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No. 3 – April 2018



April Meeting

An Introduction to the Story of Chinese on the West Coast



Friday, April 27 – 5:30p.m.



Julia Bradshaw is a researcher and writer with a background in South Island history who has worked at museums in Arrowtown and Hokitika and at present works as a curator at Canterbury Museum.

She has a special interest in New Zealand's gold-rushes, Chinese, women and remote places and her publications have covered these topics. Julia's book *Golden Prospects* details the experiences of Chinese on the West Coast and she is currently researching Chinese-European marriages.

Kumara and Ross on the West Coast have both begun memorials to the Chinese gold-miners who lived and often died there before they could return home to China.

The meeting will be at the usual place, Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square (next to Synagogue Lane). A catered meal costs \$12, paid at the meeting. We start the meeting at 5:30, the meal arrives at 6p.m. and the guest speaker will begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.



**To arrange catering, please contact Barbara Markland
by Monday, April 23**

ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz

Please make sure she knows you are coming!

Last Meeting – Dr Rose Kerr and Two Underground Armies

In November 2016 we were entranced by Rose Kerr's story of her year as a student in Beijing in 1976, as the Cultural Revolution was ending. This year, we were entranced on a different level as Rose compared and contrasted two excavation sites, related to the tombs of two emperors, Qin Shihuang (259-210 BC) near Lintong, and Emperor Jing (188-141 BC), near Yanling.

The study of these two great burial sites with their associated extensive underground 'cities' reveals major differences in the reigns of the two emperors. The Chinese notion of life, death, burial and the afterlife are also revealed as the contents of the burial sites are studied. Huge numbers of articles were placed therein to provide for the soul of the emperors which continued to reside there.

Qin Shihuang assumed the throne at the age of 13, and was a cruel ruler, putting opponents and Confucian scholars to death. 700,000 men worked on building his burial site where he was protected by 90,000 painted fired-clay warriors and 5,000 horsemen. Everything was life-size, including a zoo and many precious ornaments and treasures.

Emperor Jing was the fourth Han emperor. His mound was lower but his buried city was larger (20 square km). His attendants and warriors were men, women, eunuchs and animals made of painted wood with moveable limbs, and originally wearing real clothes. All the figures are half-size. Jing fostered learning, amassed a great library, and was more democratic than Qin. His wife, unusually, was buried with him. Also, unusually, his personal bodyguards were women. There are possibly 250,000 wooden guards on the site, with much still to be unearthed.

Both burial sites show the amazing richness of Chinese history, art and culture, and comparisons indicate the differences in the personalities of the two emperors and their attitudes to their subjects. Every month there are new amazing finds as archaeologists work to recover, reassemble, and analyse the untold thousands of buried articles.

The contrasts between Qin's realistic militaristic figures and Jing's smaller more impressionistic representations are shown in Rose's photographs below. Rose will be returning to the tombs next month and is excited to see new developments.

NZCFS Nelson is greatly honoured to have heard these stories from such an eminent researcher as Dr Rose Kerr. We hope to hear more next year when she and Steve return to Nelson for the summer.



Youth Initiative visit to Yangjiang

On Tuesday April 17, six students from four Nelson colleges depart for the city of Yangjiang in southern China. There they will be hosted by Liangyang High School and take part in the school activities as well as having the opportunity to experience the city and Hailing Island with its tourist attractions including a maritime museum.

The school to which the Nelson students are going is rather different from any school they are used to attending – there are about 3600 students there. The photographs here, from a recent visit by Bill Findlater, are of a portion of the campus and a campus map on a school directory board. The map shows the presence of 10 basketball courts and 6 volleyball courts as well as a running track and football pitch, in addition to a number of 3 or 4 storey dormitory buildings and classroom blocks of up to 5 storeys.

While at the school, the Nelson visitors will be involved in English classes, as well as calligraphy, dancing, Animation Club, Tai Chi, and art lessons. Making and flying kites is also included and they are to perform items at a concert.



As noted in last newsletter, Jane and Ian Lister have done a great deal of work in preparing the group for their visit, as most have never been to China before. We are very grateful to have their experience of China for the benefit of the students.

Visitors from Yangjiang

A group from Yangjiang Polytechnic will be visiting NMIT for a short time at the end of this month.

New Member

Astrid Brauksiepe is a new member of our branch. We welcome Astrid and hope that she will enjoy our programmes.

Another NZCFS School Exchange in April

Tauranga's John Hodgson has been arranging student exchanges with schools in Nanchang for a number of years, supported by local fundraising and Deng funding awarded through NZCFS. This month a group of Otumoetai College Media and Maori students are travelling to Nanchang with their teacher. For the Maori curriculum, a primary focus is whanaungatanga – for 4 NCEA credits. The exchange experience will also be connected with NCEA Media standards through the production of films and audio interviews earning 10 credits. This is the first example of linking student exchanges with NCEA courses and is an added-value project for the educational objectives of NZCFS.

Huangshi Basketballer to Nelson Giants

For the month of June, the Nelson Giants basketball team will be hosting a basketball intern from Huangshi. Zeng Xi Ziqiang, aged 16, is highly regarded as a player. Bill Dahlberg, a City Councillor who is also a director of the Giants, is arranging this project and has been looking for sponsorship. NZCFS branch executive considered that this would be an appropriate project to support through our sister-city funding, and are offering some sponsorship.

Is China being demonised by the media and academics?

Recently Ann-Marie Brady, a researcher and professor at University of Canterbury, was in the news after claiming that New Zealand was being targeted by a concerted political interference campaign by the Chinese government. The local media picked this up and also made mention of China's apparent 'buying' of influence in other Pacific countries by providing funds for building of large projects.

In response to this, Auckland branch ran a panel discussion asking the question in the heading above. Some of the points from the panel suggested that our media should exercise more critical and impartial investigation before reporting on allegations, as the credibility of her paper on the topic was challenged, particularly the references to NZCFS. It was also suggested that the allegations made about prominent New Zealanders with connections with China were based on implication and not evidence and did not prove influence and interference. Other comments pointed out that this was occurring as a result of a decline in the influence of English speaking powers in global politics and another suggested that after decades of being misrepresented through western media, it was reasonable to expect that China would wish to present her own stories.

Chinese Language courses

Have you ever thought that you could/should know a little more Mandarin Chinese language? NMIT are offering courses ranging from Beginners which might be taken just for interest, through to courses which allow you to take the HSK exam at Level 2 or Level 3. The HSK levels are standardised language proficiency tests for those for whom Mandarin is a second language.

Find the courses at <https://www.nmit.ac.nz/news-article/show/learn-chinese>. Next courses begin in Term 2, May 3. Some courses are taught by our MLAs.

From Nelson Executive, April

- Youth Initiative - We will possibly have a return visit from Yangjiang in October. Garin College is interested in being host school.
- Chinese Language Week is 23-29 September
- Ian Lister is working on a project towards the Sister Cities New Zealand awards
- He Ming Qing co-ordinator update - Jenevere Foreman from Hamilton branch will take over this portfolio.
- Mayor Reese has sent a letter to principals of schools participating in Yangjiang exchange.
- Bill Findlater gave a report on his recent trip to China with three businessmen, and outlined his future China plans as he leaves the Development Authority soon. NRDA will not be involved in China in future, but Bill will keep the important relationships going with a private venture.

With grateful thanks we announce a handsome donation made anonymously to NZCFS Nelson branch. We are very grateful to the donor for this generous gift. This is to be used for any worthwhile project decided by the membership.