

NEWSLETTER. February 2007

**NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
HAMILTON BRANCH**

**Thursday 22 February 2007**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Venue:** Waikato Migrant Resource Centre  
Claudelands Reserve, Boundary Road

**Please note our new venue !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Speaker:** Tracy Wilson

Many talented Tracy graduated from Waikato University in 2000 with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Mandarin Chinese. She won the University of Waikato Prize for Chinese in 1997 and the Hamilton Branch NZCFS for Chinese in 1998. (Tracy also studied and is fluent in German and French). Tracy then studied at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Despite lectures, reading materials and exams all in Chinese, Tracy won the University prize for academic achievement in 2002. Tracy completed her degree and practical courses with distinction and is now practising (including home visits) Traditional Chinese Medicine in Hamilton.

Tracy has also (in Shanghai) been a translator, an aerobics instructor, an English language tutor and a singer.

**AN OPPORTUNITY!!!**

**Haven't you always dreamed of finding a destination untouched by the tourist routes but more beautiful than any postcard – a seemingly undiscovered jewel that's a bargain to boot!**

No we are not promoting an up and coming episode of Getaway – Hamilton Branch of NZCFS could be taking you there in September. Our friendly 15 day tour of no more than 15 people to China's Hunan Province will cost you less than \$4000 yet will amazingly cover your airfare, accommodation, all meals, transport and entrance fees.

**WOW!** Getaway would love to offer that deal .....but they can't.....it's our secret.  
6 – 20 September 2007. Further info. From Meryl Lanting Tel: 07-843-5260,  
email:meryl.l@xtra.co.nz

**Subs are now due:** If you have 06 on your label your sub is due.

### **From Stan:**

Changsha, capital city of Hunan Province, is an inland city to the south of China's second biggest lake, Dongting Lake. With numerous cultural relics, beautiful girls and a slow tempo, the city is quite attractive, although its economy lags behind coastal cities.

Changsha is best known for Xin Zhui, a noblewoman in the Western Han dynasty (206 B.C.-25 A.D.). Her extremely well-kept corpse surprised the world when it was excavated from her luxury tomb in 1972.

When the body was found, it was almost as good as when she died at 56 in 186 B.C. It is now exhibited at the Mawangdui Museum in Changsha, together with a 1.28-meter-long, 49-gram silk dress excavated from the tomb. The dress is so far the lightest silk dress discovered in the world.

It is not surprising that a noblewoman in Changsha could have been so rich. Changsha used to be very prosperous. In the Warring States Period (475B.C.-221 B.C.), it was regarded as the granary of the Chu Kingdom, one of the seven major kingdoms of the time. With plenty of rainfall, hot summer and cold winter, Hunan was a fertile ground for grains and occupied an important status in agricultural society.

Changsha is traversed by the Xiangjiang River, an important tributary to China's longest river, the Yangtze. In addition its practical functions of transportation and irrigation, the river has inspired many poets, including Mao Zedong, who became the first chairman of P. R. China from a remote Hunan village. Mao, whose achievements in poetry and calligraphy are also widely acclaimed, wrote a poem when visiting Juzi Island in the river in 1925. The poem describing the scenery of Changsha is inscribed on a stone on the island.

Unlike Shanghai, where skyscrapers gather near the city's Huangpu River, buildings near the Xiangjiang River are mostly old and shabby, but typical of the Chinese houses in the 1980s. Owners of the buildings' apartments have been living there for generations. At supertime, the fragrance of fried hot peppers from the apartments can make passers-by light-headed.

On the riverbank is an old market called Xiahe Street. Merchants sell mostly hot, spicy snacks like bean curd preserved with hot peppers. Changsha people are crazy about hot food.

Crossing the river, you will enter the city's university town near its highest mountain, the Yuelu Mountain. The mountain is on the campus of Hunan University, one of the oldest universities in the world.

Hunan University developed from a 1,000-year-old school named after the Yuelu Mountain. The old schoolhouse stands at the foot of the mountain, with its front door bearing a couplet that means "The Chu Kingdom has the most clever people in the world; the most clever people in Chu Kingdom are here at the Yuelu school." The words were no exaggeration. The Yuelu school had been headed by the best scholars in China's history and had several thousand students during its prime, including Zhu Xi and Zhang Shi, Confucius masters in Southern Song Dynasty, Wang Yangming, Ming Dynasty philosopher, and Wang Xianqian, Qing Dynasty historian.

The Yuelu Mountain was visited by some of China's most respected poets like Du Fu, Liu Yuxi, and Han Yu. Their poems can be read at pavilions and temples around the mountain.

In Changsha, you will also see some of the most beautiful girls in China. Changsha girls have porcelain faces, rosy cheeks, and are always exquisitely dressed. Their most precious gift, however, is the creamy skin. Outsiders always wonder how they can keep their skin white and smooth while eating hot peppers every day.

**Dear National Executive, Branch Presidents and members**

Trust you are all refreshed after your summer holidays and festive season. I am looking forward to a busy year regarding the society with many successful outcomes.

**The Nelson Branch is looking forward to hosting an interesting and memorable Conference with the timely theme of "Future Directions". Registration forms with accommodation guides have been sent to all Executive members and Branch secretaries, and a letter to all Branch Presidents with details of the Conference 4 – 6 May, less than three and a half months away. Now is the time to make plans for attending Conference, to book flights or Interislander crossings in order to gain the benefit of reduced fares. More details will be available on the website each month.**

Kathleen Hall Centennial Memorial Scholarship.

The Consultative Committee has advised me that they did not select anyone for the scholarship this year. There was one applicant but she was not a member of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation and did not meet the criteria of the scholarship.

*The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries have informed me that Mr Qing Boming, the new Division Chief of the Oceanian Division will be coming to New Zealand as part of the new annual exchange programme. He arrives in Auckland on February 27 and will be staying until March 8. His visit includes Auckland, Hibiscus Coast, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Wellington, Christchurch and Timaru.*

Our next National Executive meeting is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007, at the Wellington City Council and I encourage all Branch Presidents to attend. Mr Brian Cross from New Zealand Sister Cities will be attending to give a talk on how he views our society and the Sister Cities organisation working closer together in the future. We will also be holding an informal workshop on the societies future and how we can grow and expand in the coming years.

*Every branch seems to have an activity planned around the beginning of the Year of the Pig on February 18<sup>th</sup> and I hope you all enjoy these events.*

*Margaret Cooper*

**National President**