



Several of our members have been joining with our Waikato Chinese Association friends, each first Saturday of the month Games evening, at the W.C.A. Community Centre in Lewis St. While Mah Jong occupies most of us, young people play badminton or table tennis. Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> is the usual games evening.

**On Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Centre there will be a special night celebrating Dragon Festival, As well as the usual games, there will be a video shown, and hopefully some dancing. Supper will be served featuring zongzi, (dragon-boat dumplings), As usual start time is 7.30pm**

**Branch members not going to the Conference are cordially invited to attend. Any queries ring Linda Tai 07 8897397**

### **Dragon-Boat Festival**

Dragon-Boat Festival falls on the fifth day of the fifth Lunar month. It is generally believed that the festival originated as a commemoration of the patriotic poet Qu Yuan, who lived in the state of Chu during the Warring States Period (475-221B.C.). He suggested many reforms to the king of the state and for this he was slandered by corrupt officials and sent into exile. In 278 B.C. the capital of the state of Chu was lost to the state of Qin, and Qu Yuan, in despair drowned himself. This happened on the fifth day of the fifth month.

Legend has it, that after Qu Yuan's death, people living on the banks of the river went out in their boats to find the corpse. Every year thereafter people would row boats on rivers in his memory. In time, dragon-boat races were held on this day each year. A dragon-boat is a wooden boat decorated with a dragon's head and tail. As soon as the race starts, all the boats surge ahead, breaking the waves to the deafening sound of gongs and drums.

The custom of eating *zongzi* on Dragon-Boat Festival also traces back to Qu Yuan. Legend has it that after Qu Yuan drowned himself people threw sections of bamboo filled with rice into the river as an offering to him. Someone then met Qu Yuan's spirit on the river bank and was told, "The food you gave me was all taken away by the dragon. In future you should use bamboo leaves to wrap the rice, and these should be tied with coloured thread. Leaves and coloured thread are the two things the dragon is most afraid of." Thus, people started making *zongzi*, pyramid shaped dumplings with glutinous rice that are wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves, in memory of Qu Yuan. Today *zongzi* the traditional food of the Dragon-Boat Festival.

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
2004 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
TAURANGA CITY  
25 - 27 JUNE 2004

VISION INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
LEVEL 2 WESTPAC BUILDING  
NO 2 DEVONPORT ROAD, TAURANGA

**REGISTRATION FORM**

First Name.....Surname.....  
(as you wish it to appear on name badge)

Branch.....Position in Branch .....

Address.....

Phone.....Fax.....Email .....

**Registration Fees**

(Full registration includes Morning Teas, Lunches and Friday Wine and Cheese, but not Conference Banquet or the Friday night dinner)

- Full Registration (posted by 15 May) \$65.00
- Full Registration (posted after 16 May) \$75.00
- Conference Banquet (Saturday evening) \$25.00

Cheque for total payment included: \$.....  
Accommodation requirements \$.....  
(see attached sheet)

Please make cheques payable to: *New Zealand China Friendship Society*  
(Please advise the organisers of any dietary requirements)

Will you to be attending the Wine & Cheese on Friday evening 25 June  
Yes  No

If you require transport from the airport to your Hotel/Motel please advise the organisers  
Yes  No

Please post to: Tim or Sue Jensen (Conference Organisers)  
P O Box 13058  
Tauranga

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