month, as you can see, but the Chinese/Thai food will be delivered from the Golden Bell Restaurant as usual, costing \$12.

Friends and visitors are very welcome and if you would like a ride because of the venue change you could let Barbara know when you call.

Friday 19 November .. Nelson City Council Chambers .. 5:30 pm

To arrange catering please ring:

Barbara Markland ph. 544 4712 by Tuesday 16 November
or email: erm@xtra.co.nz



LAST MEETING: We were pleased to host National President Eric Livingstone for the weekend in September. On the Friday evening he took us on a thought-provoking tour of his interactions with the Chinese people over a 25 year period. On Saturday he was at our Branch Executive meeting, followed by an enjoyable meal at Stoke's Hong Yun Restaurant. He met with June and Arnold Clark on Sunday morning, before flying back to Christchurch. Eric was very grateful to be staying with the Beatsons and to be away from the 'wobbles' in Christchurch.

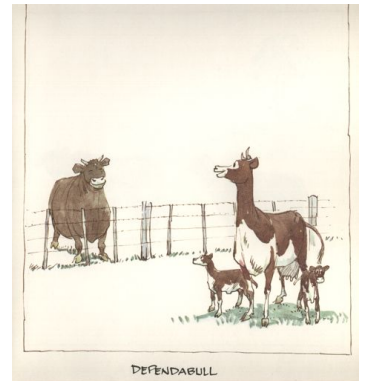
Eric's address on Friday evening took us from his initial trading contacts with China, involving the export of bull semen, up to his involvement with NZCFS/Youxie tours, the most recent including the Shanghai Expo. His story was wide ranging and fascinating. He has met many Chinese Government leaders as a member of high-powered New Zealand delegations to China, and when hosting Chinese trade and friendship delegations in New Zealand.

An early highlight was the visit of Premier Zhou to his Bull Breeding Centre in Christchurch. Eric has enjoyed following the fortunes of the dairy breeding programme in China which has resulted from his Christchurch company's export of dairy bull semen. These trade relationships led Eric into long term friendships within Chinese agriculture, government committees, NGOs, 'sister' organisations and, of course NZCFS and Youxie, the Chinese organisation for relationships with foreign countries.

Also significant has been the maintenance of the strong connections with Rewi Alley's legacy in China, including the Shandan Bailie School, Gansu (sister province of Canterbury), and the Beijing Bailie University. Eric also paid tribute to the academic and aid work of Christchurch colleagues Bill Willmott and Diana Madgin, as well as the tireless contributions of Dave Bromwich and Sally Russell towards NZCFS projects in rural areas.

Eric reminded us of the strong connections of friendship and cooperation which have been forged and maintained for nearly fifty years by the NZCFS. China has come far, and is going further. Friendship is vital, desirable and achievable at the highest levels, as well as at the grass roots in the cities and the rural areas of China.

As well as being impressed by the scale of Eric's involvement with China, we will remember Royden's speech of thanks where he cleverly used words like reliaBULL, dependaBULL, and consideraBULL. It certainly was a memoraBULL evening!



BILL WILLMOTT'S SPEECH - given at the China-Oceania and Canada Sister Cities Forum in Shanghai in September when Bill was Leader of our Prominent Persons and Leaders Delegation seems very appropriate:



Haere mai, Haere mai, Ko Bill toku ingoa, Ko Kanata toku iwi, Ko Omei Shan toku maunga, Ko Jin Jiang toku awa. No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katou.

Your Royal Highness Princess Pilolevu Tuita, dear friends and delegates from Oceania and Canada, Chairman Qing Boming; on behalf of the New Zealand China Friendship Society delegation, I want to thank Youxie for the opportunity to visit Shanghai and attend this interesting and inspiring conference. Every branch of our Society is involved in sister-city links with China, and many of us have worked to build new links through the years. As an Honorary Life Member of Sister Cities New Zealand, I applaud their efforts.

