



NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

- * Mandarin Language in Schools
- * Members News
- * NZCFS Tours – what's coming in 2016
- * Looking forward....

Beginner Mandarin Lessons

Our thanks to Wei Mao for her teaching this year in the NZCFS Mandarin Classes. Course facilitator Martha reports from the final lesson: *I loved the class too and Wei wants to do more next year so we can gather a sense of community I think as we try to keep in touch with previous students and invite new ones. She has such an engaging way of teaching.*

Thanks also to venues we have used in the community this year: Otago University Languages Dept., All Saints Church North Dunedin, St John's Church Roslyn



Beginner Mandarin Lessons

Interested in learning Mandarin? The spring/summer course has finished. . More to come...

If you want to receive info about **future courses**, send your expression of interest "*Please send me info about the NZCFS Mandarin Course*" (for those not at school or University Mandarin course).

Send to the Course Facilitator, Dunedin NZCFS Branch member Martha Bell:

bell3patman@orcon.net.nz 021 067 1858

From Branch President...Paul Fawcett



On 11 November I represented the local Branch at a luncheon at the Dunedin Club at which the guest speaker was **Consul General Jin Zhijian**. The meeting was hosted by the Dunedin Shanghai Association and was chaired by the President of the Dunedin Club Committee Mr Malcolm Wong. It was attended by more than 60 guests including Dunedin Mayor Mr Dave Cull, CEO of the Otago Chamber of Commerce Mr Dougal McGowan, Deputy Vice Chancellor of External Engagement of Otago University

Professor Helen Nicolson and representatives of the other Chinese organisations in the city. Being Armistice Day, Mr Jin's speech entitled "Talking about the Past and Present China" first paid tribute to New Zealand's contribution in defeating Japanese aggression in World War 2 and pointed out the huge sacrifice made by China itself in achieving victory. He then went on to describe the incredible progress China has made socially, economically and politically since the opening up in the early 1980s and how China is now shouldering its responsibilities as an important player on the world stage.



Mr Wong, Mr Jin, Mr Cull

The local **Branch Committee** (Annie, Martha, Colin, Vivienne and myself) recently met and reviewed our achievements over the last year. Overall it was agreed we had mounted a range of interesting talks, successfully supported the Choir Project to Shanghai, ran two popular Mandarin Classes and promoted impressive membership growth. Planning for 2016 was initiated and our meeting ended on an enthusiastic note at the exciting prospects ahead.

MANDARIN LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS

Last month we reported on the programme developments and funding increases to 13 Otago Schools. Small rural schools in our region have also developed successful programmes. Here is a report from Principal Kim Allan at Lee Stream School on the commitment their school has made to Chinese language and culture learning.

LEE STREAM SCHOOL

Mandarin at Lee Stream School

Children at Lee Stream School have been learning Mandarin for the last two years with their teacher Wei Mao. Wei has taught us how to introduce ourselves and others. We recognise all the different tones. We know our numbers to ten, so we can tell people our phone numbers and our addresses. We can tell you who the people are in our family, as well as what our favourite animals, colours and sports are. We are now learning to read Chinese characters and use the vocabulary we know to build our own sentences.

Wei teaches us by using conversations, repetition, songs, interviews and games. We really like the variety.





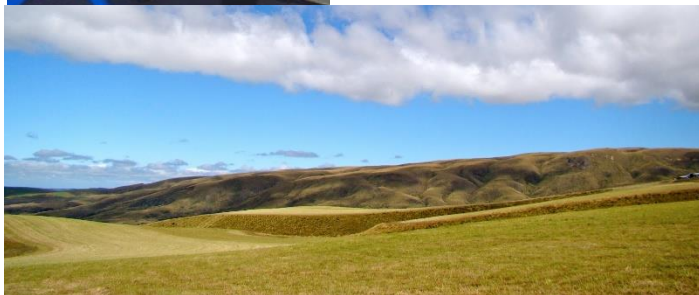
We enjoy Wei's stories about China, its customs and how the oral and written language was developed

many years ago.

Libby Cassie is an ex-student of Lee Stream School and was the 2014 winner of the senior mandarin prize. Libby enjoyed learning the language so much she chose it as an option subject in Year 9 at Columba College. Because of Wei's great teaching Libby is achieving some stunning results in her course.



Lee Stream School is lucky to have Wei as our Mandarin teacher.



<http://www.leestream.school.nz/>

and WAIWERA SOUTH SCHOOL reports...

Well done to Courtney and Ashley who received awards last night for outstanding achievement in



the Chinese programme that Waiwera South Primary School students have been participating in throughout 2015. Every fortnight Ella comes to school and teaches each class Mandarin. Ella selected Ashley and Courtney to receive awards for their outstanding achievement in Mandarin throughout the year. Ashley and Courtney were invited to a presentation ceremony in Dunedin at Columba College on Tuesday November 17th to receive their awards. They received a badge, a book on Chinese culture and a certificate. We are very proud of your efforts, way to go!

<https://www.facebook.com/Waiwera-South-Primary-School-402932983218158/>



Read a report on the Chinese Prizegiving at Columba College and the ceremony for the opening of the three new Confucius Institute classrooms in Otago:

http://www.ci.canterbury.ac.nz/news/151117_otago_prizegiving.shtml

MEMBERS' NEWS

Welcome to new member Paul Wheeler who reports here on the NZCFS 2015 Photographers' Tour.

