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New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc.

Patron: The Hon. Philip Burdon
Hon. Patron: Simon Deng Li
National President: Dave Bromwich

Hamilton Branch **November 2013 Newsletter**

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NZCFS Website : www.nzchinasociety.org.nz

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END OF YEAR BRANCH LUNCH 1 December 2013:

We are holding a Yum Cha lunch function at Master Kong Restaurant (198 Victoria Street, Hamilton) at 12 noon on Sunday 1 December. Our Branch is subsidizing costs so it will cost only \$5-00 per head for NZCSF Hamilton Branch members and \$10-00 for their non member friends. We are holding a midday function to make it more accessible for members who can have difficulty driving at night. We are sure that most of you

will have been to Yum Cha before, but for those who have not, it comprises such items as small dishes of dumplings with a number of fillings (steamed and/or fried),

vegetables, turnip cake, pork spare ribs, steamed or fried buns (with a variety of fillings), sticky rice parcels, different types of tripe, braised chicken feet, stuffed doufu, fish balls, fried squid tentacles. These dishes are brought to your table, usually by trolley, and you select the dishes you would like to try – the dishes go in the centre of the table, and you help yourself – dishes are shared, and



provide a great chance to sample a new dish - there are usually only 3 or 4 pieces on each small plate, so you do not end up with a plate of something you find you do not like. Yum Cha actually means drink tea – the plates traditionally were something to nibble on while you sipped tea and





chatted to your friends. Green tea, jasmine tea, chrysanthemum tea, oolong tea will probably all be offered, with a round table, which usually seats 9 to 12 people, typically sharing 2 or more pots of tea. Chopsticks are available, but you can also request a spoon and/or fork if you are more comfortable with that. You do not need to pay in advance, but can pay at the meal, but we will need to know if you (and your friends) are coming so we can book sufficient tables. We hope to see you all, and your

friends/family. Please email Ian with your booking at ian@howat.net.nz or phone 07 855 9431 evenings (no answer phone) as soon as possible, but certainly before Thursday 28 November.

WUXI CITY DELEGATION VISIT 17 OCTOBER 2013.



Some time ago two of our Branch members, Keith Joe and Mick Joe (both founding trustees of the former Hamilton Chinese Garden Trust, had agreed that the Entrance Gate to our Chinese Garden was incomplete because they considered that poems (couplets) should be placed on each side of the doorway. This matter had been discussed with official visitors from our sister city Wuxi for some time, and Wuxi Municipal Government Foreign Affairs Office kindly agreed to make plaques with the couplets on, and donate them to the Chinese Garden. A high level delegation from our sister city Wuxi arrived in Hamilton on 17 October. Delegation

leader: Ms. Teng Lanying, Vice President of Standing Committee of Wuxi Municipal People's Congress (SCWCPC). Delegation members: Mr. Chen Lianggang Director of Committee for Internal and Judicial Affairs, SCWCPC. Ms. Shen Xia Vice Director of Research Office SCWCPC. Mr. Zhou Yunfei Vice Consultant of Foreign Affairs Office of Wuxi Municipal People's Government. Ms Sun Jingxin, and Chief of Asia-Pacific & Oceanian Affairs



Division, Foreign Affairs Office of Wuxi Municipal People's Government and Delegation Interpreter. Ms Sun has been to Hamilton several times



before and has hosted Hamilton visitors to Wuxi, so she is an old friend to some of us. The delegation was hosted to lunch by our Branch, and then at 3pm was hosted by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of Hamilton City to an unveiling ceremony of the plaques and afternoon tea. The Mayor hosted a dinner for the delegation that evening. English translations of the couplets are "Pleasant visits generate gracious kindness" and "Broad openness produces truth and friendship". (Photos: Waikato Chinese Weekly)

LIVING AND WORKING AMONG THE FOUR CIRCUITS OF RIVERS AND GORGES – CHENGDU:



