

N.Z.CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
Hamilton Branch
Newsletter February 2003



GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19th 2003
W.C.A.COMMUNITY CENTRE
LEWIS ST. GLENVIEW
7.30 pm

Speaker Stan Boyle
Topic Changing China

I have lived and worked in China on and off over the past nine years. During this time there have been continuous, major changes taking place.. Such change has impacted on the environmental, political, social, economic and cultural aspects of life in China.

While most of my experience has been centred in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province, such change there, is reflective of change taking place generally throughout China. Some photos and slides will illustrate some of my perceptions.

Editor's Comments.

The Annual General Meeting held was held in November. A well attended meeting was treated to a most informative and entertaining talk on Tibet by Royce Barclay., Royce had recently spent time in Tibet and his first hand observations and impressions were quite fascinating.

The election of Officers took place and the outcome was as follows;

President	Stan Boyle
Vice President	Meryl Lanting
Secretary	Meryl Lanting
Treasurer	Diane Lanting
Committee	
	Ian Howat
	Harry van den Berg
	Royce Barclay
	Jenevere Foreman
	Muriel Adams
	Howard Zheng
	Linda Tai

At the meeting, Stan Boyle was honoured by being made a Life Member of the Branch, for services to the Society since 1983., and Vice President Meryl Lanting received the Daphne Hobson Award, in recognition of the work she did during the year, particularly her Trojan efforts, organising the Fiftieth Anniversary Conference of the Society.,

Last year saw the Branch very involved with the Fiftieth Anniversary of The Society. If February is anything to judge by, as you will see from Coming Events, we have another busy year coming up.

A priority this year is to make every effort to recruit younger members into the activities of the Branch. To do this we need everybody's involvement. A start may well be for each member to bring such a visitor to at least one of our General Meetings. Of course to attract and retain new members we must make sure that the meetings address the issues related to China that are of prime interest. Your committee would be more than happy to receive any suggestions in this direction. As you can see we are endeavouring to establish a link with schools, parents and students involved in home hosting young Chinese coming to Hamilton to study English. If you know of any families involved in this way, please encourage them to attend the evening on February 12th (details in this News letter)

An invitation has been extended to our friends in The Society for Friendship with Foreign Countries in Wuxi, our Sister City, to send a delegation of three people to Hamilton, in March or April. of this year. Although this visit has been delayed, due to restructuring changes in Wuxi, it is usual for such exchange delegations between Wuxi and Hamilton to take place in alternative years.

The following list of Coming Events is extensive, so please mark your calendars so that you do not forget. The telephone numbers, and e mail address of Officers and Committee will be published in the next newsletter. Finally, as you will see from the enclosed account , your annual subscriptions are due.0

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COMING EVENTS

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATORY POT LUCK DINNER

As is usual at this time, we are joining our friends of the Waikato Chinese Association in a pot luck dinner.. Important invited guests include the Consul General from Auckland, and the President of the Waikato Branch of the Sunshine Society. After the dinner there will be a time to socialize, play mah jong and other board games and perhaps enjoy a little ballroom dancing. Come and bring the family.

POT LUCK DINNER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8th

W.C.A. COMMUNITY CENTRE

6.00 pm

A charge of \$5 a head to cover cost of additional food and drink and prizes.

A
ANNUAL CONSULATE PICNIC
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9th
AT RAGLAN

As in past years we have had much pleasure in inviting the Chinese Consul General, Madam Yang Xiuping, and members of her staff, to our annual picnic to be held this year at the Raglan Reserve.

Our members will meet up with the Consulate party in the Liverpool corner of the Big Fresh car park at 10.00am.

In the event of wet weather, an alternative programme will operate. We will meet at the same time, visit the Arts Post and Museum, and then proceed to the Hamilton Gardens to the Wintec Horticultural building, as in past years, and have lunch there. Bring large umbrellas because, depending on the extent of the rain, we will visit the Hamilton Zoo. following lunch.

WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS CHINESE NEW YEAR.

This year 2003 is known as the Year of the Sheep, The Year of the Ram or the Year of the Goat, depending on which resource you consult, or where you are !

Interestingly, the year 2003 is also correctly known as the Year of the Black Sheep.

Over the next few newsletters other interesting information about Chinese New Year, will be featured.

