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No. 2 – March 2021



March meeting **A CELEBRATION OF NELSON'S SISTER CITIES**



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



Since 1994, when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Mayor of Huangshi, Hubei Province, and Philip Woollaston, the Mayor of Nelson, there have been many friendly exchanges with schools, businesses, and trade enterprises in Huangshi. In 2014, a second Chinese Friendly City agreement was signed between the mayors of Nelson and Yangjiang in Guangdong Province. The most recent NZCFS-sponsored exchange was in March 2019, when students from a high school in Yangjiang came to Nelson, for a cultural exchange with Nelson high school students.

At this month's Nelson Branch meeting, we will celebrate the history of our Sister Cities, hearing unique stories from those involved in the foundations and maintenance of the relationships. We will also look forward to how Nelson NZCFS can continue to build friendship, understanding, and goodwill between people in Nelson and people in our Sister Cities, with special emphasis on youth.

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, March 22.**

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

Nelson's AGM And Chinese New Year Banquet

As usual, we combined these two events by meeting on February 14 at Eastern Cuisine in Richmond. 42 members and guests were welcomed by President Barbara Markland with a special welcome to Life Members Royden Smith, Beverley Brown and Isabelle Jones. Representatives of Nelson City Council, Trudie Brand, and Youth Councillors, Sophie Weemick, Jasmine Wagman and Brittany Tyler were also welcomed.

Once again, Pam Frahm had prepared a delightful Year of the Metal Ox card for attendees, and Jane Lister provided us with information about characteristics of those born in an 'Ox' year along with predictions for 2021, which is the second year of the Chinese Lunar Cycle, the rat having tricked the Ox out of arriving first at the party.

Barbara Markland gave her President's report. Naturally enough, we had our usual

events curtailed somewhat in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions. It was most regrettable that the proposed trip of 10 Nelson students from the 5 high schools were unable to go to Yangjiang for an exchange with Lianyang Senior High School in April. Fortunately, their airfares, already paid in December, were eventually fully refunded. Nelson is maintaining its China connections through electronic communications in these exchange-less times.

Royden presented the Annual Financial Report which had been reviewed. A motion for Society subscriptions to remain the same passed at the AGM and subscriptions are now due. There is a form in this newsletter with all the payment details.

Barbara thanked Exec members who were retiring; especially Jifang Black after long service, and Susie Su on maternity leave.

Results of the Election of Officers saw the retaining of the present roles of President (Barbara Markland), Vice President (Bill Findlater) Treasurer (Royden Smith) and Secretary (Christine Ward). Jane Lister, Ian Lister, Sally Warren and Bruce Ward continue on the committee. It is with delight we welcomed Maxine Wong onto Nelson Executive.

The AGM finished at 6.50pm. There followed a time of good Chinese food and friendly conviviality.

Snippets from Nelson executive

Nelson executive met on March 10. Matters under discussion included:

- A warm welcome to Maxine Wong with some new ideas about appealing to youth.
- Further discussions about the latest posting from the Constitution and Rules Review Committee (National Executive). The proposed changes, having been worked on for many months, will be put to the vote at the Society's AGM in Havelock North May 21-23.
- Barbara and Christine will be attending the Conference and AGM as they are already on the National Executive, and Maxine will be attending as Nelson's delegate with voting rights.
- Speakers for meetings for the year are being organised.
- It is hoped that NZCFS Nelson can work with NCC to have a China Week, combined with NZ-Chinese Language Week in the last week of September this year. This would be our big effort for the year as we are unable to mount any exchanges.



Sad news from other branches

It was with shock that we received the news of the death of Rosa-Jane Whitcombe from Christchurch. Rosa-Jane was Project Co-ordinator at the Confucius Institute in Christchurch. In that role, she oversaw MLAs (Mandarin Language Assistants) and often visited Nelson to consult with MLAs and NMIT who have local oversight.

Wellington Branch have reported the death of Bing Fon in December. He was a very well known member of that branch, attended many NZCFS conferences, and some will remember him from being on tour with him in China.

The year of the Ox

The Ox is the second of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Ox was about to be the first to arrive, but Rat tricked Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox. Thus, Ox became the second animal.

In Chinese culture, the Ox is a valued animal. Because of its role in agriculture, positive characteristics, such as being hard-working and honest, are attributed to it. They are persistent but stubborn, cautious but hesitant, moody and quick-tempered. Oxen are the hard workers in the background, intelligent and reliable, but never demanding praise.

In addition to the animals, the calendar also cycles through the five elements of nature – Fire, Earth, Metal, Wood, and Water. These are important components of traditional Chinese astrology and philosophy. The result is that this year is a year of metal Ox.

China in the news

China is often in the world news these days, usually as a result of the new laws governing HongKong, but the situation in Xinjiang sometimes comes to the fore. Here are some recent mentions:

'Patriots' Only: Beijing Plans Overhaul of Hong Kong's Elections :

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/23/world/asia/china-hong-kong-elections.html?searchResultPosition=4>

New HK electoral system will not shut out patriotic opposition:

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202103/12/WS604ad649a31024ad0baaec35.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-aims-to-vaccinate-70-80percent-of-population-by-mid-2022/2021/03/13/e5737a28-83e8-11eb-be22-32d331d87530_story.html

Disinformation tactics used by China: <https://www.bbc.com/news/56364952>

UK accuses China of breaching joint declaration:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/mar/13/hong-kong-uk-accuses-china-of-breaching-joint-declaration>

China detains dozens of Hong Kong pro-democracy activists:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-01/china-detains-dozens-of-hong-kong-pro-democracy/13204702>

Chinese ambassador to US defends plan to bar 'unpatriotic' candidates in Hong Kong and says concerns about democracy are 'unnecessary':

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/3125398/chinese-ambassador-us-defends-plan-bar-unpatriotic-candidates-hong-kong>

China to continue working with WHO on virus source tracing:

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202103/11/WS6049e015a31024ad0baae92b.html>



New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. Nelson Branch



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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) \$15 (single) \$25 (couple/family) \$25 (school) \$30 (corporate)

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@shangrila.net.nz) to advise that your sub has been paid in this way.

Receipts are issued on request.

