

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

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NEXT EVENT

CHINA NATIONAL DAY BANQUET



(Picture)
Last
Year's
Banquet

Come and join us to celebrate the

60th Anniversary

of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

Sunday, 20th September 2009 at 6.30 pm
Dragons Restaurant, 25 Tory St, Wellington

Ambassador Zhang Limin and Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast will attend. Former New Zealand Ambassadors to China have been invited to join in this 60th Birthday Celebration.

The Programme will include
Quiz on the "Last 60 Years in China and in the World"
Musical Interlude by the Mandarin Corner Singers
Raffles

The cost is \$32 per person and includes wine and juice.
To book, please send the attached form to the Treasurer by Friday, 12th September.
No last minute arrivals please.

LAST MEETING 19TH AUGUST

Wen Chin Powles, our former Consul-General in Shanghai painted a vivid word picture of that great world city and its transformation during the past twenty years. The pace of change often appears so rapid that Wen Powles, who left the city just seven months ago, wondered if her report would already be out of date! However, she did note that the world recession was also biting there, but more in other parts of China.

The location of Shanghai at the outlet to the Yangtze River delta, one of the most fertile and densely populated regions in the world, has long been an economic hub. The area is always green with rice, fruit trees, fields of rape seed and historically was the source of the silk and salt industries. The city is a place of high sophistication and the arts, tea and haute cuisine, painting, poetry, architecture and gardens, luxuries that come with wealth and leisure. The region is a valuable domestic market of over 206 million people (Shanghai has 19 million) with average per capita incomes higher than the rest of China. Chinese and foreign companies, including New Zealand companies, like to be located there to take advantage of the skilled work force, the drive and ambition of the people whose strong sense of local identity is signified by their own Shanghainese dialect, the investment incentives, good infrastructure, access to Shanghai's ports and services and the determination of both central government and the Shanghai municipality to re-make Shanghai into "the Wall Street of the East" by 2020 – just ten years away.

Wen Powles described features of this 21st century city: the iconic byzantine Oriental Pearl Tower, the famous Bund with its clock tower chiming out "The East is Red", the imposing colonial buildings conjuring up a dismal period in Shanghai's past, the unceasing river traffic and the entire new urban area of Pudong ("east of the Huangpu River") with the world's fastest train, created, remarkably, in a brief ten years. "There were other momentous changes: a much more open society and all the implications and complications that brings; a higher standard of living, peoples' expectations rising... No longer are they satisfied with ideology. The wishes and ambitions of the Shanghainese are no different from what you or I would want for ourselves or our children." There are challenges: water pollution, scarcity of resources, social pressures, and an aging population. Economic restructuring, social security frameworks, more transparent systems are all still works in progress. Next year: The 2010 Shanghai Expo with over 180 countries participating and among them a New Zealand Pavilion.

The New Zealand Consulate in Shanghai has similar government objectives to the NZ Embassy in Beijing:

- To be a co-operative partner with China in efforts to achieve peace and prosperity of Asia Pacific;
- To be a valuable trading and investment partner with China;
- To promote New Zealand as a desirable travel and holiday destination, a good place for education and, for some Chinese, a new home country; and
- To better help and support the over one thousand New Zealanders living and working in Shanghai.

There are four New Zealand government agencies and 20 companies operating in Shanghai. 30% of New Zealand's NZD11 billion total trade with China goes through Shanghai. Air New Zealand now has direct flights into Shanghai and Beijing. There is the Dunedin-Shanghai sister city relationship and the China – New Zealand Fudan Roundtable (Fudan is Shanghai's top university), a gathering of academics, and other connections being forged. Wen Powles said that these are part of a bedrock of relationships that must be built with China, a country that increasingly will set the pace for world affairs, and one where relationships matter a great deal. Finally, she said that diplomacy and its partner, tolerance, begin at home. Many comments and questions were addressed to Wen Powles from the large appreciative audience.

CHINA PHOTO EXHIBITION – TUESDAY 8-SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 8.30AM-5.30PM

Fletcher Challenge Foyer, Wellington Convention Centre, 111 Wakefield Street, Wellington.



Over the past 60 years the Chinese peoples' living standard has risen from bare subsistence to one of moderate prosperity. Material conditions and attitudes have undergone tremendous changes, deeply influencing and altering the lifestyles of the Chinese people.

This exhibition celebrates the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Peoples' Republic of China offering an overview of instances that have influenced the modern Chinese lifestyle.

Free Entry. Organised by the Chinese Embassy.

