



NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

MARCH 2014

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8 wk course starting April 1

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Professionally I have had a long career in pharmacy education mostly at the University of Otago and through my job have been able to work in China on a number of occasions first in Nanjing in 2000 and Jilin University in Changchun in the North East. On my most recent visit in 2013, I spent a semester studying Mandarin at Dong Bei Shi Fan Da Xue (North East Normal University).



I'm still nowhere near fluent but I continue to work at it both because it's a fascinating language and I enjoy the challenge. Although now retired from the University, I maintain strong friendships with colleagues in China, work as an English language Editor for a Chinese Pharmaceutical Journal and continue to assist graduate students in Nanjing and Changchun to publish their research work in International English Language Journals.

There is so much happening in China and I'm happy if I can contribute even in a small way to the development of such a dynamic and exciting society.

As your new Branch President, I'm keen to grow our Association and increase its role in promoting cross-cultural exchange and disseminating knowledge about China and its culture. After all, we live in exciting times; China has become our major trading partner, the source of increasing tourism and a country whose language is finally being promoted in

MESSAGE FROM new Branch President Paul Fawcett

Xin Nian Kuai Le to Members and all those out there positively inclined to China and Chinese culture. First let me introduce myself. My name is Paul Fawcett, known in Chinese as Bao Fusheng. I have had a long association with things Chinese not least because I have been married to a Kiwi Chinese for the last 42 years and enjoyed being part of an extended Chinese family now spread across NZ and Australia.



New Zealand Schools. We also live in a city with a long history of connections with China, a sister city of that mighty metropolis Shanghai and the only city in the country with a genuine Chinese Garden.

The local Branch is currently involved in a number of initiatives and I intend to do what I can to bring them to fruition. I will also work to promote closer links with other Chinese related organisations in Dunedin such as the Shanghai Sister City Committee, the Otago-Southland Chinese Association, the Dunedin Chinese Garden and the Confucius Society. I will also get involved at the National level so that our Branch can take advantage of the increasing awareness of the NZCFS in the Chinese Embassy.



There's much we can do and I encourage you as Members to share your ideas and contacts with the Committee so we can organise meetings and events that will encourage greater participation. I look forward to an exciting year as your Branch President. Jia You!

Paul Fawcett

Explore China – the Northeast Tour 2014

The next NZCFS tour to China in the "Explore China" series is scheduled to take part from May 28 to June 20 2014. It visits selected sites in the North Eastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin, and Heilongjiang, as well as Shandong province. At all inclusive cost of \$6950 for 21 days fully escorted it is of exceptional value. Accompanied by an NZCFS leader and our favourite Chinese guide, the experience is of high quality.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

THE TRIPLE M MEETING

MEMBERS, MANDARIN, AND MLAs

MEET branch president Paul Fawcett, new members, old members, and enthusiastic MLAs (Mandarin Language Assistants) from Confucius Institute who are working in Otago schools. Hear about their experiences and talk about your experiences with language. (See more about Learning Mandarin in Dunedin below)

WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 7.00pm

(venue to be confirmed)

Recent new members write:

** Thanks all, look forward to the newsletter and becoming involved!*

** For now I will wait for the next meeting and come along to that, then I can come along and meet some members and go on from there.*

** Thanks for your reply and the attached December Newsletter. It all looks exciting. We are looking forward to meeting all of you.*

Go to [Explore China – the Northeast, 2014](#) to view the detailed itinerary.



Siberian Tiger Park, Harbin

This compact tour is designed to better explore

one region and reduce the requirement for long distance travel. It includes cities modern and old, sites of historical significance and international influences, breathtaking scenic wonderlands.

From our recent AGM

GUEST SPEAKER: ANNIE ZONG A Layman Listens – a brief report on Annie’s talk on the topic: **CHINA’S LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEM**

Annie’s family and professional background enabled her to give us a lot of insight into China’s strange (to many of us Kiwis) legal system, or lack of it. Her father was a “prosecuting officer”, and she trained in Tianjin and also the UK and specialised in commercial law. *Annie - during London training days.*



She gave us an historical perspective, explaining how European and Japanese civil law systems were influential before the CCP. Then came the changes of the cultural revolution which removed the legal elite. The legal profession grew again only after the cultural revolution, especially in commercial aspects with connections to international law firms in the market.

