

## 2012 Prominent Persons and NZCFS Leaders Delegation to China

*Kiwis attending the Prominent Persons and Society Leaders Delegation in 2012 didn't expect that they would be performing a Waiata and also the Haka at two of the events on the tour, but they certainly rose to the occasion when required. Read on to learn more from Eric Livingstone....*



The combined New Zealand delegations for the Forum and Conference who made one big happy family

The Prominent Persons and Society Leaders Delegation of eleven people (including 2 partners - see list below) in September 2012 went to two major events, firstly the [Friendship Forum at Changchun](#), capital of the Chinese Province of Jilin, before flying to Chengdu, Sichuan Province, for the [Sister Cities Conference](#).

Our delegation teamed up with the three-person Sister City delegation and the three-person China Maori Friendship Society delegation. A total of seventeen Kiwis excellently represented the country at both events.

Most of the seventeen travelled together on the same flight to China having in Auckland to get to know each other before taking off. The New Zealanders all mixed well and formed one big group and were well respected by all at both events.

**Changchun** The Friendship Forum of 300 delegates went well with speeches both from myself [*then President of the Society*] and from Pat Tauroa of the Maori delegation. My address was on New Zealand China Trade while Patricia gave a very spirited speech on protecting minorities which finished with a [waiata](#). Later, I was asked to give the vote of thanks on behalf of all overseas guests after which Patricia, Danny & Daniel of the Maori China Friendship Association performed another *waiata* in support.

I had the honour to sign, on behalf of our Society, a **Memorandum of Understanding of Friendship & Co-operation** with Jilin Province. The evening banquet that followed was a great success with the Kiwis being asked to start the singing to persuade the Provincial Governor to remain. Rising to the challenge, an action song and [haka](#) were taught to all there with great enthusiasm. These were then followed by Chinese songs sung by the Chinese student volunteers who helped staff the banquet.

While in Changchun we visited a huge Beef Meat works the products of which are exported within China and around the world. We also visited a large shopping mall that stretched a kilometre, then on to an international trade show: visiting the famous Friendship Sculpture Garden with carvings from all around the world, including three from New Zealand.

**Chengdu** The Sister City Conference had over 600 attendees and was an inspiring occasion with so many delegations from around the world. Here Bernard Duncan of Sister Cities NZ gave an excellent speech on disasters based on experiences from the Christchurch earthquake. Most other speakers who gave speeches on this subject had no experience of or knew what a disaster really was like. Overall, there were some very good speeches about friendship cities' activities except for a few who simply gave facts about their cities. Hastings & Masterton cities received awards for their work with their Sister Cities in China.

We visited the famous [Panda Bear breeding sanctuary](#) in Chengdu which was most enjoyable and educational and visited [Mount Emei](#) by cable car. Unfortunately, thick mist covered the scene, so there was very little to see except a Buddhist temple looking mysterious through the low-lying cloud.

After the end of this conference the New Zealand delegation split up and most people travelled home via Hong Kong. Judy & I along with Bernard Duncan of the Christchurch Gansu Sister City flew to Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province where Bernard met with the Gansu Foreign Affairs Department. Judy & I were in Lanzhou to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations of the Baillie Oil School at the Lanzhou City University and to celebrate the formation of the original Bailie School in Shandan by Rewi Alley seventy years ago. We attended this celebration on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> along with many others from NZ, including Maurice & Dorothy Alley (Manawatu), Ferry & Aujke van Mansum ( Nelson), Roger Davies & Adam Wei of Christchurch who were also guests plus Bernard Duncan of course.

In the afternoon there was a Symposium on the thoughts of Rewi Alley education methods, (Hands & Minds Together) followed by a tour of the newer parts of the University.

Judy & I also travelled to Shandan by train & back to Lanzhou spending 2 nights as guests of the Shandan Bailie School spending a day looking at the developments around the school and the new city developments which include a major avenue named after Rewi Alley. We also visited some Chinese Industrial Co-operatives involved in growing grapes and potatoes with Liu Guozhong, our Society's honorary member.

A very busy and informative visit which allowed us time to renew acquaintances with members of friendship societies from many other countries.

*Eric Livingstone, November 2013*

See below for a list of the NZCFS delegates (and partners)

## NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC

### PROMINENT PERSONS & SOCIETY LEADERS DELEGATION + partners

September, 2012

#### PROMINENT PEOPLE

			Position and Interests
Philip Andrews	M	Rotorua	Historical Society President, former Polytechnic Teacher, Geology writer, Historic Places Trust
Jocelyn Andrews			Partner
Waiki Edward	F	Rotorua	Senior teacher, Chinese teaching, Board of Governors Rotorua High Schools, Plunket, School Committees
Marilyn Gibbs	F	Nelson	International student mediator Nayland College, Nelson City Council Sister City Co-ordinator, NZ Theatre Federation, previously CEO Nelson Chamber of Commerce
Janine Morrell-Gunn	F	Christchurch	Director & Executive producer Whitebait Television, Board of St Margaret's College, Trustee Adopt a Chch Family
Dougal McIntosh	M	Whanganui	Farmer, farm forestry specialist, Hospice Whanganui, Bushy Park Trust, Whanganui Collegiate School Board, NZ Farm Environment Awards Trust

#### SOCIETY LEADERS

Natasha Barnett	F	Christchurch	Secretary Christchurch Branch, Lanzhou City University exchange student, earthquake claims consultant, Sister City committee
Lillian Li-Kurtovic	F	Nelson	Nelson Branch Executive, Multicultural Council, MSc in Food Science, Co-ordinator of 'Speak Out' Nelson Tasman refugee, immigration protection, Interpreter
Kate Ngai	F	Manawatu	Vice President Manawatu Branch, English Language Partners Palmerston North

#### Delegation Leader

Eric Livingstone	M	Christchurch	(then) National President of the Society, business consultant and company director
Judy Livingstone			Partner

November, 2013