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No. 8 – August 2022

August meeting China Miscellany

Friday, September 2, 5:30 p.m.



Laurie Shawn was one of 3 who spoke to us in July last year about being Chinese expatriates living in Nelson. This month he will bring members of the Nelson Marlborough Chinese Association who will tell us more about being Chinese and being Chinese in New Zealand.

The three will tell us about the China they grew up in, including Xinjiang, and their experiences in New Zealand.

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, August 29.**

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

Please make sure she knows you are coming!

China Week 2022 - Nelson September 28-October 1

Opening Wednesday 28 September 7:00 p.m. with Meng Foon, Race Relations Commissioner; invited dignitaries, Tangata Whenua, NZCFS, Nelson Chinese Society, members of the Public.

There will be a presentation by Meng Foon on the evolving cultural mix in New Zealand with particular focus on the integration of Chinese communities (including his own journey).

- * Confronting racism in local communities
- * Difficulties Chinese have in integrating into New Zealand society
- * Historical connections between Chinese settlers and Maori
- * Synergies between Maori and Chinese cultural practices and traditions.

From other branches

The Christchurch Branch newsletter includes an item from Dave Adamson on seeing the Rewi Alley Commemoration Hall at UUNZ Institute of Business in Auckland. This is where our Conference was held. Dave has volunteered to create a needlework version of an artwork (shown here) designed by the owner's daughter.

<https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/christchurch-newsletter-2022-august/>

Wellington Branch newsletter has a report from the new President (Chris Lipscombe) of his Society activities as well as a lengthy report on the National Conference.

<https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wellington-newsletter-august-2022/>



The CCP versus China's 'multiverse'

The Newsroom website recently reported on a Victoria University of Wellington event where Australian writer and translator Linda Jaivin spoke about the Chinese Communist Party's efforts to clamp down on minority populations within the country. With a population of more than 1.4 billion and over 50 distinct ethnicities, Jaivin said it made no sense for anyone to offer up generalisations about "the Chinese", whether for good or for bad.

"The CCP is so concerned to make it seem like in China everyone thinks the same, everyone speaks with one voice, but how could that be possible? There's subsistence farmers, there's jet-setting billionaires. There's passionate feminists, there's incredibly steely patriarchs. There's avant garde artists, aerospace engineers, nomads and film animators, pro-democracy activists and very loyal communists."

China's diversity was now a source of anxiety for the country's rulers, with the CCP keen to stamp out potential division and develop a sense of national community which would take priority over all other identities. While the country's ethnic groups had been known as "minority nationalities" in the past, with a sense of national pride, the country's ethnicity policy had turned towards assimilation under Xi with a view that "all Chinese citizens belong to the Chinese nationality".

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/the-ccp-versus-chinas-multiverse>

Growing pains: China's faltering economy tests leadership's nerve

A recent Guardian article claims "Beijing is in a bind over harsh Covid lockdowns, a property crisis and tensions with western trading partners."

"China's insistence on a zero-Covid policy has caused much inconvenience and uncertainty for its people and the struggling economy, prompting grave concerns inside the country about what comes next." "The property sector is ailing, investments are all falling, and people are saving rather than spending," claims a market analyst. It has emerged that hundreds of home-buyers across the country were banding together to refuse payments on mortgages on homes left unfinished by developers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/20/growing-pains-chinas-faltering-economy-tests-leaderships-nerve>