

New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. Nelson Branch

Life Membership Award

~ Royden Smith ~



The Nelson Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society has much pleasure in conferring Life Membership on Royden Smith in recognition of his outstanding service, over almost 16 years.

Royden's first tour to China was in 1977 and his fascination with Rewi Alley's story, was a factor in his decision to join the newly formed Nelson Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society in 1993. In 2000 he was elected to the Executive Committee as a committee member, taking on the role of Treasurer in 2002. Financial responsibilities have included branch activities, the Chinese Garden, Huangshi visits, He Ming Qing donations, and National conferences. His clear concise financial reports presented at each executive and branch meeting have been appreciated by members.

In 2001 Royden began as assistant newsletter editor, taking over full responsibility in 2007. The high quality of the material and presentation has been greatly valued by members and envied by other branches. He helped to arrange film evenings at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology showing Chinese films which were enjoyed by members and students. Royden was involved in, and encouraged interaction with staff, students, and the branch. Visitors to Nelson have always received a warm welcome, with Royden's friendly open manner putting them at ease. Many lasting friendships have been made with Chinese visitors and tour guides as a result of his efforts.

Along with his involvement at branch level, Royden has also devoted time and energy to the work of the National Executive as Treasurer, and member of the Finance Committee from 2008 -2013. During this period he also became a member of the Tours Committee.

Reliable and honest in his opinions, he is highly respected by members of the committee and his meticulous checking of tour documents is invaluable.

Throughout his time as a member, Royden has taken part in several tours to China on NZCFS tours. Showing the high regard in which he is held, he was selected in 2002 as a member of the Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour and in 2007, the Rewi Alley Youxie Tour. After both tours, Royden shared his experiences as a speaker at Branch meetings, made more meaningful by the accompanying photographic presentations.

In 2002, Royden was involved in his first Tours leadership role as deputy tour leader on the NZCFS Silk Road Tour. Since then he has led 2 other tours in 2005, 2011 and in 2015 assisted Bill Willmott and Diana Madgin on the Chinese Gardens Tour. Royden is a popular tour leader, shows immaculate planning and is knowledgeable about the areas visited, always sympathetic to the needs of the individuals in the group.

Royden has been a dedicated team member and his involvement in all aspects of the branch has been outstanding. Involved in the planning and organisation of the two successful National Conferences and several Huangshi visits, Royden is always there to help in his quiet unobtrusive way. He is the person who greets us with a smile at every branch meeting, carries out an enormous amount of unseen work, and is an integral part of the Nelson Branch.

Today Royden, in making you a Life Member, we acknowledge your commitment, dependability and the invaluable contribution you have made to the growth and development of the Nelson Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society. Thank you for your outstanding service.

Isabelle Jones

24 June 2016