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No. 6 – July 2020



**July meeting**  
**What Every Chinese**  
**Woman Wanted**  
**Dr Rose Kerr, Art Historian**  
**Friday, July 31, 5:30 p.m.**



We are fortunate indeed that Dr Rose Kerr has agreed to present another of her fascinating Chinese art history stories at our July meeting.

Rose Kerr and Steve Lord are spending their first winter in New Zealand. Usually they return to the UK in March to spend their summer there, but this year they got locked down with the rest of us, and say they have quite enjoyed being part of the team of 5 million. Now they face the dilemma of when to return to UK and how to come back to NZ later. In the meantime Rose and Steve have been able to work from home like some of the rest of us. One of her books will be re-published in Mandarin and English, and she has been preparing some new lectures, one of which she will share with us at our July meeting. Maybe this is a world première?

Rose says her lecture is about luxury objects made specifically for women.

In traditional China, well-born women lived quite separate lives to men. They occupied quarters in the rear of the house and were closely supervised outside its walls. Their secluded existence was pampered and opulent, they dressed themselves well, and surrounded themselves with luxury products. Based on the shapes and function of pieces, and on their decoration, it is possible to single out products manufactured specifically for women. This lecture will concentrate on two periods in China's long history: the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It will discuss porcelain, jade, bronze, lacquer and fine silk garments.

This is an occasion you do not want to miss. Invite your friends to share this unique opportunity to hear a world-class speaker.

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

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 27.  
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz  
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

## **From Nelson Executive**

The Nelson Exec meeting in July was again at Eastern Cuisine in Richmond. Discussions took place around the following topics:

- Farewell to MLA Molly at the airport
- Travel arrangements for MLA Sharon for next term travelling to Richmond
- Arrangements for speakers for July - November
- Participation in New Zealand Chinese Language Week September 20-26, 2020
- Receipt of copies of Elspeth Sandys' book *A Communist in the Family – searching for Rewi Alley*.
- Arrangements for Kirsten Wong to be in Nelson for our November Meeting.
- Discussion of the structure of NZCFS National, and Nelson's response to changes needed.
- The weak financial situation of NZCFS nationally with reduction in membership.
- Jane Lister is resuming the popular Mandarin Language Corner at NMIT Library.
- President Barbara and Secretary Christine are going to Wellington for National Executive meeting August 22.

## **NZ Chinese Language Week (NZCLW)**

As usual, this nation-wide week is in September. Nelson Branch NZCFS has registered its intention to participate. Ideas are to join in the theme of food exchange by cooperating with other groups to arrange a Dumplings Day and a Business Forum during the week 20-26 September.

NZCLW coincides this year with our September meeting which is usually the Garden Party at the beginning of Daylight Saving. This is often plagued with bad weather so we will replace the Garden Party with Chinese Language Week activities this year, and enjoy cooperating with the Chinese Community for those events.

## **June meeting – Inside Red China**

We were delighted to have a good crowd for our June meeting. There was a farewell to MLA Molly, and a welcome to a number of visitors: James Dyer's family from Wellington, some friends of Jingjing, Rose Kerr and Steve Lord in Nelson for the winter, and Haiying Shi, founder of Sea Eagle Consulting.

Projectionist Bruce Ward had put the 'Inside Red China' DVD onto our system, and also some parts of a 'Koha' interview with Ramai Hayward. Together these several stories were blended into a sequence by Christine Ward. We covered the film making career of Ramai Hayward as it related to her filming in China and her connections with the beginnings of NZCFS. There was great interest in George Andrews' digital version of 'Inside Red China' by Ramai Hayward (1957).

The Haywards had six weeks filming in China with a group which included poet R.A.K. Mason who was the first National President of NZCFS. They were helped by Rewi Alley who guided them around. They were the first 'British' film crew in China and were free to go anywhere they wanted. The digital version of 'Inside Red China' was followed by the fascinating story from Ambassador John McKinnon of how the cloak presented to Chairman Mao Tse Tung by Ramai Hayward was re-discovered in a Beijing Museum. It was later temporarily returned, with proper Maori ceremonial, to New Zealand to be displayed for a season at Te Papa.