Zodiac

The Year Of The Ram

Rat

Ox

Tiger

Rabbit

Dragon

Snake

Horse

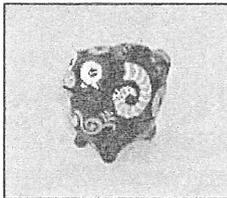
Ram

Monkey

Rooster

Dog

Pig



**1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967,
1979, 1991, 2003**

People born in the Year of Ram are elegant and highly accomplished in the arts. They

seem to be, at first glance, better off than those born in the zodiac's other years. But ram year people are often shy, pessimistic, and puzzled about life. They are usually deeply religious, yet timid by nature. Sometimes clumsy in speech, they are always passionate about what they do and what they believe in. Ram people never have to worry about having the best in life for their abilities make money for them, and they are able to enjoy the creature comforts that they like. Ram people are wise, gentle, and compassionate. They are compatible with Rabbits, Pigs, and Horses.

PUBLIC MEETING.

HOME HOSTING CHINESE STUDENTS.

**Wednesday February 12th 2003
Waikato Chinese Association Community Centre
Lewis Street Glenview
7.30 pm**

The Hamilton Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society is sponsoring an evening for people who are currently home hosting Chinese students, or who are considering doing so. A panel with expertise in this field will give suggestions for successful hosting, and answer questions from the floor

This is an opportunity to meet with others who have a Chinese student living in their family , and discuss matters of common interest. From time to time cultural differences give rise to uncertainty and misunderstandings, sometimes causing problems for both home hosts and students.

The Hamilton Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society has members with experience of hosting, and working with Chinese students, and is ready and willing to be of assistance when problems arise. Some useful resources will be available at this meeting.

**Host parents and students most welcome.
Light supper will be provided.**

**For further information. Phone Meryl 843 5260
Stan 847 5044**

HAMILTON GARDENS SUMMER FESTIVAL

Chinese Garden Trust Concerts

Friday February 21st 2003

Saturday February 22nd

Starting time both occasions 6.30 pm

The concerts will run until 8.15 pm

The concerts will open with the Lion Dance
Programme Friday 21st

Demonstration of Tai Chii and Sword Dance by Madame Leong and her team
Song, Dance and Musicians. Conducted by friends of Wu Zhang and Larry Guo,
complimented by other local talent

Programme Saturday 22nd

Performances by Auckland Chinese cultural group trained by Ms Sunny Sun
This programme will finish with a lantern walk through the gardens. Lanterns will
be sold, with candles, at the gate for \$5.00 each. Tickets are \$10 each, irrespec-
tive of age, and there are no concessions.

Purchase tickets from Ticketek.. No reserved seating. Some tickets may still be
available on the day. Both concerts to take place in the Blossom Court in the Chi-
nese Garden.

Wet Arrangements.

Friday. Will be held in the Pavilion... Chartwell Room

Saturday Will be held in a Marquee in the Rhododendron Garden.

A warm welcome awaits everyone.

News about Members.

Our congratulations must go to **Frank and Viv Smith** who earlier this year cele-
brated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. I am not sure of their respective Chinese
zodiac signs, but they must have been compatible from the very beginning. Great
news!

More congratulations and great news! **Bert Robinson** past committee member
and fishing guru has just announced his engagement. We hear the circumstances
of Bert's proposal were most romantic and naturally it all took place on the water
on the Lakeland Queen down in Rotorua. Our very best wishes go to Bert and
Doreen and we wish them every happiness. Probably Bert's biggest catch ever!

NZCFS NATIONAL NOTEBOOK - FEBRUARY, 2003

A Year of Opportunities

The Chinese 'Year of the Sheep', beginning in February, certainly has the potential and opportunities to enhance our Society. Welcome to it.

Those born in the Year of the Sheep and those who support them, "frequently throw themselves passionately into what they do and what they believe in". We see this already. At least four of our National Executive and two other Branch members have been preparing to contribute to the Sister Cities NZ Convention at Masterton in early April. With a theme of, "NZ/Chinese Connections - From Culture to Commerce", it is a valuable occasion for our Society to expand aspects of our 'Objects'.

