

# THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER

## 新中通訊



**NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER**  
12 Colchester Cres, Newlands, Wellington 6037. Website: [www.nzchinasociety.org.nz](http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz)

No 910 November 2009

### NEXT BRANCH MEETING

**Professor Paul Clark**

will speak on

### “Re-thinking the Cultural Revolution”



Paul Clark is Professor of Chinese at the University of Auckland. His MA thesis in history at Auckland, a study of the Hau Haus, a Maori cult during the land wars, was later published as a book. Paul went to Beijing in 1974 and was a student at Beijing University 1975-76. He gained a Ph.D. in history and East Asian Studies at Harvard University in 1983.

Paul pioneered western studies of Chinese films with his 1988 book Chinese Cinema: Culture and Politics since 1949. He then examined Chinese “new wave” films for the 1980’s, and in 2005 published Re-inventing China: A Generation and its Films, based on interviews with prominent film directors. He co-edited China and New Zealand: A Thriving Relationship Thirty Years On in 2003.

Paul’s 2008 book, The Chinese Cultural Revolution: A History, deals with cultural events during 1966-76. His current project concerns the study of Chinese youth culture and identity in 1968, 1988 and 2008.

### Connolly Hall

Guildford Terrace, off Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington.

**Wednesday, 18 November 2009, at 5.45 pm**

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

### PROMINENT PEOPLE AND SOCIETY LEADERS TOUR

At the last meeting Ray Brownrigg presented a short pictorial report on his participation in the NZCFS Prominent People and Society Leaders tour of China. This supplemented the written report in last month’s newsletter. Time constraints allowed only a very brief overview, but the selection of photographs showed the essence of the geographical and cultural diversity of the tour.

## LAST MEETING. China's Urban Elders' Policy Guide: "Of all virtues filial piety is paramount"

Olga Wang, the Cultural First Secretary at the Chinese Embassy, came well-prepared with excellent accompanying charts and photographs to deliver a crisp, informative talk on policies for China's urban elders. Olga began by noting that in New Zealand, where there is a tradition of voluntarism and individual choice, the elderly seem to be more active than China's elders who she said stay home and look after their grandchildren. But the many delightful photographs, while indeed showing care of grandchildren, revealed a wide range of Chinese older people engaging in a myriad of stimulating and active pursuits, both indoors and outdoors.

The size of the challenge is immense. The world population grows from 6.7 billion in 2007 to 9.2 billion in 2050. The numbers of people over 60 years (WHO definition of elderly) is expected to grow from 673 million in 2007 to 2 billion in 2050. China's elderly accounts for 21.4% of the world elderly, i.e. 153 million in 2007 and estimated to be 500 million in 2050. The urban population now is about one-third of the total population so the number of urban elders in 2007 was 50 million, equivalent to the elderly population in all of Europe.

At present average life expectancy in New Zealand is 80 yrs while in China, remarkably, the average life expectancy for women is 73.5 yrs and 71 yrs for men. Yet China's average per capita income is much lower and thus has fewer surpluses for the kind of public social services enjoyed in fully developed countries.



China's policies arise from the tradition of filial piety, including respect for and care of the elders. The aims of the policies are: (1) to be comprehensive, (2) to ensure a basic livelihood and medical care for all, (3) to have an established system of care based on the family home, supplemented by community services and (4) to actively develop educational and social opportunities for all elders.

The organization of services for the elderly, as in many other areas of life in modern China, is a mixture of central government, local municipal input and district level, including private enterprises and places of work, but all based on primary care in the home where possible. Once again we learn of the decentralized nature of administration of China. Dave Feickert explained it in the control of coal mining and Dr Les Molloy described similar arrangements for world heritage sites.

At present 85% of China's elders live independently, most with their families, about 10% are partly independent and 5% are in care. The one-child policy and an increase in internal mobility of workers has meant that a proportion of China's elders do not live with their grown-up children. In health care the insurance

premiums are mostly paid by families and much health treatment and other services would be provided in the home. There is financial assistance for those of low income and the disabled. Small-scale medical facilities exist at district level but only larger-scale medical facilities have geriatric services. There are discounts for people over 70 years.

