

Christchurch Branch Newsletter - November 2014

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

As is our usual custom, we will not have a November meeting as this will be replaced by the annual prize giving ceremony on Friday, 28 November, which **this year will be held at St Margaret's College, 12 Winchester Street, Merivale** (further details below). This is a very important ceremony for these young people, and of course also for their proud parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers etc. Please come along and show your support for these young people at their very special occasion.

Prize Giving - 28th November 2014



ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING

St Margaret's College
12 Winchester Street, Merivale
(entry from either Winchester Street or Papanui Road)
7pm: Ceremony
8.30pm: supper

Each year our branch presents prizes and certificates to the best students of Chinese in primary, intermediate and high schools, the Polytechnic, community schools and the university. Students from about 25 schools will be receiving awards this year. This is a joyous event, with students, parents, teachers, and others joining together to honour the students. It is our society's way of encouraging the study of Chinese language in Christchurch, so come along and enjoy an exhilarating evening and show your support for these wonderful young people. The Chinese Consulate will be represented by Vice Consul-General Dr CHU Yanli.

Cultural Performances - Pipa, Gu zheng and martial arts performances and dancing by pupils from Lincoln School.

First Meeting in 2015

Our next branch meeting will be 26 February 2015, which also be our branch Annual General Meeting. More on that in our December newsletter.

New Members

A warm welcome to new branch members Alan Lee, Mike Wu, Ross Cao, Kevin O'Halloran and Leita Joy. Kevin is principal of Amberley Primary School and went on this year's prominent persons and leaders China tour. When the tour finished he linked up with national president Dave Bromwich and they went to Fengxian, where a sister school MOU was signed with Shuangshipu Primary School. Rewi Alley founded a Bailie school in Shuangshipu, where he lived in his famous cave house. He relocated the school to Shandan in 1944 because of the threat to children from the pressure of the war with the Japanese and Kuomintang conscription of young men. Given that Rewi Alley's father was principal at Amberley, this link is very fitting.

2014 Christchurch Santa Parade! Sunday December 7th.

For over 66 years the Christchurch Santa Parade has brought joy to the children of Christchurch and its environs. It has a history filled with fun, excitement and fantasy. This year will be no exception. Celebrities, spectacular floats, fantasy, popular characters, clowns, animals, marching girls, thrills, music, music, music and of course Santa will feature in the Parade. It has something for everyone!

The parade will start at 2pm sharp from the corner of Wharenui & Riccarton Roads and ends approximately 3.15pm at the corner of Mandeville Street and Riccarton Road.

This year, our branch will participate together with the Chinese Culture Association. We have organised a truck for this. Friends and family are welcome to participate. Please RSVP to Vivien Qin on e-mail vivien.qin@xtra.co.nz or on phone 021500429.

Following is the information which was obtained from the Santa Parade website:

<http://www.christchurchsantaparade.co.nz/index.html>

If the parade is postponed it will be held the following Sunday December 14. A decision to postpone will not be made before NOON.

Listen to MORE FM 92.1, THE BREEZE 94.5FM, THE EDGE 95.3FM, or RADIO LIVE 99.3FM.

Inside Red China DVD

In 1957 NZCFS filmmakers Rudall and Ramai Hayward were among the first Westerners to travel widely in the People's Republic. Their documentary exploring the new China soon after liberation includes a remarkable sequence when Ramai Hayward presents a Maori cloak to Chairman Mao.

With the aid of funding from the Simon Deng Li Fund, National Vice President North Island George Andrews has had the film digitised, adding the story of the cloak's return to New Zealand and an interview with previous ambassador John McKinnon.

This DVD of a fascinating and historical story will be shown next year at a branch meeting; be sure to watch newsletters for further details.

NZCFS Photographers China Tour, September 2015

Visit destinations specially selected for amazing photographic opportunities in different environments ranging from Huanglong & Jiuzhaigou UNESCO parks with waterfalls, multi coloured lakes, and minority villages to modern cityscapes and peaceful landscapes to the bustle of daily life. A broad varied offer of old and new.

Our visit includes:

- Sichuan landscapes and pandas
- Tibetan culture and train trip
- Scenic Dongchuan Red Land
- Chengdu cityscape

Fully escorted.

