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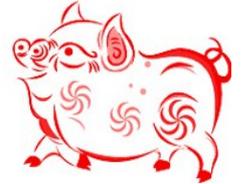
No. 6 – July 2019

July meeting

George Andrews and the China Connection

George Andrews

Friday, July 26, 5:30 p.m.



Since joining the Society in 2004, George has enjoyed bringing the experience, knowledge, and contacts gained through his career in television to the service of NZCFS. Initially as President of Auckland Branch, and then as National Vice President, he became the public face and voice of NZCFS in our largest city, and an active member of the National Executive. He is acknowledged by Youxie as being influential in the introduction of the RAFE fund when Auckland hosted the 60th anniversary conference in 2012, and it was at his invitation that Simon Deng Li sponsored the DENG Fund soon after. George has initiated and delivered projects for both funds as well as chairing the Deng Fund from its inception until 2018. He has represented the National President at meetings of the China Council, the reception for the Chinese Premier in Auckland, and at memorial events for Rewi Alley in Hubei Province. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and was one of the founders of the TV3 network. In 2002 he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to television.

George will be presenting both before and after our meal is delivered so, if you wish to get the best of George, come to the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be at the usual place, Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square (next to Synagogue Lane). We start the meeting at 5:30, the meal arrives at 6p.m. and the guest speakers may begin after 6:45 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

If you wish to have the catered meal it costs \$15. Pay cash at the meeting or by Internet banking to our new NZCFS Nelson account, 03-1354-0490726-00, use your name as reference, and contact Barbara Markland as below.

**To arrange catering, please contact Barbara Markland
by Monday, July 22.
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

Meal catering

Those present at our last meeting will have noticed that the meal was a bit different. The meal had a Thai flavour, having been catered by the Golden Bell Restaurant of Hardy Street. Sadly, after many years of faithful service from Nelson Oriental Restaurant, they are no longer able to cater for our meetings. Golden Bell is prepared to cater for our meetings but, as a result of this necessary change, we are having to increase the price from \$12 and meals at our meetings will now cost \$15.

Last meeting

Our June meeting was, once again, a double-header, with presentations before and after the meal.

Dmitri Romanenko demonstrated traditional Chinese tea-making with the beautiful tea set he has brought from China. He showed us the process which involves a complicated process of pouring hot water over the tea pot and the various bowls and tea cups that are used. A special tray enables the water to drain away to be discarded later. Finally the tea is available for sharing with gathered friends. Our picture shows Dmitri ready for the ceremony.



John Black entertained us with stories of his life, focusing particularly on the years he spent in China, studying Traditional Chinese Medicine in the 1980s. China was a vastly different place in those days.



John fended for himself in order to travel, mostly by train, during the college holidays. There were often interesting complications, but the rewards of getting his own tickets in the 'hard seat' train carriages were great, enabling him to have a wider experience of local people. When John's mother arrived to have a holiday trip with him, there were additional challenges as his rough and ready methods of travel and accommodation needed to be modified. We are sure John has even more stories to share.

Our picture shows the road transport systems being used near Beijing in the 1980s.

Group leaders wanted for Student Exchange

Following the decision to send a **Student Exchange to Liangyang Senior High School in Yangjiang in 2020**, we would like to ask for expressions of interest from those willing to be group leaders. The exchange will be take place around April 15 - 25 for 8 Nelson secondary school students. Two adults will accompany the group and it is expected they will be fully involved in selecting the students, liaising with local schools and Liangyang Senior High School as well as organising details of the exchange before, during and after the visit to China. Many resources are available from last year's exchange and most activities in China will be prepared by LYHS.

Total costs are expected to be around \$2,000 per person, of which \$1,000 will be subsidised by the branch. Leaders will preferably have previous experience in China and with managing groups of young people. You need to be flexible, energetic and caring. Police vetting is also required.

If this interests you, please contact Barbara Markland (03-544 4712 or erm@xtra.co.nz).

Please contact Barbara if you would be interested in assisting with the planning for this exchange.

Bill Findlater's China insights

When Bill spoke at our May meeting, he presented an insightful list of useful facts about China which he has gleaned in his years of relationship-building. These items put modern China in perspective.

- One in every six people in the world is Chinese.
- Over half of China's 1.35 billion now live in cities.
- A number of Chinese cities are larger than many European countries.
- The number of Chinese households with an annual disposable income of over US\$10,000 has gone from 57.1 million households to 222 million.
- 200 of the world's top 700 cities will be in China, with 97 new airports and 30,000km of new railways.
- China is on track to become the world's largest economy, yet is still a developing country.
- China's economic growth over the last 25 years is probably the largest and most sustained period of wealth creation in the history of the world.
- In 1800, China generated 25% of the world's industrial output. By 1975, it had fallen to 1.5%. It is now on its way back to 25%.
- Penetration of certain goods may be high in China's eastern seaboard, but many consumer-conversion opportunities remain in less developed ones.
- China could represent 35% of the world's total growth in GDP over coming four years - pulling tens of millions of households into the middle class and beyond.
- Asian growth is an undeniable megatrend that is fundamentally and permanently changing the face of this world.
- As Chinese consumers become more demanding about food safety, the competitive advantage of international manufacturers, and their ability to charge higher prices, can only increase.
- There's a lot of discussion around the 'slowing down' of China's growth. The rates may be slowing to less than the 9% - 10% rates of the last 30 years, but the Chinese economy is about about US\$7 trillion. 10 years ago it was half that. The growth increments are still enormous, especially when compared to other countries.

