



# NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

JAN-FEBRUARY 2014

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

- \* **NZCFS Tour 2014**
- \* **Membership benefits**
- \* **Learning Mandarin**
- \* **Are you a writer?**

## Recently...

- \* **Chinese Ambassador visits Dunedin**
- \* **Chuxiong torch festival**

## Coming up...

- \* **Dates for your diary**
- \* **Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival**
- \* **NZCFS National Conference 2014**

...and more...

**DUNEDIN BRANCH MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 7.00pm**

**AGM – SPEAKER - DINNER**

Venue: Dunedin Chinese Garden,  
Tower Room.



Our brief **AGM** will confirm branch officers and our goals for the year. Hear about our local project, our growth over the last year and our participation in national NZCFS activities.

This will be followed by our guest speaker, Dunedin resident Annie Zong.

## GUEST SPEAKER – Annie Zong

*I qualified as a Chinese lawyer. From 1998 to 2005, I practiced at a law firm in Tianjin, a big city with 16 million people 200km from Beijing. Between 2002 and 2003, I studied and worked in London and HK. I did so as part of a training scheme sponsored by the UK Ministry of Justice. My group included 15 young Chinese lawyers from all over China, including Gansu and Guangxi. In the following ten years, we all benefited from what we learned and the experience we gained in this scheme.*



*Annie - during London training days.*

*It would be a great pleasure for me to share my work experience with you, and this brief introduction to Chinese law and the reality of legal practice will hopefully broaden your perspective on the legal environment in China.*

Following the talk we will retire to the Won Gok restaurant to continue in informal chat and **DINNER**

**You are welcome . Please join us. Contact the secretary.**

## LEARNING MANDARIN

We have the opportunity this 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 greeting the students. Of course you will have the opportunity to participate in the class too. 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.

In our December issue there was a report on last year's delegation to

## Chuxiong, Yunnan



*Yi people in traditional dress lighting torches*

*Here is a comment from **Dunedin branch member Kate Miller** - she appreciated the opportunity that membership gave her to be part of this tour:*

Kunming had been on my list of “places to see” since 2001 when many of my students would talk about the splendours of the scenery and the large ethnic communities that live in the province. It sounded so colourful and warm I wanted to go straight away.

Twelve years later I was able to see for myself what my students had been talking about.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> I arrived at Kunming airport where I met up with other members from various NZCFS branches. We had been invited by the local Government to attend the Chuxiong Torch Festival, an annual Yi minority event.

Chuxiong was a two hour drive ahead of us; unfortunately because of delayed flights we not able to visit the valley of the Dinosaurs where over 100 dinosaur fossils many complete were discovered. Not to be disappointed on missing these fossils, as guests of the government “”The Exhibition Hall of Yuanmou Man was opened just for us and we were given a guided tour. It was in this region that the fossilized remains of Yuanmou Man who lived 1.7 million years ago were discovered in Yuanmou County in 1965.

Every evening meal was a banquet, every lunch a feast and every breakfast there was always plenty to choose from. The characteristics of Yunnan cuisine



are a moderate balance of sour and spicy, tender and sweet. Yunnan Province has the perfect climate and amount of rainfall for growing mushrooms. There are many species of edible mushrooms that have been given names such as cow liver

mushroom, and monkey head mushrooms because of their shape. Shiitake mushrooms and those we are more familiar with like button are also grown in the area. Every day we were treated to them. Lots were served raw, sliced thinly and with a dipping sauce. Some of the other dishes we ate were green garlic and white bean curd, fried potatoes and little crisp roasted ones, steamed pumpkin, fava beans, monster white beans, sautéed with pickled cabbage, tofu with scallions and pepper flakes. There was also Stir-fried lotus root, juicy corn, goat stew (very tender and tasty) and Xuanwei Ham also known as Cloud Ham, it is known for its fragrance, appearance, and fantastic taste. The ham is slightly salty and sweet, was an unexpected surprise. This is what I remember but there was so much more and of course fresh fruit.

Every day we were driven to the countryside to take in the sights and have lunch. This is a mountainous region with more than ninety percent of its territory made up by hills and mountains. Everywhere were beautiful green crops of corn, rice, beans and tobacco. Huge wind farms dotted the mountains and at times we came across new motorways being built in what appeared to be remote areas.



The torch festival was an unforgettable event. Our group was given an official welcome by hundreds of Yi people who sang and swayed to their music as we crossed the street and entered the main hall, at the same time group of three or four men sound horns, these instruments very

much like the ones you see monks from Tibet playing left us all astonished. I cannot describe what they sounded like only can say it went right through you and we all want to hear them again.

