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No. 6 – June 2022

June meeting

Behind Shanghai's Roller Doors

Barbara Markland

Friday, July 1, 5:30 p.m.



The first part of the meeting will include a report from the conference and AGM held in Auckland and then, on a lighter note ...



As most of you know, Roy and Barbara Markland worked in Shanghai for some years and while Barbara attended her first NZCFS branch meeting in 2001 as guest speaker, and spoke about their school and their jobs, she has never shared anything of their lives in China except socially with friends. She would like to take one aspect now and talk about the acquisitions they made, each with its own story. Living in an apartment with no car or garden, and an ayi to do any housework, leaves weekend time free, and for expats living in Shanghai, as in many other places, exploring with incidental shopping, is an important leisure time activity and not just something to be endured when the need arises. Some of Barbara's stories will evoke memories for you that you may like to share.

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, June 27.**

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

Please make sure she knows you are coming!

Letter from Daphne Crampton

Here is a letter from Daphne with some thoughts on China and communicating with Chinese.

While it is good that young Chinese are enthusing about NZCFS, that it might be only newcomers who are being involved makes it less of a Friendship, NZ to China, than another takeover. The political versus the people. While I was there, I had a 'helper' who kept tabs on me. What dismay if I eluded her. Where have you been? Who did you see? An older person, one day, as we walked to an event, talked to me, but as someone else came near, it was the weather. Wasn't it?!

At one time, I was in a PLA hospital. A patient visited me. We had no shared language. A friend could speak English. The visitor believed we shared the same belief. Evidence. I took the cup, wrenched (in sign make believe) the lid, pulled out a (make believe) host (wafer) like Communion and the visitor nodded. Enthusiastically. The people were lovely. warm, kind, generous, Guarded. There's the two worlds. One we love, the other. Well, the other is as belligerent as it can be....

Deng Xiaopeng - launched the 'Get to know you', and that was how I began by meeting a couple of teachers who came to Christchurch. But then Deng was put under house arrest. The rivalry in the upper echelons has intensified ever since. I made some strong friends there. Then communication STOPPED. Some decades ago.

Tibet, Xinjiang, Muslims, Hong Kong, and the friendly visits from overseas groups,...being strong is necessary, but vaunting the big stick and terrorising everybody is NOT. At the moment, being friendly is regarded as Weakness.

You've got a problem. How to be friendly without upsetting the powers'; and the powers want what they can get without a dual give & take. At present, powers seem to want everything; soft loans which ultimately can't be repaid- we'll take that port?, railway?, aerodrome?, etc. - am I being cynical? I should stop thinking aloud-----

Jane spoke of a diminished group; how to encourage membership. The leadership in China doesn't encourage enthusiasm for friendship. Maybe our Democracy is not to their liking. Our Parliament, with several parties, each speaking what they think, WOW, indeed, people have different views, too, and they utter them, Tsk tsk, what is the world coming to? That is not the Chinese way. -But ordinary people do have opinions

The older Chinese people in NZ are different from the newer residents/students.

I've started going to the Library on Thursday morning at 11.00am for a conversation class. A Japanese woman and two Chinese men this last time. I was talking to one of the men. A student. Older. He was very diffident. I persevered. Vegetables? The names in English were different. He managed a few. Beetroot? What do you do with them? and so on. Having many cultures in our midst doesn't always mean that they are fluent in our everyday life. It will be interesting to see what comes up next Thursday.

I get 'carried away'; my typing is on two fingers. A bit slower than speed, hence time passes--- You will miss Christine. I know that I will. She was , with Bruce, special! All of a sudden SHE WASN'T THERE. Bless her.

This weekend has been full of Queen Liz's 70th. Pomp and ceremony. The military, the bands the marching, the horses, the CROWDS, gee, the Crowds and Paddington Bear. I loved the Bear, all teatime with the Queen Did you see it? Paddington pulled a sandwich from under his hat 'in case he should be hungry' but he was willing to share it . The Queen, out of her handbag on the table hauled out two toast slices of ?sandwich as Paddinton buried his face in a creamy cake -with cream splashed all over. Who else..?

All the honours; and Dame Sylvia Cartwright; that was a well earned honour. On the radio, she spoke of her beginning. At the time she chose Law, it was not the done thing. The only female , she had a hard time with all males class. It seems that at Suffrage time a female was needed for judge so the Law people nagged her to be judge ,I suppose, to save face. She was a practising lawyer See, I can go on..... there's no round toit this time

Bless you Love Daphne,

MAIN SPEAKERS AT MAY NELSON BRANCH MEETING

We were fortunate to be addressed by the two candidates standing for national office, as NZCFS National President, Chris Lipscombe and David Stringer. Each candidate gave a 10 minute introduction of themselves and then answered four questions set by Nelson branch NZCFS committee.

Chris Lipscombe introduced himself discussing his varied career in international marketing, business development, and projects in design, publishing (books and film), IT, and at local government level in Porirua, his work in helping businesses tap into contacts and markets overseas. His first overseas venture was in the UK in the 1980's. Chris has had twenty visits to China assisting New Zealand businesses in sourcing materials and trading with China. His most recent project was in Chengdu in relation to the belt and road development project.