New Zealand's first sister city link with China was established in 1981 between Guilin and Hastings, a city of 60,000 in the Hawkes Bay region of the North Island. Today there are 27 sister-city links between our two countries, and several more are being developed. In some cities, these links are run by the city council alone, while in others they are handled by a committee of citizens funded by the council but with considerable leeway to develop programmes and arrange exchanges. We think the participation of citizens best serves the aims of sister cities, involving as many people as possible in the educational, cultural and commercial exchanges that take place.

So many sister-city links develop from personal relationships. The Hastings-Guilin link emerged from a connection between a Kiwi horticulturist (a member of NZCFS) and the Guangxi Botanical Institute. Hastings Mayor Jeremy Dwyer enthusiastically took up the challenge, and for many years that link has been the most active in our country.

Three years later (1984), Christchurch (my city) established a link with Gansu Province, again through personal connections, this time through the efforts of Rewi Alley, a New Zealander who lived 60 years in China and is one of China's "ten best foreign friends" as recently chosen in a national internet survey. Alley suggested that the link be with a province rather than a city because he believed that New Zealand could offer useful expertise to agriculture in what was then a very poor province in China's north-west.

Another early (1986) New Zealand link is between Tauranga and Yantai, Shandong, a link that has developed the commercial and economic side of the relationship very effectively. While the city council leads the relationship, it has encouraged citizen participation by working with such local institutions as the tourism board and the export and educational marketing organisations.

Tauranga's Mayor, Stuart Crosby, came back from a recent visit to Yantai full of enthusiasm for the progress made in opening business opportunities and export possibilities for his city - and he pointed out that a sister-city link opens doors in both countries far beyond the cities themselves.

Active sister-city links do grow far beyond their original dimensions. For example, the success of the Hastings-Guilin relationship spawned a link in 1994 between neighbouring city Napier and Lianyungang in Jiangsu, and recently, in 2006, between the Hawkes Bay District (that includes both Hastings and Napier) and Xuzhou, Jiangsu. Out of the friendly feelings engendered by these links, the mayors of Hastings and Napier responded to the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan by signing a friendship understanding with Mianyang, as their district had suffered a similarly disastrous earthquake in 1931.

The same kind of expansion is evident in the Christchurch-Gansu link. Encouraged and enabled by the friendly relations it created, two educational institutions established sister-school links in Gansu: the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology with the Lanzhou City University (formerly the Lanzhou Bailie Oil School originally established by Rewi Alley), and Darfield High School with the Shandan Bailie School (also established by Rewi Alley). And out of that link has now come a sister-county link between Shandan County and Selwyn District, which includes Darfield and Springfield, where Rewi Alley was born. The current President of Sister Cities New Zealand, Bill Woods, who lives in Springfield, told us about this new link yesterday.

And now Christchurch has another sister city in China: in 2006, we signed a sister-city agreement with Wuhan. This link is rich with educational and commercial relations, including helping Wuhan establish the first horse-racing course in China. The University of Canterbury has signed a memo of understanding with Central China (Hua Zhong) University of Science and Technology (HUST). Before that, Canterbury provided a three-month course in management for 23 middle-range managers from Wuhan government institutions that laid a groundwork of knowledge and friendship in that city that has served the link well.

In all our efforts to create commercially effective links, we must never forget the central purpose of sister cities: friendship between peoples in different countries, brought up in different cultures, and experiencing different circumstances. We must continue to build the cultural and educational aspects of our relationships or the rest will not prosper. Student exchanges and visits by performing cultural groups are crucial, and without them the economic links have little meaning. We need to be establishing and maintaining friendly links all the time. If we in New Zealand can assist other Pacific countries to make personal connections, we will be happy to help in any way we can.

I'll finish with one creative example of friendly links that I really like. In 2008, the Hastings Sister City committee held a contest for anyone who could find the names of a Chinese couple in Guilin by following a set of clues that were gradually published in the local paper. Hundreds of people followed the contest, learning about Guilin as they went. The winners, after 19 days of clues, were two high school students, and their prize was a week in Guilin.