We would encourage as many members as possible to attend this Convention, even if it is for only one day - particularly if you live close to Masterton in the Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Wellington or the Wairarapa. The two main programme days Friday, 4 April or Saturday, 5 April would be appropriate. Your Branch Secretary has been sent outlines of the programme. Information is also available from email info@sistercities.co.nz or visit the website www.sistercities.co.nz

News from Shandan Bailie School - supplied by Dave Bromwich
Josie Randall reports from Shandan that she has enjoyed her first white Christmas. With the outside temperature at minus 24 C, she is very pleased that her apartment is cosy and the hospitality warm. She is also enjoying the extended library that we added to considerably last year, with the books taken by the Silk-Roaders. For Spring Festival holiday she is planning to head south to Macau to visit a friend.

The establishment of an office at the school, for the use of NZ teachers and other foreign visitors, is well underway. A computer is being purchased with funds donated by NZCFS as our 60th anniversary gift.

Kathleen Hall Scholarship

Phyl Brown, Chairperson of the KHS Appointments Committee, has written, "It is sad to report that although there were two applicants for the Scholarship for 2003, neither met the criteria - so no award was made".

Three Gorges Tours 2003

So far 29 deposits have been received for the 44 positions on the twin tours. They are scheduled to begin in the last week of August and the first week of September. Remember this is definitely the last chance to not only cruise the fast running and sometimes swirling river of the Yangtze Gorges, but also to look up at the huge upstream side of "the dam" - an amazing sight too - while it is still in view. These BONUS TOURS also include Shanghai, Wuhan, (the Cruise), Chongquin, Chengdu, Xian and Beijing. The price, which is all inclusive of meals etc, is \$7750. Email NOW to chinatours@value.net.nz for info.

The March Notebook will include:

Notes regarding procedures before our Annual Conference and AGM in June, including important deadlines for remits, nominations etc.

Highlights of the February National Executive meeting.

A short report about changes in China from Stan Boyle, Hamilton, who has often taught in China. Incidentally Stan tells us that China is in the throes of a sweeping curriculum change in education.

Regards

ROBIN BROWN
National President

Shanghai Star. 2003-01-02

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder hurtled smoothly through Pudong on New Year's Eve on a test ride of the world's first commercial magnetic-levitation train.

Zhu, joking that he had not bought any insurance for himself or his family, hinted that Maglev trains with top speeds of about 430kph (270mph) could be adopted elsewhere in China - meaning billions of dollars in contracts for Germany's industrial giants.

Coasting on a magnetic cushion instead of on wheels, the maglev train carrying Zhu and Schroeder swiftly accelerated to top speed and took just eight minutes to zip the 30km (19 miles) from Longyang Station on Metro Line Two to Pudong International Airport.

The Transrapid consortium leading the project had staked much hope on the New Year's Eve run, touted as a crucial trial of the untested technology's capabilities. Zhu had complained he felt dizzy after an earlier demonstration ride in July 2000.

The premier voiced none of those misgivings on Tuesday after stepping off the gleaming white train, marked by greenish blue and orange stripes - colours favoured by Siemens, one of the consortium's partners.

"I have complete confidence that the maglev technology will have a broad future in China," Zhu said after calling the two-year construction of the test track a "miracle".

"I hope Chinese and German engineers can perfect the technology and raise its competitiveness and economy, thus creating an environment for the building of such a high-speed transportation network in China," he said.

But Zhu did not elaborate, dashing German hopes for a joint declaration during Schroeder's three-day visit that would hand high-powered Transrapid more contracts in China.

Transrapid - which groups Siemens, ThyssenKrupp and the German government - is praying that success would lead to deals not only in China but also the United States.

"Three years ago the Shanghai track was only a dream. Today it is a reality," a beaming Schroeder told reporters.

"The project ... owes its success mainly to those people who believed at the start that maglev could happen in China, none more than Premier Zhu himself," he said.

"How do I know they're safe? Because it has no wheels and never touches the track. It will never derail," Zhu said as the audience roared with laughter.

"My family and I, and even my grandchildren, were all on the train. I didn't even buy any insurance."

Wu Xiangming, chief commander of the project said they will continue to work hard to test and perfect the system and get ready for the final examination, by the end of 2003, before it opens to the public.

He added that in the weekends and holidays before the coming Spring Festival, people will be able to experience this new high-speed attraction at a cost of 150-300 yuan (US\$18.20-36.30) for the round trip. (Agencies-Star)