

# New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

**President: Christine Ward** 23 Suter Street, Stoke, Nelson.  
**Phone:** 03 538 0344 **email:** christine@brainward.com  
**Secretary: Barbara Markland** 23 Polglase Street, Richmond.  
**Phone:** 03 544 4712 **email:** erm@xtra.co.nz  
**Website:** www.nzchinasociety.org.nz



No. 4 - May/June, 2012

~ Next meeting: 8 June ~

## A Focus on our NZCFS Projects

with

## MA BAORU



**Honorary Member of the NZ China Friendship Society  
 and Special Guest for our 60th Anniversary  
 with an exhibition of her own photographs of projects**

In 1989, Rewi Alley asked Tom Newnham to write the story of the New Zealand nurse, Kathleen Hall. Baoding was the closest city to the village of Songjiazhuang, where Kathleen had worked, and it was there that Tom met Madam Ma Baoru in the Municipal Foreign Affairs Office. He asked about He Ming Qing, Kathleen's Chinese name. She was a little surprised that he wanted to find out about a Chinese woman.

Ma Baoru accompanied Tom for a week and discovered that Kathleen was not Chinese, but a very special New Zealand woman. Inspired to begin her own research, Ma Baoru is today Kathleen's most devoted disciple, escorting increasing numbers of New Zealanders to Quyang County. Our photo shows her at the time she received her Honorary Membership from Dave Bromwich during the NZCFS Projects Tour in 2009.



We are planning a big welcome for this remarkable woman, and urge you to invite friends and relations to meet Ma Baoru and hear more about the project work she is involved in.

As usual, we will begin with a brief general meeting and then enjoy our meal at 6 pm, costing \$12. Our speaker will begin about 7pm. Friends and visitors are most welcome but please notify Barbara when you ring so that we have accurate numbers for the meal.

**Friday 8 June .. Hearing House .. 5:30 pm**



To arrange catering please ring:

**Barbara Markland Ph. 544 4712 by Tuesday 5 June**  
 or e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz



**STOP PRESS:** Pot Luck Meal at Kathy Beatson's with Ma Baoru on Saturday 9 June at 6 pm.  
 All NZCFS members welcome. Call Kathy (547 9940) about your contribution.

**LAST MEETING:** A large group of 36 members enjoyed a superb talk by Anne Todd-Lambie about the Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour in 2011. Entitled 'China: A First -Timer's ABC', Anne ran through the alphabet and gave us many fascinating and entertaining insights into her experiences during her first trip to China.

#### **NZCFS PROJECTS 2011/12 - A SUMMARY:**

- **Shaanxi Women's Federation Rural Women's Health Project**  
Reached 63 villages and around 100,000 households - funded by KOHA, NZCFS and an additional \$3,750 from Auckland Branch for health training activities.
- **Shaanxi Women's Federation Model Cooperatives**  
8 cooperatives established with assistance from Shandan Coop expert Liu Guozhong and Dave Bromwich.
- **Shandan Bailie School - New Zealand Embassy Development Project Fund**  
Not a NZCFS Project, but the next step in making SBS the centre for rural development in NW China. Designed collaboratively by Liu Guozhong, Dave Bromwich and the New Zealand Embassy and will include cooperative expertise from the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ICCIC) in conjunction with the Lanzhou University College of Pasture, Animal Science and Technology - funding of \$NZ78,000.
- **Guangxi Buwu Project - Dragon Fruit**  
The 1.3km track from the reservoir was finally completed in November, 2011 with an injection of funds from MFAT.
- **Sanzhiyang Rabbits Project**  
This project is now complete and is successfully operating. The families are receiving an adequate income from the rabbits.
- **NZCFS Project Activity for 2012 - United Nations International Year of the Cooperative**  
NZCFS is commemorating the UN Year of the Cooperative by making four International Awards, selected from our project coops. There are 41 coops in Zhangye/Shandan, Gansu Province, and 8 in Shaanxi Province. The fund target is \$3,500. The awards will be presented during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour.
- **NW China Education**  
Shandan Bailie School - Andrew Knight is in his second year as a teacher of English. Hexi College – as seen from their delightful newsletters, Ferry and Aukje are enjoying their time there.
- **MFAT Sustainable Development Fund**  
After another change in the criteria, the new requirement is for a one-third financial input from NZCFS and they are only interested in large multi-year projects (over \$500,000). Unfortunately, this is not feasible for us unless we can find a major donor.



