

# New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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No. 4 – May 2020



## No May meeting.



**From President Barbara:** You will not be surprised to hear there will not be a May branch meeting. Although we have more freedom now there is still a need for social distancing, not possible for a group in a smallish room. Most of us are in the group termed most vulnerable so must take due care to keep safe. Let's hope it is not too long before things return to normal.

I have had to write a report for the National AGM and could say Nelson Branch has had another successful year, although activities came to a halt in March with the COVID-19 pandemic. I included the following in my report:

Most disappointing was having to cancel the proposed student visit in April to Guangdong Liangyang Senior High School in Yangjiang. Ten students from five Nelson Colleges were excited to have been chosen for this trip and it was heart-breaking to have to cancel. Money was lost on flights and insurance but the branch was pleased to be able to reimburse the students in full with funds from the DENG Fund and money in branch funds designated for sister-city activity. The branch hopes to be able to reinstate the exchange in 2021.

Another disappointment was musicians expected from Huangshi for China Week in November not coming to Nelson. We are still working out how to have returned the balance of the funds we sent for their travel.

Despite those two issues I could say it has been a successful year with membership steady and good attendance at meetings. We were sorry to lose two long-time members who passed away in 2020, Dame Alison Roxburgh and Dick Parker.

I could proudly say China Week was a major undertaking for us; in particular the art exhibition/competition, made possible by Jifang Black's expertise, and also the exhibition about Appo Hocton. Members also made significant contributions to the public performance and to the Community Day.

We have been fortunate to have had three Mandarin Language Assistants in Nelson who have participated in meetings and branch events. One has returned to China and not been replaced because of the pandemic but we are hopeful that will happen later in the year.

Keep warm! I think we have been very lucky to have had so much sunshine for our lockdown period. Stay safe! Enjoy the opportunity for a time with family and friends.

**NZCFS National AGM.:** This was held by video-conference, May 16. Barbara, Christine and Bruce "attended". The President's report noted that there have been instances of virulent racism and anti Chinese sentiment in wake of COVID-19; some NZCFS members have been targets. It was noted that support should be given if any cases are witnessed and the Race Relations Commission informed.

The officer elected are:

**President:** Dave Bromwich, Hawkes Bay  
**Secretary:** Craig Ashby, Christchurch  
**Treasurer:** Jefferson Chen, Auckland  
**North Island VP:** MiaoFan, Hamilton  
**Central VP:** Heiko Lade, Hawkes Bay  
**South Island VP:** Craig Ashby, Christchurch

**Committee members:**  
 Dave Adamson, Christchurch  
 John Hodgson, Tauranga  
 Mark Price, Auckland  
 Amy Watanabe, Hawkes Bay  
 Vivien Qin, Christchurch

Reports were presented by the Society officers and those responsible for the RAFE, Deng, He Ming Qing scholars, and Tours committees. Nelson has generously supported the training of nurses through the He Ming Qing project, and that report is reproduced below.

In discussion of NZCFS tours, it was noted that these tours had in the past provided a good income for the Society and that effort and investment would be needed to try to regenerate this source once present travel restrictions are eased.

### **He Ming Qing Committee Report 16 May 2020**

NZCFS have sponsored eight nursing students so far: Wei Yunjie, Shen Qianqian, Shi Hongli, Wang Shuizhen, Wang Xuejun, Zhu Caixia, Chen Yuan and Wu Baoyi. Chen Yuan and Baoyi are currently studying at Xi'an Medical College. The other six are working as a nurse in a hospital.

Due to the COVID 19, all the girls are working very hard in their field. Shi Hongli actually worked in the newly set-up unit to look after the COVID patients. Shen Qianqian is scheduled in Team 10, waiting for their turn. As a student, Chen Yuan has been studying the courses online at home while helping her villagers with understanding the COVID 19 and educating local villagers things they should know.

Below are reports from Hongli, Qianqian and Chen Yuan.