All inclusive Price \$7,800 (estimated, subject to currency exchange, excludes Chinese visa and insurances) 4 star, twin share accommodation, where available. All meals provided.

Suitable for amateur and professional photographers.



Tour Name: NZCFS Photographers China Tour – September 2015

Dates: September 4 – September 25 2015

Tour Duration: 21 days

Tour Type: Fully escorted

Cost: \$7,800 per person

Itinerary: [NZCFS Photographers China Tour September 2015](#)

To register your interest or for more information please complete the form below.





New Zealand China Friendship Society

Chinese Gardens Tour

18 days in April/May, 2015
with Diana Madgin and Bill Willmott

Diana and Bill have taken many tours to China, several of them with a Chinese garden theme. Diana is a highly-respected garden writer and speaker and has a specialised knowledge of Chinese Garden design and history.

Bill was born in Chengdu, China, to a Canadian missionary family and lived there until he was 17. Chinese was his first language until he was four. Now retired from the Chair of Sociology at the University of Canterbury, Bill's academic work focused on China and he has been honoured as a Chinese Friendship Ambassador.

They will be supported by NZCFS friends in managing the tour.



This tour will concentrate on visiting three main areas:

Beijing
Chengdu
Sichuan
Shanghai
Suzhou.



Diana Madgin and Bill Willmott

We will visit a range of different garden styles from the three locations, including classic gardens, a water village, public parks, and the bamboo gardens at the panda sanctuary in Chengdu.

Near Chengdu, the tour will also include a visit to a recently opened exhibition of photographs taken by missionaries, a tribute from the Chinese government that recognises the compassionate support freely given by the Canadian Mission in the first half of the twentieth century, especially in the areas of health and education. Bill's family feature prominently here.

Fully escorted from New Zealand, the price includes twin-share, 4★ accommodation, all meals and tips, and domestic travel in NZ, but excludes personal insurance and visa. \$7300 (estimated price only, subject to cost increases and exchange rate fluctuations).

For enquiries and expressions of interest, contact: Ann White at <tour@nzcfs.org.nz> or ph. 03 614 8944

www.nzchinasociety.org.nz/news/tours-to-china

Chinese Gardens & Missionaries Tour

25 April to 13 May, 2015.

(Itinerary subject to modification.)

Depart Auckland 25 April, 2015.

Day 1 - SHANGHAI

Arrive Shanghai early morning.
Visit the magnificent and ancient Guyi gardens.
Check into hotel after lunch.
Free afternoon.



Day 2 - SHANGHAI

Visit the Shanghai Museum - one of the best in the world, the famous Bund on the waterfront, and the ancient Yu Garden in the heart of old Shanghai.

Day 3 - SHANGHAI

Seminar - "The Greening of Shanghai".
River trip and up the Oriental Pearl Tower.

Day 4 - SUZHOU

Drive to Suzhou - "Venice of the East" - visiting a water village on the way.

Check into hotel and enjoy a canal trip in the afternoon.



Day 5 - SUZHOU

Morning: Visit Suzhou gardens: Fisherman's Net, Lu Yuan (Lingering Garden).

Afternoon: Visit a pagoda and temple with garden.

Evening: optional evening concert in a garden.

Day 6 - HANGZHOU

Train/bus to Hangzhou.

Visit Guo's Villa, Dragonwell Tea Plantation.

Afternoon: boat trip on West Lake and visit Lingyin Zen Temple (326 AD), the most famous Chan (Zen) temple in China.



Day 7 - SHANGHAI

Morning in Hangzhou.

Drive back to Shanghai.

Stay in hotel near the airport.

Day 8 - CHENGDU

Fly to Chengdu in the morning.

Afternoon: visit DuFu's Garden with an excellent penjing display (bonsai landscapes in a bowl).

DuFu was a famous poet in the mid 8th century.

Day 9 - CHENGDU

A tour of the former West China Union University (now part of Sichuan University), where Bill's parents taught. Nearby are the hospital established by the missionaries and the house where Bill was born.

Day 10 - XINCHANG.

Bus to Xinchang to visit the new gallery launched last year to house a large collection of old China photographs taken by the missionary community from the 1880s to 1952.

