



# New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. – Nelson Branch

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## Nelson Branch Newsletter

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### National Conference is Coming

The NZCFS National conference in Nelson is going to be an exciting event! The theme is Reaching Out Lian Xi.

Here's a breakdown of the events and costs:

1. **Date:** May 17-19
2. **Location:** Nelson
3. **Discounted Registration Fee for Nelson Branch Members:** \$99
  - Includes registration cocktails on Friday night
  - Choice of 2 tours on Saturday morning
  - Conference sessions on Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:30

Additionally:

4. **Banquet:**
  - Date: Saturday evening
  - Cost: \$55
  - Open to all, whether registered for the main conference or not

This will be a fantastic opportunity to engage with the NZCFS community, enjoy some insightful conference sessions, and experience the beauty and history of Nelson. If you're a member of the Nelson branch, this discounted registration fee is a great deal! And don't forget about the banquet—it's sure to be a memorable evening.

Earlybird registration ends on 30 April. **Register now**

<https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/conference-signup/>

More information on events follows.

## Banquet will be a conference highlight

Get ready for one of the major highlights of this year's conference - the banquet! It's a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones in a delightful setting.

We're thrilled to announce that the banquet will take place at the Eastern Cuisine Restaurant in Richmond. To kick off the evening, we have a special treat for you: a wine tasting session featuring a selection of exquisite local wines, hosted by the renowned Nelson wine and food writer, Neil Hodgson.



But that's just the beginning! The menu promises to tantalize your taste buds with a variety of appetizers, soup, and five mouthwatering main courses, with a selection of wonderful Nelson wines.

And what's a banquet without some excitement? You'll have the chance to participate in several raffles, with the opportunity to win iconic Nelson produce.

Don't miss out on this unforgettable evening! Feel free to bring your partner or friends along to share in the fun. The cost for the banquet is \$55:00 per person.

## Conference Keynote Address: Bridging Cultures: Connecting Young Minds in a Post-COVID World

In her presentation to conference, Dr. Peggy Burrows, the esteemed Manukura/Principal at Haeata Community Campus in Christchurch, New Zealand, will address a pressing issue facing us today: how to connect the young people of New Zealand and China. With over three decades of experience in mediation, governance, and leadership across various sectors, Peggy embodies leadership resilience and a commitment to putting people at the forefront of her endeavours.



Peggy's journey with Haeata Community Campus in building international relationships with schools in China reflects her dedication to providing students with global opportunities. Her involvement in the Education delegation to Gansu commemorating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand and honouring Rewi Alley's legacy, marked a significant step in fostering sister school relations and cultural exchange,

Returning from China enriched with insights into language, culture, and people, Peggy is now focused on facilitating meaningful engagements between Haeata Community Campus students and their counterparts in China. The recent hosting of the Gansu delegation in New Zealand signifies the beginning of an exciting exchange, with plans underway for a reciprocal trip to China in 2025.

In her presentation, Peggy will delve into strategies for building connections between young people in New Zealand and China in the post-COVID era. By leveraging her experiences and advocating for cross-cultural understanding, Peggy aims to empower the next generation with the skills and insights needed to thrive in an interconnected world.

## Sister Cities and Beyond: Exploring the Benefits and Opportunities at Conference



Nelson has cultivated strong and dynamic ties with Huangshi in Hubei province and Yangjiang in Guangdong, fostering enriching exchanges that span personal, community, and economic realms. Join us at the conference as we delve into the myriad of benefits that have stemmed from these sister city relationships, with representatives from Huangshi and Yangjiang offering their insights via Zoom.

Representatives from Huangshi and Yangjiang will share their perspectives on the sister city connections with Nelson via Zoom, highlighting the mutual benefits and opportunities for collaboration across various sectors. Councillor Trudie Brand will discuss the value that Nelson City has derived from its sister city relationship, emphasizing the cultural exchange, educational opportunities, and economic partnerships that have flourished as a result.

Bill Findlater, former CE of Nelson Regional Development Agency with a wealth of experience with China, will explore the business opportunities that have arisen from the sister city connections, shedding light on how these relationships have facilitated trade, investment, and commercial ventures between Nelson and its Chinese counterparts.

Sidney Barron, who participated in a student exchange to Yangjiang in 2018, will provide a youth perspective on the significance of sister city connections. He will reflect on his motivations for participating in the exchange, the return exchange and how the experience has shaped his worldview, and the evolution of his perception of China.



