

NEWSLETTER      OCTOBER 2004



## **NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAMILTON BRANCH**

### **NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH**

In view of the fact that we have had two social outings in the past four weeks it was decided that our next meeting will be the **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>**. Full details and Agenda in next month's newsletter.

### **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

Our August meeting in Ming Direct proved to be quite different as promised, and a pleasing number of friends and members thoroughly enjoyed having time to have a good look at the striking antique furniture, the many fascinating smaller pieces, and beautiful fabric items. Claire Weymes comments, about these, and reports of she and her husband's journeys to China, first finding them and then exporting back to New Zealand, was most interesting.

Following this meeting ten or twelve members wandered up London Street to J J' Chinese restaurant and enjoyed a delicious meal.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> a banquet celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, was somewhat hastily arranged and held, again at JJ's Chinese restaurant. Fifty guests attended, representing the Waikato Chinese Association, the Chinese Scholars and Students' Association and the Hamilton Branch. Of note was the fact that the guests included, not only current Presidents of each organisation, but also Past Presidents of each as well, We were honoured by the attendance of the Chinese Consul General Her Excellency, Mme Yang Xiuping and her husband Professor An Jingxian, Consul Education. At the dinner, it was announced that Mme Yang has completed her appointment here in New Zealand and



will be returning to Beijing shortly. Our regret at her departure, and appreciation of her accessibility and friendliness was expressed.

On Thursday evening September 30<sup>th</sup>, Past President Ian and wife Shirley, Past President Anne Sayers, Ta Phat Tan, and I, attended the Consulate celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic. This enjoyable function was held in the Carlton Hotel, central Auckland. The Government was represented by the Hon Chris Carter. I regret to announce that two of our members have died recently and Anne Sayers has contributed these tributes.

## **Obituaries**

### **MARGARET AUDREY CLARKE (nee Browne)**

Margaret died on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Margaret joined the NZCFS in 1989 having been in China at the time of the Tiananmen Incident. She spoke to Wayne Mowat on the National programme and was at this time introduced to the Society. Margaret served the Branch well, and was a member of the committee for three years. She introduced others to the Branch, and was enthusiastic in her support of Chinese people in New Zealand.

Margaret was born in Westland, trained as a teacher, married Russell, and they farmed at Pararewa, before a change of activity saw them move to Matangi, where they grew asparagus, until four years ago, when they moved into Hamilton.

Margaret was involved with many organisations helping those less fortunate; Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Budget Advice, to name a few. As Chairperson of the Over 60's, she gave much time to researching for topics and speakers, to encourage folk to be physically and mentally active.

Margaret had high standards of protocol and good manners, and was sometimes considered 'bossy', but affectionately referred to as the 'traditional school marme'.

Margaret will be greatly missed by those who so enjoyed her recall of the travels, she and Russell had enjoyed both here in New Zealand and abroad.

### **MARJORIE IDA THOMPSON ( nee St. John )**

Marjorie died on Monday 27th September at the home of her daughter Jacqui Chater, Ohope, aged 94yrs.

Marjorie had been a long time member of the NZCFS. Her nephew was a missionary in China at Urumqi, on the Silk Road. and she shared her letters from him with the Society. Her family lived in Hong Kong for many years and have many friends there. Her interests were the people of China. Her funeral was held at St, Aidan's, Hamilton, on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

To the family and friends of Margaret Clarke and Marjorie Thompson the members of New Zealand China Friendship Society extend their deepest sympathy



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Chinese idiom  
Ru zuo zhen zhan

Feel as if sitting on a bed of nails.  
*Be on pins and needles.*

#### **A REMINDER**

The Society has an excellent web site. You can catch up on the President's reports, Branch news from around the country, current information about the Society's projects, information about employment opportunities in China, and as they say on radio, lots more!

[www.chinasociety.org.nz](http://www.chinasociety.org.nz)

Chinese idiom  
Zuo jing guan tian

Look at the sky from the bottom of a well  
*Have a very narrow view*

#### **Self Sacrifice: Don't do it.**

The Police in Liaoning Province have advised citizens confronted with burglars not to put up a fight. They suggested that witnesses to robbery, should inform the police after frightening burglars away by turning on the lights, and using other safe means of distraction, according to *Chinese Business Review*, This has aroused public debate in China, although it is not new in other countries. In many hotels abroad, travellers are told to save their own lives first, and not try to save personal or public property

Sacrificing ones own life for possessions or for others is something we are not obligated to do. This is the duty of particular professions, like policemen, soldiers and fire fighters, who are responsible for safeguarding the interests of the people.

Advocating a spirit of self sacrifice will place a heavy ethical burden on citizens This is not practical, and adverse to the people-first principle.

The Beijing News