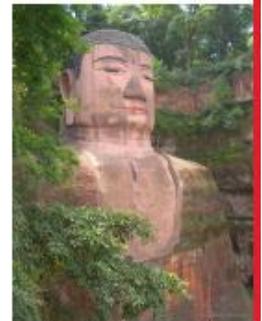


Day 11 - CHENGDU

Return to Chengdu via the Rent Collector's Courtyard, the restored villa of the infamous landlord, Lu Wen Cai, containing a remarkable exhibit of life-size models depicting his exploitation of the peasants.

Day 12 - CHENGDU

Visit Panda Sanctuary and the historic Dujiangyan irrigation project, built in the Qin Dynasty (256 BC) and still in operation.



Day 13 - LESHAN

Bus to Leshan, near Mt Omei, to view the Giant Buddha carved into the cliff.

Visit Bill's foster brother's family.

DAY 14 - BEIJING

Drive to Chengdu Airport and fly to Beijing.

Free time - suggestions include: Tiananmen Square, museum, shopping on Wangfujing, Silk Market and the Temple of Heaven.

DAY 15 - BEIJING

Great Wall at Mutianyu.

Official banquet in the evening.

DAY 16 - BEIJING.

Visit a variety of old gardens including: the Imperial Palace, Jingshan Gongyuan (Mountain with a Beautiful View), Beitang (North Church), Gongwangfu (Prince Gong's Mansion), and the mansion and garden of Song Qing Ling (widow of Sun Yat Sen).



DAY 17 - FLY HOME.

Or arrange to extend your time in China.

Arrive in Auckland 13 May, 2015.

Anyone for Yum Cha?

How does 1pm., Sunday, 30 November, Red Bowl, 57 Mandeville Street, Riccarton and only \$15 sound?? If you think it's something you'd love to do, contact Chris Goodwin, 0274223142 goodie.chris@gmail.com to make your booking.

Activities in the Deep South

Late last year I held a public meeting in Invercargill to sound out the level of interest in forming a Southland branch of our society. From that has come a small nucleus of people enthusiastic to bring that to reality. As a further step, over 35 people recently had a great evening of dumpling making in Invercargill. Southern Institute of Technology tutors taught them how to make four different flavours; pork, beef, chicken and vege. It sounds as though everyone had a great time, with lots of fun and laughter. They even got a writeup in the local paper. The outcome from that is a group of about 15 people who plan on having regular activities so that they can get to know each other well, with the longer term aim of forming a branch. Go Southland!

Dave Adamson South Island Vice President



Test train can hit 500 km/h



The first test train that can reach speeds of up to 500 km a nhour stands on a railway line in Qingdao, Shandongprovi nce, on Thursday. Dou Xin / Xinhua

Beijing - China's largest train maker, CSR Corp Ltd, launched over the weekend its first test train that can reach speeds of up to 500 km an hour.

The six-carriage train with a tapered head is the newest member of the CRH series. It has a maximum drawing power of 22,800 kilowatts, compared with 9,600 kilowatts for the CRH380 trains now in service on the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway, which hold the world speed record of 300 km per hour.

The gray train, which has testing and data processing equipment on board, was designed and produced by CSR's Sifang Locomotive & Rolling Stock Co, a subsidiary based in the coastal city of Qingdao in Shandong province.

Ding Sansan, the company's chief technician, said the concept of the super-speed train design was inspired by the ancient Chinese sword. The bodywork uses plastic material reinforced with carbon fiber.

The Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Science and Technology approved the overall plan of the high-speed test train in January after it was reviewed by a team organized by the two ministries.

The test train is based on revisions to the CRH 380A - regarding the shape of the front, body, engine and brake systems - intended to increase the speed, promote the engine power and decrease the drag force.

The streamlined shape of the test train's front and the special design of its rear were expected to decrease drag.

Many high-tech materials, including carbon fiber, magnesium alloy and sound insulation materials, have been used in the train.

Shen Zhiyun, a locomotive expert and academician with both the Chinese academies of sciences and engineering, said the testing of the train will provide useful reference for current high-speed railway operations.

Xinhua - China Daily