

New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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~ You are invited ~



Spring Garden Party

Enjoy time in Nelson's Chinese Garden



Taste a selection of Chinese teas



Sunday, October 29
2 – 4 p.m.

Tea and biscuits will be provided by China Friendship Society.

The party will be cancelled in case of bad weather. If in doubt, ring Bruce Ward (538 0344) or Barbara Markland (544 4712) for information.

Meeting the Youth – September meeting

Although there was a reduced number of branch members present, the evening at Jaycee Room, Founders Park, was enjoyed by those who attended.

After our usual meeting and meal, a number of the young people spoke and introduced themselves. These included our MLAs, NMIT students, and the Nelson City Youth Councillors who were there. It was interesting to hear their stories.

This was a social event and soon people were in groups, trying their calligraphy skills, or just chatting quietly, and some were learning to play the game many of us know as Chinese Checkers. Another group, led by MLAs, were introduced to a game in which it seemed desirable to lie convincingly!

Many of those present agree that it was an event we should hold again.



"Being Chinese" Branch Bookclub Meeting

On Saturday afternoon, September 30, twelve members of the Nelson Branch convened at Volume Books to discuss Helene Wong's book, "Being Chinese". Helene Wong prompted our group conversations by offering intriguing questions around Kiwi awareness of diversity. She invited readers to consider the value of diversity in our Kiwi culture.

The bookclub attendees took these questions to heart, sharing robust conversations on the current issues of racism and cultural diversity in New Zealand. There were a variety of insights and perspectives shared by branch members reflecting concerns and hopes for our transforming Kiwi culture.

Overall, our bookclub afternoon appeared satisfying and enlightening to branch members. Lori Brudvik Lindner would like to express her gratitude to all members who joined our first branch bookclub event.

From Nelson Executive - October

- Book Club: This was a positive experience for all who attended with interesting and stimulating discussion.
- Concept plan proposals have been sent to the Deng Fund Committee. The Yangjiang Student Exchange project is to proceed with a full application for funding to be sent before November 1. It is hoped to send 6 students and 2 accompanying adults to Yangjiang in 2018 to attend school there followed by Yangjiang students coming to Nelson.
- Thanks to Bruce for the superb newsletters.
- September meeting: It was a successful meeting although not what had been envisaged originally due to the low number attending; 33 with only 17 members. This could have been due to the clash with NMIT holidays.
- China Week:
 - The Art and Rewi Alley exhibitions will now be at the north end of the Trafalgar Centre.
 - 10 students from NMIT will exhibit and an invitation to exhibit has been sent to Nelson artists.
 - Saturday 11th Community Day: NMIT 10-2p.m. The branch will have a sales table and provide brochures regarding NZCFS and Huangshi.

China Week 2017 NZCFS

A full programme will be released at a later stage but here are some events with interest for our members:

Opening of China Week, and the Art and Rewi Alley exhibitions, on Monday November 6 at Trafalgar Centre North End, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Attendance is by invitation only.

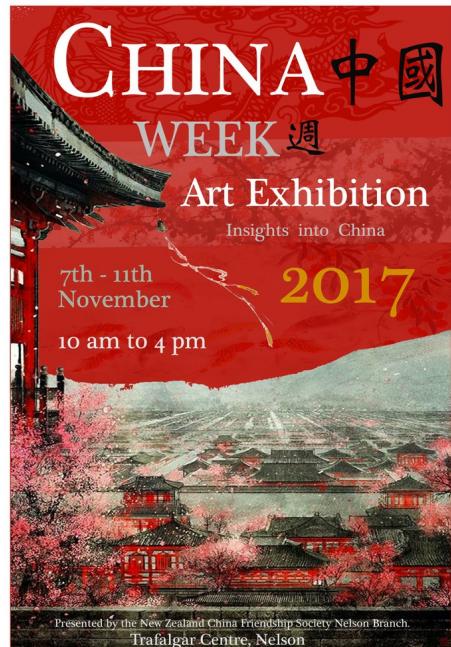
The Art exhibition will be open to the public from Tuesday 7 November to Saturday 11 November, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



There will be a Tai Chi demonstration Thursday November 9 at 1903 Square, Trafalgar Street from 12 noon.

Theatre and music night, Thursday November 9 at the Theatre Royal from 7 – 9.30 p.m. Tickets \$5

Saturday 11 November: Community Day at the NMIT with food stalls, music, performances, kung fu display, table tennis, NZCFS, NZCA, Confucius Institute, Chinese Consulate, Tai Chi demonstration, Nelson Giants, badminton, mah-jong etc. From 10 – 2 p.m.



NZCFS Involvement – China Week

The Nelson Branch executive has been involved in arranging two exhibitions which will be shown during the forthcoming China Week. Jifang Black has been hard at work creating an Art exhibition with input from local artists and from students at NMIT. This will be at the new facilities at Trafalgar Centre, and is called 'Insights into China'.

An exhibition called 'Rewi Alley in China' will also be on show at the same time. This was first shown at Canterbury Museum, and is on loan from NZCFS Christchurch branch. President Ferry has been trying to get this to Nelson for some time.

Help will be needed from members prepared to assist with looking after the exhibitions and helping visitors. If you can be available for this at any time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday November 7 to Saturday November 11, please contact Barbara Markland (ph 544 4712 or e-mail erm@xtra.co.nz).

Also on Saturday November 11, is the Community Day at NMIT (see above), and the branch will be running a stall to sell some of the Chinese items we have on hand. If you could help with this in any time from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., please contact Barbara Markland.

He Ming Qing Scholar selected

It is with pleasure that we can tell you that Chen Yuan, from Shangluo in south-east Shaanxi, has been selected as a new He Ming Qing scholar. NZCFS has been attempting to get a scholar from Shandan or at least from Gansu, but that has not been possible. This ends a period in which there have been no suitable candidates to take up the scholarship which provides financial help for nursing students from poor rural areas who intend to return to their home village after training.

More 'Show and Tell'

In the last newsletter we omitted to report on the 'Poetic Writing' which Yolanda Persico presented. Apologies to Yolanda and to members for this oversight.

Here now are some of her responses, and accompanying images, to scenes she met while teaching in China. The first two relate to the same building!

Standing Tall

Towering tall,
Black sacked scaffolding –
A building in disguise
Guarded by even taller cranes,
Stand clustered together,
At right angles, at left angles, at “why?” angles.
Will daylight shine through?
I ask myself, when occupied by inhabitants, who will come to live and work in them.
The final irony – the name I see on a billboard –
Advertising these dark, ominous shapes,
In the future to become China’s Nelson – Sunshine City!



Unveiled

With the lightness and brightness of Spring,
The covers come down,
The black sacked scaffolding,
To reveal light stone elegant buildings,
Standing tall – proudly to attention –
The huddle not so close –
The angles softer, warmer -
Basking in the radiance of the element and the name of – Sunshine.
Standing tall amidst the rubble of the flattened site,
Looming over the workshops and shops
Enclosing the business square – the taller cranes, still
Standing guard.



The Chinese Lawnmower

In the hot spring sun
A quiet chatter comes
From under the line of straw-saucer hats,
As, in the squat position
The Chinese lawn mower
Wends its way through the compound.
Over several days the grass is
Plucked, ripped, cut, weeded.
Come rain or harsh shine it moves along.
The warm spring rain falls – so
The rainbow coloured capes are donned –
Progress continues along with the smiles.

