

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAMILTON BRANCH

NEWSLETTER November/ December 2002

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday November 20th 2002
W.C.A. Community Centre
Lewis Street Glenview
7pm

Note earlier time of AGM meeting before our speaker!!!

Speaker: Royce Barclay

Topic: Tibet

Royce, who goes to China to teach English for three months each year, recently spent some of his time there visiting Tibet. China's province of greatest mystery and one of the most inaccessible countries in the world and known as the "Roof of the World" is endlessly fascinating to travellers. As many of you know, Royce is always well-informed and his talk is sure to be a highlight of our year.

Editor's comments: A disappointingly small audience heard Denise Armstrong and Diane Lanting entertain us with their experiences on their recent China travels.

Stan continues to enjoy his time in China although his version of his busy time teaching is in contrast to Baiyi's version which says he is busy with his "lady friends".

Ian has had his operation and is convalescing well at home although becoming very frustrated!

We are hoping to organize an evening for home hosting families – present and prospective - as well as students, to help them with any problems they may be experiencing. Lack of knowledge can cause a lot of misunderstandings and we feel this is one way our society may be able to

help with advice and information. We do have some guidelines which have been drawn up by the Hawkes Bay branch and these are available to both home host families and students. They are in both English and Chinese. If anyone would like a copy please contact me.

Photographic Exhibition: The Chinese Consulate has asked us to mount an exhibition of photographs to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand. This will be on display in the City Council foyer of the Reception Lounge from 2 – 6 December. An invitation is extended to all members to attend the opening ceremony on Monday 2nd December at 2.30pm. RSVP acceptances only to Meryl or Stan – 843-5260 or 847-4504 by November 27th. The Consul General, Madame Yang Xiu-Ping will open the exhibition.

Nomination Form

I wish to nominate For the position of

..... Signed

Secunder

I accept nomination for this position

Life membership: We have received a nomination for Stan Boyle for Life Membership of the Hamilton Branch of NZCFS which will be voted on at the AGM. I am sure everyone will agree that Stan would be a very worthy recipient of this honour.

The supporting citation reads: Stanley Boyle joined this branch of NZCFS in 1980 having visited China with Garth and Caroline Smith. Stan became a good friend of Michael Young and has served the mission of the society with great enthusiasm and dedication. Were it not for Stan's willingness and sense of responsibility this branch would have floundered after Michael's death. Stan has served as secretary, newsletter editor, student exchange mentor and school liaison person and as a National Executive member.

Nominator: Jim Holdom

Secunder: Anne Sayers

There's a new taste sensation in town! For those of you who love spicy food you must try the new **Sichuan Genius Restaurant**. An extensive menu offers a great choice of dishes and you can choose the degree of hotness from "mild" to "volcanic"! A group of us recently enjoyed dinner there and even those who are not into hot food found it delicious. One member said it was the best Chinese meal he has had outside of China! At lunchtime there is a buffet where you may try numerous dishes while at night it is a la carte.

From Stan – 22 October

Hi there!

This is another one of those epistles from China. Firstly a little anecdote.

I was out with friends one night recently watching television. For a few minutes the picture kept coming and going through snow. Someone said Falun Gong and everybody laughed uproariously. A great joke ! Make of that what you will.

Well here I am halfway through my stay. I have been busy everyday and the days never seem long enough. The fact that I am teaching leaves none of those nothing to do periods. I am getting to know my students now and about ten of us go dancing down at the riverbank at night, Coloured lights are strung in the trees and in a tiled roped off area a mix of ballroom and disco goes for about two hours Good music, many dancers and a great atmosphere under the stars. You pay one yuan and get a cup of tea.

I have been in Liuyang for the last four days. I was invited to attend the International Fireworks Association Convention and exhibition. A huge affair, a grand opening. Army band and many dignitaries giving speeches to a huge crowd of Chinese and foreigners from several countries. One of the chief organisers of all this was our own Shelly. She looked very smart standing up there translating Chinese into English for each of the many Chinese dignitaries. The culmination was a fireworks display which I will describe on some other occasion. We sat on scaffolded tiers of seats (two or three thousand of us. The tickets cost 12 yuan about \$NZ 4.50. Huge contingent of police so no chance of gate-crashers. I saw very little of Shelly other than a couple of hours the night before checking her pronunciation and scanning the speeches for sense. There were about ten separate ones and she carried them off with great aplomb and clear diction. She really is a smart cookie that one ! As she was so busy I spent much time with her mother.

The highlight of our association was a massage we shared together. We sat in a small room with two young girls who placed black plastic bags over stones in the bottom of small half barrel, into which they poured hot medicinal water. You then put your feet into this and kept them there while they went to work with hands, little mallets, and tiny serrated rollers. The started on the top your head, temples, brow, ears neck shoulders down back and spine, kneading slapping and tapping at times with the mallets. Then over to the front, inner and outer thighs, knees, calves and then feet out, manicured, then with some oil of some sort massages extensively each foot. Finally they did what the woman in Raise the Red Lantern did to her husband. Took the tiny mallet and tapped away at a furious pace on the soles of your feet. Great. Thoroughly refreshed and most enjoyable to do it with somebody. Well, Changsha has lived up to its reputation. 27 degrees yesterday and about 12 degrees today. Baiyi has got his visa granted and is off to America again soon for another year. Poor Greener will at last be able to come home.

Enough I will leave it there. Have lessons to prepare so must away.

Regards to everyone

Stan

Bequests: We have had a request from National Executive for members to consider leaving a bequest to the society in their will. A copy of the form is included in this newsletter for anyone interested.