The couple they identified had won a contest in Guilin, and their prize was to travel to Hastings and to be married in the beautiful Osmanthus Chinese Garden, followed by a week-long honeymoon in the Hawkes Bay region. A thousand local people attended the wedding. The bride's dress and coat were designed by a local designer and ornamented by a famous embroiderer. This dress has come to Shanghai, where it was modelled in the New Zealand Pavilion on 14 August by a young woman from Guilin - perhaps some of you saw it on CCTV. What a wonderfully creative programme to build links of personal friendship and give a sister-city link wide publicity in both countries!

Noreira, haere, haere ra. Tena koutou katoa. Xie xie da jia.




EXCHANGE TEACHER MAKES HER MARK: Huang Yuhua has spread joy in many corners of Nelson, appreciating the masked parade, the beaches, the market, parks, bookshops, bush walks, and a wide variety of our home-cooked and restaurant food. The teachers and students at Nelson Intermediate and Nayland Primary have also provided her with some great experiences and she will return to Beijing with a load of New Zealand teaching ideas to share with her colleagues at Yongtai Primary School.

The photos show her initiating some Nelsonians into the intricacies of steam buns. They were delicious!



Hopefully you have already received (by email or post) the very kind invitation from Kathy and Michael Beatson, who are currently home-hosting Yuhua, to celebrate her visit to Nelson at their house, 11 Trolove Place, Stoke, over a "Pot Luck" dinner on Friday 12 November at 6pm. It would be wonderful if you could come and share a meal with Yuhua before she heads home this coming weekend. Drinks BYO please. RSVP ASAP to Kathy ph. 547-9940 or email: kathybeatson@clear.net.nz.



CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING: Branch member Philippa Reynolds asks if there is anyone interested in forming a group to practise Chinese brush painting. "When I was in England, I had lessons in Chinese brush painting from a Chinese artist, Fu Kaili. I have paper, brushes and paints, and a couple of books on Brush Painting." If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Philippa, ph. 547 2354. 

PROJECTS TOUR 2010 - Sally Warren has recently returned from China and reports: I have been to China three times, once 25 years ago, again 12 years ago as part of a Silk Road tour, and most recently 4 years ago. This Projects Tour appeared to be something completely different with its visits to village co-operatives and out of the way places. It lived up to everything I had hoped for. I am gradually learning more about the early New Zealand connections with China and this trip certainly taught me a lot and whetted my appetite for more.



Sally Warren presenting Nelson Branch quilt to Songjiazhuang Village

How to give an idea of what we saw and did in a few short paragraphs is next to impossible, but here goes. In Beijing we visited the Song Qingling museum. This remarkable woman, the wife of Sun Yatsen, did amazing things for the improvement of people's lives, especially children. Later, it was a visit to the new Norman Bethune Museum in Hebei Province that impressed. Kathleen Hall, who is so important to us, was a huge help to this selfless doctor, smuggling medicines to him through the Japanese lines. We had some very interesting local women with us, including Ma Baoru. She travelled with us for three days and was an incredible fund of knowledge. As many of you know, I was carrying a beautiful patchwork quilt, made by President Christine Ward, for the Kathleen Hall Clinic at Songjiazhuang Village. Ma Baoru has been a great promoter of this clinic. We were seated around a large table and given fruit and tea


and then I presented the quilt to the head of the clinic. Unfortunately a visit to the clinic was not included, but we did see the children busy with their schoolwork. It would be wonderful if we could continue to help this clinic and village in some small way.

Visiting the co-operatives was amazing. In one case we were met on the outskirts of a town and escorted to our hotel by cars with flashing lights. A large group were there to greet us and after dinner there was a concert in our honour with dancing, a small orchestra and much singing. We managed Po Kare Kare Ana and one of our group sang a Chinese love song. One cooperative included a dairy farm, where effort is going into the value of the food fed to the cows to improve production, sheep being bred for better quality stock, an amazing collection of self-heating hothouses for cucumbers and melons which we could learn a lot from, the planting of nectarine and peach trees, hens for egg production, and rabbits for meat. The latter are fairly recent and eventually all the families in this particular area will start with three females and one male and go forward from there. All this has been made possible by the government, some banks, scientific groups, and overseas help, all encouraging the local villagers to pool their land and work together in what is produced and how the produce is promoted and marketed. It appeared to us that much of this is very successful and everyone in the various villages is being paid reasonably well and their standard of living has greatly improved.