MEETING DATES FOR THE REST OF 2009

October 21, Wednesday 5.45pm. (note change)

HE Ambassador Zhang Limin regrets he is unable to speak due to another engagement. The Cultural Secretary, Mme Olga Wang will speak on the topic "*China's Urban Elders*".

November 18, Wednesday 5.45pm. Paul Clark, Professor of Chinese at the University of Auckland: "*Re-thinking the Cultural Revolution*".

MANDARIN CORNER – every Saturday excluding school holidays, 3.15-4.30 pm at Victoria University, Seminar Room, 20 Kelburn Parade. Gold coin appreciated.

Additional (free chatting) Meeting Preceding Film: Wednesday 9 September, 6 - 7.30pm
Location: Foyer + Meeting Room 1, Ground floor, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street.

CHINESE FEATURE FILM –Chinese Language Association, Wellington Branch

Wednesday, 9 September 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.)

Two Women in Red Scarves (Liang ge guo hong tou jin de nu ren)

In a small village in the mountains of NE China, Xi Feng and Shuang Yu are neighbours who both love red scarves. Xi Feng is a widow who secretly falls in love with her widower neighbour Yang Tianlong, but is unhappy that he hunts illegally. The unmarried Shuang Yu lives with her father. One day Yang Tianlong accidentally shoots Shuang Yu in the leg when out hunting and is jailed for two years, during which time Xi Feng cares for his twin daughters. Er Gou from a neighbouring village enters the scene and tries his hand unsuccessfully at matchmaking. Finally the four of them fortuitously find their heart's desires.

Director: Han Zijun. Starring leading actress Zheng Weili, also Ma Shihong, Zhao Xiaoyi, Guan Xiaoping and Wu Liansheng. DVD 95 minutes in Modern standard Chinese with English sub-titles.

DAVE FEICKERT, WELLINGTON MEMBER, GIVEN PRESTIGIOUS CHINA FRIENDSHIP AWARD



Dave Feickert, member of the Wellington Branch and President of the Wanganui Branch, is to receive the prestigious "China Friendship Award" in a special ceremony in the Great Hall of The People, Beijing, on Tuesday October 1 as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the PRC.

Dave says that the award is also recognition of his colleagues in the State Administration of Work Safety. He told us about this agency when guest speaker to our branch in 2008. Dave is an international consultant in mine safety and energy and receives his Award for the major work he has been involved in coal mine safety in

China. A graduate of the University of Birmingham (MSc in ergonomics) and recently completed post graduate research at Victoria University of Wellington (his MA thesis deals with coal mine safety in China), he was formerly head of research at the British National Union of Mineworkers.

The China Friendship Award is administered by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, PRC, and is the highest award presented by the Chinese government to "foreign experts". Each year usually 50 awards are made to those from among the 250,000 "foreign experts" working in China. However in 2009, in recognition of the 60th anniversary, 100 awards will be presented.

In the history of the China Friendship Award there have been awards to only 10 New Zealanders, including Douglas Day, Immediate Past President of our Branch, and a recipient in 2003.

ASIANS IN WELLINGTON –An Outlook 10 publication by Wardlow Friesen, Auckland University

Wellington, host to 85 different ethnic groups, has the second largest proportion of Asians in its population, after Auckland. But there are larger proportions born in New Zealand of both Chinese and Indian than other NZ cities. Both groups settled here from the late 19th century. In 1915 there were 203 Chinese in Wellington, just 10 of whom were women. Recent Chinese migrants come from diverse countries and from all over China. The largest proportion, 30%, speak Cantonese while 17% speak Mandarin.

WELLINGTON CHINESE CULTURE DAY – SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER – TE PAPA

10am-5.30pm. Free Entry.

The ancient Chinese mid-autumn festival occurs every year on 15 August in the lunar calendar. Wellington Chinese Culture Day showcases traditional Chinese art and culture related to the mid-autumn festival – including music, dance, tea making, and the moon cake tradition. A highlight will be the Celebration Concert, which commemorates the 60th National Day of China.

Please check out <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/WhatsOn/allevnts/Pages/WellingtonChineseCultureDay09.aspx> for the Programme and the performers.

Wellington Chinese associations will also be holding a Chinese National Day dinner at the Grand Century Restaurant that evening. Cost is \$30 per head (drinks included). Please contact Zhang Wei (ph 021 108 0716, email zhang_wei_nz@yahoo.co.nz) if you wish to attend.

