

Ian has been an active member of NZ China Friendship Society for many, many years. He was on branch committee since 1991 for more than two decades and has held positions of Vice President, President and Secretary of the Hamilton Branch and was also a past elected member of the National Executive. Ian, will always be remembered for his kindness, passion, loyalty, wit, sense of humour, wisdom, knowledge, deep understanding of China and Chinese people and his ability to make everyone he met feel special and valued. Martin Gallagher, deputy Mayor of Hamilton City Council commented that Ian's wonderful contribution to our relationship with China is deeply valued. Ian is a great friend of local Chinese people, his involvement with Waikato Chinese Association, and connection with Hamilton Chinese Golden Age Society.

He is a great mentor of our society. He was always there to tell us what was appropriate and what we should not do. With his legal background, he would often come up with the most precise wording for a motion, meeting minutes or things that were sent out. In recent years, he went through all the earlier emails, newsletters, and other correspondence and contacted older branch members to dig up our branch history. He managed to complete all the details since 1981. Ian was trying to track back to the early days of the branch, the details from 1962 when branch was set up. However his eyesight deteriorated and that stopped him from digging further. Ian was one of the Gang of Three, who looked after our branch monthly newsletter. They would meet regularly drinking, eating while working on the newsletter. Then they would recommend the good wine or new recipe to our branch committee. Ian's cooking is something that our committee members will never forget, beef with chili, pork trotters stews, ants climbing the tree... one of the Chinese dish, for that Stan Boyle, another branch past president wrote a poem for Ian.

There are so many things to say about Ian that could last for days. I would like to share with you today about how humble he was. In 2016 our branch committee decided to nominate Ian for Hamilton Civic Award. But Ian refused. He said he was not good enough. We should nominate other people. Later we decided to go ahead without his permission as we realized that he would never ever say yes. I sneakily got some personal information about Ian from Shirley, Ian's lovely wife. One day that November he was reading the Weekly Information and Events Alert sent by the Ethnic Development Advisor of Hamilton City Council, there he saw his name as one of the fourteen award recipients. He was very angry and called me straight away. "Who nominated me? I didn't give you approval" and said he was not attending the ceremony. I was going to congratulate him at our branch end of year luncheon on 1 December. He seemed to know what I would do. As soon as he walked into the restaurant, he warned me if I mentioned that he would leave the room. I knew he meant it. I had to keep my mouth shut reluctantly. Fortunately Ian finally agreed to attend the ceremony and he received a Civic Award for his long service to the

community on 9 December 2016. However when he was invited to the front for the Award, he didn't make a speech as others would do. I didn't realize an event like this would make him so stressed. Last year our branch submitted a remit to National to nominate Ian for a Life member of the society. He emailed National directly to withdraw that submission once he found out. He was so humble.

It is very sad and hard to believe that such a wonderful man is no longer with us. Maybe he already joined Stan Boyle and would continue their discussion about China and Chinese food or try some new recipe.

Rest in peace beloved friend. We love you. We'll miss you Ian.

Miao Fan, NZCFS Hamilton

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