~ Kathy Beatson, Projects Liaison

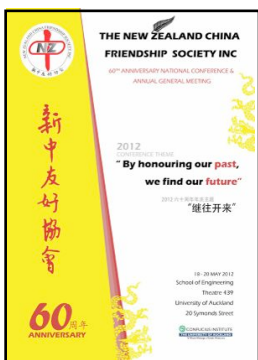


#### **CHRISTCHURCH CONSUL GENERAL VISITS NELSON:**

Our photo shows the meeting in the Nelson City Council Chambers where **Madam Tan Xiutian** congratulated our Branch on our activities and promotions. Prior to this, she and her husband had met the NMIT Chinese students in the Chinese Garden. The Christchurch Consulate is now responsible for South Islanders' visa applications and cares for Chinese students and tourists in the South Island.

**CHINESE MOVIES:** While it was disappointing that the recent Chinese movie didn't draw a bigger audience, those present enjoyed a very human drama that elicited a few quiet tears. We are exploring options for showing another one some time during the Winter so if you are not on our email list and think you would like to come along, please let Royden know so you can be telephoned.

**60th NZCFS CONFERENCE AND AGM:** The 60th Anniversary National Conference was a significant celebration and a very theatrical experience, well-choreographed by Auckland Branch President, **George**



**Andrews**, and a team from the Confucius Institute and the New Zealand China Youth Foundation. Important visitors from China included two of our three Honorary Members, **Liu Guozhong** and **Ma Baoru**, as well as Rewi Alley's "number three son", **Lao San**, whom some of you will have met in Shandan. Sadly, our third Honorary Member, **Lu Wanru**, was unable to travel.

**Ambassador Xu** and Auckland Mayor, **Len Brown**, welcomed us and the keynote speakers included: **Liao Hui**, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of the China Oceania Friendship Association; **Philip Burdon**, NZCFS Patron; **John McKinnon**, Secretary of Defence and NZ Ambassador to China 2001 - 2004; Life Members, **Cecil Fowler**

and **Bill Willmott**; National President Eric Livingstone; **Dave Bromwich**, North Island Vice President and Projects Coordinator; **Patricia Tauroa** from the China-Maori Friendship Trust; **Isabel Thompson**, who nursed in China in the 1950s; and the 'ambassador' for the godwits, **Adrian Riegan**.

The families of Rewi Alley and Kathleen Hall were well represented and there was a huge 'presence' of important historical figures: Rewi Alley, Tom Newnham and He Ming Qing (Kathleen Hall). **Warren Freer**, one of the earliest Auckland members who joined the NZCFS in 1955, was there, as were **Don and Elizabeth McRae**. Elizabeth, fresh from her return performance as Marge on "Shortland Street", was MC for the day on Saturday, along with **Sylvia Yang**, who has edited an excellent video that was shot during last year's Projects Tour and includes our own **Philippa Reynolds** as one of the stars.

While this might seem a dry list of names, their messages were inspirational, informative and fascinating as they traversed their personal and official experiences of New Zealand-China friendship and honoured the valuable part the NZCFS has played in developing that relationship. Look out for some of the speeches and photographs on our website: <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>

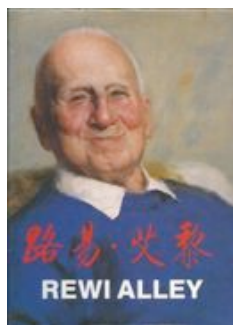
A special treat was viewing excerpts from 'Inside Red China', a documentary made in 1957 by **Rudall and Ramai Hayward**. This was enormously appreciated by the Chinese delegation. They gasped as they saw their cities and countryside as they were over 50 years ago.

Another highlight was the final presentation - a group of young Pakeha and Chinese Kiwis, gave quick, but powerful, sketches of their lives and their hopes for their future in NZ-China friendship and cooperation. Inspiring!