There was time for some discussion at the end and it was obvious that there was wide interest in the topics covered.

The Koha films (in two parts) are at [nzonscreen.com](http://nzonscreen.com) and can be found by searching for Ramai Hayward. They are provided by Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision Archives. There are also other films there which have links to Ramai as an actor or as the subject.

The DVD is available from Nelson Branch NZCFS for \$10.

## **A Communist in the Family – searching for Rewi Alley**

Described as 'part biography, travel journal, and literary commentary', research for this readable book has included the story of the Alley Family Tour to China. Elspeth Sandys' travel on this tour was funded by a Deng Fund grant from NZCFS

Copies of the book are available to purchase from the Nelson Branch at \$30 – see Christine Ward.

## Letter From Race Relations Conciliator

Meng Foon, Race Relations Conciliator, has written to politicians on behalf of the New Zealand Contemporary Research Centre. NZCFS supports this move and Nelson is combining with other branches to share this message widely.

We support Meng Foon's call for politicians to focus on issues, rather than singling out minority communities for political gain. His letter follows.

08 July 2020

Tēnā koe, Talofa, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, 你好, Namaste.

### **Election 2020 and Beyond - Avoiding the vilification of minority groups**

My role as Race Relations Commissioner is to promote and enhance harmonious communities in our diverse nation. As the leader of a political party who manages development of policy and campaigning in the 2020 General Election, you will advocate a vision for Aotearoa.

For this reason, I am writing to share my advice for your party during the campaign period and beyond.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic we are still in, there are so many pressing issues facing Aotearoa New Zealand including lack of housing, rising unemployment, the need for training, climate change, family violence and much more.

The debate around racism globally and locally is important. But, I wish to remind you and your party to focus on issues rather than singling out minority communities for political gain. To use a rugby analogy, play the ball and not the person; and follow the rules.

I encourage you to debate and promote policies that will build a better Aotearoa. I call on you to present your position in a way that brings attention to your policies - without scapegoating or inciting ill will towards minority groups.

The Human Rights Commission encourages and promotes the freedom of speech of all political parties in this and every election. With this right though comes the great responsibility to not vilify or de-humanise people.

As a leader of a political party you have an important role. I encourage your leadership team to promote an equal society, where all are acknowledged for their contributions.

My door is always open to all, but my role is non-partisan and I will maintain neutrality. I will ensure an even-handed approach to publicly calling matters to account should this be necessary.

I wish you all the best in your campaign, as serving our country is an honour.



Meng Foon  
Race Relations Commissioner  
Human Rights Commission

## MLA Molly returns to China

Molly He (He Mengting) has returned to China and was farewelled at Nelson Airport. We are very grateful for the work she has done with children in our schools and are sorry to see her go.



Before Molly left, she had her portrait painted by Jifang Black.

## Zhongwen Jiao (Mandarin group)

The Mandarin Language group is to resume on Thursday July 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. This is for friendly casual conversation. Find them at the NMIT library, downstairs on the right, each Thursday in term time.



## New podcast offers fresh perspectives on NZ China relationship

July 15, 2020

A new podcast launching today from the New Zealand China Council aims to bring in new voices to discuss the future of the New Zealand China relationship and tell topical stories that inform, educate and engage New Zealand audiences.

Each episode will feature an interview with someone involved in the New Zealand China relationship. Interviews will cover issues from trade, education and tourism to culture, language and other relevant topics, highlighting individuals and stories that reveal new ideas and perspectives.

The first episode features Bruce Cameron, the Chairman of Zespri. Cameron talks about the challenges Zespri has overcome to build its markets in China and gives insights into issues such as trade concentration, and how New Zealand successfully navigates political and cultural differences while doing business with Chinese partners.

The New Zealand China Council podcast will be available on the NZ China Council website (<https://nzchinacouncil.org.nz/podcasts/zespri-china-journey-with-bruce-cameron/>), and on [SoundCloud](#), [Spotify](#) and [iTunes](#).