

**President:** Barbara Markland  
**Phone:** (03) 544 4712 **email:** erm@xtra.co.nz  
**Secretary:** Christine Ward  
**Phone:** (03) 538 0344 **email:** christine@brainward.com  
**Website:** www.nzchinasociety.org.nz



No. 7 – August 2021

**August meeting**  
**I Went to School in China**  
**Jun Kagaya**  
**Friday, August 27, 5:30 p.m.**



*Eighth birthday with Chinese friends, Jun on left*

Jun has grown up across three countries and will focus on his experiences growing up in China. Jun's mother grew up on an apple orchard in Upper Moutere in the Tasman District, his father was a Japanese national who grew up in the heart of Japan, Kanagawa. Jun was born and lived in Japan until he was 3 years old when his family moved to Auckland for 5 years before moving to China in 2001 to teach in Chinese Universities. He has attended local Chinese schools for 4 years and International schools in China for 6 years while living in **Xianning** (Hubei), **Dalian**, and **Suzhou** and has a plethora of experiences growing up overseas.

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, August 23.  
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz  
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

## July Meeting – Chinese Expats Living in Nelson

The Nelson Executive is working to develop stronger connections with our local Chinese Association and the Chinese people who live here. At the July meeting we heard three wonderfully interesting and inspiring stories from three Nelson residents: Laurie Shawn, Maxine Wong, and Chris Chen.

*Laurie Shawn* told us of his high-level academic life in China where he held a professorship in linguistics. It was a big decision to emigrate to New Zealand with his wife and family, and to try to gain employment here. He quickly realised that his Chinese name was sadly inappropriate for getting interviews in spite of an impressive CV. Laurie's journey to form a new identity was a painful disassociation from his origins. He used other names too, in different circumstances and sometimes struggled to know himself. Then came separation from his wife, and an unhappy time of searching again. After various trials, he arrived at NMIT, where he was teaching English to migrants. He has built a new life here, with a new wife and two more children. Laurie is the Nelson representative of the Nelson-Marlborough Chinese Association. He will be working with us on China Week, and hopes to combine with us for future activities. We extend grateful thanks to Laurie for sharing his intimate thoughts, doubts, and triumphs, and for helping us to understand the many difficulties of coping with resettlement in New Zealand.

*Maxine Wong* recounted her stories and pictures of university life at Hangzhou Institute of Hydrology and Water Resources. After graduation there, and meeting Jane and Ian Lister, she decided to come to NMIT and earn further qualifications in accounting, commerce and marketing. She gained permanent employment at Nelson Honey (Motupiko), working in accounting. Now she is branching out with her own Marketing Consultancy. Maxine's positive, friendly and go-ahead personality marks her as a young lady on the move, who is making a great contribution to the Nelson/Tasman community.

*Chris Chen* was running an Apple store in Hangzhou, but working long hours with little time for family and other interests. He wanted to come to New Zealand to make a better life for himself and his young son. Leaving his son in China with his grandmother, Chris came to Nelson to complete his Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Management at NMIT. He has found paid work through contacts in the local Chinese community and is now Store Manager for Lennox Bathrooms. However, COVID-19 has meant that his son has not been able to join him in Nelson and Chris now faces the necessity to return to China to rejoin his son. Chris concluded his story with an excellent video of his home town, Hangzhou - the water town where the Grand Canal ends.



## From other branches

Wellington Branch was recently addressed by Lynette Shum, who is a third-generation Chinese New Zealander and Oral History Advisor at the Alexander Turnbull Library. Lynette was talking about the tragedy of the *SS Ventnor* and more particularly the recent activities which have involved Te Roroa and Te Rarawa. These iwi are the most responsible for the collection and burial of the bones after the ship's sinking near Hokianga harbour in 1902. Ongoing discussions between Chinese descendants and iwi have culminated in the unveiling of plaques and planting of a kauri grove at Waipoua acknowledging the historical events and the iwi's role. In April 2021, a public monument was officially unveiled outside the *Manea Footprints of Kupe Experience* in Oponui. The monument lists the names of those onboard who drowned and the 499 who were to be repatriated.