I spent most of September in China and Tibet. My family were amazed that I was heading off to Asia. Going down the drive to the letter box is about my usual limit for adventure. However, last December, Dunedin branch member Jenny Christensen sent me a draft itinerary and asked if a trip like this would interest me. I googled a number of the sites and the photographer part of me drooled all over the keyboard. I don't have a bucket list, but if I did, this would have to go on it retrospectively.

The group consisted of 19 photographers and headed off under the auspices of NZCFS. The tour was researched and organised by Eric* and Judy Livingstone, two highly experienced travellers to China, whose personal interest in photography prompted the notion of having a trip that focused on photography. Unfortunately Eric was unable to go on the tour at last minute, but with Judy and an excellent Chinese tour guide, the three weeks were an outstanding success. The photographic membership ranged from the professional to the semi- or ex-professional and from the enthusiastic amateur to the occasional happy snapper.

The itinerary was intensive, involving a lot of internal air travel and a three day train trip to Tibet. We were based in Sichuan, Yunnan and Tibet, covering sites from the ridiculously popular tourist places to the more remote parts of Tibet where we spent time on a farm and in a village where poverty and subsistence farming were quite evident. I took around 3500 photos but that's minnow territory. Our professional took over 100000 shots (320Gb of cards used at last count). I'm still sorting through my collection but I will be organised to report back to the local branch of the society some time in 2016.

*Eric Livingstone – NZCFS Life Member, National President 2008-13

Read more about the tour here:

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/22509/nzcfs-photographers-china-tour-september-2015-completed/>

Here are a few of Paul's stunning images:



Stone Forest



Monastery at Gyantse



Huanglon



Tibetan House



Luoxiagou
found in the
Dongchuan
Red Lands.
It is a rising
tourist
destination
near
Kunming



We look forward to a presentation by Paul in 2016.

2016 TOURS

NZCFS Explore China, the South-West Tour, 21 Days October 2016

The New Zealand China Friendship Society offers a further educational tour in the “Explore China” series.



The tour will visit the two SW provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan for an in-depth experience of this area. Starting and ending in the two provincial capitals Chengdu and Kunming, the traveller will experience aspects of the social and physical geography this area has to offer.

The landscape

From the plains of Sichuan, the travel will take us south and west across the grasslands and mountainfolds – high passes and deep river systems – to the NW corner of Yunnan before heading south. We will cross the upper reaches of the Yangtze, and Lancang (later the Mekong). Views of mountain ranges

over 6000 metres above sea level (masl) will depend on the weather, but the timing is hopefully for clear early autumn views.

The people

In the remote areas, the predominant minority people will be Tibetan and Lisu people. We will stay in small communities where they are in the majority.

This is a diverse tour that will take us through a range of experiences, with some real back-block travel and small communities. A reasonable level of fitness is needed to accommodate the travel, going over 4000 masl on occasions. Info on the tour:

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/22403/nzcfs-explore-china-the-south-west-tour-21-days-october-2016/>

CHINA HIGHLIGHTS

March 20 to April 8 2016

A TOUR DESIGNED FOR THE ONCE IN A LIFETIME VISIT TO CHINA.

This is not an official NZCFS tour, but a private one being run by national president Dave Bromwich. A portion of profit will go to relevant branches which source tour members.

Led by Dave Bromwich, who has been visiting China for over 20 years, extensive work experience in rural China, 6 years experience in tours to China, current President of New Zealand China Friendship Society; accompanied by Chinese guide with 5 years experience of escorting NZ groups. For further information, expressions of interest Dave Bromwich
dbchinz@xtra.co.nz 06 8779930

THIS MONTH'S COASTAL PHOTOS.



China -where? Otago -Where?
SEND your answers to the secretary or your own photo for inclusion in next newsletter – your favourite Otago or China coastline photo!

From branch member Zhang Miao

The China trip was great. We managed to spend some time with family and friends and also had a lot of yummy hometown food. Our show was great too.



(At Qingdao Seafood Festival) We found some leads to work on and our export manager said it's their best show in China ever. Also it's good to see NZ seafood is getting more and more attractive to Chinese customers. At the NZ pavilion, we had kapahaka performance, which drew a lot of visitors.

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

“Building New Friendships on Solid Foundations”

Learn more about the aims of NZCFS, its history, its current projects
<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>

2016 looking forward

Dunedin Branch AGM – Dinner, Guest Speaker and some business.

**Update your calendar:
Wednesday 10 February**

For information about the Dunedin Branch NZCFS Contact:

President Paul Fawcett

paul.fawcett@otago.ac.nz

Treasurer Vivienne Child

vivholmes1@gmail.com 027 2808860

Secretary Colin Child

cchild@clear.net.nz 021 02222 679

Sign up to NZCFS Facebook page for up-to-date info, articles and links.

<https://www.facebook.com/NZChinaSociety>

Follow NZCFS on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/nzchinasociety> to receive instant notification of NZCFS National News, Project Updates and more.

For example: this recent post from Gansu Province and its NZCFS connection

Remote school with NZ ties trains technicians

Michael Forde, a teacher from New Zealand, instructs students at a class at Bailie Vocational School in Shandan, Gansu province, in

October. Zhai Jizong / For China Daily

Link to the full article...

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/m/gansu/2015-11/17/content_22478964.htm

