

## Christchurch Branch Newsletter – June 2023

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### 29 June Speaker



**Dr Sharon Lucock (孔晓萌)**

**Sharon will share the stories of her journey from Beijing to Lincoln.**

*Her webpage says: My area of expertise is agribusiness management, particularly in relation to pasture based agri-food industries and the Chinese market. My research is interdisciplinary, encompassing both physical science and social science disciplines, ranging from climate, soils, plants, and animals, through to psychology, cultures, human resources, logistics and economics, which are all part of the complex system within agribusiness management. One of the key focuses is China, a critical market for NZ agri-food products and services, but one that has presented many challenges for NZ agribusiness operations. My research helps to identify the factors that drive and shape the agribusiness environment within the Chinese market from biophysical, social and environmental perspective, with a particular in-depth understanding of the sociological aspects. The aim of my research is to help NZ agribusiness operators understand these challenges, so that effective business strategies can be developed to overcome them.*

## **1.00 pm, 30 July Meeting (Sunday)**

The committee has decided our July meeting will be a yum cha, which will be a nice way to celebrate mid-winter. The location is yet to be decided, but in the meantime put **1:00 pm Sunday 30 July** in your diary; final details to come.



## **National Conference: Tauranga, 19 – 21 May**

Well, what can I say? This was a great conference! The Saturday morning speakers were excellent. The address by Parley Reynolds, Strategic Development Manager for Zespri in China was so interesting in fact that it may appear in a future newsletter.



In the afternoon we had a very interesting tour, which began by being given a tour through a kiwifruit packing house.

It was fascinating (they weigh every piece of fruit!); I don't think I'll ever look at a kiwifruit in quite the same way again! This was followed by a visit to the orchard.



For a full report on the conference, have a look at our website [www.nzchinasociety.org.nz](http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz) **2023 Conference & AGM, Report** for Wellington branch member Paul Sayers' excellent article; it's well worth a read.



## **2023 Chinese Tourism and Culture Week - "Tea and the World" Chinese tea culture and art exhibition**

The China Cultural Centre in Wellington and the Chinese Gansu Intangible Cultural Heritage Group held 'Chinese Tourism and Culture Week - Tea and the World' events in Christchurch on 12 and 13 May, presented by a delegation from our sister city of Gansu Province.

The 12 May function was held at the Te Hapua: Halswell Centre, and was hosted by the Christchurch China Sister Cities Committee. Michelle MacWilliam, chair of the committee warmly welcomed the Gansu visitors. This was followed by a demonstration of tea making, and several cultural performances.





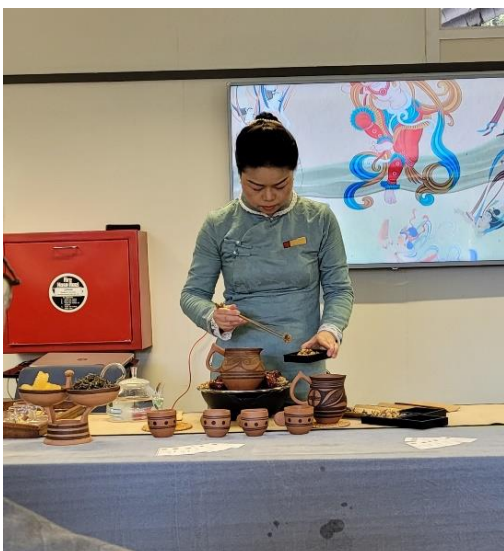
On Saturday 13 May at the Rewi Alley Chinese School, a further event was held, which was supported by the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Christchurch.

This event provided an opportunity to experience Chinese tea culture and Gansu local art through a tea ceremony demonstration, showcasing the techniques and stages of this art form. Guests also had the chance to interact with tea art experts, Guqin, dance, vocal music, and suona performance and intangible cultural heritage craftsmen from Gansu Province. These artists provided knowledge and valuable insights into Chinese tea culture and Gansu culture and art.



Branch members were invited to attend the Saturday morning function, and a very enjoyable morning it proved to be. It began with the showing of a very colourful and impressive video of Gansu. This was followed by speeches by Mr Lu Xinglai (Paul) Deputy Director General of the Gansu Cultural and Tourism Department and Consul General Madame He Ying, and a talk about the culture and history of tea in Gansu.

This was followed by a very interesting tea ceremony (who would have thought making tea could be so complex??). Attendees were then invited to taste the different teas.





Everyone then went out into the sunshine and enjoyed very pleasant cultural performances of singing and dancing.



One of the very happy outcomes of the function was for branch member Dave Adamson to meet up again with Paul (Lu Xinglai), whom he knew well for many years when Paul was working for the Gansu Foreign Affairs Office.







It was also a happy occasion when Dave and Carol met up again with Lijun, who was here with the delegation. They had home hosted her over 10 years ago, when she came here to study at the local polytech; it was just like old times!



## ***The Power of Art***

Tauranga branch member John Hodgson has for many years been actively involved in building relationships between Jiangxi province, and the city of Nanchang in particular, and Tauranga. The Jiangxi Foreign Affairs Office approached him recently with artworks produced by children in the province. They showed Chinese, Māori and Pakeha children, arms entwined, sitting over China and New Zealand flags and surrounded by images of animals, trains etc. John immediately saw this as an opportunity to approach a local school to reciprocate with artworks.



He approached Te Kura o Manunui School in Tauranga and the pupils were very eager to take part in an exchange of art. As well as producing the artworks, it was also an opportunity for them to learn a little about

the food, language and history of China, and of course the dumplings sealed the deal! The intention is for the school to have artwork ready to be sent to Jiangxi at the end of the school term.

This year the Tauranga branch also hopes to launch a Tauranga secondary schools art competition, with a \$100 prize for each of five categories. "I know teachers are busy, but you just have to give students a sheet of paper and let them go," says John Hodgson. The categories include a portrait of the famous Rewi Alley and calligraphy. The intention is that as they research their work they will gain knowledge, and from that comes understanding.

The branch is also looking to create a first hand experience - a 10 or 12 day exchange trip to China for a dozen students. John says "We are looking to take traditional Māori culture to China. I'd like a group that would give young Chinese a good understanding. Perhaps touch rugby, mixed teams from both countries. Just an idea."



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