

# **N.Z.CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY**

## **Hamilton Branch**

**Newsletter March 2003**



### **GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY March 19th 2003**

**W.C.A.COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**LEWIS ST. GLENVIEW**

**7.30 pm**

**Speaker Emma Yao**

**Topic Liaoning China to Hamilton New Zealand**

**Emma and her family left China to start a new life in New Zealand, here in Hamilton. She is now a tutor in the East Asian Studies department of the University of Waikato. She will talk about Liaoning and her life there, and tell us something of the process of adjusting to a different culture. Liaoning has become famous for ancient fossil finds, and scientists from all over the world travel to there for research. Perhaps she will tell us something of the famous Feathered Dinosaurs !**

#### **Editor's Comments.**

As was predicted, February turned out to be a very busy, but rewarding month for the Branch. Chinese New Year was celebrated with a Pot Luck dinner on Saturday February 8th with our friends from the Waikato Chinese Association at the Lewis Street Community Centre. Distinguished guests included, Mdme Liao Deputy Consul General, Vice Consul Mdme Miao, Vice Consul Mr Wang, and Ms Dianne Yates, M.P. for Hamilton East. Several members of our Branch attended and a most enjoyable evening ensued. On Wednesday, February 12th a Public Meeting initiated by the Branch, took place, again at the Lewis St. Centre. The evening was held to bring together Chinese students, home hosts and education providers. to discuss matters of mutual interest,. A panel with representatives from Wintec, the University Language Institute, two home hosts, two students, addressed prepared questions touching on some of the more contentious issues, and other matters raised from the floor. Over sixty people were in attendance, and we hope that this meeting helped to bring the work of the Society to public attention. On February 21st and 22nd two concerts featuring Chinese artists were staged at the Chinese Scholars' Garden, during the Hamilton Gardens Summer Festival > These concerts took considerable time and effort to organize and special thanks must go to Anne Sayers and May Deane. Committee member Royce Barclay, has left for

Guilin to teach in a university there, no doubt finding time to do some more painting. An article written by Royce appears in this news letter.

On Monday February 24th, I was invited to represent the Society at the opening of the Cambridge International College. This is a private school set up to cater for the needs of international students, Chinese in particular. The College offers a one year course to prepare students for entry to N.Z. universities. The establishment of this facility has long been a dream of Li Bing, a past member of our committee, and our congratulations go to him and those who have worked and planned to bring this to fruition. The College offers boarding facilities and supervision and guidance from highly qualified staff. It is the kind of learning environment common to many students back home in China, and one I am sure would lessen natural parent anxieties about their children adapting to a different culture. It is envisaged that the opening roll of just under thirty students is expected to rise to about three hundred within two or three years.

Last month I promised phone numbers and e mail addresses of committee members. They are as follows.

Stan Boyle	847 4504	stanzb@xtra.co.nz
Ian Howat	839 2341	ian@hls.co.nz
Meryl Lanting	843 5260	meryl.l@xtra.co.nz
Diane Lanting	843 8009	dianz@xtra.co.nz
Jenevere Foreman	856 1132	rj4man@ihug.co.nz
Linda Tai	07 889 7397	
Harry Van den Berg		h.v.b.b@hmpl.nrt
Royce Barclay	824 0838	royce_barclay@hotmail.com
Howard Zheng	856 3380	haozheng@xtra.co.nz

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## **NZ's Future 'Lies With China' Says Nobel Prize Winner**

*Alan MacDiarmid*, Masterton-born Nobel Prize winner says NZ should look to collaboration with China if it wants to keep up with technology in this century.

Dr MacDiarmid, who now has an institute named after him in China as well as one in Wellington, says NZ should pursue basic scientific research and work with Chinese companies to commercialise it. He predicts China will soon be making millions of throwaway paper electronic devices to do things such as measuring when fruit is ready to harvest or when an animal develops a disease.

The gadgets will use fundamental research showing organic molecules such as plastics could transmit electricity if "doped" with chemicals that increase or reduce their usual numbers of electrons. But the devices will be made in China, not in the US where they were discovered, because of China's cheap but highly skilled labour force.

Dr MacDiarmid says NZ can play a real role in development with its excellent scientific organisations, developing the basic intellectual property, because China does not do research and development. They wait till something is ready to roll.

