

New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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XIN NIÁN KUÀI LÈ! **Happy New Year!**



We hope that members have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are now looking forward to the coming year.

This is a Chinese zodiac year of the pig which begins officially February 5 this year and ends January 24, 2020. It is also an 'earth' pig year, so we might see a number of brown pig images on Chinese related sites, along with more traditional red images.

Once again, we will be taking over the Eastern Cuisine restaurant in Richmond for a banquet. There will be a *brief* Annual General Meeting before the banquet begins. We welcome you to join us for this occasion of good food, fellowship, and fun.



Eastern Cuisine, Richmond **AGM & New Year Banquet** **Sunday 10 February, 6 p.m.**



To book, please contact **Barbara Markland** by **Monday 4 February**

Eastern Cuisine (275 Queen Street) is well-known to us for banquets, and we get exclusive use of the restaurant for Sunday night, as long as we have sufficient numbers; which has never been a problem! Your family and friends are all welcome to this celebration.

The banquet charge is a very reasonable \$32. The usual juice, beer, and wine will be available for purchase from the restaurant and there will be no corkage charge if you wish to take your own wine. Other payments for drinks, you will make directly to the restaurant.

Booking will be necessary and payment can be made by internet banking to the **new** account (instructions below), or at the door (cash or cheque only - no EFTPOS).

You are also invited to make donations towards our Chinese projects on the night by buying tickets in the multi-draw raffle for excellent Chinese items - tickets will be just \$2 each, or \$5 for three, so please remember to bring some gold coins and/or \$5 notes.

Please be there by 5.45pm to enable the AGM to begin at 6pm. There will be no seating plan this year so it would be advantageous if groups could arrive early and together. It is expected that the banquet will commence about 6:45pm.

Please pay for your banquet via internet banking to the new **NZ China Friendship Society - Nelson Branch** bank account at Nelson Building Society **03-1354-0490726-00**. Please make sure you enter your name as the reference and then email both Barbara Markland at erm@xtra.co.nz and Treasurer, Royden Smith, at royden@shangrila.net.nz so that they can then confirm your payment has been received.

Annual General Meeting

The items on the agenda for this are President's Report, Financial Report, Election of Officers, and General Business to cover any items which need to be discussed. Nominations will be taken for the committee and new members for the committee would be welcome. If you think you, or a friend, could make a contribution and would like to be nominated, please have a talk with President Barbara.

November Meeting

On November 30th, several members brought their Chinese stories and treasures to share.



President Barbara dressed in garments from the market at the Stone Forest, at Shilin near Kunming, and showed us photos of the startling karst landscape.



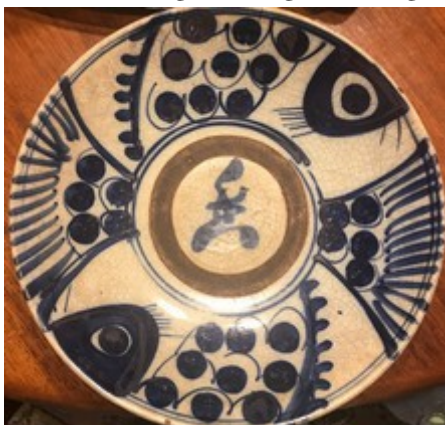
Yolanda Persico spent 7 months living in an apartment overlooking a communal gardening enterprise, photographing the seasonal activities. We enjoyed the 'moving' story of the daily life of the garden and the gardening families who worked there.

Bruce and Christine Ward dressed in the jackets presented to them on the occasion of Christine being made Honorary Principal of Yangtai Primary School, Haidian District, Beijing.

Jane and Ian Lister presented slides of two of their adventures from their records of their work trips and holidays in China.



Jill Blechynden showed us a couple of her grandfather's treasures from his time working in marine engineering in Shanghai.



Jifang Black showed us a bowl which holds loving memories of her grandmother's noodles, and a precious fan painting of a Qing Dynasty landscape.

New members

We welcome new members Dmitry Romanenko and Jill Blechynden.

Farewell to Lingling Wang

On Monday December 17 a barbecue was held at Tahuna Beach to farewell Lingling who was returning to China after her year working with the Nayland College Language Hub. It was a sunny Nelson evening and the Marklands brought the Christmas tree as usual. We welcomed Rose Kerr and Steve Lord, here for the summer again, and also Lingling's MLA friend Eric who has been working in Christchurch for the year, and was returning with Lingling, to China.



