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No. 5 – June 2020

June meeting

Historical Films of NZ-China Friendship

Friday, June 26, 5:30 p.m.



In 1957, husband and wife film makers Rudall and Ramai Hayward made a film of their travels titled 'Inside Red China'. Ramai was famous as the star of the feature film 'Rewi's Last Stand' (1940). She went on to work in many films. She died in 2014 aged 97. Also in 2014, film producer George Andrews, a Vice President of NZCFS, arranged for the Hayward's film to be digitalised, and to be published by NZCFS with the assistance of a Deng Fund Grant. George added a documentary to the DVD of the recovery of the korowai or Maori cloak which Ramai had presented to Chairman Mao in Beijing in 1957. The cloak was repatriated for some months to be displayed at Te Papa.

These two stories are intertwined in the presentations at the meeting on June 26. The two photographs below also show the linkage: young Ramai Hayward with cameras in China in 1957, and George Andrews, early in his career, working on a film on the NZ West Coast, with Billy T James.

Our June meeting will provide members with a fascinating evening of historic film in the long story of friendship between New Zealand and China.



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 about 6p.m. and 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, June 22.
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

During the lockdown periods, the Nelson Executive did not meet formally, although we were kept up-to-date with emails from Barbara and Christine, and the Newsletters from Bruce. Thus, our first meeting since early March was on Wednesday June 10. Most of the committee was able to attend the meeting at Eastern Cuisine Restaurant in Richmond where we enjoyed a meal after the meeting procedures. Issues discussed included:

- *MLA news:* Barbara and Christine met with Rosa Jane Whitcomb from the Canterbury University Confucius Institute on her post-lock-down visit to South Island MLAs. After the Nayland Language Hub did not continue in 2020, we have had only two MLAs serving Nelson and Richmond schools, and teaching night classes at NMIT. All teaching was suspended until Level 2 began, so a lot of their programmes have been shortened. As a result of the travel problems caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the Confucius Institute has asked those MLAs who would ordinarily be returning to China at this time, to stay if possible. Molly (He Mengting) will be returning to China in July to continue her studies there. We will be able to farewell her at our June meeting. Sharon (Chen Xiaolu) will remain in Nelson until December, and will take over some of Molly's programmes in Terms 3 and 4. Future participation in the MLA scheme is uncertain.
- *National Executive Meeting.* Barbara and Christine were to represent Nelson at the Zoom meeting held on Saturday June 13. Some documents relating to National Executive functions, issued prior to that meeting were discussed by the Nelson meeting.
- *Plans for our 2020 programme,* starting in June were made and arrangements for speakers for the following month were discussed.
- *Annual Subscriptions.* It was decided that the annual subscriptions should be reduced because of three months without meetings. This to be advertised in the newsletter, and arrangements would be made for the few members who had already paid.
- *Financial Report.* A partial refund from the cancelled visit of two performers from Huangshi for China Week had finally been received. Thanks were expressed to Ian Lister for making the arrangements for this. Refunds from airlines for the Yangjiang Exchange had been completed with only a slight reduction, some of which was covered by an extra grant from the Deng Fund.

National Exec meeting

President Barbara and Deng Fund Chair Christine attended the Zoom meeting on Saturday June 13. This would normally have been held in the afternoon following the AGM on May 16, but there was no Zoom time to have it then. Leaders had a month to formulate suggestions to advance future planning. Discussions and decisions involved:

- *Committee formation:* Roles and duties for the various committees were formulated and their membership defined. Committees of NZCFS are: Finance, Projects (Deng, RAFE, He Ming Qing), Tours, Relationships (Exchanges, Pastoral Care, Culture), Communication and Marketing, Constitution and Rules, Membership, Revenue Generation, Pacific China Friendship Association, Embassy and Consulate Relations. These committees represent the wide-ranging compass of the Society. Barbara and Christine were pleased to see them clearly identified and their range of duties defined.
- *Race Relations Workshop:* After an approach from the Conciliator, Meng Foon, the Society is promoting some research about the way Chinese New Zealanders are impacted by racism. Branches are encouraged to conduct workshops on this to survey in their own areas. A successful workshop has been held in Whanganui.
- *A letter from the Christchurch Branch* with their concerns about National Executive processes arising from the AGM was tabled. Responses from Dave Bromwich, Heiko Lade, and Michael Hart were also tabled. Branches were asked to consider these documents and make their own responses to the Christchurch criticisms before July 31.
- *Membership:* Branches were urged to submit up-to-date (2019) information about their membership for the legal requirement for national registration.

Barbara and Christine were pleased about the processes of the meeting, and felt that new management structures would give clarity and meaning towards future development. The National President, who is planning to retire from the position next year, presented a theme for the meeting: *What does it mean to be a friend of China?* A helpful question to consider as we move forward.

