



NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

NEWSLETTER JULY 2015

IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

- * Successful Meeting - ...*Through the Decades* June Report
- * Member News
- * Coming up ... August meeting: *Contemporary China – Visual Culture and New Technologies*. See P.4
- * Table Tennis Champs “*The Chinese are coming*” and more ...

Beginner Mandarin Lessons

Interested in learning Mandarin? The current 8 week course is well underway.

One of the Mandarin Language Assistants reports: *‘Last Thursday we cooperated very well with (teacher) Wei, and had a great time with the passionate Mandarin learners there.’ Sia*

If you want to receive info about **future courses**, send your expression of interest “*Please send me info about the Beginner Mandarin Course*” (for those not at school or University Mandarin course).

Send to Course Facilitator, Dunedin NZCFS Branch member Martha Bell:

bell3patman@orcon.net.nz 021 067 1858

June Meeting...report What a privilege to hear speakers with passion, insight and reflection. Over thirty people enjoyed hearing about “politics in the background and friendships in the foreground”– from the 1970s to the present.

Our guests were: **Yvonne Fogarty** (NZ Champion table tennis player in the 70s), **Thelma Fisher** (on NZCFS tour and meeting Rewi Alley in the 80s), and **Jim McRae** (the oil industry in the 90s) – “learning to understand what you are not told”.



Yvonne



Thelma



Jim

Interestingly, all three had stories to tell of the influence of Rewi Alley. Thelma’s photos (from 1984) have not been seen before by a wider audience:



And to conclude the evening...an enthusiastic presentation by two teenagers of today



Aaron Roydhouse and Briar McBurney from "Barock" Choir -from Otago Boys' and Otago Girls' High Schools.

about the impact they had in Shanghai, and the influence China had on them in their recent choir trip and participation in the **Shanghai International Music Festival**.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening.



MANDARIN IN OTAGO SCHOOLS

We are pleased that Mandarin Language Assistants from the Confucius Institute are busy working in our local schools, and supporting our branch and the Mandarin Language Course.

Recent comments from some of them include:

**Xi Huang (Sia)
MLA at Columba**

What do you enjoy most about the teaching?

I feel confident and satisfying during the teaching, and every



achievement made by the students will make me more passionate for teaching.

What do you think of the students' attitudes to learning?

Most Columba girls are quite self-motivated in learning Chinese. They are ready to learn and willing to learn Chinese not only the language itself but also some cultural knowledge.



What has been an example of an interesting response?

Every time we did some class activities, the girls were always keen to know who was the winner. For me, it's interesting because I can see how NZ people love sports and are eager to win.

What challenges do the students face with language learning?

It's quite struggling for them to distinguish the differences among the four tones. And when it comes to the strokes of the characters, they tend to miss some small strokes or mix the similar ones.

How are you dealing with those challenges?

I've created the climbing hill way and musical way to help the associate with four tones in Mandarin, which seems to be helpful. And I will encourage them to make their own Chinese character stories by seeing character writing as painting and share the stories together.



What is a favourite place in Dunedin?

Larnach Castle... I will go there this Saturday for the Yr 11's formal. And I think it will be the place where I can realise my princess dream.

Sia

Yan Huang (Ella) MLA at Balclutha schools

Two class activities: calligraphy and paper panda making.



Yvonne Fogarty recommends...

As part of the twenty year celebration of the Sister City Sports & Cultural Exchange relationship with Shanghai, Dunedin will host a 10-player table tennis team to compete in the Frosty Boy Otago Table Tennis Championships. July 18-19

THE CHINESE ARE COMING
SPECIAL GUESTS FROM THE SHANGHAI XING CHEN TABLE TENNIS CLUB

2015 FROSTY BOY OTAGO TABLE TENNIS OPEN

SAT 18 JULY FINALS 6-8PM
EDGAR CENTRE MORE FM ARENA
BE THERE!

GOLD COIN DONATION
ALL SPECTATORS GO IN THE DRAW FOR
2 NIGHTS IN QUEENSTOWN
GOLDRIDGE Kaitiaki

*BE AT THE FINALS BETWEEN 4-6PM TO CLAIM THE PRIZE

TIMEA TAPAI 2012, 2013 NZ WOMENS CHAMPION

DUNEDIN SHANGHAI OTTA

This is a great opportunity to watch some of China's (and our) finest players. Bring the whole family along to watch some fabulous table tennis...All players and spectators go in the draw for 2 nights in Queenstown. Be there **Sat night July 18 between 6-8pm.**

(If you want to meet and sit together, see you near the entrance to Edgar Sports Centre at 5.45. Sec. Colin)

For full details of the championships see <http://www.otta.org.nz/>

MEMBERS' NEWS

New member Ingrid Memelink Commenting on the 'Barock' choir trip

I want to thank you and the society for the contribution made to the recent China tour of the Otago Boys' and Girls' High School choirs.

As a parent help I felt privileged to experience the generous hospitality that was accorded to the young people, teachers and accompanying parents.



The trip has changed my view of China in many ways and I found the people we met willing to engage and generous in spite of the language barrier.

The choir performances were well received in their various venues including school visits. It was also good for us all to experience some traditional Chinese music both at the venues and in the public parks.

Meanwhile I look forward to joining the NZ China Friendship Society and experiencing more of China in the future as I pursue some of the business opportunities that have come my way recently.

Once again thank you on behalf of myself and my daughter.

Welcome to new members:

Damien and Sandi Adams, Linda Miles, Paul Coultas, Therese Madden

Branch President...Paul Fawcett

Reminder: look forward later in the year to a talk by branch president Paul Fawcett on his experiences in Mongolia with the NZCFS tour.

* **Become a member -** There are advantages in membership of the branch.

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

"Building New Friendships on Solid Foundations"

Learn more about the aims of NZCFS, its history, its current projects

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>

Contact the secretary for a membership form.



For information about the Dunedin Branch NZCFS Contact:

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ACTION NOW: Sign up to NZCFS Facebook page for up-to-date info, articles and links.



<https://www.facebook.com/NZChinaSociety>

AUGUST MEETING



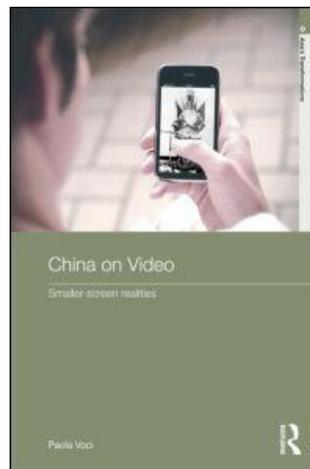
Contemporary China – Visual Culture and New Technologies

A presentation by Dr Paola Voci, an expert on Chinese Film.

Wednesday 12 August 7.00pm

Dr Voci is Associate Professor in the University of Otago Department of Languages and Cultures. She teaches Chinese language and culture, as well as papers on Chinese cinema and Asian Popular cultures. Dr Voci's research focuses on visual culture and in particular, film and videomaking practices in contemporary China.

The presentation will cover Chinese cinema with a particular focus on the role of Chinese documentary practices in contemporary China.



China On Video is the first in-depth study that examines smaller-screen realities and the important role they play not only in the fast-changing Chinese mediascape, but also more broadly in the practice of experimental and non-mainstream cinema.

For more background to whet your appetite for a fascinating presentation:

<http://otago.academia.edu/PaolaVoci>

Venue (at University) will be confirmed in August newsletter