

President: Ferry van Mansum
Phone: (03) 546 6574 **email:** ferryvanmansum@gmail.com
Secretary: Barbara Markland
Phone: (03) 544 4712 **email:** erm@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.nzchinasociety.org.nz



No. 1 – February 2018

XIN NIÁN KUÀI LÈ! **Happy New Year!**



We hope that members have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are now looking forward to the coming year.

This is a Chinese zodiac year of the dog which begins officially February 16 this year and ends February 4, 2019. It is also an 'earth' dog year, so we can expect to see a number of brown dog images on Chinese related sites along with more traditional red images.

Once again, we will be taking over the Eastern Cuisine restaurant in Richmond for a banquet. There will be a *brief* Annual General Meeting before the banquet begins. We welcome you to join us for this occasion of good food, fellowship, and fun.



Eastern Cuisine, Richmond **AGM & New Year Banquet** **Sunday 18 February, 6 p.m.**



To book, please contact **Barbara Markland** by **Monday 12 February**

Eastern Cuisine (275 Queen Street) is well-known to us for banquets, and we get exclusive use of the restaurant for Sunday night, as long as we have sufficient numbers; which has never been a problem! Your family and friends are all welcome to this celebration.

The banquet charge is a very reasonable \$32. The usual juice, beer, and wine will be available for purchase from the restaurant and there will be no corkage charge if you wish to take your own wine. Other payments for drinks, you will make directly to the restaurant.

Booking will be necessary and payment can be made by internet banking (instructions below) or at the door (cash or cheque only - no EFTPOS).

You are also invited to make donations towards our Chinese projects on the night by buying tickets in the multi-draw raffle for excellent Chinese items - tickets will be just \$2 each, or \$5 for three, so please remember to bring some gold coins and/or \$5 notes.

Please be there by 5.45pm to enable the AGM to begin at 6pm. There will be no seating plan this year so it would be advantageous if groups could arrive early and together. It is expected that the banquet will commence about 7pm.

Please pay for your banquet via internet banking to the **NZ China Friendship Society - Nelson Branch** bank account at Westpac **03-0703-0369680-00**. Please make sure you enter your name as the reference and then email both Barbara Markland at erm@xtra.co.nz and Treasurer, Royden Smith, at royden@shangrila.net.nz so that they can then confirm your payment has been received.

Annual General Meeting - The items on the agenda for this are President's Report, Financial Report, Election of Officers, and General Business to cover any items which need to be discussed. Nominations will be taken for the committee and new members for the committee would be welcome. If you think you, or a friend, could make a contribution and would like to be nominated, please have a talk with President Ferry.

We are currently in the situation of having both Ferry (President) and Lori (Vice-president) having decided that other commitments mean that they can no longer continue to fill those roles adequately and will stand down at the AGM. As a result we need a new President and Vice-president at the AGM. Other members of the Branch Executive have either filled those roles in the past or otherwise feel unable to do so. Hence we need to ask the members for someone to come forward and take on the task of President. Nominations will be gratefully received.

Meeting dates - In keeping with our arrangement of having general meetings on the last Friday of the month where possible, the following dates have been set:

March 23	April 27	May 25	June 29
July 27	August 31	October 26	November 30

The September meeting will be a tea-party in the Huangshi Chinese Garden to celebrate the (Chinese) mid-autumn or moon festival – our event will be September 30 (first day of daylight time) although the official festival date is September 24. Please keep the above meeting dates free.

November meeting: Botanist in South-west China - For our final meeting of 2017, Uta Purcell took about 50 members and friends on a fascinating journey 'Across the Shan Mountains', revealing sights way beyond the usual China tours. Uta's was a botanising tour from Dali in Yunnan through the high plateaus and mountain passes to Chengdu in Sichuan. The mountain and agricultural landscapes were amazing of course, but her focus was on identifying and photographing the unique flora in these remote areas of south-west China where the great rivers of Asia originate.

There are misty forests, special micro-climates, deep ravines, and a wide variety of soils and rocks, some of which are challenging for plant growth. The flowering plants ranged from rhododendrons in their famous native habitats, to vivid blue gentians, and orchids from large and obvious to minute and dainty, and on to strange plants unknown to most of us. The bright blues and pinks contrasted with the rocky strata and with the startling whiteness of other species. Some of the plants on the scree slopes were reminiscent of those of our southern alpine regions.

Between their botanising trips Uta's group experienced the hospitality of locals in the mountain towns with their ethnic music, food, costumes and dancing. Zhongdian (Shangri-La), and other towns are becoming more touristy as the local governments encourage internationals and Chinese from the east to explore the cultures of the area.

Uta's botanical passions, meticulous plant photography, and the work involved in careful identification was greatly appreciated by members and made a fine conclusion to our year's activities.



From Nelson Executive – January

- Notice of another NZCFS tour has been received - 'Explore China – The Centre Tour'.
<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/31827/nzcfs-explore-china-the-centre-tour/>
- Unfortunately, the 'Handcraft Tour of China' has had to be cancelled as there was not enough interest for it to go ahead.
- Yangjiang Student Exchange:
\$9000 from the Deng Fund and \$2000 from Nelson City allow the exchange to go ahead.
6 students have been selected with 4 colleges being represented: Lark Brudvik-Lindner, Nelson College for Girls; Meila Gillam, Waimea College; Megan Ritchie and Jade Alborn, Garin College; Sam Ancell and Sidney Barron, Nelson College.
The students will be accompanied by Ian and Jane Lister who are preparing an information package for the students. The branch will need to provide gifts for the school and also for the contact people in the Municipal Government and the school.

