

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2004

NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

HAMILTON BRANCH

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday August 18th 2004

W.C.A. Community Centre Lewis St, Glenview

7.30 pm

Guest Speaker

Wilson Tse

Topic

The Chinese Horoscope

Members will remember Wilson Tse spoke to the Branch a while back on the subject of Fung Shui. Again we have the opportunity to share his expertise on an aspect of Chinese culture. Chinese interest in Astrology and the horoscope goes back many years as the following short article illustrates. It will be interesting to compare Western and Chinese astrology and interpretations of the two horoscopes. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting with a friend.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our Mid Winter luncheon proved to be very successful. There was a pleasing turnout of members and we were delighted to have the opportunity of meeting a larger number than usual of our Chinese friends. Royce Barclay, on a brief visit home from Guilin, was an unexpected surprise. Our guest speaker, Carol McLennan, who travelled down from Auckland with her daughter, spoke of her experiences in China in 1985 when she spent a year in China teaching. It was fascinating to see her slides and compare the China then with the country as we know it today.

At present there is a display of photographs, newspaper cuttings dating back to the turn of the twentieth century, and archival material, all related to the injustice of the Poll Tax early Governments enacted to restrict the entry of Chinese to New Zealand. This exhibition, "A Barbarous Measure", is something I would urge members to visit. It is downstairs past the canoe, and through the Samoan Section.



In an effort to encourage more of our members to attend our monthly general meetings, we are endeavouring to provide a more central location. Accordingly we are currently making arrangements to hold our meetings in the Methodist Centre, London Street in the central city for a one year trial. The implications of this change and other related matters will be discussed prior to the arrival of our guest speaker Mr Tse.

It is important the meeting starts sharp at 7. 30 pm.

News About Members.

Ian and **Stan** from the Branch, and **Isabel Lim** and **Donald Kwok** from the Waikato Chinese Association, are currently attending classes in conversational Mandarin at the Waikato Institute of Education. It is a large class, about twenty, of all ages, and it is encouraging to see the response from Kiwis. It is to be hoped that this venture will continue, and perhaps lead toward Mandarin being offered as an optional subject in at least one Intermediate here in Hamilton, in 2007, when learning a foreign language becomes a compulsory part of the Intermediate curriculum.

Catherine Harrington

Cathy is ending her three and a half years in China and heading for a position in Taiwan. She taught for one and a half years at Tian jia bing Experimental Senior Middle School in Liuyang, Hunan, and the remainder of her time as Head of the Language and Communication Department, which she set up and developed, at Fuzhou University in Fuzhou, Fujian. Her daughter **Nathalie**, visited her mother during July, and is now back studying at Diocesan here in Hamilton

Royce Barclay returned home for a short visit last month and has now returned to Guilin where he has resumed teaching and operating his restaurant.

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**NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK – June/July 2004
Margaret Cooper – 60 Matua Road, Tauranga 07 576 6378
eatcoop@clear.net.nz www.nzchinasociety.org.nz**

Tauranga Branch hosted an interesting and often entertaining conference over the weekend 25 – 27 June. The annual conference was well attended with 52 registrations from 10 of our 12 branches. Guest speakers: His Excellency Ambassador Chen Mingming, Alistair Shaw from the Wellington Branch, Colin Mackerras from Australian China Friendship Society and Rob Jeffrey, Jeffco International presented excellent and interesting addresses that gave many of the delegates some fresh ideas about how the society can take up new challenges. Ambassador Chen Mingming, Colin Mackerras and Rob Jeffrey's papers are now on the society's website.

New initiatives to come from the conference are:

- Strategic Goals of the Society will have new branch input
- Best Branch Activity Award 2004/2005 (Criteria will be circulated after the next National Executive Meeting)
- Support for Branches – Centralised Register (guest speakers and resources) \$3,000 set aside for branches to use. National Executive will forward further information after 1 September about the project.
- Invitation from Beijing CPAFFC – for two members to attend 55th Anniversary Of the People's Republic of China, 1 October.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Chengdu – accepted
- China-New Zealand Video Challenge – (Information on the website)
- Friendship In Xinjiang – Promotion of the Silk Road

New resource for Chinese students

A Chinese-language guide aimed at better preparing Chinese students for living and studying in New Zealand has been launched.

The Guide to Living and Studying in New Zealand for International Students was produced in consultation with a wide range of agencies, non-government organisations, providers and current and former Chinese International students.