Refer page 3 - Developments To Watch

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## National Conference - 2003

Unless you have been living on another planet, you will be aware that this Conference is to be held in the **Wellington Council Chambers, 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. **Assistance needed, please**. As that TV programme used to have it- "**When you least expect it, someone will tap you on the shoulder, and say, 'smile.....'**" you are helping at our Conference - **BE PREPARED**. There is also mention of **OUR** Conference in the following March's "**National Notebook**"

### NATIONAL NOTEBOOK - MARCH, 2003

#### A Selection from Stan's Perceptions.

Stan Boyle, President of the Hamilton Branch and a respected senior citizen in our Society, first went to China in 1985. In the last 8 years he has lived and taught there for varying lengths of time, particularly in Changsha, Hunan Province. This month we have a few extracts from a recent talk he gave to his Branch entitled, "Change in China".

"... I have found, given the opportunity to ask questions freely, that I always ask for questions and answers to be written anonymously. As it does here in NZ it gives students the opportunity to be quite open. Now, their lecturers want them to learn about NZ - its economy, history, etc. That is what they ask me to cover. That is not what the students want to know. In every free situation like this, the topic is always inter-personal relationships - love, hate, gender issues, relationships between employer and employee, teacher and student, parent and child, the role of the extended family etc. What they really want to know is whether our hopes, fears, aspirations and feelings are the same as theirs. Do we think the same? And I think that is great. Never mind cultural differences. Establish first similarity and common ground. How do people think, feel and act in circumstances that all human beings face? Stress always the similarities first. Differences can enrich relationships. There are differences between some Western thinking and attitudes and that of Chinese people. The questions asked however, were often indicative of changing attitudes within the family...."

...."Chinese pop music is terrific in my opinion. I have many tapes and I am as wrapped in a particular Chinese female pop star as I am in Celine Dion or Diana Krol. But for me the most notable change in social behavioural attitudes is that evidenced by the students I have taught and the interviews I have seen on Chinese and Western tv and read in overseas publications. There is a definite shift from the sense of collective cohesion. In my experience, and what I have seen and heard, young people want to be an individual, to be themselves, to make their own personal choices. This does not mean that they have no social conscience. Ask my university students what their goals are, they will tell you - to achieve personal career goals, to make money so they can be financially secure and to do something for China. In that order !!

#### Sundry Notes from the February National Executive Meeting in Wellington:

**Shandan Bailie School** is still waiting for our money to be released by the Chinese banking system for the purchase of the computer to be used by NZ teachers at the school. The box of school journals is also on its

way

to Shandan BS but is currently held up in Lanzhou. SBS has submitted 6 small projects for our consideration over the next 3 years. Two of these concern training for 500 rural women in the basics of the Chinese legal system and training another 300 women in animal husbandry skills. The proposals were approved in principle and the SBS is being requested to develop their proposals for our next Exec. meeting. These projects could attract VASS 4-1 subsidies.

The theme of the **Sister Cities NZ Convention** in Masterton early in April, is "China", so we are pleased to see that the NZ Ambassador to China - John McKinnon, Ambassador to NZ - Chen Mingming, Vice President of CPAFFC - Madam Li Xiaolin, an experienced China consultant - Dr Phil Roiston, NZ's first Asian MP - Pansy Wong and Prof. Alex Chu are among the prominent speakers. Members of our Society are also making presentations - including Robin Brown, Bill Willmott, Dave Bromwich, Eric Livingstone, Donald Simpson, Margaret Cooper and of course Jeremy Dwyer the SCNZ President. There will be 10 Chinese Sister Cities attending the Convention.

The **Kathleen Hall Scholarship** has been raised to \$3000. We trust that this will attract more applicants.

#### Other Notes:

We have now been informed that our **2003 NZCFS Conference & AGM WILL be held in the Wellington City Council Chambers from Friday evening, 20 June to mid Sunday, 22 June**. A full notice about deadlines for nominations, remits etc was sent out this week to National Exec. and Branches. Please refer to your branch secretary for this information..

Youxie has just requested that 5 "China Experts" come to Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland for a 5 day visit early in May after visiting the Australia China Friendship Society. Their intention is to deliver talks on understanding China to, hopefully, large audiences of the public (and our members) in each centre. They will be led by Helen Hairong Ma, Director of their Division of Canadian & Oceanian Affairs. More about this later.

