

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2004



**NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
HAMILTON BRANCH**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Wednesday November 17th 2004

WCA COMMUNITY CENTRE LEWIS ST GLENVIEW

NOTE Starting time 7.00 pm

AGM AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of the last AGM

Matters Arising.

Correspondence Inward / Outward

Treasurer's Report

President's Report

Election of Officers.

General Business.

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Our general monthly meeting with Guest speakers will follow.

Guest Speakers

Our speakers this month will be Olaug and Clive Kingsley-Smith who have recently returned from teaching in China. They were based in what was formerly a collective close to the border of Inner Mongolia and not far from Harbin which is a part of China we don't hear much about. They are both enthusiastic about their experiences and keen to impart their impressions.

Picnic: The Waikato Chinese Association are holding a picnic on Sunday 16 January at the Hamilton Gardens near Turtle Lake between 11am and 4pm. Bring your own food and have a get together with our friends from the Chinese Association. There will be some games organised for the children. Mark it on your calendar now.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK – October 2004
Margaret Cooper JP – 60 Matua Road, Tauranga eatcoop@clear.net.nz
National Secretary – Debra Yumei – 2/20 Lambrown Drive, Sunnybrook Auckland
Website nzchinasociety.org.nz

Dear Members – It was wonderful to know so many branches around New Zealand celebrated the Chinese National Day, 1 October. Our society was represented in Beijing at the 55th Anniversary The People's Republic of China by North Island Vice President Iride McCloy and Auckland Branch President Cecil Fowler. Two regional meetings are scheduled – Upper North Island 30 October in Hamilton and the Lower North Island, Saturday 6 November in Paraparaumu. All members are invited to attend these meetings. Contact your Branch for further details.

2005 Tours to China – Our society is launching two tours to China in 2005. The first tour – **Best of China**: 17 nights – visit in the spring and includes:

The highlights of Beijing including the Great Wall
Chengdu, including the Giant Panda Research Centre
Chongqing and a four day cruise on the Yangtze River including a guided tour of the high dam above Yichang.
Wuhan and its modern museums of ancient treasures
Suzhou, the garden city in the Yangtze Delta and finally Shanghai.

The second tour follows the popular Silk Road route in the autumn.

All members will receive details of both tours in the post very soon. I invite you all to consider taking this trip, and if you are unable to travel, pass the information onto a friend. Contact the tours committee for further details:

nzchinatours@xtra.co.nz

Auckland Branch remembers Margaret Woods:

It is with regret that we record the passing of Margaret Woods, a long time member of the Auckland Branch. Margaret, with Jack her husband first visited China in a Teachers' Tour in the seventies and a few years later they led a tour of secondary students and were there when Mao died. For many years Jack and Margaret ran **China books** that was then the only source of Chinese books in New Zealand and she had a whole room filled with their stock and they were kept busy filling orders from universities and libraries as well as from individuals. Margaret contributed generously to our Society and to the society in general and we extend our condolences to Jack.

Notes from Iride McCloy on their visit to Beijing for the celebration of the 55th anniversary of the People's Republic of China:

28 September – 3 October 2004

What an exciting and privileged trip it was to Beijing to celebrate the 55 Year Anniversary of the Peoples Republic of China.

From the moment of our arrival gracious and very helpful people hosted us. The Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Division of European & American Affairs was just superb.

Our meeting with the Olympic Committee Li Binghua, Vice chairman of BOCOG, Ping Yongquan, Director of Engineering Management Department and Zhang Jian, Deputy Director of Project Management Department supported by other personnel. The goal in concepts in preparing and hosting the Beijing 2008 Games is to host a successful Olympic Games and to leave a unique sports legacy for China as well as for the whole world. In May 2004, 36 secondees from BOCOG were sent to Athens to learn from Athens' experience or organizing the 2004 Olympic Games.

The Beijing Olympic Games plans to use 35 competition venues and 59 training

venues. Of the 35 venues, 30 will be located in Beijing, of which 15 needed to be built, 11 and existing facilities to be renovated or expanded and four will be overlays. At present, the design of other Olympic venues are in full swing, and by the end of this year, construction will begin for all the Olympic venues.

