

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2004



NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY MARCH 17th 2004
W.C.A. Community Centre Lewis St, Glenview

7,30 PM

SPEAKER **Sue Zhihong Su**

TOPIC **Chinese Food and Good Health**

Sue Zhihong Su has been a member of our Society for many years and her talks at previous meetings have always been stimulating and informative. Trained at the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Beijing College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Sue will discuss the relationship between common ailments and the foods we eat, explain 'cold' and "hot foods, and show us some simple exercises to sustain general bodily fitness.

Editor's Comments.

As you will find as you read this newsletter, March is a very busy month for the Branch. Let us hope that Autumn proves to be weatherwise what we expect, following our poor summer.

This month I will start off with reminders since at each month's committee meeting I am reminded of important messages I have failed to pass on. Firstly, Treasurer Diane has asked me to remind members that annual subs are now due. If you are not sure whether you have paid, check the address label on your newsletter. If you have paid you will have 04 If its 03 or 02 your sub is still outstanding.

Secondly, Waikato Chinese Association's Games evening is held in the Lewis St Hall on the first Saturday of each month. There is the opportunity to learn Ma Jong, and several of our members are doing just that, and there are other board games available or Badminton or Table Tennis for those who like something more vigorous. The evening starts at 7.30pm and everyone is very welcome,

In this issue is information about the Society's projects taken from a newsletter prepared by Hawke's Bay Branch.

ANNUAL CONSULATE PICNIC

This is to take place at the Wainui Reserve, Raglan, on **Sunday March 21st**. As in previous years members can make their own way out, or meet together at the Countdown parking area (corner of Anglesea St., and Liverpool St) at **10.30 am** where we will be joined by the Consulate party.

We have invited Chinese students and home stay parents to join us. It is a shared lunch so bring enough for yourself and another. In the event of wet weather ring Stan 8474504 Meryl 8435260 or an 823 6745 for alternative arrangements.

Pot Luck Dinner Saturday March 27th
W.C.A Community Centre
Lewis St. Glenview.
Start 6.30pm

NOTE. Please bring your own plates and utensils and food for yourselves and one other.

Again this year there is a large group of Chinese teachers from Hebei completing Masters Degrees at the University of Waikato. Last year we held a Pot Luck for these students where they were able to mix and mingle with a good turnout of members. We are doing so again, and the invitation is including Chinese students from Wintec and Cambridge International College. The evening will include other activities and entertainment. The programme is yet to be finalised, but details will be given at our branch meeting on Wednesday March 17th. This dinner is an occasion when we need the support of as many members and friends as possible.

PROJECTS NEWSLETTER

New Zealand China Friendship Society supports projects in a variety of ways. This newsletter outlines some of the current activities.

Shandan, Gansu Province

Shandan is located on the Old Silk Road, about midway along the Hexi Corridor. It is an agricultural county, where the key problem is drought and very limited arable land available to each farmer. In the remote poor villages farmer's average income is 800 yuan. (NZ\$145) In Shandan County, because of the farming difficulties, most men leave home in search of work, so that 48% of farmers are women at home alone.

The **Shandan Bailie School** work in their community with adult education classes, field work and demonstration farms. The Shandan Bailie School are long standing partners (since Rewi Alley founded the school) and they asked us to work with the Women's Federation, who are active in rural communities.

Dr Don McKenzie Memorial Fund for Poverty Alleviation Projects in Guangxi

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region lies in the southwest of China. Guangxi has 47 million inhabitants, 47% female, and 37% ethnic minorities, such as Zhuang, Yao, Maonan. More than 5 million are considered "poor" with an income below the poverty level, 70% of whom are women and children. Our partner in Guangxi, the Women's Federation, based in the provincial capital Nanning has branches in every county, township and village. It has 2530 full time staff, more than 5000 part time staff and volunteers in the villages.

Their function "is to represent and safeguard the interests of women and to promote the equality of the sexes", and currently their priority is to help poor women increase their income: extend to poor women Micro-Credit; protect women's legal rights; and help poor girls go to school.

The Women's Federation have asked us to assist them provide staff training in project design, management, and evaluation, and the use of participatory methods in working with villagers. In 2002 we supported Miss Wu Xiufang to come to attend a development workshop and conference in New Zealand. Now we are supporting a project to develop materials for use in Guangxi, and an intensive workshop for 45 staff.