*Shi Hongli:* On January 25th, as a member of the first selected team, I entered the quarantine area for the first time to begin the treatment and care of the first case of fever.

On January 29, the first case of COVID 19 was confirmed. Our hospital, as a designated hospital for COVID 19 treatment, began a series of treatment and care work. I took the initiative to participate in the treatment and care of the confirmed patients. When the process and system was not perfect, I assisted the head nurse in finalizing processes, improving the system, doing a good job of disinfection of the disease area, sanitation, final disposal and so on. Under the protective clothing, is our determination to fight against the epidemic, to fight against the virus. Gloves were unable to affect our professional standards.

After I returned to the nursing department to continue with my normal duties, I earnestly implement the work plan of the nursing department, including training, supervision and inspection of key departments, operation video recording, etc. I also participate in medical examination for people who would return to work after the lockdown, as well as the management, prevention and control of patients with a fever. I'm always working at the frontline, when there is a sudden emergency, or when there is a shortage of nursing staff. I will be there whenever I'm needed.

*Shen Qianqian:* I am now working in cardiovascular medicine at the hospital in Yanxian County, Hebei Province, and our county has not had any confirmed COVID 19 cases or probable cases. According to the government decision, this county hospital is the designated hospital for this epidemic prevention and control. In a very short time, the hospital set up an infection department, fever clinic, choosing people from various departments to the newly-formed departments in turn. Currently, the seventh group has been formed and are working in the new departments. Although we didn't have any confirmed cases, we put in place some specific procedures, such as reducing visits to patients, only one to be accompanied; everyone visiting hospital needs to take temperature, etc. I will do my best to take care of every patient and to get every patient out of the hospital in good health, to keep both patients and their family satisfied.

*Chen Yuan:* In early 2020, the sudden outbreak of new coronavirus pneumonia disrupted the originally quiet and peaceful life. First of all, greetings! I do not know whether you and your family are all right?

With the continuous development of the epidemic, in order to prevent and control the outbreak of Covid 19, people all over the country have started to fight the "war epidemic." There is such a group of people, because of the responsibility, righteously become a "retrograde." They are either sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, wives, different identities, but have one goal. They work very hard in their field.

As a medical student in school, has not gone to work, cannot contribute as many other medical staff. I see dedication, strong, self-sacrifice, good quality, I sincerely admire them, secretly determined to learn their quality. What can be done now is to study hard and lay a solid foundation.

During the winter vacation, I cannot go to other places but stay in the village. However, I used the opportunity to explain the relevant knowledge about the epidemic to the fellow villagers, such as infection performance, transmission channels, seven-step handwashing method, and through QQ group, WeChat group, friends circle, Weibo and other network publicity protection knowledge. Do what I can.

I'm now doing the online courses at home, and I'm working hard. The outbreak is not over yet, but I firmly believe that with the active cooperation of everyone and the efforts of medical staff and other heroes in the post, we will certainly overcome this "epidemic". Finally, I salute all the people who worked hard in this critical situation and wish all the people involved safe and sound.

**Recommended Book:** Royden received this recommendation from Rosalina McCarthy.

I have just read the most amazing book on the beginnings of a more modern China.

It was written by JUNG CHANG who also wrote *WILD SWANS* as well as *The EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI – The Concubine who launched Modern China*. I have these books and when I heard that she had written another one I ordered it from Volume Books in Nelson. This one is called *BIG SISTER, LITTLE SISTER, RED SISTER. – Three woman at the heart of twentieth Century China - written by Jung Chang*.

BIG SISTER – Ei-Ling - became Chiang Kai-shek's unofficial main adviser and made herself one of China's richest women.

LITTLE SISTER – May-Ling – became Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, first lady of pre-communist Nationalist china and a major political figure in her own right.

RED SISTER – Ching-Ling – married the 'Father of China' Sun Yat-sen and she rose to become Mao Zedong's Vice-Chair.

