

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – April 2023

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In This Issue

- ❖ 27 April Speaker
- ❖ Joe Stilwell comments
- ❖ Gansu Province Sister City Celebrations
- ❖ Have you paid your 2023 annual subscription yet?
- ❖ Newsletter articles

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27 April Speaker



Our April speaker will be Lincoln University Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics Jon Hickford. His research focuses on the genetics of cattle and sheep, with an emphasis on genes that underpin milk, meat and wool production.

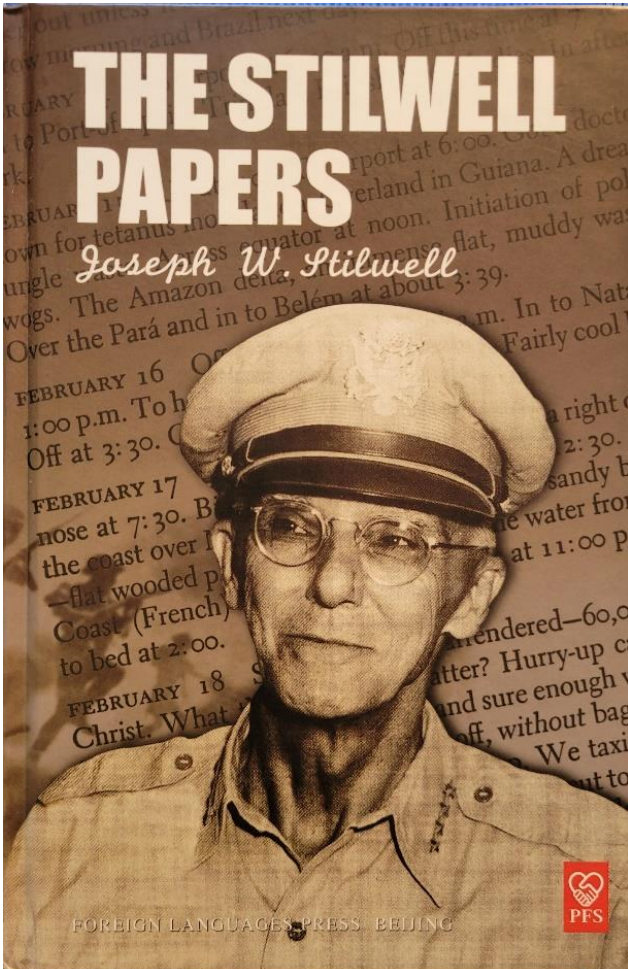
He has recently been awarded the Dunhuang Award, which is given by the Gansu Provincial Government to honour foreign experts who have made great contributions to economic and social development in Gansu province. Christchurch and Gansu province have had a sister city relationship since 1984. Jon has been to Gansu province many times and will give us a talk on his experiences and observations.

Jon's topic will be *'I could cover many things – but my preference is the huge value that China has and still is placing on fundamental science as a means to creating wealth, health and well-being.'*

That 'boat sailed' in NZ about 30 years ago which explains the parlous state of our science 'industry', but China by comparison seems to go from strength to strength.'

Sounds like an interesting talk.

Joe Stilwell comments



I have just finished reading the *Stilwell Papers*. General Joseph Stilwell was an officer in the USA army, and spent many years in China. His nickname was Vinegar Joe, because of his blunt non-nonsense way of speaking. The book is composed of extracts from his diaries for the period 1941 to 1944. A very interesting read, and the following, written in 1944, really caught my eye:

(I have) faith in Chinese soldiers and Chinese people: fundamentally great, democratic, misgoverned. No bars or caste or religion Honest, frugal, industrious, cheerful, independent, tolerant, friendly, courteous.

I judge Kuomintang and Kungchantang (Communist Party) by what I saw: (KMT) Corruption, neglect, chaos, economy, taxes, words and deeds. Hoarding, black market, trading with enemy.

Communist program ... reduce taxes, rents, interest. Raised production, and standards of living. Participate government. Practice what they preach.

The fact that was written by someone who was a believer in the American Dream, and certainly had no time for communism, shows the respect he had for what the communists were doing for the people of China.

Dave Adamson

Gansu Province Sister City Celebrations

On January 4, an exhibition to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Gansu's sister cities links was opened in the Gansu Provincial Museum. Some 300 carefully selected photos and a dozen gifts were on display for a month. The korowai, a Māori cloak, was the most precious and attractive exhibit to visitors, which was presented by the Christchurch City Council to Gansu people in 2019 to commemorate the 35 years of friendly relations.

Vice Governor Zhang Jinggang announced the opening of the event. Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Vice President Yuan Mingdao delivered a speech, and Gansu Foreign Affairs Office Head Zhang Baojun also spoke. Our society's National President Chris Lipscombe extended his warm congratulations on a video message, along with respected speakers from Spain, United States, Nepal, Japan, and Russia.



Here is a link .to some very interesting background information on Gansu's sister cities international programme, as well as a number of photographs.

<http://wsb.gansu.gov.cn/wsb/c116314/202301/19337131.shtml>

In April 1984, Gansu and Christchurch established a sister city relationship, thanks to Rewi Alley, which, after Akita Japan, was the second sister city link established by Gansu. Up to date, Gansu has established 63 sister cities in 40 countries across five continents. The exhibition photos aimed to tell stories about how Gansu and its sister cities developed people to people friendship over the past forty years. Archives like agreements, local newspapers and letters were also included.



Here is a link to some of the photos in the exhibition. If you look carefully, you might even see one or two people you know!

<http://wsb.gansu.gov.cn/wsb/c116314/202301/22682602.shtml>



Have you paid your 2023 annual subscription yet? If not, please do; the process is below:

**CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2023 (the financial year is January to December):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$25 | (Includes Advertising in our Newsletters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged \$20 |

Payment Method

Bank Transfer

Society bank account number: **38 9010 0816274 00** (Kiwi Bank).

IMPORTANT: please be sure to enter your name as a reference.

Once paid, please remember to send an email with your Name, address and a contact number to nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com



Newsletter articles

If you know of an activity which you feel could be of interest, or you come across an article which you feel our readers would like to know about, please contact the editor; details are at the top of the first page of this newsletter. Thanks.



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