

THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER

新中通訊

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NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER
12 Colchester Cres, Newlands, Wellington 6037. Website: www.nzchinasociety.org.nz

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

Three of our members will speak of recent activities they have been involved with



A Marsden School visit to China – Mary Busch

Mary Busch of the Wellington Xiamen Association will introduce students from Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, all Chinese language learners, who in April travelled to Wellington's sister cities, Beijing and Xiamen. In Xiamen they were overwhelmed by the hospitality they experienced at Number One Middle School. Living on campus gave them an appreciation of the pressures placed on Chinese students to succeed. The Wellington Xiamen Association facilitated the Marsden visit to Xiamen as part of their work in supporting student exchanges between Xiamen and Wellington and in encouraging the teaching and learning of Chinese in Wellington.

The Chinese Garden in Frank Kitts Park – Esther Fung

Esther Fung, Secretary of the Wellington Chinese Garden Society, will do a short presentation on recent progress towards the establishment of the Garden, on a renovated Frank Kitts Park, which is being designed in such a way as to be an integral component and feature of the Park. One could say, a Park within a Park. The Garden was also to be contemporary and tell the story of the Chinese presence and contribution to the development of Wellington and New Zealand.

Some illustrations of the concept design and the ideas and principles which are the basis of the plans will be discussed.



The Victoria University/Chinese University of Political Science and Law Connection – Jason Young

Jason is the course coordinator for the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) Short Course at Victoria University. CUPL students will be studying at Victoria this year in August. Jason is pleased to be able to introduce representatives of this group and have them speak briefly on their experience in New Zealand.

Wednesday, 18 August 2010, at 5.45 pm

Connolly Hall

Guildford Terrace, off Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington.
(Car park up Guildford Tce beside Hall)



An optional Chinese buffet meal, supplied by the Fujiyama Café, will follow the meeting at 7 pm. **Orders for the \$10.00 meal (please pay at the door) will be taken up till 6 pm.** If you think you may be arriving late, please let the Secretary know in advance.

MEETING DATES FOR REST OF 2010

September 15, Wednesday 5.45pm HE Mr Michel Legras, Ambassador of France to New Zealand, "Some French Perceptions of China" (This will be a special "Bring a Guest" meeting for members. See details below.)

October 20, Wednesday 5.45pm Stuart Fergusson, Chairman New Zealand-China Trade Association, "The Misconceptions of the Difficulties in Trading with China"

November 17, Wednesday 5.45pm Michael Powles, former New Zealand Ambassador to China and to the United Nations, "Perspectives on Human Rights in China"

LAST MEETING - Report from Greg Ford

"China's ties with Central Asia go back millennia, to before the concept of 'China' existed." On July 18 Peter Harris, a person with enormous experience in Asian history and politics, gave a highly informative presentation on the relationship between China and the countries of Central Asia.

The Central Asian nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (The '5 Stans') were all constituent republics of the former USSR and achieved independence in 1991. It was at this time that the long running border disputes between Russia and China were largely resolved. There is a diverse ethnic and religious makeup in the region, and this has led to conflict, including within Xinjiang, which became China's westernmost province in 1949. Radical Islam however has made only limited inroads to the region.

Kazakhstan is the richest and most stable of the Central Asian nations. Interestingly, one of the largest gulags of the Soviet era was just south of Astana (now the capital city), and many of that town's population are descendents of gulag prisoners. China and Kazakhstan have a 'Strategic Partnership', which largely concerns oil and mineral supplies. Kazakhstan is now the world's No 1 uranium producer.

Turkmenistan was previously led by *Saparmarat Niyazov*. In his cult of personality he changed the names of the days of the week, put up statues of himself and released a book of his own sayings. The new government is somewhat better, but still far from ideal. It is rich in natural gas, and desert covers 80% of the land.

Uzbekistan retains a Soviet era leader, Islam Krimov. Ethnic tension is high, and there have been outbreaks of violence as recently as a month ago. The country trades in cotton, gold & other resources including some coal, oil and gas. Horses from Ferghana valley were especially prized by the Chinese empire.

