



NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

DECEMBER 2013

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- * Membership benefits

Recently...

- * November meeting
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Coming up...

- * 2014 AGM and dates for your diary

And more...

LAST MONTH

FONTERRA...CHINA...NEWS

WHAT A COMBINATION

from our guest speaker

ODT Agribusiness reporter,

Sally Rae

A small group, but a wonderful evening. Sally is such an enthusiastic speaker and her insights from her NZCFS tour with other media personalities were fascinating.

It took a bit to get our heads around the reality of a 3200 head dairy enterprise, and the opportunities that opened up for her to meet with leaders of China Bank, Greenpeace Beijing and the Ministry of Agriculture.

At our meeting, points for discussion included issues of food safety and the preciousness of children. Thank you Sally.

You can continue to read her articles in the ODT here: (with issues ranging from deer farming, apples, drought, business opportunities, to jellybeans...

ODT LINK: <http://www.odt.co.nz/history/105>



L-R
Bruce Volweiller, Haixin
Jiang, Vivienne Child,
Stephen Young, Kate
Miller, Sally Rae,
Colin Child

2013 SOME HIGHLIGHTS

....some of this year's photos

MARCH



Paul Fawcett talks on Dong Bei – its past, present, future

MAY

NZCFS National Conference

University of Canterbury



JUNE

Branch member and Tahuna Intermediate teacher blogs from China on her teacher scholarship



KAZBA IN CHINA

JULY

Chinese Otago University students ...Insights into growing up, studying, views on culture and change.



Yinglu Jiang (Lulu), Lijuan Fan (Ivy) both Health Science undergraduates and **Shan Pan** Pharmacology PHD student

AUGUST

Branch member Kate Miller attends Chuxiong Torch Festival



SEPTEMBER

Report from NZCFS Youth Intern, Charles Rowe



EXHIBITION

"Photographs from Shanghai Yuyuan Garden"



SHANGHAI DELEGATION

Members Colin and Viv participate in Shanghai Cultural Delegation – exploring connections between Dunedin and Shanghai choirs.



OCTOBER

Confucius Institute assistant Mandarin teacher Zhu Yi writes of her New Zealand experience.



NOVEMBER

FONTERRA...CHINA...NEWS

WHAT A COMBINATION from our guest speaker ODT Agribusiness reporter, Sally Rae



LEARNING MANDARIN

We have the opportunity next year to co-host a beginners' course in Mandarin. We are looking for someone to manage the 8 week course – responsible for registrations, setting up the meeting room, and looking after the students. Of course you will have the opportunity to participate in the learning also. The Mandarin teacher will be provided.

**Interested in helping in this way?
Contact the secretary.**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

One of the benefits of NZCFS membership is the opportunities that arise to be involved in special invitations and delegations. Earlier this Year Dunedin branch member Kate Miller took part in...

Delegation to Yi-people Annual Torch Festival in Chuxiong, Yunnan



Yi people in traditional dress lighting torches

Ten New Zealanders got a unique opportunity to visit Chuxiong at the end of July and experience the Annual Torch Festival, the landscape and culinary delights of the Yi Minority Group there.

This came about as a result of an invitation from NZCFS, care of Simon Deng Li, our honorary patron, who suggested that a delegation from Chuxiong visit New Zealand last April. The Chinese delegation enjoyed the visit so much that, at short notice, they extended a reciprocal invitation to Chuxiong for 10 members of the Society to make the return trip.



Chuxiong delegation group with officials (Kate - lower right)

During the course of the tour, they met with Chuxiong Tourism officials to discuss further possibilities for joint ventures between them and NZCFS and David Burt says that the trip was such an interesting one, that he hopes it might be the start of many visits of performing groups that might be arranged to help promote their culture here. Read more about the food, the fireworks, the mountains, the fossils, the temples, the hospitality....here

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/14508/delegation-to-yi-minority-annual-torch-festival-in-chuxiongyunnan/>

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Another example arose from the delegation to Shanghai in October. You will have read about Vivienne and Colin's experiences in previous newsletters. A further development has come from their contact with the organisers of the Shanghai International Spring Music Festival.

There are positive responses to the opportunity for a Dunedin choir to participate in the Shanghai Choral Arts Week in 2015. Details to come as planning develops, but one contact said: *"We are very excited by the opportunity this provides and are keen to support it. ... This will be an amazing opportunity for us to grow Asia readiness among our students as well as firm up links with our sister school."*

ADVANCE NOTICE

Explore China – the Northeast Tour 2014



The next NZCFS tour to China in the "Explore China" series will take place in late May-June 2014, visiting the North Eastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin, and Heilongjiang, as well as Shandong province. The draft itinerary is now available, indicating the range of experiences to be offered ... [Read More...](#)

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Explore-China-the-Northeast.pdf>

TEACH IN CHINA

NZCFS has several partner institutions who regularly offer teaching positions.