Meeting on 21 August at Parent's Place. Our guest speaker, Hamilton WINTEC faculty member Richard Lawrence, spoke of his recent 5 months' teaching at Chengdu University (30,000 students), Shiling, Chengdu. Founded less than 40 years ago, the University now has 40,000 students. WINTEC has a well established relationship with Chengdu University and has set up a Chengdu/WINTEC office on the Chengdu Campus. Groups of teachers, mostly in Media Arts, have been coming to WINTEC each year since 2010. Richard lived on the Chengdu Campus and had his own apartment. He was joined in his teaching experience for some of the time by Eva Wojcikowski, his colleague at

the Centre for Languages at WINTEC. Richard's function was to assist students (who already had their Bachelor's degrees in Media Arts) with their English language and academic skills required when they later come to WINTEC to undertake their Master's degrees in Hamilton. Richard spoke of his life on campus and his friendly relationships with the University staff and students in Chengdu. Richard was in Chengdu earlier this year talking to someone on the side of the street – they heard a rumbling and thought that there was a large lorry coming along – no lorry, but the first of a series of earthquakes. While the earthquake was terrifying to locals as well as foreigners, most local people agreed that this quake was nowhere as near as bad as the 2008 one which had killed 2,000 people. Although older people were more mentally prepared and knew what to do, it was very terrifying for some of the students who had not experienced an earthquake before. Richard returns, after his few weeks in Hamilton, to Changsha University at the beginning of September.

WAIKATO BRANCH OF NZ CHINESE ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING DINNER :

Sunday 1 December 2013 6.30pm: at Master Kong Restaurant 198 Victoria Street Hamilton. This function is an end of year social occasion as well as an occasion to raise funds for the Association for their youth to attend leadership and team camps, sporting events and tournaments, SHARP have donated a Stereo Sound System valued at \$700-00 that will be raffled at this dinner and drawn at the Chinese New Year dinner, a set menu of nine dishes for \$25-00 a head. Tickets can be purchased by sending cheque to the NZCA Waikato Branch Inc, PO Box 9294, Hamilton North 3240. For internet payment please transfer funds to 03-1560-0056023-000 (Waikato Chinese Association A/C) and include EOYD2013 and your name in the reference fields and email klow@xtra.co.nz for notification of internet payment. Payment required by 27 November 2013. Contacts for the dinner: Helen Sam Ph 07 843 4691 or Janet Young 8530368, mob 0272161888 or email janet@dynamicoutcomes.org.nz .

Tourist behavior tarnishes Golden Week

Source: Xinhua | October 9, 2013, Wednesday |



Li Fan from south China's Guangdong Province scrawled his and his girlfriend's names on an electronic graffiti wall at the Yellow Crane Tower, a scenic spot in Wuhan in Hubei Province. Li then sent the graffiti to his email address through the electronic board, where he could also view graffiti written by others. The Yellow Crane Tower's three electronic graffiti walls were set up during the National Day Holiday to address the vandalism problem that has long plagued many scenic spots in China.

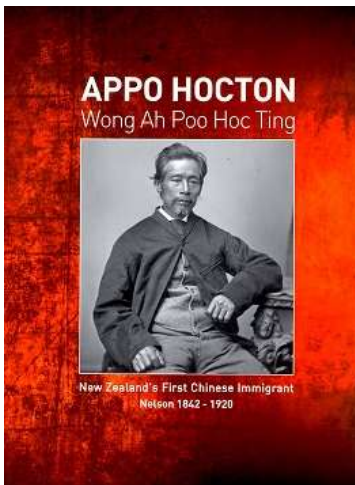
The electronic walls have left the tower's ancient pillars and walls free of graffiti, and travelers were also able to use them to search for bus lines and hotel information via an Internet connection. China's National Day holiday from October 1 to October 7 was the first "Golden Week" long holiday since China's first tourism law took effect on October 1, and many scenic spots acted to encourage

"civilized" tourist behavior. At the Huaqing Hot Springs in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, visitors were encouraged to trade in their garbage for free bottled water. Nearly one hundred bottles were offered in one morning, according to a report in Monday's Beijing Youth Daily. The 110,000 visitors who watched the Tiananmen Square flag-raising ceremony on National Day on October 1 produced only five tons of garbage, whereas 19 tons of garbage were left at the square during the May Day holiday eight years ago, according to a report published in the People's Daily on Tuesday.