Lu Meiyi, from Shagou natural village of Sanzhiyang says "I planted tomato and cucumber as reverse-season (out of season) vegetables for 0.5 Mu (approx 0.03ha) after training. The vegetables grew well because I could take good care of them after I was trained. I sold vegetables for about half of a year and got more 1,000." Comments after the project training 500 women in agricultural skills.

People do not stop working when they get older. This woman is drying sweet potato.



We invite you to make a donation to New Zealand China Friendship Society's projects and directly help poor people in China improve their living conditions.

YES I would like to make a contribution to the New Zealand China Friendship Society's project work.

I enclose \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make your cheque out to New Zealand China Friendship Society and post to:
The Treasurer, _____ add. _____

CHINA SILK ROAD TOUR

August 26 - September 18, 2004 (21 nights in China)

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- Kashgar** Historic Cross Roads of central Asia; intriguing, mud architecture, Uygur and Hue minority people.
- Urumchi** Capital of Xinjiang Province – as far inland as you can get on Earth.
- Turfan** Historic Oasis in the desert 150 metres below sea level, set against the astonishing Flaming Mountains.
- Dunhuang** World famous Magao Grottos, plus the chance to ride camels in the desert across the Whispering Sands to Crescent Lake.
- Jiayuguan Pass** Historic fortress garrison town guarding the western end of the Great Wall.
- Shandan** Home of Rewi Alley's Baillie School and Museum.
- Lanzhou** The desert turns back to lush farms nearing the capital of Gansu Province on the Yellow River.
- Xi'an** Cradle of Chinese history, ancient walled capital of the nation, home of the Terracotta Army & end of the old Silk Route.

\$7276.00 (estimated) (AUCKLAND TO AUCK-

LAND)

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

A Fully Escorted Quality Tour organised by the NZ China Friendship Society
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Maximum size of tour party 24; seats allocated strictly on basis of \$750 deposits received.

FURTHER INFORMATION Contact NZCFS Tours

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CONSULATE PICNIC

A last minute reminder from Ian. The picnic site is high above the beach and a great place to fly kites. Spread the word and we may get some colourful Chinese kites flying. Of course if you are so inclined, and have the necessary equipment, it a great place to go hang gliding too!



Gung Ho

Gung Ho is the slogan and nickname of the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, a project founded by Rewi Alley to foster genuine democratic cooperatives in various parts of China. NZCFS supports this movement both materially and morally as one of our major projects

ICCIC Training of Trainers workshop was held in Dengfeng, Henan Province. 38 farmers, 7 local officials and 6 local NGO officials (Non-Government Organisation), with a mix of 22 male and 29 female, attended. Topics included an introduction to cooperatives, the benefits to member in aspects of management structure, operational system distribution systems, and market competitiveness, how to establish cooperatives and ongoing management.

The representatives from the Anti-family Violence Association of Luoke City said the training, to them, was like timely rain to land in drought. They plan to organize women to make handy works in easy farming season first and then organize them to feed pigs and chickens when they have enough capital.

Participatory training was adopted through the whole process of training. Most students were from rural areas. In order to bring their initiative into better play, the class adopted "Asking—explaining—discussing—feeding back—commenting" method. The trainees are asked to comment on their issues before learning related cooperative knowledge. Then the students held group discussions on the lecture content and fed back their opinions. Finally, the instructors commented on the results of group discussions. This method of studying from easy parts to difficult ones and the form of interplay and exchange inspired the trainees' interest in study and discussion and deepened their understanding on the theory.

Jing Xueping, Director of Zhongyue District, DengFeng, Henan attended a previous class and reported I learned much from the training class and realized cooperative road is a hopeful road which can accelerate the step of building up a well-off society in an all-round way.

They do very well and I have deep feelings. Now I have concentrated my love on cooperatives because cooperatives can help farmers develop economy, solve the problems one family cannot solve, reduce risks and improve competitiveness. Furthermore, cooperatives enable farmers to participate in democratic management and find their self-respects and confidence to bring farmers' initiative and creativity into play.

For more information on Gung Ho look at their website www.iccic.org.cn



Rewi Alley 1982

Rewi Alley Scholarship. This has undergone change over the last year, and is now administered by Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) and NZAID. The 2004 scholar is Zhu Qing, an accounting and computing teacher at Shandan Bailie School. He is a local man with family ties in the district and did his initial training at North West Normal University in Lanzhou, majoring in computing. He will undertake English Language study before technical courses such as computing.

