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No. 3 – March 2022

March meeting**The history, culture, and capabilities of the
Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)****Air Commodore (Rtd) Peter Guy MNZM****Friday, March 25, 5:30 p.m.**

Air Commodore (Rtd) Peter Guy MNZM, will give a presentation on the history, culture and capabilities of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). As a former Defence Attaché in Beijing, Peter has had a unique opportunity to work with, study and meet many of China's top military officers. Forty years ago, China had a vast, but outdated and ineffective, Armed Forces. It now possesses global world class military capabilities and can project power far outside of its own region. Arguably the next superpower, China's armed forces are the only military in the world that can seriously challenge the capabilities of the United States. In his presentation, Peter will look at this rising military juggernaut, its complex history, culture, and capability.

We would like those members wishing to attend to register with Barbara earlier than usual - by this Friday, March 18. We are very hopeful that the fascinating topic will be a great drawcard but, as Peter is travelling to us, we need to have an early indication of an appropriate audience. As is usual, insufficient numbers registering may lead to a cancellation.



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. It is expected that you will have a vaccine pass.

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 Friday, March 18.**

ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz

Please make sure she knows you are coming!

New Zealand week in Hubei

We have received a message from Queena who is a young lady in the Huangshi Foreign Affairs Office:

As you know, the year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between New Zealand and China, also the 125th birthday of our New Zealand friend Rewi Alley who made great contributions to Hubei people.

In order to enhance friendships between people of New Zealand and Hubei, there will be a Hubei-New Zealand Week which includes a series of activities in Hubei to memorize the 125th birthday of Rewi Alley.

It goes on to ask for co-operation with 3 tasks for the Hubei provincial government.

- 1 Arranging for 10 paintings on the theme "The same white cloud, the same blue sky." from Nelson schoolchildren, having them scanned and e-mailed. Those paintings will be exhibited in related city libraries and primary and secondary schools in Wuhan and some other cities of Hubei province in late May during the New Zealand Week period. After that, those paintings will be permanently collected by the Hubei Provincial Library.
- 2 Inviting the mayor of Nelson to attend a joint video conference, roughly in May, of Hubei-New Zealand sister cities and deliver a speech, discussing how to deepen friendly exchanges and cooperation between the two sides.
- 3 Recommending a primary school or 'middle' school in Nelson to exchange with a Huangshi school and sign a Letter of Intent for Friendly Communication on the joint video conference.

Waimea Intermediate will provide some paintings, and Rachel Reese has been invited to participate in the video conference.

The message continues

During the New Zealand Week period, rewalking the road that Rewi Alley had walked will take place in the Bund Park in Wuhan, which Clare Fearnley, New Zealand Ambassador to China, relatives of Rewi Alley, representatives of New Zealand students in Hubei, representatives of New Zealand enterprises in Hubei, and officials of Hubei, will all attend this activity by walking 1250 steps to memorize the 125th birthday of Rewi Alley.

What's more, a joint seminar themed by "Opportunities and challenges of economic and trade cooperation between central China and New Zealand under RCEP framework" will be held in Wuhan in late May, which concerned specialists, scholars, entrepreneurs and friendly personages will attend and give speeches.

Christchurch will also have received similar requests as it is a sister city to Wuhan.

Nelson Heritage Month

It seems that owing to a number of factors, events for this are actually going to be spread over a period of about 3 months. One of the events is to be an Appo Hocton related, a tour of houses he was associated with. This was originally scheduled for April 21 but may now be changed.

Donation

The branch has received another generous and substantial anonymous donation.

Nelson's China Week

This is to be in the last week of September. Since the visit of Race Relations Commissioner, Meng Foon had to be cancelled, we are trying to arrange it for September 28 or some other date around the time of China Week.