We also travelled through Sichuan Province and saw some of the devastation the earthquake created. The NZCFS has provided money to rebuild irrigation channels in one area. At the same time the rebuilding of attractively designed houses is immense and there is massive tree planting everywhere. How they get the enormous trees they transplant to grow is mind-boggling.



Irrigation canals partly funded buy the NZCFS earthquake fundraising

We were tourists as well and were taken to many interesting sights, including a wonderful park which is a breeding sanctuary for pandas. With every size and shape of these attractive animals, it was a great thrill to see them in such natural surroundings. Other highlights are worth mentioning. Food is always important and I think this is the first trip I have been on where I looked forward to every meal and the surprises. The weather was kind to us although it was unusually cool in Yangshuo. It was great not being surrounded by other tourists until we travelled down the Li River, and not having frenzied shopping until the last few days. We had a very pleasant group, our local guide was a delight and Dave, our NZCFS leader, a real pleasure to travel with. 

National President: Eric Livingstone

National Secretary: Alistair Shaw

from National Notebook, October, 2010

OCTOBER 1st CHINA NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS: Christchurch Branch had a very successful banquet for 150 people which was well organised by a small committee and attracted Kelvin Coe, Mayor of Selwyn District where the recent earthquake had its epicentre, Member of Parliament Lianne Dalziel, and representatives of many local Chinese organisations. A special thanks to the Rewi Alley Chinese School for their strong support.

CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE: The banquet on 1 October gave many Christchurch members their first chance to meet and share individual shocking earthquake experiences. Those whose houses' future are in limbo thank fully are very few, includes National Executive members Bill Willmott and Diana Madgin. This coming week will see announcements on what land cannot be rebuilt, but it is the stress and strain that cannot be described, or easily relieved. At this stage no assistance is being sought - thankyou for your kind offers.

NELSON BRANCH VISIT: Thanks to President Christine Ward and her committee for my very worthwhile visit and opportunity to meet many members at a branch meeting two weeks ago. I enjoyed talking about where I saw the future of our Society, sharing food with everyone and sitting in on their committee meeting. Nelson is a very active branch that anchors its Sister City Committee as well.

CHINESE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVES: It is with pleasure that I advise of the recent election of National Vice President Dave Bromwich as a Vice Chair of the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (Gung Ho) at its recent meeting in Beijing. Dave has put much effort in recent years into assisting various Gung Ho projects although he stresses it is New Zealand's long association with the organisation which is the primary reason for his appointment.

It is great to hear that a full complement of Society Members have joined Dave on the 2010 Projects Tour this month and they will be visiting a Gung Ho project amongst others.

Want to learn more about the formation of Gung Ho? See the excellent documentary "Gung Ho – Rewi Alley of China" at Nzonscreen.co.nz and search for "Rewi Alley" – excellent material for a branch meeting

PROMINENT PERSONS & LEADERS DELEGATION: Our 2010 Delegation reports that they received fantastic hosting and experiences participating in the biennial Sister Cities Conference attended by Past Presidents Jimmy Carter of the USA and Jorge Sampaio of Portugal, the former Prime Ministers of Japan and Togo, plus Princess Salotte of Tonga. The delegation visited the Shanghai Expo and Nanchang and other sights in Jiangxi Province. A special delegation also attending was the Maori China Friendship Association, enabling New Zealand to be much more represented.

TOUR LEADERS WANTED: Do let Royden Smith know if you are interested in leading one of our tours planned for next year, contact him at royden@shangrila.net.nz.

TEACHER URGENTLY REQUIRED - SHANDAN: Conversational English - teaching qualification or degree required, age limit of 65. Salary 3000 Yuan per month, travel support & apartment provided. Contact Dave Bromwich dbchinz@xtra.co.nz.

Regards,

Eric Livingstone

Eric Livingstone
National President

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



Pioneers Park Panel
An interpretation panel installed at Pioneers Park recently has become a bit of a mecca for locals.