They were amazing women and it is also a well written book. In these continued days of the Lockdown I thought perhaps some members might be looking for a good book to read. If anyone is interested, the book can be ordered from VOLUME BOOKS in NELSON. They also arrange courier home delivery in these lockdown times.

Rosalina

**NZ China Council:** This organisation has published the following items which may be of interest and relate to the current situation we find ourselves in.

### **Covid crisis a time to reveal our nation's spirit - April 22, 2020**

It is often said a crisis doesn't change people, it reveals them.

As COVID-19 devastates countries and drags the global economy into recession, we're witnessing the greatest disruption to the free flow of people across national borders since World War Two. As nations draw back into themselves to protect the collective health of humanity, we must also be careful to guard the hard-earned understanding between people of different cultures we have achieved over the past 75 years of steadily growing global connectivity.

The responses of political leaders the world over aren't just determining the impact the virus will have on their populations, they are sending strong signals to other countries about the value they place on working together once we have beaten the pandemic and it is time to recover and rebuild.

That is why it is so alarming to observe a heightened sense of competition between some countries. These are times for an urgent and collaborative global response, not populist political point-scoring. Laying blame for a pandemic does not save lives, it inflames divisions and results in greater discrimination against innocent people. COVID-19 is a global challenge, and our response must be global in scale. No country can afford to go it alone.

We're fortunate not to have seen this populist political trend take hold in New Zealand. The actions being taken by the government are giving certainty and reassurance to New Zealanders. It is doubly reassuring to see our government's sure-footed maintenance of our international relationships.

One example is the joint commitment we've signed with trade partners to keep our supply and trade links open throughout the current crisis. This is critical to ensure supplies reach our hospitals and supermarkets, and our producers retain access to overseas markets. Another example is our treatment of international students who have lost their jobs. In contrast to some of our competitors, we have extended income support. Education is a reputation game, and parents will remember who looked after their children in this time of need.

When the time comes to recover from this crisis, we will find that building a deep and trusting relationship with China has been one of New Zealand's most beneficial achievements. The goodwill established through the hard work of diplomats and business people on both sides over the decades will be more important for New Zealand than ever over the coming years. We do have legitimate questions about China's transparency and openness in the early stages of its outbreak and expect these to be addressed. At the same time, we need to acknowledge that China's measures to contain the virus appear to be working, and that China will likely re-emerge fastest as the most significant engine of global growth in the post COVID-19 world. Trade figures from the first week of our

lockdown are a case in point, with our exports to China growing by \$14 million compared to the same week in 2019.

We can also look back to past periods of crisis to see just how powerful external trade is as a tool to lead ourselves to recovery. In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis, our economy was badly damaged and demand from traditional trading partners like Australia, USA and Europe remained weak for many years. It was ultimately our trading partnership with China that led New Zealand's economic recovery. Between 2010 and 2014 our two way with China doubled, with more than three-quarters of the increase coming from exports.

With analysts expecting the impact of COVID-19 to well exceed that of the GFC, we will once again need to lean on our trading partners, and the strength of these relationships will determine the pace and success of our recovery.

For now, our most urgent task is to protect the health and lives of all New Zealanders. Once we are through the worst of the crisis, our attention will turn to economic recovery. We are an outward-looking country known for our resilience, for being even-handed and doing what works. We will need to reach out and work closely with our partners, as we have done successfully for the last half-century. This is not a time to panic or point fingers. It is time for us to reveal our true character.

*Sir Don McKinnon is Chairman of the New Zealand China Council and former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.*

*\*This article was published in the New Zealand Herald on 22 April 2020.*

## Two Latin American Airlines fly the Southern Link to Shanghai - April 21, 2020

Two Latin American carriers have started flying the 'Southern Link', choosing New Zealand as their transit point en route to China.

On 15 April, for the first time, Aerolineas Argentinas flew to Auckland, and then on to Shanghai. In addition, LATAM – which had existing connections between Auckland and Santiago, has now extended these flights through to China. Both carriers are now flying this route regularly, transporting essential medical supplies from China to Latin America.

