

**DUNEDIN NZCFS
MEMBERS MEMO AUGUST 2018**

Branch newsletter is coming soon –
but 3 special notes here for you:

- * A film
- * Branch President Craig's comments on National Conference
- * Opportunity – Winston Churchill NZCFS Scholarship

*** From the New Zealand
International Film Festival**



***Ash Is Purest White* 2018**

Jianghu er nv Directed by Jia Zhang-ke The transfixing Zhao Tao plays a tough, resilient woman in love with a small-time hoodlum in Jia Zhang-ke's epic gangland romance, set against China's relentless modernisation in the 21st century.

SEE for details of Dunedin showings of this and other Chinese Films

<https://www.nziff.co.nz/2018/dunedin/ash-is-purest-white/>

*** From Branch President Craig
Holmes:**

**President's National Conference
Report**

I could write reams about what happened over the two days at the conference but most of it will be on the Hamilton Branch Conference webpage and does not need repeating here. I will however, make a few personal observations from the conference and draw conclusions.



Others may wish to contradict or criticize, which would be welcome as part of my personal learning and familiarization process. This may in turn assist other local members in attaining some clarity around the purpose and direction of the NZCFS ...or not, as the case may be.

For me, one of the most interesting parts of the conference came at the beginning, with the National President Dave Bromwich's opening speech to Conference. In it he promoted the fact that the NZCFS wishes to maintain and

advance our relationship with Chinese Embassy and Consular officials. He, rightly in my view, advocates promoting relations through the understanding of Chinese Culture, which is of course writ large in our six NZCFS aims. Indeed, this is a reciprocal process since understanding an initially foreign culture through language-learning or travel within that cultural environment enhances familiarisation and fosters positive relationships; outgroup hostility becomes in group cohesion through the meeting of minds.

Dave went on to inform us that there is some criticism as to how we in the NZCFS are promoting New Zealand relationships with China. Specifically, from some of the work of the academic Anne-Marie Brady whose critical eye is focused as much at perceived Chinese manipulation of foreigners as Rewi Alley's relationship with China and the Chinese.

Personally I'm not too sure at which point we, as an organization, become too friendly with China or Chinese representatives in New Zealand or at what point we become too immersed in Chinese culture but I'm equally sure that given we are the New Zealand China Friendship Society, we didn't ought to worry about it. If anyone has doubts about our aims, the clue is in the name and the aims, as stated above, are on the website!

Another criticism levelled is our apparent hero worship of Rewi Alley, which as a career cynic, I feel I have to rebut. Opinions of another, especially those whom we have never met, are like all versions of history, necessarily subjective. Heroes, like everyone else, are never flawless and as we well know these days, heroes can be rendered villains in a tweet, never mind an academically researched paper. Why we should concern ourselves too much with any perceived flaws in Rewi's character is beyond me. Let's accept that he had them. He was human like us; cogito ergo errat!

We should also be ready to critically accept others views on the matter. After all, no-one has a monopoly on the truth.

Dave continued by re-iterating the non-political stance of the NZCFS yet was quite vociferous in promoting the Sino-NZ relationship. It is my view that any support of the Sino-NZ relationship through inter alia liaison with Chinese representatives can be implicitly viewed as political. However, surely our organization should not, and indeed cannot, be selective as to with whom we parlay. Improving relationships is all about communication and should we encounter views or opinions with which we do not necessarily agree, then communicating and talking about arising issues is the way people resolve differences.

So, let's talk some more. We can leave it to professional politicians to make or break relationships as they see fit, however, we should feel free to talk to anyone at any time in correlation with our claim to be non-political. If that invites further and continued criticism, then perhaps we can shift paradigmatically to pan-political.

CH海瑞

*** Winston Churchill NZCFS Fellowship Application for the 2019 fellow is now open.**



Fellowship requests must be for:

- applicants actively involved in an occupation, activities or field of interest which will benefit from fostering relationships and building knowledge and understanding of China New Zealand relations

- proposals that will enhance an applicant's understanding and competence in their occupation, activities or field of interest and which will build friendships and understanding of New Zealand-China relations
- travel between 1 January and 31 December in the year following when the fellowship request is made
- short-term travel to China, for up to three months.



Is this for you or someone you know?

See <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/?p=32950>

REMINDER:

**Branch newsletter coming soon.
And our meeting on August 15.**