

New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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Happy New Year!

XIN NIÁN KUÀI LÈ!

We hope that members have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are now looking forward to the coming year. Welcome to the year of the rabbit, the water rabbit that is.

Once more we are taking over the popular Eastern Cuisine restaurant in Queen Street, Richmond, for our A.G.M. and following it with a banquet.

February meeting



A.G.M. & Banquet



Sunday, February 19, 6 p.m.

The brief branch AGM will precede the banquet at 6 p.m. and we would ask that, if you do not wish to attend the meeting, you be seated by 6:45. to allow the meal to be served by 7 p.m.

The cost is \$33 pp. and includes corkage. Payment can be made online to our NZCFS Nelson account 03-1354-0490726-00, but cash can be taken at the door (cash only, no EFTPOS). Book with Barbara Markland as below.

**To book for banquet, please contact Barbara Markland
by Monday, February 13.
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

China news sources.

Apart from the usual western sources of news, there are a few other on-line sites with some interest in news related to China. Currently, all are carrying stories related to the U.S. downing of what the Chinese government is calling a “civilian airship”. There are also many stories about COVID-19 in China since the removal of the ‘lock-down’ restrictions.

Reliably providing the Chinese Government view is **China Daily**. At the time of writing it had stories on how the government is cracking down on out-of-school tutoring, the provision of special transport facilities to get migrant workers back to their factories after the Spring Festival break, and how outstanding third-grade senior high school students who are learning Russian language in ordinary senior high schools in Henan province will be selected to study in Russia and continue their undergraduate studies in Russia for 60 to 72 months. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>

Another site which is Government friendly is **Global Times**. This has comments on the Russia – Ukraine conflict, and notes that the first cross-sea high-speed railway has passed static acceptance testing which indicates the line will be operational within a year. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/>

A slightly different viewpoint is the Hong Kong based **South China Morning Post**, independent but presumably subject to pressure from the territory’s government. It currently has stories on a new airliner, tensions in the South China Sea, and many of the stories in the ‘Spotlight’ section relate to COVID-19. <https://www.scmp.com/>

The China Project is not based in China and “receives no financial support or influence from any individual or organization affiliated with any government”. Its Mission Statement includes “The China Project exists to provide audiences around the world with an accurate, comprehensive, and contextual understanding of China”. This site is more analysis than headlines, and has some interesting insights including Chinese stations in Antarctica and Canada’s intent to allow a number of Uyghur refugees to settle there. <https://thechinaproject.com/>

One particularly interesting item is the Red Paper. Once past the predictions for 2023, there is a good summary of the key news items from 2022. <https://thechinaproject.com/red-paper-2023/>

Mandarin Language Assistants arriving soon at NMIT

Ethan Xu from NMIT has shared the exciting news that the Confucius Institute has allocated two MLAs to NMIT this year to teach Mandarin at local schools and adult night classes. This is very pleasing after having a year with no teachers once the previous MLA, Sharon Chen, returned to China.

Yiting Yang has had her Visa approved and Xiaojie Sun is awaiting approval of her visa. NMIT are currently trying to arrange homestay accommodation for these two young women. The Confucius Institute pay \$250 per week per person, which includes provision of three meals a day. If any members are interested in hosting the MLAs, please contact Jane Lister 027 260 2808.

