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No. 1 – February 2020

## **XIN NIÁN KUÀI LÈ!** **Happy New Year!**

We hope all members have had a happy and restful Christmas and New Year and are prepared for the year ahead.

According to the Chinese traditional Lunar calendar, this is a rat year from Saturday, January 25 to February 11, 2021. It is regarded as the first in the 12 animal rotation. In addition to the animals, there are other factors including five elements (water, wood, fire, earth, metal) associated with the year, so, welcome to the year of the metal rat.

Once again, we will be taking over the Eastern Cuisine restaurant in Richmond for a banquet. There will be a *brief* Annual General Meeting before the banquet begins. We welcome you to join us for this occasion of good food, fellowship, and fun.



### **Eastern Cuisine, Richmond** **AGM & New Year Banquet** **Sunday 9 February, 6 p.m.**



To book, please contact **Barbara Markland** by **Monday 3 February**

Eastern Cuisine (275 Queen Street) is well-known to us for banquets, and we get exclusive use of the restaurant for Sunday night, as long as we have sufficient numbers; which has never been a problem! Your family and friends are all welcome to this celebration.

The banquet charge is a very reasonable \$32. The usual juice, beer, and wine will be available for purchase from the restaurant and there will be no corkage charge if you wish to take your own wine. Other payments for drinks, you will make directly to the restaurant.

Booking will be necessary and payment can be made by internet banking to the **new** account (instructions below), or at the door (cash or cheque only - no EFTPOS).

You are also invited to make donations towards our Chinese projects on the night by buying tickets in the multi-draw raffle for excellent Chinese items - tickets will be just \$2 each, or \$5 for three, so please remember to bring some gold coins and/or \$5 notes.

Please be there by 5.45pm to enable the AGM to begin at 6pm. There will be no seating plan this year so it would be advantageous if groups could arrive early and together. It is expected that the banquet will commence about 6:45pm.

Please pay for your banquet via internet banking to the new **NZ China Friendship Society - Nelson Branch** bank account at Nelson Building Society **03-1354-0490726-00**. Please make sure you enter your name as the reference and then email both Barbara Markland at [erm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:erm@xtra.co.nz) and Treasurer, Royden Smith, at [royden@shangrila.net.nz](mailto:royden@shangrila.net.nz) so that they can then confirm your payment has been received.

## Annual General Meeting

The items on the agenda for this are President's Report, Financial Report, Election of Officers, and General Business to cover any items which need to be discussed. Nominations will be taken for the committee and some new members and some ideas would be most welcome. If you think you, or a friend, could possibly make a contribution and would like to be nominated, please have a talk with President Barbara.

National President Dave Bromwich and South Island Vice President Craig Ashby will be present.

## Banquet place cards



This image is the work of Pam Frahm, who has created it as a place card for this year's A.G.M. and banquet.

For some years now, Pam has created similar cards to mark Chinese New Year and donated them for our New Year banquets.

Thank you, Pam, these are very much appreciated.

## Snippets from Nelson Executive Committee

The January meeting, pre AGM, was held at Markland's, on Tuesday 21st. After the meeting we enjoyed a pot-luck barbeque and social time while continuing China-NZ discussions.

- Arrangements for the AGM/New Year Banquet were made. A newsletter will advise of these.
- Finances were discussed extensively including the loss incurred when two musicians from Huangshi pulled out of the trip and were unable to refund all of the funds we had sent them. In addition, one of our fixed deposits had to be broken to cover the cost of the airfares for the Yangjiang Student exchange. Hope was expressed that Deng Fund money would be forthcoming soon.
- Confucius institute at Canterbury University has advised us that the Nayland Language Hub is no longer operating and therefore there will be only two MLAs in Nelson this year.
- Committee retirements:  
Nigel Hucklesby will be pursuing his art interests more extensively. We have appreciated Nigel's care for the MLAs, especially with helping with weekend activities and transport arrangements. Ethan Xu is fully occupied with his work at NMIT. He has oversight of the MLAs there as well as his involvement with the China Project.  
Ferry Van Mansum has resigned from NZCFS after many year's valuable service locally and nationally. We are sorry to lose Ferry whose enthusiasm and 'institutional knowledge' has been much appreciated.
- Offers to serve on the committee in 2020 are being sought.
- Suggestions for speakers for 2020 are welcome and a list is being prepared.

## Year of the Rat

People born in the Year of the Rat are said to be instinctive, acute and alert in nature, which can make them brilliant businessmen. They can react properly before the worst circumstances happen. They are also sophisticated and popular in social interaction, sanguine and very adaptable.