Early in February Beverley & I were pleased to meet with two Timaru Branch officers over a cup of coffee on their lovely waterfront. This week I will share with Christchurch their AGM discussions and at the end of March do the same in Auckland. I hope to visit 5 other North Island Branches briefly in mid April but this is still to be arranged.

Kindest regards  
Robin Brown, National President

## SOCIETY'S WEB PAGE

Don't forget to pay this site a visit if you are amongst the growing Society's "IT nerd population":-

[www.nzchina.society.org.nz](http://www.nzchina.society.org.nz)

## A Tale of Two City....Gardens.

I am in love with two cities. That makes me one of the lucky ones, for over the years, I have been able to see many Parks in 47 countries. The green of English parks like St. James & Blenheim or the worn clay tracks through the tired Bromeliad gardens of Buenos Aires. The strictly formal delights of Kyoto, The flamboyant colour of Kirstenbosch or the incredible creation of Sun City in Bophuthsthwana with its Gary Player Golf course set in a fibreglass landscape!. With private gardens like Butcherts on Victoria Island or Huntingtons or Nuccio's in Los Angeles, One can only guess the amount of hours spent giving us the beauty & joy which parks & gardens contribute to our lives. There is an ever increasing awareness of the importance of ecology in human health & behaviour.

It may be because of Clean Air, relaxation, stress reduction or the more commercial values of Tourism, but the attention to the places where we live & the importance of our surroundings Has become paramount in planning. No longer are great formal gardens the preserve of the rich & privileged for now we tend to value our reserves by the numbers who enjoy them or by the available excellence which they demonstrate & encourage, as with Kew. The vastness of the Amazon or the exclusive beauty of the tiny Imperial Palace garden, each amaze us with the combinations which Nature offers.

The 3 great components, which we are now seeing in most Garden planning are Plants, Rocks/Soil, & water. & their Relationship to each other.

The two cities, which I love use these features with harmony & distinction. My Chinese city of Guilin & our own Hamilton, as expressed in our Gardens. How fortunate we have been, & are, in the long list of planners & artisans who have created an example of an International standard "peoples park", where excellence & tranquility are combined with pleasing maintenance & happy useage. When I first

## ICE FESTIVAL/EXHIBITION Feb. – March 2003

WHERE: Hayman Park, next to Manukau City Council

OPEN 10am – 10pm daily.

TICKETS available at the door or from Ticketek

GROUP BOOKING enquiries to Fax 379 4581

PHONE 0800 168 266

WHO: Ice sculptors from Harbin, China

ORGANISERS: Summax Perfection International  
Cultural Exchange of NZ.

### DISPLAY THEMES:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. scenery of polar regions.
- 21 Feb – 15 March... ice sculptoring signs.
- 16 March – 15 April world famous landmarks.

### HISTORY OF ICE LANTERNS:

Began in Qing Dynasty. Oil lights are placed inside ice shapes. Since 1960's, Harbin has hosted 27 annual ice sculpture shows and since 1990's has combined shapes to include landscaping, architecture, sculpture, fine arts, music and lights.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Tel: John Meldrum 07 5764-438 (evenings)

-or NZCFS National Tours Committee : Fax: 07 5786-429 ; Email: chinatours@value.net.nz

**Estimated All Inclusive Cost**

# **\$7780.00**

Includes :

ALL transport outside New Zealand, ALL meals (in China), ALL accommodation (twin share), ALL sightseeing, ALL transfers, ALL departure taxes.

Fully escorted by New Zealand Tour Leader experienced in Chinese conditions , & English speaking Chinese guides throughout.



visited China & hiked around the country, no mean feat, Guilin remained in my memory as the Garden of Nature. It has all the components that we have; lakes, River, mountains, caves plus the wonderful characteristic limestone pinnacles rising from the misty landscape. Now I return there each year to teach & paint & watch the incredible progress of beautification which is taking place there. It would be impossible to estimate the finance which Local, Provincial & State Governments have poured into this project. The 4 lakes have been linked to the Li River creating a veritable Venice, crossed by dozens of graceful bridges, many patterned on well loved European notables, like the Ponte Vecchio & Seine Bridges. There is a restriction on the height of new buildings to preserve the views & all new shops & offices on walking streets must have traditional facades. Because people live in the city centre & surrounds rather than out in residential suburbs, the whole area is illuminated & floodlit, & families walk & shop 'till the small hours.

