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No. 5 – May 2022



May meeting Where to for NZCFS? Candidates for National President Friday, May 27, 5:30 p.m.



At this meeting we will have David Stringer and Chris Lipscombe to speak to us. Both are candidates to succeed Dave Bromwich as National President at our

National Conference in June. We hope to hear how each views the future of NZCFS. They will each speak for a short time and then will be asked to respond to questions put by members.

Chris Lipscombe is an experienced international marketer, business development manager, and project delivery specialist with a successful background in design, publishing, IT, and local government. Chris has worked for clients in New Zealand, Australia, United States, UK, Singapore, and Dubai, and has provided marketing support to many of New Zealand's largest companies. He is also Wellington Branch President and Vice President (Central) of the NZ China Friendship Society (NZCFS).

David Stringer is a lawyer and current President of Christchurch Branch NZCFS. His association with China and its culture goes back to his childhood. He speaks Chinese (Mandarin) at a conversational level, has travelled to China on numerous occasions at his own expense, and immersed himself in daily life in areas where English is hardly if ever spoken. He also has many contacts in the local Chinese communities.

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, May 23.**

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

Please make sure she knows you are coming!

Last meeting: A history of Chinese with Alex Fraser

Alex Fraser is a Christchurch branch member, Mandarin speaker and teacher who has lived and worked in China. His fascinating presentation gave an insight into the origins and development of the language, as well as exploring some of China's minority ethnic groups.

The word China is understood to be derived from the first Emperor Qin who lived from 259BC until 210BC. His short reigned dynasty collapsed after his son was killed and was followed by the Han Dynasty, which shaped and unified China.



The Mandarin speaking Han ethnic group now comprises 91% of all China. Mao believed that the Mandarin language would help to unify China and decreed its use across all sectors of society. The written language was also

simplified over time, though both forms are still used. Alex spoke about the concept of “Hanhua” (literally Han culture) where the mainstream language, culture, values and ideals influence and dominate minority regions and cultures.



Some of China's minority groups explored in Alex's presentation were the Mongol, Manchurian, Zhuang, Hui Muslim including the Uyghur people of Xinjiang, and Tibetan. This generated a lively discussion around how “Hanhua” has influenced and challenged minority groups, particularly in Xinjiang and Tibet.

Alex's broad knowledge and experiences, along with his youthful enthusiasm and energy were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended.



Questions for candidates

You are invited to provide questions to be put to the presidential candidates at our next meeting. In order to ensure that we put a range of questions, and do not have multiple questions asking for the same information, please e-mail your question to President Barbara (erm@xtra.co.nz) by Wednesday, May 25.

From other branches

Wellington Branch are to hold an on-line meeting in May, as a result of the current pandemic. The topic is "On film making, and involving young people in NZCFS". The guest speaker is Sylvia Yang, a screen producer and director of her own company, SODE Productions. Because of her experience in screen production, Sylvia was invited to create a branding video for the New Zealand China Friendship Society in 2008. That's where her journey with NZCFS began.

Christchurch Branch have recently held an on-line meeting with the new Consul General Madame He Ying introducing herself briefly, followed by Chris Lipscombe reflecting on a decade that saw the establishment of the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement, the doubling of New Zealand exports to China, and Chinese tourism to New Zealand developing – pre COVID.

News from China

Being a nonagenarian spiritual leader won't stop Hong Kong's cops from arresting you if they deem you a threat to government rule. Hong Kong's national security police recently arrested four people, including one of the most senior Catholic clerics in Asia, and a former barrister, for "colluding with foreign forces."

The four were trustees of the now-disbanded "612 Humanitarian Relief Fund" that helped pay legal and medical fees for protesters in Hong Kong who had been arrested during the anti-government protests in 2019. Those arrested include Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, a 90-year-old former bishop of Hong Kong.

<https://supchina.com/>

According to South China Morning Post, Shanghai authorities were to gradually reopen malls, supermarkets, restaurants and barber shops from May 16, as daily cases were dropping to their lowest level in 52 days. Authorities have also doubled down on lockdowns, however, ordering 'standstill' orders in specific districts. The standstill order curbs medical personnel, deliverers and community volunteers from moving about to limit contact with residents.

This is as the clock ticks towards a May 20 'societal zero-Covid' deadline by when the city hopes to wipe out all community infections.

<https://www.scmp.com/>

Beijing reported 39 new locally transmitted COVID-19 infections between 3 p.m. Sunday and 3 p.m. Monday, Pang Xinghuo, deputy head of the Beijing municipal disease prevention and control center, told a press briefing on Monday.

Thirty-four cases were detected among people under closed-off management and five were found through mass screening in communities, Pang said.

During the recent mass testing, health authorities identified multiple infections in key industries and venues, including the public transport and courier sector, Pang added.

Cluster infections and hidden transmission sources in communities have increased the uncertainty in Beijing's anti-epidemic fight, said Xu Hejian, a spokesperson for the Beijing municipal government.

The city began conducting three further days of mass nucleic acid testing in 12 districts on Monday to contain the spread of the virus, Xu said.

The national capital has reported 1,113 locally transmitted infections since April 22. It has classified 19 areas as high-risk for COVID-19 and 25 as medium-risk.

<https://english.news.cn/>

Officials and experts attending a recent global youth conference in Shandong province highlighted the role of young people around the world in tackling a multitude of new challenges faced by humankind to build a global community of development with a shared future.

Centered on the role of the youth in leading the green transition in regional economic development, the two-day conference held by organizers including the Shandong provincial government and the Chinese

People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries covered a wide range of topics, including innovation and entrepreneurship, ecological preservation, green finance and green technology, and international cooperation for a sustainable future. Attendees included young people from more than 40 countries and regions who gathered to share their views.

Erik Solheim, former executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, encouraged young people in the 21st century to use wisdom, compassion and courage — three moral qualities advocated by Confucius — to tackle the crises of climate change, environmental destruction and pollution.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>

The Chinese Communist Party has banned retired cadres from making “negative political speeches” in the run-up to a major leadership reshuffle later this year.

The General Office of the Central Committee issued a set of regulations – titled Strengthening Party Building among Retired Cadres in the New Era – state news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday.

The statement called for all party departments to ensure that retired cadres and party members “listen to the party and follow the party” and warned that “violations of disciplinary rules should be dealt with seriously”.

An unnamed spokesperson for the Central Organisation Department told Xinhua that the new rules are a response to some party members committing disciplinary offences after retirement.

<https://www.scmp.com/>

For evidence of just how tight Shanghai’s lockdown has been, consider this: not a single car was sold in the city last month.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/>

NZCFS Annual Conference and A.G.M.

The Conference theme this year is “**What do friends do? Renewing and enhancing NZ China friendship in difficult times.**” 作为朋友该怎么做？在困难时期重振和增进新中友谊。

This follows last year’s theme “What it means to be a friend of China”.

This year we will celebrate 70 years since the founding of the Society and 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and China. It is also the 125th anniversary of Rewi Alley’s birth.

Conference will be 17-19 June. All activities are to be held at **Rewi Alley Commemoration Hall** UUNZ Tower, 76-78 Symonds Street, Auckland. There will be a Youth Forum on the Friday afternoon. For more information go to <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/conference-2022/>