It was one fleeting moment in all our lives that caught us by surprise, a real treasure.

After watching tradition dance we went back to the main street where bonfires had been lit for as far as we could see. There was plenty of dancing circles that we were able to join with. A truly spectacular event to be part of.



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/>

## 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>

## NZCFS National Conference 2014



Hawke's Bay, 23 – 25 May 2014  
Havelock North Function Centre

### "Voices for Youth"

*Planning is under way for what is going to be a wonderful and exciting conference! Hawke's Bay is well known for food and wine and we will be show-casing our region.*

*We are working with Hawke's bay young musicians to perform a number of musical pieces including a special piece dedicated to Simon Deng Li, Honorary Patron of the NZ China Friendship Society Inc. This special piece has been written by Xi Yao, a young traditional Gu-Zheng musician and member of the Traditional Chinese Music School based in Hamilton, and will be transcribed into classical format for instruments including violin, viola, cello, double bass and flute. Conference registration forms will be available in February 2014. In the meantime watch this space for more updates.*

*Quite simply, we want you to have a great time with us. With that thought in mind, we look forward to welcoming you to Hawke's Bay!*

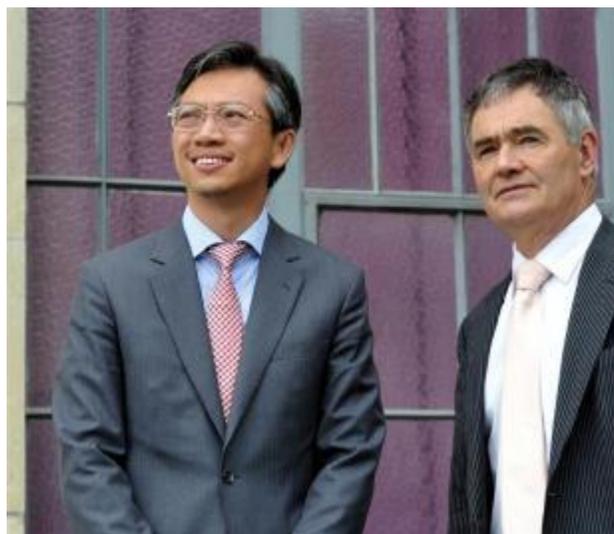
**Sally Russell – Hawke's Bay Branch President**

**FROM THE ODT 10 December 2013**

**AMBASSADOR VISIT**

## Sister-city bond to be treasured: ambassador

By Rosie Manins



China's new ambassador to New Zealand, Wang Lutong, and Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull are planning celebrations for next year's 20th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Shanghai and Dunedin. Photo by Craig Baxter.

Dunedin's relationship with China is at the forefront of Wang Lutong's mind, in his new role as the 12th Chinese ambassador to New Zealand.

Mr Wang (44) made visiting Dunedin a priority after his formal admission to the Wellington-based role last month.

He has spent the past four days in Dunedin, meeting local authorities and members of the Chinese community.

To date, Mr Wang's only other official trips within New Zealand have been to Auckland.

He said Dunedin had historic importance for the Chinese, as it was the first place in New Zealand they settled, during the gold rush.

Dunedin's sister-city relationship with Shanghai was crucial to strengthening ties between New Zealand and China, he said.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the sister-city relationship, which Mr Wang looked forward to.

"We'll have to have a big celebration for the anniversary," he said.

Mr Wang spent an hour discussing Dunedin's ties to China with Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull yesterday morning, and said the meeting was "very productive".

He also talked about future development with University of Otago vice-chancellor Prof Harlene Hayne on Friday.

China remained the largest source of foreign students in New Zealand, he said.

It was also the second-largest tourism market for New Zealand, and more Chinese visitors were now travelling to the South Island.

In the month since Mr Wang's appointment, there had been the inaugural Boeing 787 Dreamliner flight between Guangzhou and Auckland by China Southern Airline, as well as the opening of the first Chinese-registered bank in New Zealand - the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

Mr Wang said Dunedin had much to offer, particularly to Chinese tourists.

"I love this city. The landscape is so amazing and terrific and the people here are friendly, open and hospitable," he said.

"The food is also tasty. It seems Dunedin has the best of everything."

He visited Larnach Castle, Baldwin St, the Cadbury factory, the First Church of Otago and the Dunedin Railway Station. While touring the Otago Peninsula he enjoyed "natural wonders" including albatross, seals and penguins.