Our photo shows Royden Smith receiving his Distinguished Service Award at the conclusion of the AGM. He has retired after five years as National Treasurer, but now takes up the important role of South Island Vice President. Congratulations, Royden!



**NEW FUND FOR CHINA FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGES:** At our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Liao Hui, Vice Chairman of the influential Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and President of the China-Oceania Friendship Association, announced a one million RMB (\$NZ200,000) contribution to a new fund to promote educational, cultural and arts exchanges between China and New Zealand. He told the Conference that this contribution is initial capital for the Fund, which will be known as the **Rewi Alley Friendship and Exchange Fund**.



Mr Liao Hui, said that New Zealand writer and activist Rewi Alley, who lived in China from 1927 until his death in 1987, had not only devoted himself to China's reforms but he also contributed much to friendship between China and New Zealand. The new fund "will inherit and develop the spirit of Mr Alley and continue the great cause he started". A key objective will be to support the NZ China Friendship Society's programme of sending volunteer teachers to the Shandan Bailie School in Gansu Province, which Rewi Alley founded in 1944 as a co-operative training centre. NZCFS President Eric Livingstone said, "The \$200,000 contribution was the best 60th birthday present the Society could have hoped for."

**NZCFS PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR:** We will hear more about this tour from June and Bryce Wild in July. Whet your appetite by having a look at this superb slideshow: <http://vimeo.com/42018345>

**BEIJING EDUCATION RESEARCHERS:** Several members of our Branch home-hosted this very happy delegation from April 23 to May 6. They had their brain-friendly classes with Christine at the University of Canterbury Campus in Hardy Street. The delegation enjoyed visits to the Brook Street Kindergarten, Nelson Central Primary, and the two city Colleges.



The group's final activity was reporting on their future plans, and building them into a 'new wall'. Here they celebrate their successes.



The welcome powhiri at Nelson Intermediate



### **NZCFS NELSON SISTER CITY REPORT to the Nelson City Council on 3 May 2012:**

**Delegation Visit to Huangshi:** A Mayoral/Business delegation visited Huangshi in March. This came about because of the delegation, including **Bill Findlater** and **Dot Kettle** of the Chamber of Commerce, visiting Huangshi in 2010, after accepting an invitation to their 60th anniversary celebration. Following that visit, a delegation of officials and businessmen came from Huangshi in 2011, looking for investment opportunities.

**Bill Findlater** spoke to a recent Nelson Branch meeting of the NZCFS and told us of the success of the recent visit. Because of the high standing of a Mayor in China, this group were given very high status, and this provided more opportunities for business discussions than may otherwise have been available. Bill also commented on the value of having their own translator, as it was possible to discuss the agenda of meetings beforehand and ensure the translation was correct.

The relationship with Nelson is highly valued in Huangshi and Bill believes that developing that relationship further is important to Nelson's long term economic benefit. Huangshi is to be the 4th Economic Zone in China and with 2.7 million people provides all the opportunities Nelson requires. There is special interest in investing in 'green tech' industries and investment opportunities for young people, with many business people keen to come to Nelson. At the equivalent of NMIT, **Tony Gray** offered a Scholarship to NMIT in 2013, which could also include an internship in the office of the EDA.

Bill stressed the need for patience as this is a long term project, albeit with great opportunities.

**Huangshi Chinese Garden:** The Branch is considering how to best spend the money still in our Huangshi Chinese Garden account. One possibility being discussed is to have a stone in the garden carved with calligraphy. According to Chinese culture, this should be done by a calligrapher after they see the garden and so are able to invoke its true spirit. We are investigating the possibility of bringing a calligrapher from Huangshi, perhaps later this year.

~ **Barbara Markland, Sister City Liaison**

**RAFFLE TICKETS:** These are selling well, with special thanks to those who have taken a book to promote among their wider friends and family. Since the raffles were printed, Air New Zealand has cancelled their direct flights to Beijing but it still provides return travel from Nelson to Shanghai between 1 October, 2012 and 30 November, 2012 or 1 March, 2013 and 30 September, 2013. Remember that the draw will be on 1 October, 2012 and the Branch keeps \$1 for each ticket sold.