NEW MEMBER: Warm welcome to Daniel Zhao Bingcheng.

OBITUARY: TOM MILLS, TOURS ORGANISER AND NATIONAL TREASURER

Tom Mills died on 12th August in Tauranga after a long illness. He was the prime mover in establishing our Friendship Tours to China. "A visionary who helped shape the modern development of Tauranga" is how city councillor Tom Mills was described in his Bay of Plenty Times obituary. NZCFS was a recipient of that visionary perspective, along with Tom's ability to get things done. In the early '80s, a young John Meldrum persuaded then National President Jack Ewan to include Tom Mills in an early prominent persons tour. "Tom came back fired up about China," John said at his funeral. Tom could see the port city Yantai would be an ideal sister city for Tauranga, and he was quick to engender support amongst fellow councillors. In 1988, Tom brought the Tauranga Polytech, Rotary and City Council together to organise the first four people from Yantai to come to New Zealand for a year's study, a horticulturalist, an educator, and two IT specialists.

Tom saw friendship tours as the ideal foundation of understanding for newly developing trading partnerships, along with an opportunity for ordinary folk to see China at a modest price. For 18 years, Tom Mills, John Meldrum and, for much of that time, Dave Blanshard, in addition to their respective professions, became the NZCFS Tours Committee. The system they devised incorporated both funding for and membership of NZCFS from every client. It was a brilliant scheme, and funding eventually accrued to provide a foundation for the activities of the NZCFS.

NZCFS is enormously indebted to Tom for his far-sighted proposals and the steady work he did for our Society. His quiet, modest voice belied his intense belief in building bridges of friendship, and his clear understanding of corporate infrastructure enabled public and private partnerships in Tauranga's development. Tom was deputy mayor of Tauranga from 1983 to 1986.

In 2003, when Tom's health was already challenged by cancer, he became National Treasurer of NZCFS following Tony England's death. For nearly two years he's been helping Royden Smith "step into his considerable shoes". He offered knowledge, wisdom and insight, says Royden. "I have lost a good friend and a wonderful mentor." **Diana Madgin**

BOOK CORNER These books are held in the Wellington Public Library.

(a) Non Fiction

The Last Days of Old Beijing, by Michael Meyers. 2008. A resident of China since 1995, Michael Meyers lived for two years in a shared courtyard home in Beijing's oldest neighbourhood, Dazhalan, on one of its famed hutongs (lanes). He teaches English at a local primary school, immerses himself in the local community, and tells affectionate stories of the varied people who live in the unique centuries old neighbourhood about to give way to development. As well, Meyer weaves historical vignettes of the city over a thousand years.

(b) Fiction

The Eye of Jade, by Diane Liang. 2007. This is a detective story set in modern Beijing. The female private investigator, Wang Mei is asked to find a Han dynasty jade of great value. The story gives a fascinating glimpse of city life in Beijing, with a rich cast of characters, capturing the bustle and noises, the food and the smells from seedy gambling dens to busy noodle bars. Diane Liang was born in Beijing and lives in London.

BRANCH OFFICERS

President:	Bernie Richmond	phone 232 5912	bernie_richmond@nzf.salvationarmy.org
Immediate Past President:	Douglas Day	phone 568 8088	dwaday@xtra.co.nz
Vice President:	Allan Levett	phone 938 5266	allan.levett@paradise.net.nz
Secretary:	Bruce Asher	phone 970 9952	bickleyasher@clear.net.nz
Treasurer:	Doreen Launder	phone 388 1707	delauder@xtra.co.nz
Newsletters:	Copy: Allan Levett, Christine Strickland		
	Production: Ray Brownrigg	phone 971 4875	Ray.Brownrigg@ecs.vuw.ac.nz

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK SEPTEMBER 2009

OBITUARY Tom Mills 28 September 1939 – 12 August 2009

Sadly, our long time member, friend, Tours Committee member, National Treasure & National Executive member passed away on 12 August. On our behalf, Immediate Past President Margaret Cooper and National Executive Member Diana Madgin represented us at the funeral and passed our condolences to his wife Judy.

Madame Li Xiaolin of Youxie also sent her condolences which included "Mr Mills worked tirelessly and did a lot to promote the friendship and mutual understanding between the people's of our two Countries. He is indeed a true friend of China – New Zealand friendship. He will certainly live in the hearts of all his Chinese friends forever."