Mr Wang said Dunedin's Chinese Garden was a real asset to the city, and praised its authenticity. "It's my hope that more and more local people in Dunedin go to visit the Chinese Garden."

He returned to Wellington yesterday, and planned to tour more of New Zealand in his first role as an ambassador.

Christchurch-based Chinese consul-general Madame Tan Kiutian was also in Dunedin for Mr Wang's visit, along with officials from the Chinese embassy.

Before his move to New Zealand, Mr Wang worked for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing and was a counsellor on the CPC Central Committee.

He spent four years as third secretary at the Chinese embassy in the United Kingdom, and was also recently appointed the Chinese ambassador to the Cook Islands and Niue.

## **TEACH ENGLISH IN CHINA**

NZCFS has several partner institutions who regularly offer teaching positions.

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

## CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR

31 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY

### At the Dunedin Chinese Garden

Dragons, lions, fireworks, fortune cookies, goldfish, wishing tree ribbons, New Year's Dinner, Tai chi, calligraphy – if that sounds like fun, then mark 31 January – 2nd February in your calendar – It's Chinese New Year!!!



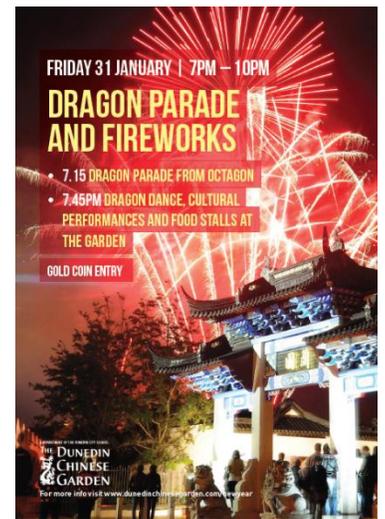
With over twenty events to choose from there's definitely something for everyone.

Check out the great brochure here:

[Download the Chinese New Year programme here](#) (5.5 MB in PDF format)

[Download the Chinese New Year programme Plain Text Version here](#) (344.2 KB in PDF format)

Farewell the Snake and welcome the Year of the Horse at the Dunedin Chinese Garden.



[www.dunedinchinesegarden.com/events](http://www.dunedinchinesegarden.com/events)

## ARE YOU A WRITER?

### WRITERS EXCHANGE

The first significant literary exchange between New Zealand and China continues in 2014 with an opportunity for a New Zealand writer to hold a two-month residency in Shanghai. A writer from Shanghai will hold a similar fellowship at the Michael King Writers' Centre in Auckland in 2015.

The New Zealand writer selected to go to Shanghai will join an established international programme run by the Shanghai Writers' Association, the city's most prestigious literary organisation. Writers have free accommodation in their own inner-city apartment, a small stipend towards living costs and air travel to Shanghai paid. They're invited to take part in discussions and literary events, but are able to work on a project of their choice. The programme takes place in September and October each year with up to seven writers from all over the world. This is the first time a New Zealand writer will take part.

New Zealand writers will be able to apply for the Shanghai residency from later this month and applications are expected to close at the end

of February. Dunedin Branch Secretary can give you more details and contact information.



*Dunedin Branch members Viv and Colin (3&4 from left) meeting with Shanghai Writers Association as part of delegation in 2013 to establish the exchange programme.*

## **NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY**

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

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

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

There are advantages in membership of the branch.

- \* Specific support for the aims of NZCFS, and national and local projects.
- \* The New Zealand China Friendship Society has had sixty years experience working with China. This has given us strong connections and good contacts.
- \* Opportunities for participation in unique NZCFS tours and delegations.
- \* We need your membership support to continue the work.

**Membership renewal form - see attached**

Or .... Contact the branch treasurer  
'membership enquiry'  
vivholmes1@gmail.com

## **FOR YOUR DIARY**

Fri 31 Jan Chinese New Year

Fri 14 Feb Lantern Festival.

Wed 12 Feb

Our branch AGM (20 mins - Agenda and minutes coming soon to members) followed by guest speaker Annie Zong, 'A brief introduction to Chinese law and the legal environment in China', then dinner.

*(Members please note change of date from previous newsletter.*

*Contact secretary for attendance, apologies, queries.*

**For information about the Dunedin Branch NZCFS Contact:**

**Treasurer** Vivienne Child 027 2808860  
or email [vivholmes1@gmail.com](mailto:vivholmes1@gmail.com)

**Secretary** Colin Child [cchild@clear.net.nz](mailto:cchild@clear.net.nz)