Join us for an engaging session as we celebrate the power of sister city relationships in fostering friendship, collaboration, and mutual prosperity. Let's explore how these connections can continue to enrich our communities and build bridges with our friends in China.

## Fostering Friendship: Connecting Communities in Challenging Times

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing travel restrictions, the Nelson branch has actively embraced the opportunity to foster friendships with both Chinese visitors and the local migrant community. The final conference session will delve into the initiatives undertaken during this period and explore avenues for further strengthening these vital relationships.



Nelson Branch Executive member Jane Lister and others will share insights into the efforts made by the Nelson branch to extend friendship to Mandarin Language Assistants, visiting Chinese academics, students, and other Chinese visitors. Through these initiatives, the branch has not only enriched its own community but also contributed to the broader societal fabric.

Laurie Lu, an English language teacher at NMIT and chair of the Nelson Chinese Association, will offer his perspective on the significance and impact of the burgeoning relationship between the Nelson branch and the local Chinese Association. He will shed light on the value of shared meals, festivals, and other collaborative endeavours in fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie within the Nelson community.

The aim of this session is to reflect on the initiatives undertaken by the Nelson branch to extend friendship to Chinese visitors and the local migrant community to identify opportunities for further enhancing these relationships and foster a more inclusive and supportive community environment.

### **Conference morning tours**

Included in your conference fee is the opportunity to experience Nelson attractions in a choice of two tours.

#### **Option 1 "Exploring Nelson's Hidden Gems: A Morning Tour of Local History and Culture"**

Experience the enchanting city of Nelson like never before during this year's National Conference. Join local members on a guided tour that unveils the rich heritage and beauty of the region.

Discover the tranquil Huangshi Chinese Garden, a traditional Scholar's Garden that pays homage to Nelson's sister-city in Hubei Province. Learn about the intricate design elements and cultural significance behind this serene oasis.



Follow in the footsteps of Appo Hocton, the first naturalized Chinese immigrant who made a lasting impact on Nelson's history. Explore his entrepreneurial spirit and delve into the fascinating stories of his descendants who continue to preserve his heritage.



Visit the iconic Jens Hansen Jewellers, renowned for crafting "the Ring" featured in the Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogy. Immerse yourself in the artistry and craftsmanship behind this famous piece of cinematic history. For more information and booking details, visit the provided link:

<https://www.jenshansen.co.nz/>

Embark on a memorable journey through Nelson's past and present on this exclusive morning tour. From hidden viewpoints to cultural landmarks, this experience promises to captivate your senses and leave you with a deeper appreciation for this charming city.

#### **Option 2 "Rev Up Your Weekend: Exploring the Nelson Classic Car Museum with Bill Findlater"**

Join the passionate car aficionado Bill Findlater on a thrilling visit to the Nelson Classic Car Museum, home to a stunning collection of over 150 meticulously preserved cars from various eras.



Step into a world of automotive history as you explore the impressive Talley collection at the Nelson Classic Car Museum. From vintage gems like the 1908 Renault AX to iconic classics such as Vauxhalls, Triumphs, Cadillacs, Jaguars, and Ferraris, prepare to be awestruck by the beauty and craftsmanship of these timeless vehicles.

After immersing yourself in the world of classic cars, treat yourself to a delicious lunch at the charming Little Engine Café (at your own cost). Relax and unwind in a cozy setting while sharing stories and memories of your favorite cars and experiences before returning to the conference venue in time for the Mihi Whakatau to kick off the conference session at 1:00pm.

A museum entrance fee of \$19:00 Adult / \$15:00 Goldcard applies.

For more information and to plan your visit, check out the museum's website:

<https://nelsonclassiccarmuseum.nz/>

**REGISTER NOW. EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION CLOSING 30 APRIL**

<https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/conference-signup/>

## **Another Fascinating talk by Rose Kerr at March Branch Meeting**

This time Rose's topic of Deities and Magic Beasts in China took us into the myriad of Chinese deities and mythical beasts that have inhabited the Middle Kingdom in past ages. Her talk shed light on the origin and purpose of many of the mythical figures that appear on Chinese buildings or in works of art or objects of daily life that we see when we visit China and answered many of our previously unasked questions.



The branch meeting took on a different format being held at the Oriental Restaurant. Those that attended enjoyed a wonderful Chinese meal. The chance to eat and mix at the restaurant after Rose's presentation with a glass of wine if desired in a social atmosphere made for a relaxed and very pleasant evening.