

Manawatu Branch

New Zealand China

Friendship Society

November Newsletter 2018



Next Meeting Saturday December 8th

Farewell to the Visiting Teachers from China

A farewell dinner and BBQ, hosted by the teachers
will be held at 5 pm at
542 Pahiatua Track, Palmerston North.

(first gate on right past the 'S' bend)

The last six months have flown by and it is time for the teachers to return home to China. Before leaving they wish to have the opportunity to say thank you to Massey University staff from the Centre for Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) and to our local NZCFS members who have made them welcome. The teachers are from central and west China and were sponsored by the Chinese Scholarship Council. They were able to learn new methods of teaching with the Institute of Education and enhance their English language skills with PaCE. They also attended selected Massey courses on agriculture and animal science.



*Visiting teachers
Xu Dongmei
and Guo Ping at
the Kimbolton
Country Fair on
November 17th
2018*

At Our August Meeting

Dr Phil Battley from Massey University's School of Agriculture and the Environment explained the migration patterns of New Zealand shore birds which fly to the Northern Hemisphere to breed during Autumn each year. Enroute to Alaska the birds stop for 2-3 weeks to refuel in the Yellow Sea of China and Korea. Their main feeding site in China is the Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning.

Celebrating Chinese Language Week and the Moon Festival September 2018



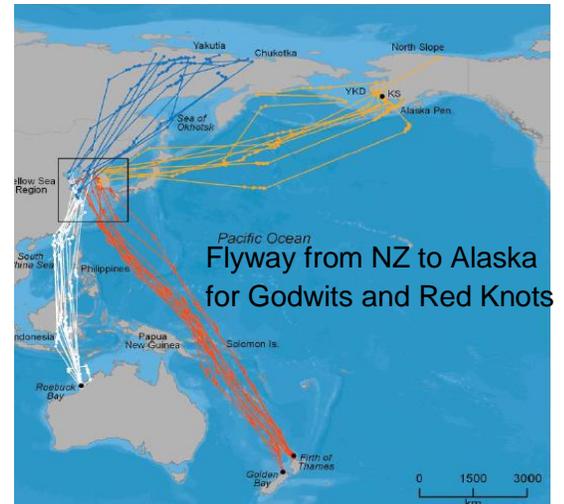
The celebrations began on September 15th in the Palmerston North City Library with song and dance performances by the Palmerston North Chinese School. The event showcased the amazing achievements of the current students ranging in age from 4 to 14. The following day a two hour afternoon show was held in the Regent theatre to celebrate the Moon festival. The moon festival celebrates three fundamental concepts; family reunion, thanksgiving and prosperity. The show highlighted these values and celebrated many other aspects of traditional Chinese culture.

At Massey University the Chinese Students Association organised a Moon Festival lunch attended by both staff and students. It was followed by some talented song and dance performances by the students.

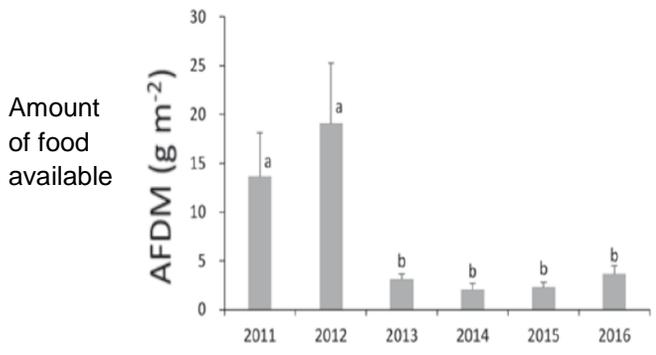
Unfortunately the key sites for godwit feeding on the Chinese and Korean coasts are under threat from industrial reclamation and aquacultural farming. This has severely disturbed the natural feeding grounds and resulted in a dramatic reduction in the food available for migrating birds.



The proposed new industrial reclamation development zone at Donggang on the Yellow Sea.



Flyway from NZ to Alaska for Godwits and Red Knots



After reclamation in 2012 was a significant drop in the amount of food (bristle worms, shellfish and crustaceans) available on the tidal flats of Yalu Jiang. However, the number of birds arriving to feed at this site has not decreased indicating that there are no alternative feeding sites for the birds.

Tourism has helped raise awareness of the presence of our migrating birds in China, but as in New Zealand, not all tourists are kind to wildlife.



But fortunately things are changing. China is moving to protect its mudflats and the birds that use them. There is new hope in 2018 for a better future of the shorebirds that migrate every year from New Zealand to the Arctic.

At Our November Meeting

Melody Chang, a former TV journalist, published author, and now postgraduate student in English at Victoria University, provided us with a very interesting talk on "Understanding Confucianism through Chinese poetry". She focused on three aspects of Confucianism: common themes related to the people and the nation; aesthetic concepts of beauty and modesty; and philosophical ideas related to the unity of man and nature, illustrating these themes using a selection of famous Chinese poems.



Some two dozen plus Branch members and visitors attended the meeting, which opened with brief self- introductions providing for a more relaxed atmosphere; and Melody effectively got people involved by getting individuals - older and younger - to read out the poems she had selected for her talk. Many of the pieces of poetry (and others by the same poets) were very well-known to Chinese who were there, with a number recited from memory. Hearing them also meant that those of us who could not understand the words in Chinese could, never-the-less, appreciate the sounds of the pieces as well as Melody's analysis of them. The talk was followed by a lively discussion and supper, and left many of us wanting to know more about not only Confucius and his *Analects* but also other Chinese philosophers and their beliefs.

Obituary – Dave Harre



Dave was a longstanding member of the Auckland Branch of NZCFS and is remembered by the Whanganui and Manawatu Branches for his outstanding work in initiating the restoration of Rewi Alley's whare at Moeawatea in 1988-89. Together with Tom Newham he reroofed the old dilapidated building in 1987 then obtained funding from the New Zealand Government and Auckland Branch of NZCFS for its renovation. The following year he organised and supervised a team of "Task force green" workers to restore the cottage and then build an adjacent kitchen and outbuildings.

Maurice Alley / Anne Henderson

30th November 2018