- Strengths - Adaptable, smart, cautious, acute, alert, positive, flexible, outgoing, cheerful
- Weaknesses - Timid, unstable, stubborn, picky, lack of persistence, querulous

## Farewelling a MLA

Early in December we had a barbeque party to say good-bye to Joyce (Chen Biyao), who had been teaching at the Stoke 'hub' of schools and was based at Nayland College. The evening was fine and a nice group had an evening of food and talk.

A few days later some of us, along with the other MLAs, saw Joyce off at Nelson airport.



## NZ-China Relationships

Some of our members have been asking about the NZCFS position regarding news reports and on-line articles which are suspicious of Chinese Government actions and reactions especially on ethnic minorities and human rights issues. Our National President, Dave Bromwich is quoting the Confucian opinion that 'it is necessary to stand on two legs to keep balanced' and that the messages we are getting from the media are one-sided. Dave, with his wide knowledge of modern China, will speak to us briefly at our AGM with the message he is taking around NZCFS branches relating to these concerns.

## Yangjiang Student Exchange

Jane Lister and Sarah Thompson are doing great work in arranging our 10 students from 5 Nelson high schools to visit Yangjiang in April. The risk of cancellation due to a viral epidemic is being written into the risk management strategy.

Enormous gratitude is expressed to Sarah Thompson for paying for the airfares to get an early booking. Unfortunately the funding that we thought was arranged by National Honorary Patron, Simon Deng Li, did not arrive, so Sarah was re-paid from branch funds before Christmas. We still await the Deng Fund money. Some grants from the Tasman District Council and The Lion Foundation are being applied for, to add to the grants from Nelson City Council and the hoped-for Deng Fund.

## Wuhan coronavirus outbreak

This new virus, sweeping China and out into the rest of the world, is related to the SARS virus of a few years ago, but it is not yet known whether it will be as deadly. Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world, causing respiratory infections. Coronaviruses are common in many different species of animals, including camels and bats. It is rare for these to infect humans and then spread between humans.

The Wuhan outbreak is thought to have originated in a market selling fish, chickens, pheasants, bats, marmots, venomous snakes, and wild animals. While some early studies suggested that snakes are involved in transmission of this virus (and many news media enthusiastically reported this), more recent research suggests bats are more likely to be the source, particularly as they are warm-blooded like humans (and unlike snakes) and are known to have coronaviruses.

The timing of this outbreak is very unfortunate. It is now being suggested, but not confirmed, that people can be infectious for days before symptoms appear, and travel for Chinese New Year has meant that possibly 5 million left Wuhan before travel restrictions were imposed.

### **Chinese New Year in Queen's Gardens**

On New Year's Day (Lunar new year that is) there was a festival of Chinese activity in the Queen's Gardens, a great venue. This was organised by the Nelson Tasman Chinese Community group with Jingjing Jackson, and the programme included Tai Chi, Dragon Dance relay, a gong concert, and finished with a pot-luck dinner.



### **November Meeting**

2019 was a special year for having two addresses from Dr Rose Kerr. Soon after she and Steve arrived back in Nelson in November, Rose brought us another of her great Chinese art history insights. This time it was titled 'Faces and Places', examining the stories associated with ceramic paintings held in two museums (Netherlands and USA). Rose has studied the history of what is painted on these art works and brought the stories alive for us, almost as if she had interviewed the artists.



### **Sad losses: Dick Parker and Dame Alison Roxburgh**

Recently NZCFS has received sad news about two long-term and faithful members of the Society. Dick Parker and Dame Alison Roxburgh had both been unable to attend meetings in recent times due to failing health. They had deep interests in Chinese people, history, and culture, and they also served NZCFS and the wider community in many ways.

Dick had been in the Care Unit at Ernest Rutherford for some time, having been cared for at home by wife Gwenda until this became unmanageable. We miss his cheerfulness and the way he was always ready with enthusiastic support.

Alison and husband Jim were stalwarts of the Society from the early days. With an enormous library of books about China, they were splendid sources of information on many China-NZ questions. When Alison moved to Summerset from their large home in Collingwood Street, she made many donations of books and artifacts for our library and auctions. She leaves a large gap in NZCFS fellowship. We will miss her, as will many other community organisations with which she so generously shared her wide experience, knowledge, and understanding. Hers was a life well-lived with long and unstinting service in the Nelson community, as well as nationally and internationally.