

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2006**

**NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
HAMILTON BRANCH**

**GENERAL MEETING.  
SOMETHING DIFFERENT**

**Thursday February 23rd 2006**

**SOCIAL GET TOGETHER AND GAMES EVENING**

**Waikato Chinese Association Community Centre  
Lewis Street Glenview  
7.30 pm**

This is an opportunity to get to know each other better and try your hand at Mah Jong. We are being joined by members of the Waikato Chinese Association who will explain the game and act as tutors. After a short session attending to general business we will break up into groups of four and learn something of an ancient Chinese game. Everywhere you go in China you will hear the click of tiles and see people playing Mah Jong as you wander down the streets where they live. If you have a Mah Jong set bring it along. Don't forget, bring a friend. The evening will conclude with supper.

**EDITOR'S COMMENTS.**

To a large degree this newsletter is very much a catch up newsletter. During September, October and November Ian, Meryl, Diane, and myself were overseas or in China, and communication was somewhat haphazard. However our AGM in November saw Ian installed as President, a new committee elected, and Ian, Nina, and Muriel recount experiences of the delegation's visit to Wuxi. In January members received a full

account of this visit written by President Ian. In this newsletter I include the outgoing President's annual report, and a report of the National President's visit to Changsha to sign the Letter of Intent between their Municipal Government and the New Zealand China Friendship Society. In August 2005 a delegation led by Ms Tian Hanming visited Hamilton and she and our National President signed the agreement here.

#### **BRANCH OFFICERS 2006**

<b>President</b>	<b>Ian Howat</b>
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<b>Stan Boyle</b> <b>Meryl Lanting</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Meryl Lanting</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Diane Lanting</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Muriel Adams</b> <b>Harry van den Berg</b> <b>Jenevere Foreman</b> <b>Peter Vautier</b> <b>Linda Tai</b>

#### **PRESIDENTS REPORT NOVEMBER 2005**

Branch Presidents are required to make an annual report to the Society's Annual Conference, Mid Year. That report was in our newsletter earlier this year. In effect this report covers our activities over the past four months.

Ian, Meryl, Diane and I attended the National Conference in Christchurch. Ian our incoming President was again elected to the National Executive, so our representation remains, and they again have recourse to his expertise. At the meeting, Outstanding Service awards were made to Anne Sayers and myself..

I think the most important thing that has happened to our Branch this year is our change of venue to a central position. Accordingly I would like to express once again our sincere thanks to Dr Han Bo for the use of these facilities, free of charge, and to Chen Mengli for her willingness to attend to the matter of opening up for us each month. During the latter part of this year our meetings have been varied and interesting, ranging from a most informative address on China and things Chinese by Ed Weymes from the University, an illustrated talk on Bonsai, by Mr Chris McEwan a plastic surgeon at Waikato Hospital, and a panel discussion on being a new immigrant, involving, Nina Kolotilina, Emma Yao, and Chen Mengli, and most pleasingly by others at the meeting. A well attended social outing was organised involving a visit to the movie 'The Weeping Camel' at

the Victoria Cinema, followed by dinner at the Singapore Restaurant. In August we received a delegation from Changsha, and Margaret Cooper our National President to attend to the signing of a letter of Intent between the NZCFS and The Changsha PAFFC

In September a delegation involving, Muriel Adams, Nina Kolotilina, Ian Howat and myself, visited sister City Wuxi, Hosted by the Wuxi People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, We visited Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Yixing, and Huaxi Village (a small city really), among other places. We had the pleasure of meeting old friends and making new ones.

I have enjoyed my three years as President and have only one regret. That is in spite of all our efforts we have been unable to get Mandarin offered as an option in any of our Hamilton schools. From 2007, a second language is to form part of the set curriculum in Intermediate schools. Perhaps it is time for a combined effort involving ourselves, the Chinese Scholars' and Students, Association, the Sunshine Society and the Waikato Chinese Association. I leave that as a thought for the incoming committee.

The Presidency of this Branch is very much a triumvirate, so a special thanks to Meryl and Ian, and my thanks too, to all the committee for their help and support throughout the year.

### **National President's Visit to Changsha**

Our National President Margaret Cooper, arrived in Changsha on October 17<sup>th</sup> last year. She was accompanied by Diane Rolleston. During their brief visit they stayed in the Huatian Hotel where it is usual for visiting dignitaries to be accommodated. The schedule was a very busy one and every minute of their time in the city saw them fully occupied.

The following day began with, a visit to Yuelu Academy of Learning. Located at the foot of Yuelu Mountain, Founded in 968 AD during the Song dynasty, it gained a prestigious reputation over the centuries where famous Confucian scholars lectured. In 1903 the Academy became a University, and in 1925 Hunan University was established on the site.

They then visited Hunan Provincial Museum. This museum is famous throughout China for the archaeological discovery in 1972 of the Western Han, Licang family tomb at Mawangdui, The 2000 year old body of the Marquise was found in amazing condition and is there to be viewed along with countless elegant and elaborate objects and artefacts.

In the afternoon, our President met with officials from various Government Departments, Commerce Bureau, Tourism Bureau, Education Bureau and Changsha University. and discussed aspects of the agreement as they applied to each.

This was followed with a meeting with the Vice Mayor, Mr Huang Zhongrui, prior to the formal signing of the Letter of Intent in the presence of officials, press, radio and TV

A formal banquet hosted by Mr Huang Zhongrui followed. In the evening we were taken to a delightful concert in one of Changsha's main theatres. The following morning saw a visit to Changsha University and a meeting with the University President and Senior staff, at which education generally and matters related to student and teacher exchange were discussed. Our President's brief and I have not doubt somewhat exhausting visit, concluded with a delicious banquet of real Hunan style dishes, hosted by the University. She and Diane left the airport that afternoon for Jilin and further official business,

### **A News Item from Jenevere**

Brighton College in UK is going to be the first school in UK to have Chinese language [Mandarin ] taught in a school. It is being presented to 11- 12 year olds. Why? Because the Head teacher was in Australia and listening to the radio and heard that in 10 years or less time the Chinese economy was going to be bigger than UK's so therefore the business people of UK would have to deal with Chinese businesses and speaking their language was going to be essential. This brings back the tardiness of NZ in introducing Chinese language into schools at this level.. Just a bit of info from the BBC which is on 1206 am from midnight week days.

Members will remember our most enjoyable visit to Ming Direct on the corner of Victoria and London Streets, some months ago. This is to let you know that they have shifted to Hillcrest next door to New World in the lower shopping center.

## **Chinese Conversation Courses**

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