Andy Boreham

The NZCFS website (<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>) has an article introducing Andy Boreham who is a Kiwi now living and working in Shanghai as a columnist at Shanghai Daily (<https://www.shine.cn/>). He studied at Victoria University of Wellington and went on to do a Masters degree at Fudan University in Shanghai. He is now a NZCFS member at large.

COVID-19

So much of our lives over the last three months has been dominated by the effects of the novel coronavirus, and it is not over yet. Other countries are still experiencing growth in the number of cases and also in the number of reported deaths. Some countries are expecting a second wave of coronavirus cases.

Recent coverage is sampled below.

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) was reporting in March that Chinese government documents (not made public) have stated the first case of someone in China suffering from COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, can be traced back to November 17.

The first known case in U.S.A. went to a medical centre on January 19, after he had visited Wuhan, but analysis of data from U.S.A. indicates that some cases might have been there as early as December and were not recognised "because we were having a severe flu season". Mild cases have symptoms very much like flu and may well have gone undiagnosed for that reason.

South China Morning Post Editorial – 11 June:

China is the first country to produce a white paper on the coronavirus pandemic. It will not be the last to face some soul-searching on its response to the outbreak and scrutiny of lessons learned. Premier Li Keqiang set the stage for the release of the 37,000-word paper in his recent work report to the National People's Congress, with a rare admission that "many weak links" had been exposed in public health emergency management. People had recommendations that "deserve our attention". He pledged in particular to improve infectious disease reporting and early warning systems, following domestic and international criticism of China's handling of the early stages of the epidemic. In a subsequent press briefing on the paper, National Health Commission director Ma Xiaowei identified room for improvement in the public health system in the light of a performance that was, nonetheless, "generally effective". It included the need for a better epidemic monitoring and warning system. He said China would improve the emergency plan and build classified health teams to detect, report, warn and respond to major public health events. Some experts were quick to criticise the absence from the reforms of the need for better communication with the public. According to Professor Li Dun, of Tsinghua University, the warning system would not work effectively without information disclosure and public participation. Professor Zhu Lijia, of the Chinese Academy of Governance, said an early warning was essential in such a crisis. Greater investment in the public health system on its own will make no difference. China spent more than 700 million yuan (US\$99 million) on an early warning system for the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after the severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) outbreak in 2002, but it proved ineffective in the Covid-19 outbreak. Some medical staff were even disciplined for warning colleagues. Ma promised more authority for the national CDC. Reforms must be clearly substantive rather than cosmetic if they are to improve communication. They must include the CDC's oversight in the face of a possible crisis. Sars and now Covid-19 have taught painful lessons. Early warning and information disclosure are paramount to effective crisis management in public safety – because that's a matter of life and death.

New Zealand Ministry of Health has concerns related to inconsistencies about labelling and certification of masks. Because of global pressure on supply lines, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks were purchased quickly and often from different sources than those usually used in the health sector. At the same

time there is news out of China of the problems now facing some small manufacturers who tried to get on to what the South China Morning Post is calling the “mask-making gravy train”.

A number of sources, including BBC and Shanghai Daily, are reporting that Beijing is seeing a new wave of COVID-19 cases after 55 days free. Partial lockdown has been instituted in some residential areas, and thousands of people will be tested after dozens of cases were confirmed at the city’s largest wholesale meat market. A number of other cities are asking residents not to travel to Beijing.


By number

The cartoon about ordering by number in a Chinese restaurant made your editor laugh out loud (luckily he wasn't drinking anything!).



2020 Subscriptions

Below is the subscription information and form for this (abbreviated) year. Either fill out the form and give it with cash or cheque to Royden at a meeting or, pay direct to the bank account and e-mail the details to Royden.



New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc.
Nelson Branch

Annual Subscription - 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____


N.B. To reduce costs, newsletters are emailed (pdf format) - please let us know if you do not have access to a suitable email address.

Subscription (please circle):

\$5 (youth/student)	\$10 (single)	\$15 (couple/family)	\$15 (school)	\$20 (corporate)
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My email can be given to NZCFS National so they can send me their National Newsletter: yes / no

I would also like to make a donation to the Projects Fund of: \$ _____



Please make cheques payable to: NZ China Friendship Society - Nelson

And post to: Royden Smith, Membership Secretary
2/10 Ngaio Street, Nelson 7011

Or use online banking to transfer your subscription to our new Nelson Branch bank account at NBS:
03-1354-0490726-00

Please use your name as the reference code and then email Royden (royden@shangri-la.net.nz) to advise that your sub has been paid in this way.

Receipts are issued on request.