Educational, social and recreational services for the elders also are organized at different levels. A surprising number of activities seem to be based on voluntarism. For example many elders took part in a wide range of services provided at the Beijing Olympics. There are classes for those who want to become tour guides; others contribute as Fire Prevention officials. We saw photographs of elderly folk acting as tutors to people exercising in city parks, others helping at playgrounds and still others learning English, musical instruments, and dancing.

There is evidence that the policies and the modest public services for China's urban elders are working, Olga concluded her fascinating presentation by reporting the results of a 2007 survey: 57% of the older people surveyed said they were happy or relatively happy, 39% were "so-so", while fewer than 4% said they were unhappy. Happiness was high among the audience for Olga's talk judging by the many questions she faced and the innumerable requests she dealt with later.



**HAERE MAI to new members:** Denise Udy and George Mills.

## MANDARIN CORNER NEWS 汉语角 – Report by Ellen Yang

Mandarin Corner meets Saturdays excluding school holidays, 3.15-4.30 pm at Victoria University, Seminar Room, 20 Kelburn Parade. Gold coin donation appreciated. **The Annual Dinner is to be held on Saturday, 14 November 2009, 6.30pm, at Red Hill Restaurant, 119 Manners St, Wellington.**

In the past 6 months the number attending has been growing steadily. We have had 25 sessions since May, including once a month on a Wednesday evening in association with the Chinese Film Night at Wellington City Council. We started with roughly half learners/speakers and half volunteers but the learners have increased almost 3 times. A volunteer team of native Chinese speakers (including one Kiwi who speaks fluent Chinese), has been built up with frequent team building and training. With much support from many organisations and in particular the great efforts and contribution of the volunteers, Mandarin Corner has become a truly open, neutral and friendly place for people to practice Mandarin and to learn more about Chinese culture.

As Christmas is approaching, the last session of Mandarin Corner will be on Saturday 12 December. There are sessions on Wednesday 11 November and Saturday 14, 21, and 28 November plus 5 and 12 December. For more details, please feel free to contact Ellen on 473-7558, or [mandarin.corner@gmail.com](mailto:mandarin.corner@gmail.com).

**CHINESE FEATURE FILM – Wednesday, 11 November at 7.30 pm at Committee Room No 1, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St.** (Please note that the door closes at 7.45 pm.)

### “You and Me” (Women lia)

One cold winter day a girl name Xiao Ma finds temporary lodging in a humble courtyard owned by a quaint old woman. Xiao Ma’s presence brings changes to the old woman’s lonely life. At first the two are totally incompatible but gradually become caring for and concerned about each other.

Director: Ma Liwen; starring Jin Yaqin and Gong Zhe. DVD 65 minutes with English subtitles.

## REWI ALLEY SELECTED AS ONE OF TOP TEN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS OF CHINA

Upon the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Peoples Republic of China, a number of organisations in China, including the Chinese Peoples’ Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, jointly launched the selection of *China Connection: Ten Top International Friends of China* to tell people all over the world about those who stood side by side with China and devoted their lives to the friendship between China and other parts of the world. The poll was based on the votes of Chinese netizens. Full list is as follows:

1. Norman Bethune *Canada*, 2. John Rabe *Germany*, 3. Juan Antonio Samaranch *Spain*, 4. Edgar Snow *US*, 5. Dr. Joseph Needham *UK*, 6. Israel Epstein *Poland (China)*, 7. Rewi Alley *New Zealand*, 8. Dwarkanath S. Kotnis *India*, 9. Maha Chakri Sirindhorn *Thailand*, 10. Morihiko Hiramatsu *Japan*.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO’S RETURN TO CHINA



To celebrate this event, the Chinese Embassy is holding “The Charm of Macao” Photo Exhibition in the Wellington City Central Library 1<sup>st</sup> floor from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to Sunday 15 November (Free Entry). It’s a great chance to have a look at the present-day Macao via 50 selected photographs.