The Judicial Court system has three levels: the Supreme Court, the Local Courts and Prosecuting officers. Annie gave us examples of how the prosecuting officers are able to override a court’s judgements. Unlike New Zealand where we are used to the separation of powers between executive and judicial processes, in China the strong party dominance of judicial issues (through the “Central Politics and Law Commission”) leads to a number of difficulties: “changeable interpretations, lack of clarity and unpredictability, unreasonable client expectations and bureaucracy” are some of the problems; and above all the corruption which has been so prevalent and destructive.

However the legal system in China continues to evolve and the current leader of the Commission has



spoken out against excessive interference by officials in court proceedings.

Meng Jianzhu, Head of

Central Politics and Law Commission

What a privilege to hear such an enthusiastic and clear speaker. Thank you, Annie.

We ‘retired’ to the Wong Gok restaurant for dinner with lots of follow up chat – from law, to corruption (“I love my country but hate the corruption”), to parental and personal experiences during the cultural revolution, to arguing about which is the easier/or harder language to learn, to favourite Chinese songs, and we ended with Annie giving us a snippet of Mo Li Hua, Jasmine Flowers.

If you want to learn that song, or teach the children’s version, try this link



<http://www.learnchinesesongs.com/moli-hua-%E8%8C%89%E8%8E%89%E8%8A%B1-jasmine-flowers-by-feng-feifei/>

and look forward to a branch meeting, more on Chinese music and song later in the year.

NZCFS National Conference 2014



Hawke’s Bay, 23 – 25 May 2014

Havelock North Function Centre

See www.nzchina.org.nz

MANDARIN LEARNING IN DUNEDIN

We welcome Confucius Institute teaches to Otago, and we begin our 2014 series of Mandarin Lessons.

Backgrounder: Check out this recent TVNZ news item about the work of the Confucius Institute:

This week the People's Republic of China sent 70 language assistants to primary and secondary schools throughout the country in an initiative set up as part of the 2008 Free Trade Agreement.

"You can't build a relationship and sustain an economic relationship simply on selling dairy powder and other products, you have to have a cultural underpinning," says Confucius Institute chairman Tony Browne.

However, Mandarin has proved not to be a popular option for Kiwi children.



Confucius Institute Mandarin Language

Assistant(MLA) working with students

Only 3,000 secondary students took Mandarin as a subject last year, while only 500 students took the language at university level. WATCH MORE HERE:

<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/china-urges-kiwi-children-learn-mandarin-5848995>

In Dunedin there are three Mandarin Language assistants from Confucius Institute working in a variety of secondary and intermediate schools,

and one working in Clutha primary and secondary schools. Tu Ling, the MLA of Otago Girls' High, Otago Boys' High, and Kaikorai Valley College writes:

Everything here is going well. My homestay mother is very nice to me, so are all the HODs and colleagues. I do enjoy myself here in Dunedin, such a beautiful and lovely city.

And Confucius Institute also works with Otago University (see below!)

MANDARIN LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS

The Dunedin branch of NZ China Friendship Society (NZCFS) is running an eight week course in Mandarin for beginners, and those with a few greeting phrases (ni hao) but want more.

TUESDAYS 6PM from APRIL 1 for eight weeks.
One hour lessons.

Teachers:

HUANG Baohua from Confucius Institute in association with Otago University

LI Min, from Beijing, Otago University student, majoring in Education.

Venue: Burns Room 3, University of Otago

The Arts Building (aka the Burns Building) at 95 Albany Street, is located in the central region of the Dunedin campus, near the Castle Theatre Complex at the end of the Information Services Building.

Course cost: \$20 Members of NZCFS free.

Coordinator: Kate Miller For enquires or to enroll, Contact Kate milka221@hotmail.com



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.

- * Free participation in NZCFS Language Classes - beginner classes now on; intermediate classes later
- * 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.

Thanks to new members and those who have recently renewed membership.

Membership renewal form –

2014 subs now due - see attached

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

BRANCH MEETINGS:

Later in the year – Chinese Music

- please contact the president or secretary if you have useful contacts or ideas for an evening of Chinese music and song.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- * **March 26 (Wed) Branch Meeting**
- * **April 1 Mandarin Beginners Classes**
- * **May 23-25 National Conference**

For information about the Dunedin Branch NZCFS Contact:

President Paul Fawcett
paul.fawcett@otago.ac.nz

Treasurer Vivienne Child 027 2808860
or email vivholmes1@gmail.com

Secretary Colin Child cchild@clear.net.nz