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Nelson Executive has decided to cancel the August meeting.

This meeting was set down for August 28.

Although we might be back to Level 1 on that day, it could be uncertain. At Level 2 we are required by Hearing House to space the chairs and to have one person at a time in the kitchen, making it impossible to run our usual meeting.

On the second page of this newsletter you will find some information about what Nelson Executive was planning for August 28. We hope this will help members to be ready, at some later date, to discuss what 'New Zealand China Friendship' means in 2020 and beyond.



Some important issues that were planned to be put forward on August 28.

There has been much discussion recently about events in China, international tensions in China relationships, and where New Zealand could stand within these discussions. For people following the arguments between major powers, media reports of problems in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, and contradictory reports from China, it can be a difficult to sort out where to stand. Within the National Executive of NZCFS there are differing opinions. There have been resignations around the country, and some are wondering about what it means to be friends with China these days.

At the July meeting of the Auckland Branch, there was a forum discussion titled 'China - New Zealand's Dilemma'. There were two guest speakers: John McKinnon and David Mahon.

John McKinnon was Ambassador to China (2001-2004 and 2015-2018). He has also served in diplomatic roles in Washington, Canberra and New York, including at U.N. He is now a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. He is also Director of the New Zealand China Council, and writes often on the topic of China relationships.



David Mahon joined the New Zealand China Friendship Society in the 1970s. He has made his home in Beijing since 1984 where he became a friend of Rewi Alley. As Chairman of Mahon China Investments, he is a sought-after advisor on China to business leaders, public servants, and politicians in New Zealand and around the globe. He was present at Tiananmen Square in 1989, and has recently observed riots in Hong Kong at first hand.



The Auckland forum was broadcast live, and then edited to a 36 minute video available at <https://youtu.be/a6YhI80EYNM>

Members of your Nelson Exec have watched the video and thought it could be useful as a discussion starter for the August meeting. We were planning to seek opinions from our members on the dilemma of where we stand as members of a China-friendly society in 2020.

Nelson Executive, therefore, invites members to use the link to view the McKinnon/Mahon speeches and consider the problems involved in NZCFS membership so we can have an informed discussion sometime in the future.

Other sources which could be followed are listed below if you would like to do some more research on the dilemma we face:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/26/the-guardian-view-on-china-and-the-ughurs-everyones-business> (July 2020)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/17/think-of-your-family-china-threatens-european-citizens-over-xinjiang-protests> (October 2019)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51520622> (February 2020)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-52765838> (June 2020)

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/01/new-security-law-hong-kong/> (July 2020)

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3091580/how-national-security-law-strikes-heart-hong-kongs-judicial> (July 2020)

and some views from China on the NZCFS web-site . . .

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2019-12-05/Fighting-terrorism-in-Xinjiang-MaNLLDtnfq/index.html>

http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Newsletter_20200715.pdf This newsletter has an article about the reasons for the law changes in Hong Kong.

Welcome to new members

We welcome two new members, John and Diane McKinnon. They have, for many years, arranged tours to China and Nepal. This link will take you to their web-site so you can read all about their adventures. <http://greenkiwi.co.nz/footprints/frames/who.htm>

July Meeting

Our guest speaker on July 31 was noted Art Historian, Dr Rose Kerr. We were so fortunate to benefit from Rose and Steve's enforced stay in Nelson due to the lock-down which arrived just as they were about to return to their home in the UK for the northern summer. Thus they experienced their first NZ winter, and an extension of their usual 6 month visa. We always enjoy Rose's history lessons, so this new one, the fourth we have been lucky to hear, was another special experience for our members and guests.

Rose's presentation was titled 'What Every Chinese Woman Wanted' covering articles made especially for rich women in the Song Dynasty (960 -1279) and in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).



When Europe was in the Middle Ages, porcelain with beautiful and intricate decorations such as these incense pots were being used in the women's rooms of the Song Dynasty in China.



Chinese have traditionally slept on hard pillows that fitted behind the neck. They could be made of wood, stuffed fabric, porcelain, jade, ivory and were often symbolically decorated. This one enabled a high-born woman to dream of producing the much-valued male child.



Dated 1673, this silver inlaid table is regarded by Rose as the most beautiful object she has studied. The inlaid story is called 'An Empress Fishing' and the pieces of peacock feather inlaid around the edges are arranged so that, as the observer moves around the table, different colours are displayed. This was a gift from Emperor Kangxi to his beloved grandmother on her 60th birthday.



This white porcelain seal 玉窗齋 named Studio with Jade Windows has the style name of Ge Yi (1635-1671), who lived in Haining, Zhejiang, and was the third daughter of Ge Qu'an and wife of Zhu Ermai. Reputedly talented in calligraphy, painting, chess and mathematics she was the author of Yuchuang Yigao (Manuscript left by Yuchuang). She was highly educated and skilled in the arts. The seal, with its white body and small size would especially suit a woman scholar.



Binding of feet became popular in the Qing, and this habit was not changed until the 20th century. The daintiness, so painfully established, was designed to indicate that a young woman was a good prospect for a high-born husband.



NEW ZEALAND CHINESE LANGUAGE WEEK

20-26 September 2020



www.nzclw.com



HOW WILL YOU BE
CELEBRATING?



Nelson participation in Chinese Language Week (NZCLW)

Chinese Language Week is a bi-annual celebration, originally set up by a volunteer committee which included Raymond Ho and Dave Bromwich. It is now a registered charity. As it is usually about the third week in September, it coincided with our first China Week in 2016 when Nelson Branch put on the Nelson-Huangshi Schools Art Exchange Exhibition. In 2018 we mounted an exhibition of calligraphy in the Library by primary students being taught by our MLAs, and had Chinese teas in the Chinese Garden on Daylight Saving Sunday.

In 2020 we are joining in again by planning:

- * A Chinese celebration at NMIT Kowhai room. This will involve cooperation with other groups and will include dumplings, music, calligraphy, teas and raffles.
- * An exhibition of scrolls from Nelson Sister Cities with translations. This will be in Nelson Library.
- * A NZ-China business forum.

These events will replace our usual September tea party in the Huangshi Chinese Garden.

The relationship between China and Hong Kong

A light-hearted look at whether Hong Kong is really part of China, from the South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong newspaper.