The distance between Shanghai and Buenos Aires is over 10,500 nautical miles, and there is no aircraft in the world currently able to fly this distance.

Aerolineas Argentina analysed flight routes taking into consideration factors such as the distance between Shanghai and Buenos Aires, and decided to fly the most efficient route – a 15 hour flight between Buenos Aires and Auckland, followed by an 11 hour flight between Auckland and Shanghai.

This is a great example of the Southern Link concept, which was initiated by the NZ China Council and its partners through the [“Building the Southern Link” conference](#) held on 25 June last year. The Southern Link involves routing passengers and multi-modal freight between China and South America via New Zealand, providing the shortest air route between the continents and facilitating a more seamless and convenient flow of goods and people compared to alternative hubs in the Northern Hemisphere.

“It's exciting to see the Southern Link concept gaining real momentum” said Executive Director Rachel Maidment. “Our next step is to commission an economic study to quantify the benefits of New Zealand acting as a bridge to the broader Asia region.”

“Chairman Sir Don McKinnon noted at the Southern Link Conference that this a big and bold idea. In an age where many are turning inwards, it is exciting to support a concept which re-thinks the way we link economies and people.”





# 新中友好协会

## New Zealand China Friendship Society

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### New Zealand China Friendship Society supports solidarity with all New Zealanders.

**27 April 2020**

Along with most New Zealanders, we welcome the New Zealand Government's decision to move to Level three lockdown, early on Tuesday morning 28 April.

We note that there is considerable world-wide debate occurring about the origins of Covid-19. In some quarters there are those who are blaming China and the Chinese people for the global spread of the virus. We do not believe it is helpful to contribute speculative and unsubstantiated allegations to the debate. We believe Scientists and Researchers, from around the world, will make the determination as to its origin which will assist with understanding future threats.

Indeed, different responses to the management of the pandemic have clearly presented different impacts on control within populations in many different countries. We are fortunate to live in a country with responsible and decisive leadership, respected internationally.

We are all in this together and we ask our fellow New Zealanders to continue being kind to each other. Crises can bring out the best in us, and we have shown amazing acceptance and solidarity during the period of our lockdown conditions.

Our many Chinese citizens and residents, including Chinese workers and students living temporarily in New Zealand, do not deserve to be blamed, or criticised, for the virus or the pandemic, nor their country of origin made a scapegoat for the global spread of covid-19.

We look forward to the resumption of open borders and safe travel between our two countries when leadership deem this step to be responsible.

**Dave Bromwich**

[National President  
New Zealand China Friendship Society]

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# 新中友好协会

New Zealand China Friendship Society

新中友好协会助力新西兰团结一致

2020年4月27日

新西兰政府决定于4月28日星期二凌晨将预警级别降为3级，对此新中友好协会表示欢迎。

我们注意到，关于新冠病毒的起源问题，世界各国都相继展开了辩论。然而，有人却将这种病毒的全球爆发归咎于中国和中国人民。我们认为，将臆测的及未经证实的指控纳入辩论是毫无意义的。我们相信，来自世界各地的科学家和研究人员将确定其起源，而这将有助于了解此病毒对我们将来的威胁。

的确在不同国家，不同的防疫措施显然对疫情的控制产生了不同的影响。我们很幸运地生活在这里，有一个负责任，果断的政府，这使我们在国际上得到尊重。

我们同舟共济，所以我们希望新西兰同胞们能继续友善对待彼此。危机可以唤醒我们心底最美好的东西，而在封城期间，我们也表现出了惊人的接纳和前所未有的团结。

新西兰有许多中国公民和永久居民，包括暂时居住在新西兰的中国工人和留学生。他们都不应该因病毒而受到指责或批评，他们的祖国也不应该是病毒在全球爆发的替罪羊。

适当之时，我们也期待着中新两国之间能尽早重新开放边界和安全旅行。

荣大伟

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新中友好协会

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