

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2006

**NZ CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
HAMILTON BRANCH**

2006

**IMPORTANT!!! Note change of night and Venue!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Venue: Chinese Association Hall, Lewis Street**

**Time: 7.30pm, Monday 30 October**

**Speaker: Meryl Lanting**

**Topic: CHINA REVISITED**

Meryl has just returned from a month in China. The first two weeks as part of the NZCFS delegation attending the Friendship Forum in Wuhan and then taking part in Shanghai's celebration of fifty years of friendship with foreign countries which was attended by 300 delegates from 33 countries. After that she flew to Changsha to catch up with old friends – including Stan and our students, Ivy and Mecca. There have been many changes in the seven years since Meryl was last there and she will tell us some of her impressions and experiences.

**Change of Venue**

Please take special note of our change of night and venue. We are trying to sort out a permanent night and venue but in the meantime we are back at Lewis Street.

Stan Boyle is home for a few weeks before returning to China for another three months. His many years of service fostering the friendship between the peoples of China and New Zealand were rewarded by the presentation of an award to him at the Friendship Forum in Wuhan. Congratulations Stan it is very well deserved.

Exhibition of Cultural Revolution Posters

Wel Energy Trust Academy of Performing Arts

University Of Waikato. Knighton Road.

Members are invited to attend the opening on Tuesday 31 October at 6pm. There will be nibbles and a few speeches then you may view the posters

Park in Car park 2B, Gate 2B.

The exhibition will run until the end of November.

Want to learn Chinese?

There is a very good website – chinesepod.com  
There is also available software for writing Chinese.  
The cost is \$80. Contact Isobel Lim – Phone 07-871-4587 if you are interested.

AGM

Once again our AGM is coming up so please give some thought to whether you might volunteer to serve on the committee. It is not a very onerous job in fact it is quite fun!

Subs are due!!!!!!!

Your subscription is now due. Please post to:  
Treasurer, Diane Lanting, 61 Sunnyhills Ave, Hamilton  
Enclosed cheque for.....

Name.....	Single:	\$20.00
Address.....	Couple/Family	\$25.00
.....	Senior	\$15.00
.....	Senior Couple	\$20.00
	Student	\$10.00
Phone:.....		
E-mail address:.....		

**PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK September 2006**

(May be edited. The original text is on the Society's website under 'News from the Society')

I returned only this week after escorting the 2006 Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour through China. The tour this year was a result of a special invitation from Vice Director Madame Li Xiaolin Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to attend the 2nd Friendship Forum in Wuhan and the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Both events were outstanding. Delegations from Australia, Canada, America and Surinam accompanied our group in Wuhan and throughout the Hubei Province, including venturing to the top of the Wudang Mountain one of the famous mountains in China. The major peak, Tianzhu (Heavenly Pillar) stands 1,612 meters high. The mountain slopes used to be strung with majestic Taoist buildings, and the 36 of these still there were mostly built during the Ming, forming the best-preserved and largest cluster of ancient Taoist structures in China.

I am delighted to advise you that Mr Tom Newnham from Auckland was awarded the title of "Friendship Ambassador" and Mr Stan Boyle, Robin Brown, Tom Mills and myself received "Friendship Ambassador Awards". The special ceremony was held on a luxury river ferry on the Yangtze River, Wuhan. Congratulations to Tom Newnham on receiving this very special award for all his work over the years fostering goodwill between China and New Zealand.

Madame Li Xiaolin's closing remarks at the forum were that all the Associations present had become friends and better communications had occurred over the last 2 years since the first forum. There are now more activities being planned by the five countries present and international people to people relations had increased revenue plus a value added service. Involvement of younger people necessary, e.g. student exchanges, home stays, middle schools involvement, backpacking tours for young people, plus teacher exchanges. Through informing travellers, strengthening communication and sharing information with friends all organisations should gain higher profiles.

Shanghai we were joined by delegations from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hamburg, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Scotland and Vietnam. Mr Zhou Muyao, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and President of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries welcomed everyone to the celebrations, and spoke of all the countries assembled learning from each other in unity and cooperation and common development.

The New Zealand China Friendship Society National Executive and Branches should be very proud of the outstanding projects that we organise, tours, events and exchanges. New Zealand is one of the more active nations that China and the CPAFFC liaise with. I was proud to lead this delegation and be part of the Friendship Forum and Shanghai's 60th anniversary.

Margaret Cooper

Mahjong Evening: Don't forget the next Mahjong evening  
at the Chinese Association Hall, Lewis Street 7pm,  
Saturday 4 November.