There was a stretch of wasteland, rubbish, sheds, parking Etc. alongside the River promenade. One night the whole area was bulldozed & cleared. On day two, huge craterlike holes were hand dug, by about 500 prison & Council workers. Day three saw dozens of enormous trees, wrapped in wet rice rope & sacking lowered by cranes into the holes. These trees had been prepared for months in rural nurseries & in forests. As I walked to 'Varsity next day, tons of granite slabs & huge boulders were tastefully placed in steps, waterfalls & pools connected up. On day 5 loads of shrubs in bloom, cannas, & hundreds of impatiens were planted & sprayed.

It is said that He took 6 days to create the world....I'm sure The Chinese could take 5!!!

China is working very hard to catch up with the modern cultural & environmental climate which we can occasionally take for granted here. How privileged we are.

# Date of manned space mission still uncertain

(January 09, 2003) (China Daily)

16th Party Con-  
"Meeting draws a  
for China's dev  
in the coming 20

The launch date of Shenzhou V, the country's first manned spacecraft, is still uncertain, but evaluation of the returned Shenzhou IV will be key to the programme, it was revealed Wednesday by leading engineers involved in the project.

"It is a good start to our dream to send Chinese astronauts into the outer space, but there is still a long way to go, compared with some other countries in this area," said Shi Jinmiao, deputy commander-in-chief and deputy chief designer of the Shenzhou IV spacecraft.

China's space programme, which includes the planned development of a space station, is in some ways indicative of the nation's comprehensive ability. It will also go a long way to boosting related industries such as the biochemical, pharmaceutical, metallurgical and electronics.

The eventual launch of Shenzhou V, which can carry three astronauts, will make China the world's third nation to have an independent manned space capability. The former Soviet Union was first in the manned space flight race, sending one of its cosmonauts up in 1961. The following year the United States launched its first successful manned flight.

Shi did not disclose the planned launch date for sending China's first astronauts into orbit, but a senior official of the Shanghai Academy of Space Flight Technology, said nine launch missions were planned for 2003.

"The successful launching and return of Shenzhou IV, which carried a simulated person into the space has laid a solid base for our future missions, but it is not a guarantee," said Shi.

He did not say how long the detailed evaluation of Shenzhou IV will take, but said there were many problems yet to be studied and tackled, all of which will serve as reference markers for Shenzhou V.

The main focus of the work over the coming weeks will be improving the reliability of the craft, completing the manned operating system which will act as a back up to mission control and also adding the finishing touches to the space capsule to provide a comparatively comfortable environment for the astronauts.

The returned Shenzhou IV space capsule was opened Wednesday in Beijing by engineers who set to work on unloading an assortment of more than 100 items.

Among the items sent into orbit were organic samples such as corn, cotton, wheat, soybean, vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Examination of these samples will provide scientists with a wealth of information and help promote China's space technology research and the potential civil uses of the infinitesimal resources of space.

Qin Wenbo, deputy commander-in-chief of Shenzhou IV, confirmed that the launch date of the manned spacecraft will necessarily be adjusted according to specific weather conditions.

"Space flight is scientific, not gambling. We have to use our very best skills to guarantee these astronauts will return to earth safely," Qin said.

## Developments To Watch

Putting New Zealand's Size Into Perspective.....

**China: World's Most Important Economy?** Asia, with a population of 3 billion people, consumes 19 million barrels of oil daily, by comparison, the United States with 285 million population, consumes 22 million barrels of oil daily. However, consumption in Asia is now rising rapidly. China's oil demand has doubled over the last 7 years to 4.5 million barrels a day. Already China, has more refrigerators, mobile phones, TV's and motorcycles than the United States. Analysts predict its future resource requirements will increase commodity prices.

**Automotive Recall.** Europe's biggest car producer, Volkswagen, suffered a major setback by having to recall 850,000 cars over suspicions of a faulty ignition.

**Finding The Weekly Wages.** Wal-Mart, USA's largest employer with 1,412,200 employees has nearly 4 times more workers than the 2nd placed, McDonald's. But what is remarkable is the world's largest retailer added 172,200 workers in the past year. Were those workers to leave Wal-Mart to form their own business, it would rank 26 in the USA.

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