

Dinner and Auction at the Royal Garden raises \$5091 for ChCh Earthquake relief

Chaos reigned supreme at the Royal Garden Restaurant in Milford, North Shore on the night of the 23rd March when 57 people turned up to a crazy dinner and auction night in aid of Christchurch earthquake relief.

Teri and Trish desperately tried to keep to their organised schedule but with curious people turning up in large numbers to see well-known forger Karl Sim's Goldie (a facsimile pencil drawing of Tamati waka Nene) auctioned off by Michelle Maitland of George Walkers Auctions, it was a hopeless task!

As it turned out, at the end of the auction, Karl's work was passed in, but dozens of people had brought in delightful items which did go under the hammer and were bid for by the enthusiastic diners to high levels, much to our relief! These included two stunning vases kindly donated by our guests of honour, Mme Liao Juhua, Consul-General, and Mme Long Yanping, the Culture Consul, (see panel for images of some of the items).

It all had started when HBC branch of the NZ China Friendship Society decided to have a quiet dinner amongst the branch members. Suddenly, the Christchurch earthquake happened for a second time and it was decided that we might raise a few dollars. One of the members had a brilliant idea.... 'Why don't we get the famous forger, 88 year-old Karl Sim, to bring a picture for us to auction'. Everyone agreed that it was an amazing idea, and when Auckland president, George Andrews was told of it, their branch was also enthused to join us. It was suggested that we invite the Chinese Consul and some of her staff and she graciously agreed to attend.

Another brainwave was to invite the guzheng player from Hamilton, Chen Xiyao, for a musical interlude, and Yao, as he prefers to be called, kindly agreed to come. Jenevere Foreman, president of Hamilton branch and Ian Howat came also from Hamilton, bringing Yao and his beautiful instrument with them. The music during the dinner was captivating and many requests were made for 'just another item, please'.

Suddenly numbers were escalating and trying to think ahead on how it would be run efficiently, was becoming a nightmare.

Teri put her foot down and said that we HAD to know the numbers for the restaurant a week before. Faint hope!! A day before the event, people were still saying they might come and even on the night, people wandered in to the distraction of the restaurant owner, who was desperate to find out exactly how many people she was catering for and so it was for the organisers too. Bidding numbers, table places and item sheets were swept aside as people preferred sitting next to their friends.



The back of a printed page was hastily adapted to take names of winners of items and phone numbers were exchanged for those who didn't bring any money with them! But all was well in the end. All monies have been recovered from the satisfied customers.

The dinner/auction raised an amazing \$5094. This will be divided between the Chinese victims' families who died in the CTV building and The Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Relief Fund.