Located on the west side of the Pearl River Delta in south China, Macao has been a cosmopolitan centre since its establishment by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century. It has always been a fusion of Eastern and Western cultures. Its diverse lifestyles and cultural variety exert a powerful and unique charm.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CHINESE ECONOMY - Report by Douglas Day

As part of a continuing series, the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington on 22 October featured a seminar by Professor Zhang Xian-Chu of the highly ranked University of Hong Kong in the Wood Seminar Room of the university. The topic of the seminar was “Developing a Legal Framework for the Socialist Market Economy in China”. Professor Zhang, eminently qualified as a specialist in commercial law, Chinese law and comparative law, presented his topic with clarity and style, focussing on the inherent conflicts in the so-called market economy and their impacts on the development of China. Developing a legal framework to match the situation has been an unprecedented challenge.

Members of the Society are warmly invited to the “China Seminar” series. We will give notice of meetings.

## ANNIVERSARY OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT – a note by Douglas Day

Last month, October, marked the first anniversary of the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement. Now our third largest trading partner, China is critically important for New Zealand says Trade Minister Tim Groser. "New Zealand-China relations have continued to grow from strength to strength. The FTA provides a solid platform for strengthened commercial links with China and we will see trade boosted as tariffs continue to fall in coming years." Two-way trade between New Zealand and China has increased in the past year by 23 percent, to reach just over \$10 billion, while exports increased by 60 per cent to \$3.5 billion.

## UNIQUE CHINA GARDEN TOUR – April 2010

Led by two experts, Diana Madgin on Chinese Gardens, and Bill Willmott on Chinese history and culture, this tour will visit some of the most famous historical gardens in all China. It will start in Shanghai and move to:

**Hangzhou**, the capital of the Song Dynasty 1125-1250, which Marco Polo described as "The most magnificent city in the world." There will be travel in the Yangtse delta countryside with fishing villages along the way;

**Suzhou**, the "Venice of the East": noted for scholar gardens and for silk manufacture;

**Wuxi**, on Lake Tai the largest lake in China and a world heritage site, with the "Garden of Harmonious Interest";

**Yangzhou**, over 2400 years old where salt merchants built a heritage city and centre of a literary culture.

Then a flight to **Guilin** and boat trip on the Li River through Karst Mountains and bamboo groves which "feels like the middle of a Chinese painting" and finally Yangshuo before returning to Shanghai for the trip home.

The group leaves Auckland on 16 April 2010 and will return on 3 May. Contact Desmond Kearns, Tour Co-ordinator, 0800 808025 and [Kemp@hot.co.nz](mailto:Kemp@hot.co.nz). Full brochure attached to emailed copies.

# China

## Escorted Garden Tour



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**15 nights**  
**Departure 16 April 2010**  
From **\$5498** Per person twin share from Auckland

Your Escorts: Diana Madgin & Bill Willmott





For further information contact NZ China Friendship Society  
Desmond Kearns (M.N.Z.I.T) NZCFS Tour Coordinator  
Tel: 0800 80 80 25 Email: [kemp@hot.co.nz](mailto:kemp@hot.co.nz)

## SOME CHINA WEBSITES (No. 3 in a series from Douglas Day)

Here are some commonly used websites relating to culture and society in China:

China News (China Internet Information Centre) - <http://ww.china.org.cn/english/index.htm>

Lonely Planet WorldGuide China [http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinaaionsnorth\\_east\\_asia/china/](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinaaionsnorth_east_asia/china/)

SpeakMandarin.com – <http://www.speakmandarin.com/>

Yahoo China search – <http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/China/>

Chinese Newspapers – <http://newslink.org/nonusachi...html>

## SEASONS GREETINGS

As this is the final Letter for 2009, the Executive Committee and Editorial Group wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Have a safe and pleasant holiday season until the next meeting in February 2010.