The September meeting of Wellington Branch is going to involve making of mooncakes in recognition of mid-autumn festival.

## Snippets from Nelson Exec August 11

- Performers, speakers, and displays, are being arranged for the biennial Nelson China Week event which is combined with the national Chinese Language Week. We are working with the Nelson Marlborough Chinese Association and NCC to present this event.
- Raffle: a raffle of Jingdezhen ceramics, donated by Jane and Ian Lister, will happen during China Week. \$5 tickets with 5 for \$20. Members will be asked to sell tickets for this major fundraiser for our youth work.
- Appo Hocton Reprint: More copies of the Appo Hocton book have been ordered. A renewed nationwide marketing campaign will generate more funds for the language work of NZCFS.
- 'China in the News' column in Nelson newsletter: More explanation will be given to emphasise that these are facts that are intended to help our understanding of what is happening in China. Members are asked to send in ([bmward@orcon.net.nz](mailto:bmward@orcon.net.nz)) any information that could help us to know about China news.
- Meng Foon, Race Relations Conciliator will be here at NZCFS invitation, on February 25, 2021. He will speak on how we can work with confronting Chinese racism in our region.
- Members are asked to invite friends and family to our meetings to see what we are doing to improve understanding of what friendship with Chinese people both here and in China means internationally. This is about friendship, not politics.
- We celebrated the major success of the July meeting, with grateful thanks to Laurie, Maxine and Chris, our three excellent speakers.

## China Week Exhibition

Members who have Chinese artefacts which they think others may be interested in seeing, are invited to register them for a display during China Week. It is intended that they will be displayed at Trafalgar Centre. We understand that security is being arranged by the organisers.

If you have some suitable artefacts please contact Christine Ward (phone 538 0344, or e-mail [christine@brainward.com](mailto:christine@brainward.com)) or see her at our August meeting.

## Chinese Youtube videos

There is available, on the Internet, a collection of videos featuring a young Chinese woman called Liziqi. The topics range through food, festivals, cultural heritage, and handcrafts. If you ever look at Youtube videos, you might want to look at some of these:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/cnliziqi>

## Embroidery par excellence

In the last newsletter there was mention of an embroidery exhibition in Christchurch. Here are photos of two of the works. Unfortunately, we are not able to show the detail in each.



## China's Grand Canal



*Grand Canal at Hangzhou*

Heritage Site and a huge tourist attraction. Chris Chen's beautiful video of Hangzhou scenes of water, architecture and the present-day life of citizens, was received with delight by our audience.

The Grand Canal, linking Beijing and Hangzhou is by far the longest in the world at nearly 1,800 km, with a carefully engineered 'fall' that allows for keeping the water flowing north to south. It has 24 locks and 60 bridges, and its greatest height is reached in the mountains of Shandong, at a summit of 42 m. After the [pound lock](#) was invented in the 10th century, ships in Chinese canals did not have trouble reaching higher elevations.

Truly an engineering feat of the ancient world, built in sections from the 5th Century BC. It is a UNESCO World

## China in the news

There have been comments about the usefulness of this column. Some find it worrying but helpful, some think it is anti-China and will put people off NZCFS development. Nelson Branch is searching the news to keep readers informed about what is happening in China and how we can develop their friendship and understanding of Chinese people. The editor is trying to provide factual information from a number of sources. Interested people may send suitable links to [bmward@orcon.net.nz](mailto:bmward@orcon.net.nz). August contributions below:

RadioNZ on the wandering elephant herd

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/447156/the-wandering-elephants-who-ve-taken-china-by-storm>

World's first 600 km/h high-speed maglev train rolls off assembly line

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0720/c90000-9874403.html>

Silenced in China: the COVID 'truth-tellers' and political dissent

<https://theconversation.com/silenced-in-china-the-covid-truth-tellers-and-political-dissent-164642>



What the West Gets Wrong About China

<https://hbr.org/2021/05/what-the-west-gets-wrong-about-china>

Fact check: Is China the main climate change culprit?

<https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-is-china-the-main-climate-change-culprit/a-57777113>

Why a China-centered future is still uncertain

<https://www.newstatesman.com/world/asia/2021/08/why-china-centered-future-still-uncertain>