In addition to the main Scholar, CPIT will be assisting Mr Wen Yong Ming to undertake a semester of English Language study. A semester of intensive English language study was seen by the School as helpful in raising the schools English language teaching capacity.

The **Shandan Women's Federation** has as one of their goals training for women in legal systems, and they have identified this project as a priority for the women of their area. Women become more and more important in the everyday life of rural households. In the countryside, women are not well educated, and this affects their independence, development and self-protection. We are supporting a project to improve women's knowledge of the law, and understanding of how to protect themselves by law, to improve their position in the family and local society.

Planning is underway to improve farming income in the villages of Lao Jun and Chen Hu. First 300 rural women will receive training in aspects of goat husbandry, breeding, feed management, building heated shelters, and disease prevention. 50 families will be selected as "model farms" and will receive a loan to purchase a goat and build shelter.

If you would like to contribute to these projects please send in the form at the back of this newsletter.



Girls working at the SBS sewing co-operative. In this way they learn skills, and help pay their school fees.

Shandan Bailie School, Teacher of English Dick Rigby, arrived in Shandan in mid November to begin a teaching contract that will take him to January 2005. NZCFS supports the airfare for a teacher each year.

Last year books and School Journal sets were also sent to add to the resources available for learning English.

Earthquakes On the evening of October 25th, 2003 two earthquakes of magnitude 6.1 and 5.8 struck Shandan and Minle Counties in northwestern Gansu Province. The epicentre was only 60 km from the town of Shandan, where the Shandan Bailie School is located. The worst damage was in villages, where most of the mud houses collapsed. Over 400 aftershocks occurred the following day.



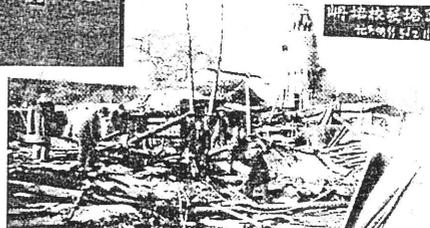
Basketball is popular. The main office building is in the background.

History

After Liberation a large number of Bailie School graduates went to the Yuman Oil Field where many were rapidly promoted. It was decided that the school would be taken over by the North West Oil Bureau, was moved to Lanzhou and became the Bailie Oil School. The Oil School still trains people for the oil industry.

At Shandan in 1954, just after the school was moved to Lanzhou, an earthquake of 7.2 demolished almost all the buildings in the town.

The school after the February 1954 earthquake



Dick Rigby says: Dear NZCFS, In reply to your request for information about earthquake damage. In the Huocheng & Yonggu townships, which are in our vicinity & where most damage occurred, there were 10 dead & over 120 injured.

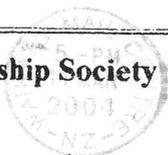
Most larger buildings on the school grounds suffered some damage. Of these, the main office building, (which includes some laboratory rooms, e.g., computer classroom, biology lab.), & an outside student toilet seem to have suffered most damage. The student toilet & the computer classroom, which is on the top floor, are considered unsafe but their use has had to continue. (Fortunately there is no OSH here.)

A 40 metre stretch of wall surrounding an orchard on the grounds has collapsed. The Lei Tai, which houses various memorabilia, has cracks in floor & wall. There are cracks in the statue of Rewi Alley & George Hogg. There are cracks on the surrounds of the statue, including involvement of a waste water pit. This continues in use & probably poses a hygiene hazard, although there is no evidence of surface leaks yet.

Liu Zhuang Primary School, which is in Huocheng township, about 45 km. away, was completely destroyed. The students had left by the time of the earthquake. Some teachers were still present but avoided injury. The students are now schooled in tents. Shandan Bailie School helped with clothes & money, also providing staff for reconstruction.

Repairs to Shandan Bailie School are planned for the spring. Some help is expected from the government but it is expected that these efforts will be concentrated on the destroyed primary school & the nearby damage. The Canadian Cooperation Association (CCA) is planning to provide some help. Michael Crook and Madam Lu Wanru, deputy chairpersons of ICCIC, and Linnet Workman, a Kiwi teacher in Beijing, are organizing a collection of funds & other help

N.Z.China Friendship Society



ADDRESS
LETTERS
CAREFULLY



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If unclaimed please return to

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