ISOBEL THOMPSON'S BOOK – CHINESE TRANSLATION

Isobel's book on her life in China was translated by the China Welfare Institutes Publishing House in Shanghai and she has copies of these which she wishes to distribute free of charge to wherever they may be of use – Universities, Libraries, Chinese Societies etc. She is looking for suggestions, names etc which you can advise our National Secretary of your suggestions to be passed on.

MOVEMENTS TO & FROM CHINA

This Society Study Tour of Society members will be heading out on October 7th leaving behind a lot of envious people as they visit some of our project sites with some of our partners, Gung-ho, Shaanxi and Guangxi Women's Federations, Shandan Cooperative federation, Shandan Bailie School and He Mingqing Scholars. Meanwhile the Prominent Persons and Leaders Delegation has been having great experiences and are due back in Auckland on 6 September.

TEACHERS WANTED

Remember we are looking for a replacement teacher for Shandan Bailie School, in Gansu Province preferably for a period of twelve months commencing in February next year. Contact Dave Bromwich 06 8779930 (dbromwich@xtra.co.nz) if this appeals to you. Also Changsha City in Hunan province, is looking for two experienced foreign teachers to teach English in a trade and commerce college in their city. Contact Ian Howat, Hamilton Branch or myself for contact details.

1st OCTOBER SIXTIETH CELEBRATIONS

I am very honoured to have been asked to represent the Society at these important celebrations in Beijing on 1 October and understand some significant events have been planned. Our Prominent Persons and Leaders Delegation last weekend will have witnessed a full scale practice involving 200,000 people for the coming celebrations which will give some idea of their scale.

SHANGHAI DELEGATION

Late October early November a six person delegation is coming from Shanghai for five days to study treatment of retired people in New Zealand and I would express my appreciation for the offers made by Hibiscus Bays, Wellington and Christchurch Branches to arrange activities for them. Being a short time in New Zealand and needing activities near the gateway cities certainly does limit how many branches they can visit and which ones can be scheduled. We do not know if they can take up all these offers but we have been able to suggest their travel movements be made around them.

"UNDER THE HUANG JIAO TREE: TWO JOURNEYS IN CHINA" By Jane Carswell, (a Christchurch Branch member) to be released in New Zealand bookshops in October and with a commendation by Professor, Life Member and Past National President Bill Willmott.

Information/orders: enquiries@janecarswell.net More details next month.

CHINESE FESTIVAL 2009

This festival to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, was held in the Christchurch Art Gallery on 23 August. Our Patron was one of the special invitees interviewed on stage on their views and impressions of China. The organisers were the Chinese Culture Association NZ Inc, Haishen Cultural Exchange Association Inc and NZ Charitable Trust with support from Asia Foundation, Creative Communities NZ and Mainland Foundation. Representatives of the Chinese Embassy, Department of Internal Affairs and Christchurch City Council were in attendance. Cultural events were interceded with other interviewees including the Deputy Mayor, Dave Adamson (Christchurch Branch) former City's International Affairs official, and myself as your National President and Judy Livingstone as the local Branch President. We were asked questions about our Society aims, the Gung Ho Movement, Rewi Alley and our current activities. Many commented afterwards how much they learnt about our Society that they were not aware of before. Quite a salutary lesson about the need to let more people know what we do. People expressed admiration for our support of reconstruction projects in the earthquake damaged areas.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES IDEAS

- Confucius Institute – free Chinese online - www.chinese.cn
- Have a guest speaker on Chinese Martial Arts (Wellington Branch)
- University lecturer to talk about "China Now and Then" (Manawatu Branch)
- Hire & show "Children of the Silk Road" movie, and discuss where Rewi Alley fits in (Christchurch)
- Ask a local acupuncturist to talk on "How does Acupuncture work" (like Hawkes Bay has done)

REWI ALLEY CHINESE SCHOOL

During last month I was able to represent you along with our gracious Christchurch Branch President in a welcome to 25 Chinese teachers (many nursing teachers) from Beijing and Nanjing who spent a few weeks on an exchange at the Rewi Alley Chinese School based at Wharenui Primary School, Christchurch (where Rewi attended and his father was headmaster). Then I had the pleasant task of standing in as guide for a day trip into the high country for the teachers plus about 20 members of a Chinese photographic group based at the school. Our visit took in those famous Castle Hill rock formations, Porters Pass, Arthurs Pass and a highlight was Flock Hill to see sheep dogs working on a high country station and the qualities of wool sold to Italy, China and other parts of the world. The Rewi Alley memorial at Springfield was a fitting end to a great day.

Kind regards

Eric Livingstone

Eric Livingstone, National President