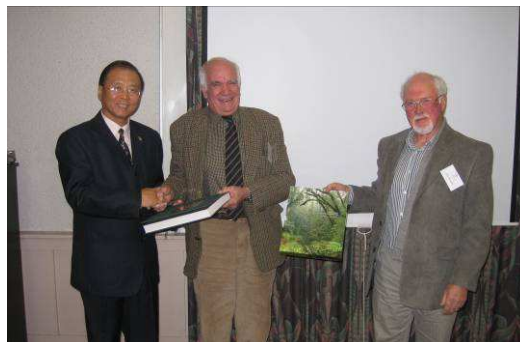
In **Kyrgyzstan** an unstable and corrupt government has led to riots and unrest. If this state were to fail, it could be disastrous for all neighbours. There are both US and Russian military bases in Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan is the poorest of the Central Asian states, with one third of their GDP coming from foreign remittances. Bordering Afghanistan there are Russian troops in the country.

In future, resources (Energy and Mineral) will continue to be a factor. China and Russia are the main powers in the region, and their hold will be maintained though the US' influence may begin to wane. Unless there is a threat to Xinjiang, China is unlikely to exert political pressure in the region, and this in turn makes it unlikely that there will be tension between Beijing and Moscow. The threat of failed states however is still a worry to all in the region.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR ZHANG LIMIN

The Wellington Branch took the opportunity at the last meeting to farewell Ambassador Zhang Limin, who is retiring from service and leaving NZ. Ray Brownrigg thanked His Excellency for all the support he has provided to the Branch activities over the past two years. Douglas Day and Les Molloy then presented Ambassador Zhang with a copy of Les' book "NZ's Wilderness Heritage" (pictured). The ambassador then responded with some reminiscences of his career, in particular his association with New Zealand, from as early as when he was still a student wanting to study here, and with the NZ China Friendship Society.



BRING A GUEST SPECIAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Remember that we celebrate the arrival of spring with our "Bring a Guest" meeting next month. Our Guest Speaker is His Excellency Mr Michel Legras, the French Ambassador to New Zealand, and a China specialist. The object of the evening is for as many members as possible to bring a guest with them, to learn what we are about. As well as the presentation from Ambassador Legras, there will be displays and giveaway materials from the Chinese Embassy. Membership application forms and information on the Society will also be available. In addition there will be raffles for prizes of value (including prizes from France!). An optional Chinese buffet meal will be provided at the end of the evening.

It is anticipated that our numbers for the meeting will be considerably more than usual. For this reason it will be necessary for members and their guests to be registered prior to the event. There will be full details of the registration process in the next newsletter. Keep the evening of Wednesday September 15 free, both for yourself and for your guest(s).

SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO VISIT – report by Bernie Richmond

Expo 2010 is staged under the theme "Better City, Better Life". 12 members of the Society have returned from the Expo in Shanghai as guests of the Shanghai Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. 30°C temperatures and 470,000 attendees each day at the expo was a challenge as well as the queuing for an average of 2-3 hours to visit pavilions. The expo site covers some 5km on both sides of the Huangpu River.

Eight members from Wellington Branch, Bernie & Elaine Richmond, Ben & Eileen Fon, James & Anne Fong and George & Daphne Tse were privileged to be part of this group invited as VIPs to take part in the New Zealand Day Celebrations on July 9 attended by the New Zealand Prime Minister the Honourable John Key and other New Zealand Government Officials including the New Zealand Ambassador to China, HE Carl Worker. After witnessing the New Zealand Flag Raising ceremony and welcome speeches they visited the New Zealand Pavilion for an all kiwi luncheon.

The New Zealand pavilion presented life in New Zealand with our open green environment and featured a 2 ton piece of Greenstone, a roof garden with ferns, mud pools, a geyser and set off in front by a large flowering Pohutukawa tree (artificial!). The New Zealand Pavilion was one of the most popular at Expo.

Thanks to the Shanghai Youxie for their wonderful hospitality during our visit.

REWI ALLEY DOCUMENTARY SERIES ON CCTV 10

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 NHNZ 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.



www.news.cn
News.Xinhuanet.com

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 NHNZ 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:

Early Years <http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100709/100868.shtml>

Shanghai Ten Years <http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100711/100017.shtml>

Join the Gung Ho <http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100711/100646.shtml>

Bailie School <http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100713/100011.shtml>

In the New China <http://bugu.cntv.cn/documentary/explore/tansuofaxian/classpage/video/20100714/100018.shtml>

BILL WILLMOTT ON RADIO NZ NATIONAL

Prof Bill Willmott, Past National President, was interviewed on 25 July on *Sunday Morning with Chris Laidlaw*. Bill told *Ideas* 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>

MANDARIN CORNER 汉语角 3.15pm - 4.30pm Saturdays during school terms

Victoria University of Wellington, Seminar Room, 20 Kelburn Parade. Gold coin donation.