However, uncivilized travel behavior was still rampant across China, despite the new law. West Lake in Hangzhou City, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, attracted more than one million tourists on October 2. On the same day, volunteers picked up more than 7,000 cigarette butts on a 1.5-km road along West Lake. Meanwhile, a picture of Mount Namjagbarwa in the Tibet Autonomous Region posted online by a Weibo user showed a pillar scribbled with phrases like "Gu from Nanjing." "It took away from the natural beauty of the mountain," the netizen commented. China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Sunday that tour guides in Shangri-La in southwest China's Yunnan Province forced tourists to spend money at scenic spots during the National Day holiday, with one tour guide even forcing tourists off a bus in a deserted area if they refused to spend. CCTV footage showed a law-enforcement officer shouting, "Don't ever come to Shangri-la again!" at tourists who complained.

APPO HOCTON (Ah Poo Hoc Ting)



NZCFS Nelson Branch has kindly given us a copy of the book 'Appo Hocton'. This second edition, published in 2013 by the Nelson Provincial Museum (ISBN 978-0-473-16198-9), has been funded by NZCFS Nelson Branch from the Simon Deng Li (DENG) Fund. This is a well-researched book on our earliest Chinese immigrant to be known by name, and also the first Chinese known to decide to settle in New Zealand. This interesting biography of Appo Hocton and his children is well illustrated with photographs, copies of documents, maps and certificates, and provides much source detail in endnotes. Our copy is available on loan to branch members (phone or email lan if you would like to borrow it) and should also now be available in our public libraries.

Leftover women or an unappreciated feast?

In China, single women in their 30s have become the target of attention for the wrong reason, not for their professional achievements but for their perceived undesirable marital status. This is the result of applying outdated yardsticks to a significant new social phenomenon.

The biggest news story gripping China for the past two weeks is a trivial one. It involves only two people - Faye Wong and Li Yapeng - who announced on Sept 13 that they had just divorced.

Wong is a superstar singer whose every move is covered by reporters or paparazzi. Li is an actor with a lower profile, a second-tier star, you could say. They were married in 2005. For the first couple of years of their marriage, few bet that it would last. Apart from the chasm in professional achievements, there was also the age gap. Wong is two years older - although she used to date

Nicolas Tse, a singer-actor 11 years her junior. But the Wong-Li divorce shocked many because they seemed to have overcome the seven-year itch, so to speak. Now I'm not in a position to comment on their marriage and the ultimate separation. What little I gathered about them was from their micro blog postings, such as Li's remark: "I wanted a family, but you're destined to be a legend."

Wong does not have a busy career, it seems. She commands such exorbitant fees that she once retired for five years before returning to the concert stage. In other words, Wong is not the best representative of a group of women so successful that few men are qualified to be their match. But in urban China, a demographic of young career women has emerged. These are white-collar professional women, often in management positions, and with great looks to boot. But they are considered dangerously close to "being beyond marriageable age". They are called the "leftover women" in China.

One has to remember that China has a surplus of men, which, according to some surveys, will reach 30 million by the year 2020. How can a woman be too old to find a spouse in such a gender-skewed society? Yet, the "leftover women" phenomenon has its own twisted logic. Chinese tradition has it that people marry their social peers, or in old parlance, "the houses and doors should match between the two sides". When a disparity in social rank exists, men tend to marry downwards while women do the opposite.



Golden week becomes golden mess of 'people mountain, people sea'

Source: Xinhua | October 9, 2013, Wednesday |

Highways turned into free parking lots, high-speed trains struggled to take the strain, armed police helped evacuate stranded crowds. These are not scenes from the Hollywood blockbuster "2012" but rather a reality show taking place in China, where 1.3 billion people are on their 14th week-long National Day holiday. Since the holiday kicked off on October 1, relatively good weather nationwide, toll-free highways, admission ticket discounts, and lower gas prices have combined to make this so-called Golden Week the best time for travelling.

At least that was the theory. But when millions of minds think alike about travel, the result is epic crowds and sometimes chaos. The expression "people mountain, people sea," (*renshan renhai*) describes the situation and Internet users declared that Golden Week was a "golden mess."