**MEMBER NEWS:** We warmly welcome new member, **Joanne Mulvena**, and look forward to seeing her at our next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Friday 20 July - look out for the newsletter around the 10th.

## SHOPPING WITH A SHADOW

End of April 2012

- by Ferry van Mansum and Aukje Both

“Retail Therapy”. According to the Collins English Dictionary it means “the action of shopping for clothes etc., in order to cheer oneself up”. In Zhangye it could also mean “people pretending to have a job”. In many shops there are only people waiting to sell things without any customers wanting to spend money. What makes a place like Zhangye so interesting is that you can see the old and the new, tradition and progress, all in the same city. There are street vendors and tiny shops as well as many big multi-storey department stores with large modern food departments that have wide aisles with shelves full of products. It is quantity more than variety though. In Zhangye you can shop in places where the latest fashion hangs on classy looking mannequins and where prices compare with New Zealand, or you can buy clothes that scream “*Made in China*” in small stalls in large people’s stores and markets. Here you see men and women behind sewing machines stitching canvas shoes or anything else that needs to be repaired, altered or made for next to



nothing. Bruised and battered western-looking mannequins from the last century stare at you with big eyes and pouty mouths. If a shop sells jackets, then that will be all they are wearing. Trousers hanging in these shops have the bottom of their



legs in paper bags, so they don’t get dirty from all the dust that gets in everywhere. Cleaning the shop floor takes a minimum of three people. One is slopping a wet mop over the marble or concrete, another flapping a

large piece of cardboard to speed up the drying process and the third one supervising. In more fancy shops an electric blower takes over from the cardboard-waving shop assistant.

There is not much you can’t buy here, but some things come at a price. Eight small square slices of cheese cost about \$4.50 and a loaf of bread is \$3.00. If you want real coffee and butter or margarine, you need to go to Lanzhou, a six-hour train ride away, or ask a Chinese friend to buy it on the internet. But most things, especially food, are cheap here. There is an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables that don’t cost much more than a few yuan per 500g. If you fancy a nice lager, a 600ml bottle of Tsingtao beer is only 46 cents.



Now the weather is warming up, the heavy padded curtains in front of the shop doors are disappearing and all of a sudden there are shops where we have never seen them before. Shopping is a daily activity for us, since we have to carry everything home and up those 87 steps to our apartment. It is a 20 minute stroll to the town centre and because we like to explore, we do our shopping in different places, big and small, and like to wander in and out of shops often “just

looking”. It is one of the first things we wanted to learn how to say in Chinese, because no matter what kind of shop, there are so many shop assistants hanging around, that the moment you walk into a store you have acquired a shadow that follows you so closely, that if you suddenly stop you will collide. The only time you lose your shadow is in a large store when you go beyond the aisles that are your shadow’s territory, only to be picked up by the next shadow. Now when I pitch “*suibian kankan*” right, the shadow will smile and stop following ... so close. Also, after having been here for more than two months and totalling about 15% of the foreign population here in Zhangye, maybe people are becoming used to seeing us around town.

It is good that this is not a tourist city like Shanghai. Here we only hear “Hello!” from across the street and see people stop, point and stare. You get used to that and can ignore it if you want or smile and wave, depending on your mood. The few days we were in Shanghai we were the constant target of people who wanted to sell us umbrellas whether it rained or not, watches, T-shirts, bags, phones and even tie-on roller skates while we were lugging our suitcases and backpacks to the station. None of that here luckily.

Although we certainly did not travel light when we left New Zealand, there were things we thought we did not need to bring to China, because this should be the land of plenty. Like T-shirts for example. We did not even want to buy them in Shanghai because it was still winter, so we would not need them for another few months. However, with the tropical temperatures in our apartment, we were in dire need of some short-sleeved cotton. The rest of Zhangye was still freezing though, so the only shirts for sale were warm and padded. D-day is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Then restaurants will move their seating outside and town will be in the full swing of summer. As for the T-shirts? From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April when the heaters were turned off, the mercury has been going up and down like a yoyo. Temperatures range from the mid-twenties one day to single digits the next. T-shirts can wait.