Open to all ages, all levels. One to one or small groups. Four sessions in August:

7 August - Chinese Seal 印章 (A talk by Stan Chan)

14 August - Qixi 七夕节 (Chinese Valentine Day)

21 August - Shopping at Chinese supermarket 在中国超市购物

28 August - Chinese chess 象棋

For more information phone Ellen Yang (04) 473-7558 or email mandarin.corner@gmail.com

CHINESE FEATURE FILM - Thursday 12 August 7.30pm (door closes at 7.45pm)

Committee Room No.1, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St. (Documentary will screen at 7.00pm) Gold coin entry.

Li Mi Conjecture (李米的猜想 Li Mi de caixiang)

Due to the interference of her parents, taxi driver Li Mi had to break up with her longtime boyfriend Fang Wen, who then disappeared from her life, yet to her seemed to remain connected. For four years Li Mi searched for his whereabouts in a constant tug-of-war between hope and despair. An eerie suicide leads her to a man seemingly identical to her missing lover, who professes not to know her. There ensues a calamitous involvement with desperate drug dealers and then investigation by duteous police detectives.

Director: Cao Baoping; Starring Zhou Xun, Deng Chao, Zhang Hanyu. DVD 95 minutes; in Modern Standard Chinese with English subtitles. 电影讲述了一个名叫李米的女的士司机和男友之间一段曲折离奇的爱情故事。

JAMES BERTRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Understanding China is essential for the future of New Zealand, according to a businessman who has funded a new scholarship at Victoria University. "We want young New Zealanders to engage with China, to understand the culture and connect with the Chinese leaders of tomorrow," says Rodney Jones, who established the James Bertram Scholarships through the Victoria University Foundation with his wife Sajini Jesudason. An investment banker, he was a partner with the Soros Fund in Asia before returning to New Zealand.

Scholarship students will study at Victoria for a year, and then have six months language tuition in Beijing before embarking on a year's study at Peking University. Students will graduate with a double Masters in International Relations and Public Policy from Victoria and Peking Universities respectively. There will be two James Bertram Scholarships offered annually, each worth up to \$50,000.

Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, Professor Pat Walsh, says ".....it is appropriate too that the scholarships are named after the late James Bertram, a former Professor of English at Victoria University and 'an old China hand.'" Before he became an academic at Victoria, James Bertram, the young Rhodes Scholar from Otago, visited China and became fascinated with the country. As a journalist for The Times in London, he interviewed



Mao Zedong, travelled with the Eighth Route Army and also fought as a gunner in Hong Kong during the Second World War before being captured by the Japanese. He settled in New Zealand after the war and, alongside his work at Victoria, he wrote for the New Zealand Listener for many years and founded the Landfall journal with his colleague and friend, Charles Brasch.

The scholarships were launched at a function at Victoria University on 19 July. They were announced in Beijing by the Prime Minister, the Hon John Key.

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/news/ViewNews.aspx?id=3758>

James Bertram was the first Chairman of the NZCFS Wellington Branch.

CHINA GOES URBAN

China's urban population is to surpass its rural population for the first time by 2015, with the number of Chinese living in towns and cities set to top 700 million, Xinhua news agency has reported. Li Bin, director of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said China was projected to have 1.39 billion citizens by 2015, up from 1.32 billion at the end of 2008.

BOOK CORNER (from Douglas Day)

Non Fiction:

"**The Empty Throne: The Quest for an Imperial Heir in the People's Republic of China**", by Tony Scotland. Chalkstream Books, 2009. Scotland's quest takes him across the China of the 1990s, pursuing vague leads and elusive contacts and it provides a remarkable insight into life in the People's Republic.

Fiction:

"**The China Lover**" by Ian Buruma. Atlantic Books, 2009.

A complex tale of wartime Shanghai, post war-Tokyo and the Middle East.

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