Welcome to Biyao Chen

On Wednesday January 31, Biyao Chen will be arriving in Nelson to work for the year with the Nayland College Language Hub. Biyao comes from Hubei Province and, like Lingling, is an MA graduate of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, where her major was International Chinese Education. She has already worked part-time in teaching and news media. We will welcome Biyao at the New Year Banquet on February 10, by which time she will have already been introduced to her 2019 classes at Nayland College, Broadgreen Intermediate, Enner Glynn Primary, Nelson Christian Academy, and Nayland Primary.



NZ-China Politics

NZCFS is non-political, with a major aim being enhancing people-to-people relationships in our two countries. Some publicity has been given in the national media to alternative versions of NZCFS connections with the PRC. Some of our members are being asked to rationalise their support for the NZ-China Friendship Society in the light of recent events. We will be discussing this as time goes on, in the hope of finding some helpful responses.

We are attaching a link to an article by Sir Don McKinnon, former Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, and Commonwealth Secretary General, and brother to John McKinnon, NZ Ambassador to China 2001-2004. Sir Don is writing articles for the New Zealand Herald and the New Zealand China Council, which are available on their web-sites. Of recent interest, is Sir Don's response, in December, to the Huawei controversy, "It's Time to Reset the Chinese Narrative"

<https://nzchinacouncil.org.nz/2018/12/sir-don-mckinnon-its-time-to-reset-the-china-narrative/>

Of further interest is the article 'Why we Need a National Policy on Teaching Foreign Languages'. This is also on the New Zealand China Council website. If you would like a print-out of these timely articles, please call Secretary Christine at 538 0344 or christine@brainward.com

Following Twain with Oscar Kightley

Did you know that Mark Twain visited New Zealand, including Nelson, in 1895? 'Following Twain with Oscar Kightley' is a TV1 production in which Oscar retraces the path that Twain took in New Zealand. It is now showing (on TV1) at 8:05 p.m. on Saturday evenings.

The Nelson segment includes Diana Clark with information about her great-grandfather, Appo Hocton, and will be broadcast on Saturday, February 16.

There are 8 episodes which will be available on TVNZ OnDemand if you miss the broadcast.

From Nelson Executive

The first meeting for the year was on January 18 at the home of Barbara and Roy Markland in Richmond, followed by a barbecue pot luck meal. Items considered since our last meeting in October were:

- Plans for AGM and New Year Banquet, Feb 10.
- Notification that 2 new He Ming Qing scholars have been selected.
- The Treasurer is changing our accounts from WestPac to Nelson Building Society, after considering the advantages of supporting locally.
- Information about arrival of Nayland Hub MLA.
- Liangyang Senior High School visit 13-22 March is well in train thanks to the fine work of the sub-committee. A grant from Simon Deng Li Fund is assisting with the costs, as well as Sister City money from NCC.
- Consideration of Office Bearers for 2019. More nominations are requested for the committee. We seek more Chinese members.
- Nelson President, Barbara, and National Treasurer, Ian, will be attending National Executive meeting in Wellington on February 9.
- Chinese Language Week 2019 will be September 22-28, nicely connecting with Nelson's Chinese Garden Party on Sunday September 29.
- NZCFS National Conference will be in Wellington, May 24-26.
- Plans for speakers through the year are being considered. In March we will, once again, have another story from English art historian Dr Rose Kerr, about her connection with the famous porcelain city, Jingdeshen, where she is an honorary citizen.

New bank account details

Executive felt that it would be desirable to support a local organisation, and have changed the Society bank account to Nelson Building Society. Anybody who has the Society account number stored for on-line banking will need to make sure that they change the bank details!

The new account is 03-1354-0490726-00..

From other branches

Wellington branch are lucky to have some of the Terracotta Warriors on their doorstep as Te Papa Tongarewa: Museum of New Zealand hosts an exhibition from Shaanxi. There is a Terracotta Warriors Family Day organised by the museum to interest the younger ones.

Victoria University of Wellington is offering a two week course on the Qin: The first Chinese Empire and the first Emperor from 5 February 2019. To register, please visit:

<https://ce.victoria.ac.nz/courses/632-the-qin-the-first-chinese-empire-and-the-first-emperor>

Christchurch branch newsletter makes mention of the Ashburton Museum exhibition on the 'Ng King Brothers Gardens' a market garden business from 1920s. Two members of Christchurch branch have family links to the business.

Meeting dates

In keeping with our arrangement of having general meetings on the last Friday of the month where possible, the following dates have been set:

March 29	April 26	May 31	June 28
July 26	August 30	October 25	November 29

The September meeting will be a tea-party in the Huangshi Chinese Garden to celebrate the (Chinese) mid-autumn or moon festival – our event will be September 29 (first day of daylight time) although the official festival date is September 13. Please keep the above meeting dates free.