MLAs going and coming

Charlotte and Joanna have now left Nelson to go back home. The photograph was taken as Joanna departed.

New MLAs Chen Xiaolu (Sharon Chen) and He Mengting (Molly He) are scheduled to arrive in Nelson July 21. They will be home-staying with Murray and Judy Campbell who have looked after a number of our recent MLAs.



Sharon has a Masters Degree in English translation from Huazhong University in Wuhan. She is a basketball champion, has expertise in Folk Dance, Traditional Calligraphy, cooking, and singing. She is a volunteer English teacher in a community college for the elderly in Wuhan.



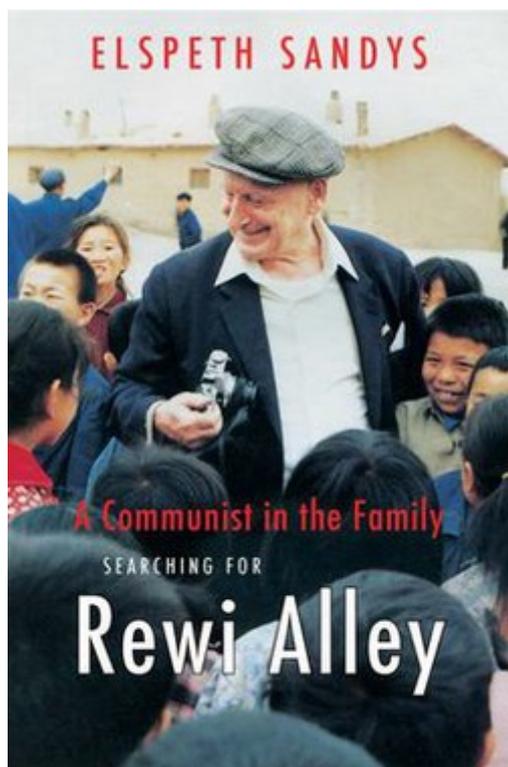
Molly has a Masters Degree in Journalism and Communication from Huazhong University in Wuhan. She has worked in an advertising company, trained as a news reporter, worked on a daily newspaper, and on a reality show as an artist coordinator. She has also volunteered in a primary school in Thailand, and worked as a volunteer in a welfare house for elderly and children.

We are so fortunate that these wonderful young women have been awarded Confucius Institute scholarships to teach Mandarin Language in Nelson, as part of the NZ Ministry of Education Language Curriculum. They will also be teaching adult classes at NMIT.

From Nelson Executive - July

- *Student Exchange*: Planning is continuing for this. Subsidies for leaders and for students have been approved and will come from our Sister Cities funds.
- *China Week*: More arrangements are being finalised. A Lion Dance troupe will perform, and we are asking for a performer from Huangshi. A NZCFS Tours presentation may be given by National President Dave Bromwich. It is hoped that there might be a display about Appo Hocton. A number of entries have been received for the Art Exhibition.
- *August meeting*: He Ming Qing projects.

New Rewi Alley book



Elspeth Sandy's new book, 'A Communist in the Family: Searching For Rewi Alley', is on order at Nelson Library and is available at Page and Blackmore.

Elspeth has written novels, short stories and memoirs that have been well received, but this is something new. There is a strong connection with NZCFS as Elspeth went on a tour, led by President Dave Bromwich, which took members of the Alley Whanau to Rewi sites for a significant anniversary in 2017. Elspeth shares a cousinly connection with Rewi Alley and several Nelson Branch members. She received a Deng Fund award from NZCFS to cover her tour costs so she could continue her research into the life of a relative and his adopted country about which she previously knew little.

This book is the record of Elspeth's research, her personal journey of discovery, and is, notably, a Rewi Alley biography from a fresh perspective. There is a little novelistic imagination involved, but Rewi wrote and received so many letters, wrote such a lot of poetry, and his own biographical material, that it is easy for Elspeth to construct conversations. The book has useful notes and timelines and is well indexed. Although already in the bookshops, there is a launch at NZCFS Auckland Branch in a couple of weeks, and another launch at Parliament

in August.

'A Communist in the Family: Searching for Rewi Alley' is published by Otago University Press (2019) with the assistance of Creative New Zealand, and retails for \$40.

Mandarin Language Corner

Here is a picture from a recent session of Nelson's Mandarin Language Corner. A number of people have been attending. They are held at NMIT each Thursday from 4:30 and are open to anyone interested. Contact Jane Lister (544 5265 or ilister@xtra.co.nz) for details.