In March 2004, Lenovo Group China's largest computing technology equipment manufacturer, signed a milestone agreement with the IOC to become the IOC's worldwide partner in TOP-V1 program. TOP means Olympic partner. Lenovo is the first Chinese enterprise to join the TOP which also includes Coca-Cola, General Electronics, Kodak, Panasonic Samsung, Volkswagen Group (China) became the automobile partner of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. As part of the Olympic educational programme for the youth, BOCOG presented 100,000 complimentary copies of "Secondary School Olympic Reader". Compiled by BOCOG, to Beijing's High school students. Beijing has launched its preparations for the Paralympics Games in 2008 in line with the requirements of the International Paralympic Committee.

I am in awe at the progress made in Beijing, and I am sure that they could, if prodded, have sufficient done to have the events earlier than 2008!

Whilst we were in Beijing October 01 2004 which was a China National Day Holiday, we visited Tiananmen Square, which had been decorated with 300,000 flowers. It was a very memorable occasion for the group of 43 people from 13 countries. We all had our photo taken in front of Chairman Mao's photo.

We were entertained by very generous people and at all times our sightseeing ventures took us to many places we could not have visited or known about if not for the foresight and generosity of our hosts.

I know personally, I will not forget this wonderful visit and my gratitude to the committee who enable me to participate.

Margaret Cooper JP
National President



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Telephone - 07 8381100 - Email - john@uth.co.nz

Meetings / activities AGM! Branch Brainstorming
Ideas for speakers / activities / whole meeting / part meeting etc etc
What sort of other activities do we enjoy/want?

Films - Feature
- Documentary

Films

Films

Games evening eg mahjong

Mahjong

Cooking demos

Hobbies

Chinese music

Fai chi

Interaction with Chinese students
Students from China

Visiting Chinese youth

Speakers (well chosen only!)
(with a time limit)

Speakers (with China experience)

Speaker

Topics include:

Dr Don McKenzie's contribution

Education sector

Pottery

Acupuncture

Health/Chinese medicine

Chinese medicines

Exporter or importer to/from China

Speaker from CHINMA Chinese Maori Assoc

Speaker from MFAT

Calligraphy

Chinese painter

Napier city person to talk on sister city activities

Travelogues - people's personal experiences

Teachers (group) visiting Guilin or Lianyungang

Panel discussion Panels

Informal discussions with visiting delegations with all members not just exec

Discussion topics - culture, politics

Small group discussion around a topic

Hearing from early Chinese immigrants who came to New Zealand

- What was like in china in the 1950's

- what was it like coming to New Zealand

Pot lucks

A NZCFS Branch visit (hosting)

Suppers (like at AGM)

Outings Chinese restaurant meeting

**TICK THREE ONLY AND RETURN AT AGM OR
MAIL TO MERYL LANTING 121 Fitzroy Ave. Melville
Hamilton**

Obituary Joan Margaret Grosvenor Rolt

Joan Rolt died at Eventhorpe Home on 26th October 2004 aged 94 years.

Joan was born and educated in England and trained and worked as a secretary before her marriage. In the mid twenties Joan's fiancé , Bill, moved to South Africa where she joined him and they married in 1927. In the late 1940's they came to New Zealand with their daughters Judy and Lorna first settling in Christchurch.

The family later moved to Hamilton. In the mid 1970's they joined the Hamilton branch of NZCFS and had the opportunity to go to China as members of a society tour group with special interest in agriculture and many of the group were Ruakura scientists.

Joan served on the committee for many years and was secretary of the branch from 1977 – 1983. She was a gracious hostess to the delegations who visited Hamilton in those years. In particular, Joan kept in contact with Madame Lu Wanru, secretary to Rewi Alley, until recently.

Joan graced our 50th Annual Conference in 2003 and always kept an interest in matters of China. It was always a stimulating privilege to visit her. The committee and members extend their sympathy to Judy, Lorna and families.

Messages may be sent to Mrs Judy Klein, 33 Garthwood Road, Hillcrest, Hamilton.

From Beijing Review:

Low birth rate: A survey of the National Bureau of Statistics showed that human reproduction in China has entered a period featuring low birth rate, low death rate and low population growth.

According to the "China international seminar on census 2000", the Chinese population topped 1.29 billion in 2003, accounting for 21 percent of the world's total. The country has long been dedicated to curbing the fast rise of population. It's basic policy of strictly controlling birth rate and the number of children per family has made outstanding achievements.

Subs are now due. Please return with slip enclosed.