Facts and figures

98,000 — the number of visitors at the Summer Palace in Beijing last Wednesday as crowds tried to catch a glimpse of a giant rubber duck installed by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman. The temporary exhibit, which has caused quite a buzz, was transferred to the former royal garden and residence prior to the Golden Week. The park administration had to urge residents with monthly or annual

tickets to avoid viewing the duck between 9am and 4pm, for the convenience of tourists from outside Beijing.

110 — a record 110 pairs of high-speed trains shuttled between Beijing and Tianjin every National Day since 2008, transporting more than 100,000 passengers daily. The trip between the two municipalities takes 33 minutes. Major scenic spots in Tianjin, a coastal municipality neighbouring Beijing, received 804,000 visitors on the first day of the holiday.

40,000 — Jiuzhaigou Valley in Sichuan Province, a World Heritage site famous for its colourful water pools, snowy mountains, deep valleys and forests, was unable to cope with a rush of 40,000 tourists. Its shuttle buses couldn't handle the crowds. More than 4,000 people were stranded in the valley and were not able to leave until 10pm last Wednesday. The whole traffic system was paralyzed after some angry visitors lost their patience and tried to stop buses and board them, according to the valley administration, which apologized for inadequate transport.

12 —The number of hours it took a Xinhua correspondent to drive 540 kilometres (336 miles) from Harbin, capital city of Heilongjiang Province, to Shenyang, capital city of Liaoning Province, in northeast China, on October 1. There have been many attempts to ease the problems. Under China's first Tourism Law, which came into effect on October 1, scenic spots are not allowed to receive tourists exceeding their capacities, and these numbers should be made public.

"Stan Boyle: our one-time secretary, newsletter editor, vice-president, and president, as well as one of our longest continuous membership members, is currently still in Waikato Hospital in Room 3 of the Older Persons Resuscitation Unit 2. Stan welcomes visitors, but please keep visits short as Stan is not yet back to his former energetic self."

If Anyone requires a lift to a meeting Please Call A Committee Member

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Miao FAN 07-854 8051

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Harry van den Berg 028-710 2411

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Treasurer: Diane Lanting 07-843 8009

Committee: Miles Barker 07-856 3778

Helen WANG 07-829 8449

Shihou PAN 021-035 6782

OBITUARY – Kwok Wing (Mick) Joe was born on 26 February 1932 and passed away in Thames Hospital on 17 October 2013. Mick and his wife Sue have been friends to many of us for over 30 years, and they have had a particularly close relationship with members of our Branch executive committee for most of that time. Mick and Sue were both original trustees, and Mick was deputy



chairman, of the Hamilton Chinese Garden Trust which established our Chinese Garden in the Hamilton Gardens. Mick and his family were also major sponsors of the Hamilton Chinese Garden, and the Chinese Community Centre in Lewis Street, Melville, which was also set up under Mick's leadership. Mick was President of the Waikato Chinese Association for a number of years, and forged strong links with the Chinese Consulate General in Auckland. (Mick was personally involved in assisting Chinese diplomats in setting up the new Consulate), our Branch, and our sister city Wuxi, where Mick and Sue had visited several times. In his letter of condolence, Mr. XU Ruiyu (Ray) Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Wuxi Municipal People's Government, wrote: "I have known Mr. Joe since Wuxi and Hamilton became sister cities in 1986. When Mayor Wang Hongmin and Party Secretary Hong Jinxin visited Hamilton, Mr.

Joe was there in the Chinese Garden to meet with Wuxi delegations. He has always been a very active participant in the sister cities' relationships. I last met Mr. Joe and his family in Wuxi in May 2011 after he attended an important meeting in Beijing. We had a pleasant conversation and together we discussed possible ways to renovate the Chinese Garden in Hamilton". It is sad that Mick passed away on the morning of the day when a Delegation of Senior Officials from Wuxi arrived in Hamilton to unveil their gift of a pair of new plaques for the entrance gates of the Chinese Garden. On behalf of all the members of our Branch we offer our sincere condolences to Sue and her family.

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