

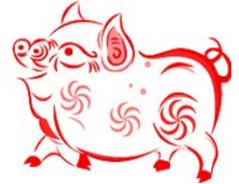
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No. 9 - October 2019

October meeting

MLAs Introduce Themselves



Friday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.



Molly and Sharon with Joyce (right)

Sharon (Chen Xiaolu) and Molly (He Mengting) arrived in July to spend a year here with the Confucius Institute at Canterbury University. They teach Mandarin at NMIT in the evenings, and teach at primary and intermediate schools in Nelson and Richmond. This is our opportunity to hear about their lives growing up in China and their impressions of their life and work in Nelson. In July we heard from Joyce (Chen Biyao) who teaches in the Stoke area with the Nayland College Language Hub. All of the Mandarin Language Assistants have performance skills in Chinese Cultural Arts. At our meeting, Sharon will show us some traditional Chinese dancing. This will be a fascinating evening as Sharon and Molly introduce themselves to the Nelson Branch of NZCFS as the latest in a line of special young women who have served us so well.

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.

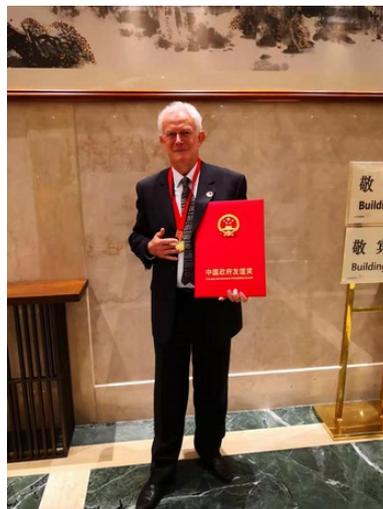
If you wish to have the catered meal it costs \$15. Pay cash at the meeting or by Internet banking to our new NZCFS Nelson account, 03-1354-0490726-00, use your name as reference, and contact Barbara Markland as below.

**To arrange catering, please contact Barbara Markland
 by Monday, October 28.
 ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
 Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

National President Dave Bromwich Awarded Chinese Government Friendship Award

The New Zealand China Friendship Society is proud to announce that National President Dave Bromwich was awarded a Chinese Government Friendship Award in the Great Hall of the People.

This is the top award for foreigners, with only 1,700 being awarded since its inception 28 years ago to people from 70 countries. Promoted by the Gansu Government, the award further acknowledges the work Dave has done in China, including his work with the NZCFS.



Nelson Branch Spring Garden Party



It was nice and sunny in the Huangshi Chinese Garden for our party on the first day of Daylight Saving. Rain was predicted which possibly kept some away on the day.

From Nelson Executive, August

- *China Week – November 13 – 16:* About 40 artists have expressed interested in participating in the art exhibition. There was discussion around awarding of prize money. Arrangements are being made to bring a performer from Huangshi. Two MLAs will perform at the concert. NZCFS will not be associated with any commercial venture in China Week
- *Yangjiang Student Exchange:* Jane Lister will lead the visit with Sarah Thompson from Motueka. Sarah is well-qualified to be involved. The interview panel has been determined. Some doubt was expressed over the provision of money to the Deng Fund – this depends on the National web-site being updated. It was decided that Nelson would apply for funding.
- *Future meetings:* August – Joyce (Chen Biyao) to talk about her hometown and her impressions of New Zealand. Christine to give presentation on He Ming Qing (Kathleen Hall in China). September – Garden Party. October – postponed to November 1 to avoid Mask Parade and Labour Weekend. MLAs to talk about their lives.

From Nelson Executive – October

There was no September meeting as many Executive members were away.

- *Nelson AGM & Banquet*: Sunday February 9, 2020.
- *National Executive meeting*: Last meeting by video link, saves money and more convenient for our three Exec members.
- *Yangjiang Student Exchange*: More than 20 applicants. Deng Fund application being prepared, and other sources also being investigated.
- *China Week*: Branch has paid airfares for 2 performers from Huangshi – one singer, one pipa (lute) player. They will perform at opening, concert, and Community Day as well as local and Christchurch performers.
- *China Week Art Exhibition*: Jifang Black has been working very hard to get entries finalised. Branch members will be needed to supervise exhibits – a roster to be created.

China Week programme

This year, Nelson's China Week runs from November 13 – 16, with the Art Exhibition also open on Sunday, November 17th. Except for the concert at Theatre Royal on Friday 15th, all events are at the Trafalgar Centre Northern End, Paru Paru Road.

Official China Week Opening and Art Exhibition Opening	Wednesday 13th	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Art Exhibition	Wednesday 13th – Saturday 16th Sunday 17th	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Theatre and Music Concert	Friday 15th	7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Community Day Chinese Food and Refreshments, Art Exhibiton, Displays, Music and Performances.	Saturday 16th	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

From Other Branches

Wellington Branch recently had a talk from Rebecca Needham who first went to China with her parents as a 12-year-old in 1978, the first year of China's reform and opening up following the Cultural Revolution. Since then she has lived and worked in China for extended periods, first as a student and then a diplomat, and continues to travel there regularly as an education sector professional.

Rebecca gave an informal talk about her personal and professional associations with China, as seen through the eyes of a second generation New Zealander of Chinese descent, over a period of enormous transformation in its economy and society.

From the Hong Kong newspaper, South China Morning Post

In the third quarter of 2019, China's economy grew by 6.0 per cent, the slowest rate since quarterly records began 27 years ago and worse than expected. It means growth is now on the floor of the target range of between 6.0 to 6.5 per cent for 2019. While the material difference in a percentage point or two of economic growth is scant, for Beijing the symbolism is huge. A strong economy is often offered as the justification for the Communist Party's non-democratic governance of the Chinese people.

The Morning Post has, from August and September, a series of opinion pieces looking at the issues related to the current unrest in Hong Kong:

<https://series.scmp.com/hk-protests-opinion/>

The paper also has an article on the use of disinformation (or fake news) by both government and protestors during the unrest: <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3032734/fake-news-and-hong-kong-protests-psychological-war-hearts>

Confucius Institute awards ceremony

On Monday October 21, the Confucius Institute at Canterbury University presented awards to the top students at the schools where Nelson's three Mandarin Language Assistants have been teaching this year. The Deputy Director of CI, Dr Qianhua Yu, Administrator Rosa Jane Whitcombe, the MLA from Greymouth and other representatives were in Nelson for the occasion which was organised by John Inglis and Ethan Xu of NMIT International Curriculum who are now looking after our MLAs.

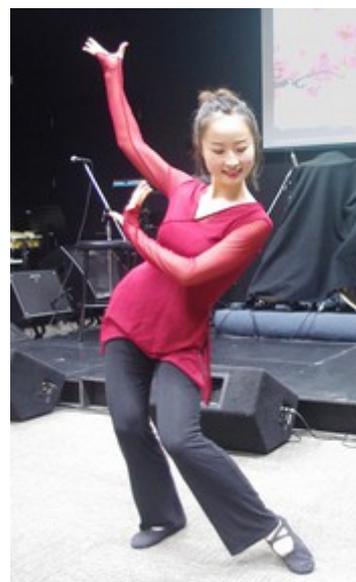


Molly He, who acted as MC



NZCFS President Barbara presenting the top calligraphy award to Nigel Hucklesby

Sharon Chen performing a spring dance



Greymouth MLA performing Tai Chi 24 forms

There was a lovely array of food to welcome guests



Nigel Hucklesby receiving another top award from CI Deputy Director, Qianhua Yu