See

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/news/teach-in-china/>

It's not all work! Read this great article on STEPS from

Nelson Branch members, Ferry van Mansum and Aukje . They regularly report on their experiences teaching English at Zhangye University, Zhangye, Gansu Province:

Ferry and Aukje, are back at work for the first term of the academic year: September 2013, musing on the steps encountered in day-to-day life and their in-tourist holiday experiences:

STEP BY STEP

Our six floor apartment block does not have an elevator as no building of six floors or less is allowed one in China. We live on the fifth floor and teach on the fifth floor and thus there are many steps we negotiate every day. Tough? You get used to it and it is good exercise.

Imagine the water-courier though. We buy our drinking water, ordering two 20 liter bottles at a time and they are delivered at our front door. After the holidays a new water-carrier came up. Not the strappy young man who lugged two containers up at the same time, but a much older man, who could only manage one, and took a lot longer to get up the stairs. Then he had to go down again to get us the next container. It's his job. Downstairs in front of the apartment he had parked his three wheel electrical motorbike packed with more bottles to deliver. He is lucky, he has electrical transport. We have seen men

on pushbikes delivering as many as eight full bottles of water or gas.

China is the land of steps. There are many places where you have to go down some steps first, just to get up some others later. The mountains too are adorned with gigantic flights of stairs. During our short mid-autumn break we had a day out to Mount Yanzhi near Shandan, and it made us stand still – to admire the view and catch our breath at nearly 2800 meters – by the fact that all these, steps were made by men and women, carrying huge amounts of concrete and stone slabs up this steep mountain.

In New Zealand, tracks through the bush are mostly nice and soft underfoot. Here in China your feet usually meet concrete, rock, or the occasional wooden boardwalk. The sheer volume of people using these paths would probably leave trails muddy and worn if it were not for the solid surfaces underfoot. Also the most direct way to the top is straight up, so there are few meandering paths with a slowly ascending gradient.

Traveling in our free time has seen us climb many steps; under-or overpasses in busy cities, up and down mountains, up to temples, and up inside pagodas. This summer we visited Lushan National Park, a good 1200 meters above the city of Jiujiang. It was a popular summer resort for western missionaries and visited by people like Mao Zedong and Chiang Kaishek, to escape the hot humid summers at lower altitudes. With every 100 meters up, the temperature seemed to drop one degree Celsius. We enjoyed a pleasant couple of days with temperatures just below 30°C for a change.

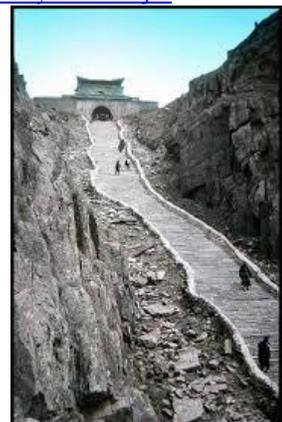


On the mountain you can take buses to different beautiful sites in the area, one of them the “three-step waterfall”. After a fifteen minute walk from the bus stop on a path made of boulders laid in concrete to get on a cable car that would cover a rough section of the mountain, there was sign that it would be another kilometer and a half to the waterfall. It was straight down on steep steps only wide enough to accommodate small Chinese feet, large sections without a handrail. On the way down with wobbly knees, we could see on the faces of the people on their way up that the return trip was going to be hard work. Some of them chose being carried in a chair, but most, many of them of an age where you would not have been surprised to see them shuffle around with a Zimmerframe, did it under their own steam. A grandfather and his grandson were counting the steps as they hauled themselves up the steep steps. 1417, give or take a few, as I lost count a few times saying hello to people as more poured down to the waterfall as we made our way back up.

These steps need to be maintained and it is humbling when you take a break and you see a man doing the same, resting against a large flat rock he is carrying on his back to do some repair work further up the mountain.

We saw the Longsheng rice terraces near Guilin and the Zhuanglang terraced fields in Gansu, all man-made, uncountable hours of manpower to shift and tame mountains, one step at the time.

You can access their photos and other articles here: <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/9615/ferry-and-aukje-in-zhangye-gansu-province/>



NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

Learn more about the aims of NZCFS, its history, its current projects

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>

NEXT MEETING:

DUNEDIN BRANCH AGM will be
Friday 21 FEB 2014

Followed by a shared meal at a local restaurant,
and our Guest Speaker

SPRING OFFER OF MEMBERSHIP

There are advantages in membership of the branch – so if you are receiving the newsletter and would like to join, consider the Spring offer. Join now and your first annual membership fee will run until the end of 2014. Contact the branch treasurer “membership enquiry”

For information about the Dunedin Branch NZCFS Contact:

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Secretary Colin Child cchild@clear.net.nz

FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 31 Jan Chinese New Year

Fri 14 Feb Lantern Festival.

Fri 21 Feb Our branch AGM (half hour) followed by guest speaker Annie Zong. A brief introduction to Chinese law and the legal environment in China. But more details on this and our celebration in the January newsletter.