Farewell to Cindy (Xing Wang) – It was a lovely evening in December when a small group gathered at the barbecue facility at Tahunanui beach. It was time to say good-bye to another of the MLAs, as Cindy had served the local schools for a year. A decorated Christmas tree added to the atmosphere as we ate our food and chatted before making a small presentation of a farewell gift to Cindy. It has seemed appropriate to provide a barbecue and Christmas themes at this time, to give the experience of a New Zealand Christmas, and it has been appreciated by the departing visitors from China.



NZCFS AGM and Conference – This year Conference and AGM is in Hamilton, 25-27 May, and will be held at Waikato University. The focus of meetings this year is 'Working Together'.

Year of the Dog – Were you born in 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, or 1982? Then your Chinese zodiac sign is probably the Dog. This may not be the case if you were born in January or early February of that year; because the actual date of the New Year varies between January and February from calendar year to year.

Nearly all Chinese will know what their star sign is, however very few people take it seriously, similar to the way we treat our star sign. Traditional belief stipulates that people born in the Year of the Dog are usually independent, responsible, sincere, loyal and decisive. They are not afraid of difficulties in daily life. However, the down side is they have a tendency to be conservative, stubborn and emotional.

Rewi Alley's 120th Anniversary Celebrations.

Four Nelson members travelled to Christchurch in the first weekend of December to attend Rewi Alley's 120th Anniversary Commemorations. Alison Horn, David Ayre, Bruce Ward and Christine Ward were included in the Alley family contingent, and Christine Ward presented a paper at the Rewi Alley Symposium organised by Eric Livingstone. The weekend in general was a combined effort by NZCFS Christchurch, Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council and Selwyn District Council. There was also cooperation with Christchurch Boys' High School, the Confucius Institute and the Canterbury Museum. A delegation of 60 or 70 from China included Government representatives from Beijing, Wuhan, Langzhou, and Youxie, Rewi Alley researchers, descendants of Shandan Bailie School's first students, and, importantly, descendants of Rewi's adopted son, Alan Duan.

Friday morning began with the unveiling of a memorial plaque at the main door of the Arts Centre, a tour of the Rewi Alley photographs as seen in November in Nelson, and a tour of the Alley collection in the Canterbury Museum.

After lunch at the Boy's High School, the Memorial Symposium was held in their new auditorium. The Symposium, in three sections: RA's Life and Influences, RA's Educational ideas, and RA's Life Legacy.

There were 6 speakers from China and 6 from New Zealand. Nelson's Christine Ward presented research about Rewi Alley during the Shandan years (1944-52) titled "Rewi Alley at Shandan: a Unique Model of Educational Leadership". Other kiwi speakers included: Dr Maurice Alley (Rewi's nephew), Eric Livingstone (Past President NZCFS), Dave Bromwich (National President NZCFS), Dr Bruce Harding (CBHS Archivist), and Dr Richard Bullen and Dr James Beattie (Artifacts Cataloguists). Chinese speakers were Duan Hailong (Rewi's grandson), Peng Dongjun (Principal Shandan Bailie School), Kuang Ying (Bailie Schools' Researcher), Li Jing (Huanzhong University, Wuhan).

On Friday evening, the Alley families from NZ and China had a meal together followed by a gathering where the family trees were shared and explained and gifts exchanged. The Duan family included two sons and two daughters of Alan (Rewi's adopted son) and some of their children and grandchildren, some of whom live in Australia.

Saturday December 2nd was spent visiting the sites of Rewi's early life in Canterbury, starting with a visit to Wharenui Primary School and the adjacent Rewi Alley Academy. On to Amberley, where Rewi had most of his primary schooling and the Alley family lived in the school house. A 'Garden of Reflection' was opened by the Governor General in the park on the site of the old Amberley School. This has been a combined effort by the District Council, local volunteers, and the inspiration of Di Madgin. The garden with its little stream, Chinese-style bridge, old trees and new plantings is worth a stop when you pass through Amberley. It is just behind the old cob cottage. Then it was on, in the very hot buses, to Rewi's birthplace at Springfield where the sculpture by Lu Bo and Deng Bangzhen was blessed in the presence of the Chinese delegation of about 50 people and a large crowd of proud locals who put on a country-style afternoon tea in the Springfield Hall.

On Saturday evening a grand banquet, hosted by the City Council, made a grand finale for an amazing experience for all who attended this memorial celebration for the initiator of New Zealand-China friendship who was born 120 years ago, spent 60 years in China, and died 30 years ago.



Lu Bo and Deng Bangzhen at Springfield



Arts Centre Plaque



Wards & Shandan descendants at banquet



Amberley Garden of Reflection



Alley family group



Bailie researchers & friends

New China Eye Witness - This new book, edited by Beattie and Bullen has the sub-title "The Art of Museum Diplomacy". It went on sale at the Rewi Alley symposium on December 1 and the first book bought has come back to Nelson! It is a fascinating record of the 1956 China tour by a group of 10 prominent New Zealanders including Roger Duff (Canterbury Museum Director), Ormond Wilson (Labour MP) Evelyn Page (Artist), Charles Hilgendorf (Federated Farmers), W.R. Geddes (Anthropologist), and James Bertram (Journalist). They were participating in "people's diplomacy" initiated by Zhou Enlai and the invitation was facilitated by Rewi Alley. The main part of the book is the meticulous diary of Roger Duff which gives an amazing insight into Chinese soft diplomacy and cultural exchange, as it played out in 1956. This book is part of Beattie and Bullen's research as they have been cataloguing the Canterbury Museum Alley collection of artifacts provided by Rewi. These can be viewed at <http://www.rewialleyart.nz/>