## BRANCH OFFICERS

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## NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC

### President's Notebook November 2009

Website: [www.nzchinasociety.org.nz](http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz)

#### PROJECTS TOUR

Great reports have been received on this valuable visit to many of the rural areas our Society has been recently active in. Two of our new Honorary Members were so delighted at meeting the tour party as they moved through China. Lu Wanru wrote "It was exciting to meet at the Beijing Bailie University and the dinner so many NZ friends from different branches of the Society".

#### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING 10 OCTOBER

Your National executive was updated on progress of various projects, the formation of a new Tours Committee and a new travel agent, House of Travel Timaru both of which were approved, discussions I had in Beijing with Youxie regarding future events and exchanges, and progress on the 2010 Hamilton Conference. We also were able to hear from Jon Parsons on his forthcoming tour of NZ centres by Shaolin fighting Monks from Henan Province, home of Kung Fu.

We saw a preview of Auckland's Jasmine Flower Music Video that amazed us with its brilliance and the effort that had gone into its production in different North Island centres. George Andrews advised arrangements have been made for it to be shown at NZ's site at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

We were delighted on your behalf to congratulate our Whanganui Branch President Dave Feickert who had as a foreign expert (on coal mining safety), received a friendship award in Beijing during the Sixty Year celebrations. Dave gave us a run down on his experiences at the celebrations. Well done Dave.

#### 2010 TOUR ANNOUNCEMENT

Diana Madgin & Bill Willmott will be leading a two week (17 April – 1 May 2010) tour of China's most beautiful gardens and historical sites in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Wuxi & Yangzhou. Ends in the spectacular karst landscape around Guilin, the mountains that inspired Chinese Garden design, painting and poetry. All at the very low cost of \$5498 from Auckland. Do contact Des Kearns at House of Travel 0800 808025 for more details.

#### MOVEMENTS TO & FROM CHINA

Following this year's very successful Prominent Persons and Leaders Delegation we are pleased to be able to give early advice that the 2010 Delegation will attend a Friendship Conference in or near Shanghai and this will be in September or October. So commence considering who your

branch will nominate for this unique opportunity to visit China as guests of Youxie.

**TEACHER APPOINTED** – Congratulations to John Kirby who has been approved by National executive as our Society's project representative in Shandan for 2010 and who will be also undertaking some teaching at Shandan Bailie School as well.

**"UNDER THE HUANG JIAO TREE: TWO JOURNEYS IN CHINA"** By Jane Carswell, (a Christchurch Branch member) – launched officially in Christchurch and attended by a number of Society members. The launch event was addressed by our Life Member and Past National President Professor Bill Willmott. This book would make an excellent present having a depth in its reflections about the differences between our Society and Chinese Society that will cause it to be referred to time and again. Contact [enquiries@janecarswell.net](mailto:enquiries@janecarswell.net)

#### BRANCH ACTIVITIES OF STRONG BRANCHES

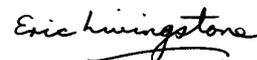
This is what I have noticed from Branch visits:

- Regular newsletters, mostly emailed
- Regular dates set for branch meetings
- Variety in meetings activities from speakers, to videos, to demonstrations, to food
- All Branch members greeting new people to their meetings
- Visitors to meetings formally welcomed, names recorded for newsletters
- New members involved in small activities where desired
- Name badges used to remember names
- Meetings sometimes around meals
- President does not do everything but involves many people
- National Presidents notebook sent out to an email list of members

#### MY RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Christchurch City Council hosted dinner with the Wuhan Mayors Delegation here to develop stronger links with Canterbury University  
- Meeting with Jiangsi Foreign Affairs Delegation that came to explore what relationships they could develop in New Zealand. This province, the lead mining capital of China, seeks a Sister City relationship. Please advise if you know of any suitable twinning opportunity.

Kind regards,



Eric Livingstone, National Pres