The panel features snippets of history of the area, along with historic images and the story of Wong Ah Poo Hoc Ting, the first recorded Chinese to arrive in New Zealand, landing in Nelson in 1842. Known as Appo Hocton, an exhibition of his life at the Nelson Provincial Museum and the publication of a book by local author Karen Stadel attracted a lot of attention from his hundreds of descendants who still live here and around the world.

Appo was naturalised in 1853 and proceeded to buy land in Washington Valley. He built a house for himself and seven cottages for lease. Today you can see four of Appo's cottages – 40 Washington Road and 16, 38 and 40 Hastings Street.

The interpretation panel also features a large black and white image of Washington Valley looking back to the city in the 1930s, and many residents have stopped to find their house.

Council has over 80 interpretation panels across the city which link with heritage walks in Nelson and stories on www.theprow.org.nz. The Pioneers Park interpretation panel will link to a series around interesting sites on Nelson's 1840 shoreline.

Great to see Appo Hocton, New Zealand's first naturalised Chinese immigrant, being recognised in Nelson City - this from a recent Nelson City Council newsletter.

NZCFS Tour 2011: The itinerary for the NZCFS National Tour in April 2011 has been finalised and we would very much appreciate your help in advertising this as widely as possible to all your friends and family.

Perhaps you have been looking for a fascinating tour in China that encapsulates the tourist sights of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai with the historical and legendary sights and sounds of Taiyuan, Pingyao, Zhengzhou and the Shaolin Temple in Fengdeng. This area was explored as part of the Prominent Persons' and Leaders Tour in 2009 and all the participants came back raving about their experiences so the itinerary comes with with the highest of recommendations.

Contact our travel agent, Andrew Kemp at House of Travel, Timaru, at andrewk@hot.co.nz, or Royden Smith, Acting Chair of the NZCFS Tours Committee, ph 547-6608 or royden@shangrila.net.nz for more information.

We very much hope that there will be lots of Nelsonians taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity in 2011.



"For an unusual food experience, head to Wangfujing 'Snack Street' in Beijing for Scorpion skewers, snake kebabs and other bizarre Chinese delicacies."

TRAVEL TIP FROM ANDREW KEMP, TRAVEL SPECIALIST
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Highlights:

- Beijing - Hutong tour, Houhai Lake area, Bell & Drum Towers, Song Qing Ling House, Great Wall Badaling, The Summer Palace, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square
- Taiyuan - Qiao family home
- Pingyao - Fen Wine Factory, Shuanglin Temple, sights of the Ancient City of Pingyao, Wang family home
- Zhengzhou - Kaifeng Millennium City Park, Iron Tower Park (Song dynasty style park), Huanghe Park, Zhengzhou new area, City wall remains
- Fengdeng - Shaolin Temple, Martial Arts Training Centre, Pagoda Forest, Zen Music Shaolin Grand Ceremony
- Luoyang - Baita temple, Longmen grottoes
- Huashan - Cable car trip
- Xian - Terracotta soldiers, Banpo village, Tang dynasty show, City sites, Big Goose Pagoda Fountain Show
- Shanghai - Yu Garden, Jade Pagoda, day trip to Suzhou Gardens, silk factory and Grand Canal

For more information contact Andrew Kemp on 03 687 9900.

KEMP 195 Stafford Street, Timaru
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CONDITIONS: Ticket taxes & surcharges are included in the advertised price and are valid as at 01 October 2010. Advertised price is based on Economy class flights from Auckland or Christchurch flying with Air New Zealand. \$1000.00 deposit per person is required at time of booking. Advertised price is based on twin share and subject to currency fluctuations until paid in full. Advertised price is based on payment by cash, cheque or eftpos for new bookings only, final payment is due no later than 10 February 2011. Tour is subject to a minimum of 20 passengers travelling together. Should the final passenger number be below 20 the tour may need re-pricing. This fare is non-refundable, non-transferable and name changes are not permitted. Amendments and cancellation fees may apply.