Chris is currently the Wellington Branch President and Vice President (Central) of the NZ China Friendship Society (NZCFS). He is also Director of Chinese Language Week Trust.

David Stringer is a lawyer who inherited an interest in China from his parent's friendship with Chinese people living and working in Picton. David speaks Chinese (Mandarin) at a conversational level (having started learning the language in his 50's.) He 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 has greatly enjoyed the culture, food, language, and music and dance of China and making friends with local people. He has many contacts in the local Chinese communities. David is currently the Christchurch Branch President.

Q1. Both candidates were asked to name the two most important challenges facing NZCFS.

Chris: (1) We need a broad based, inclusive society, accepting of differences of opinion regarding China and NZCFS relationship with China. We need to look beyond our own Society, linking with others with similar aims such as Sister City organizations and Chamber of Commerce, (2) Financial. We need to grow our sources of revenue beyond overseas educational tours by looking beyond ourselves – link hands with other societies with goals similar to ours eg. Sister Cities, Chamber of Commerce. Explore pledge giving eg. on a monthly basis. Revitalize our project work.

David: (1) Survival. Members of NZCFS are mostly older people. We need to attract younger members. (2) Financial. We need to identify where we can get funds from (must meet charitable requirements) eg. tours (must be academic or educational), suggest a food focus, use charitable status to get funds . Need more sharing of “what works” among NZCFS branches in NZ. In-fighting must stop.

Q2. Initiatives to stimulate NZCFS branches to attract and retain new and younger members

Chris: Look at what motivated current members to belong – social engagement, friendship, like-minded people, looking for meaning as to “how the world ticks.”

Finding events that appeal to younger people. The Speed-dating night (as used by Auckland branch) to share information is an excellent example.

Need more opportunity to share best practice between branches and across regions instead of national executive “handing down” information.

David: Enable Chinese language (MLA) students into local schools to interact with pupils learning Chinese. Connect learners with society activities e.g. dumpling making
Merging of local Chinese societies with NZCF societies – learn more from Chinese culture groups..
NZCFS branches need to be more visible in their community – presence in local parades, markets etc.

Q3. How NZCFS branches can better reach out and engage with local communities

Chris: Hosting events that are important dates in the Chinese calendar especially where there are larger Chinese communities. Examples of successful events are-

eg. in Auckland there are 200,000 Chinese people – a large event to support

In Wellington 75% of people at Chinese New Year Banquet are Chinese.

Wanganui – Chinese Lantern festival

Northland – Qing Ming Festival included commemorating Chinese who perished in the 1902 Ventnor sinking. This occurred via a relationship with local Iwi.

Consider workshop for making dumplings – links to videos re “how to” Chinese cooking

NZCFS branches link into showing of Cantonese/Mandarin films

David: Chinese students who come here to study often then stay in NZ to work, marry. May also bring out parents to NZ to look after grandchildren. Chinese people in NZ often have little English and feel

isolated – help them find information in Chinese language, especially written, and to make links with NZCFS branches.

Hire a cinema for a Chinese film evening.

Q4. How to deal with public perceptions about China, especially its international strategies and human rights issues. What should be NZCFS role in this.

Chris: News is created as a commodity – it is not value free. Eg. President Biden’s warning re Taiwan, involvement in Solomon Islands, leaked documents re Uyghur people treatment in China.

China has an authoritarian approach to perceived societal threats (different to the NZ way.)

This reflects the ideological differences between different countries e.g.. A collective view of human rights rather than an emphasis on individual freedom.

Communism in China is a fact and we need to work with them to achieve NZCFS objectives.

It is not NZCFS job to be an apologist for China’s actions. We need to chart our own way, take a long term view and show friendship. We can choose to say something or choose to say nothing but our hand of friendship is still outstretched.

David: Chinese authorities sometimes too authoritarian. Eg. education camps.

Communism, properly implemented, could be an ideal way of democracy.

In Christchurch branch a survey of members asked : What does it mean to be a friend of China?

Key answers were: food, keep out of politics, history, geography, interested in Chinese people

- be friendly. Sister city relationships do require us to work with municipal governments in China so communication and connections are important.

Questions from the floor:

What should NZCFS’s relationship be with Chinese Embassies and thus the Chinese government and Confucius Society?

Chris: Us working with them; them working with us – we need to have a future together – need to be inside the tent , not outside. NZCFS stands for peace.

(A member of the audience suggested a combined NZCFS project with China around migrating birds at Farewell Spit that stop over in China.)

David: We are about China – people, culture, geography – originally NZCFS members were communist sympathisers – but the focus is now on the people of China.

We are a New Zealand society and will back New Zealand’s position.

How can we promote more positive information about China?

Chris: (1) Confrontation does not help. Contextualize news/information within a larger environment eg. how friendship with Chinese people can help.

(2) Link with other organisations – Chamber of Commerce, Universities, Chinese communities

David: (1) Provide articles and photos to newspapers rather than them writing them

(2) Posters to show friendship between NZ’ers and Chinese people



Please note: This next meeting, our June meeting, is actually in July!
Friday, July 1