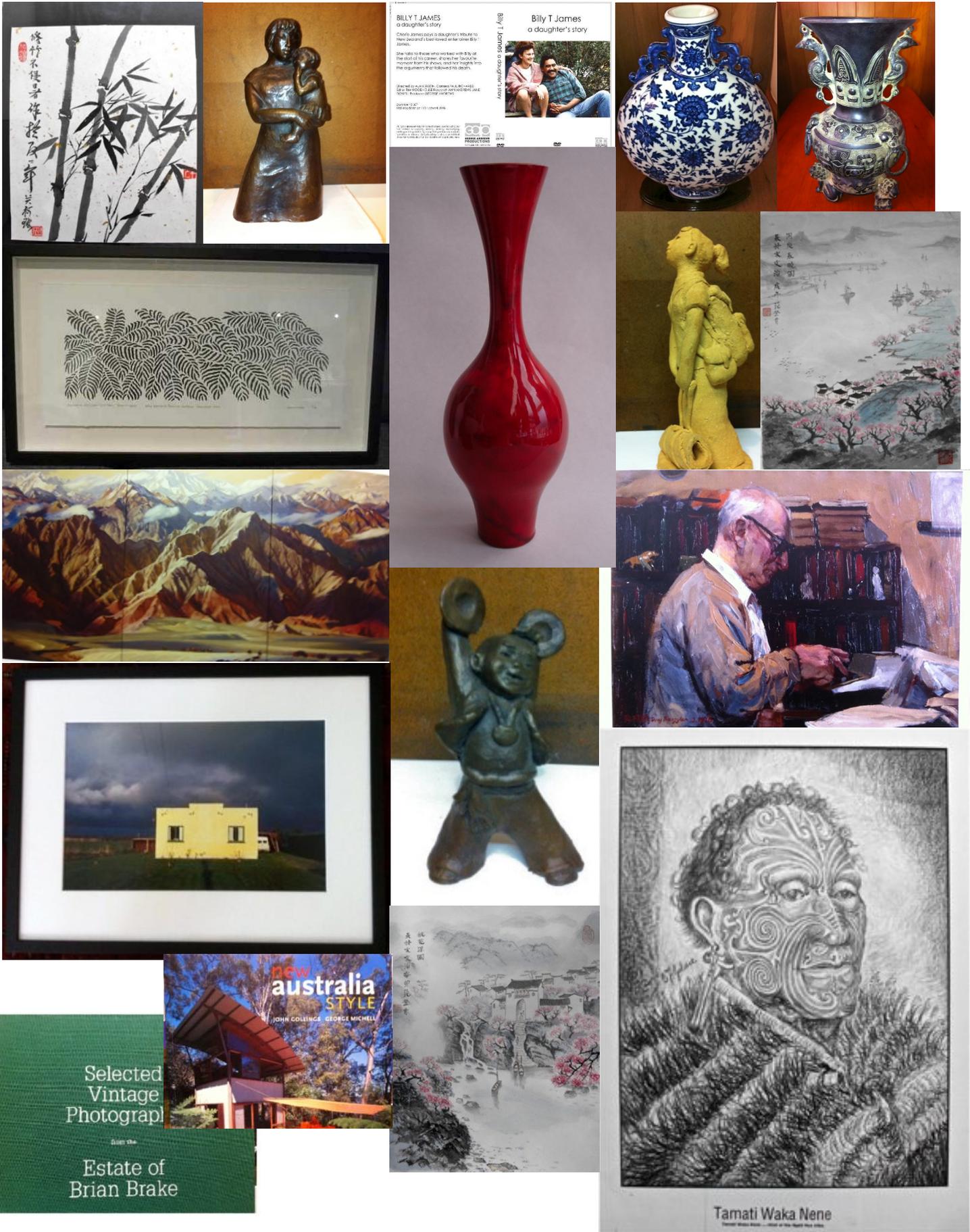
Really, the financial success of our auction is down to George Andrews (President of Auckland branch) who did excellent work in cajoling the donation of many of the auction items. Not only that but many of the diners (and hence bidders) were there due to him.

Without him we would not be donating \$2941 to the Red Cross Fund and \$2150¹ to the Chinese victims' families. Thank you George! And a big thank-you goes to all who helped organise the occasion, to all donated items (see panel), to those who bid and pushed up the bidding and especially to the winning bidders, indeed to all who made it such a success!

'Spring Festival' Auction - Donors, successful Bidders & Bids

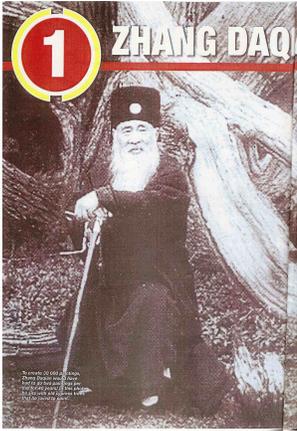
	Item	Donor	Bid	Buyer
Magazines	3 Chinese magazines (1975-77)	Tina Hart	140	
Print	Rewi Alley Shearing Shed (Dend Bangzhen)	Deng Bangzhen	25	Duncan France
print	Rewi Alley Homestead (Dend Bangzhen)		15	Aileen Su
Print	Tibetan Boy (Dend Bangzhen)		30	Duncan France
Print	Tryptych Kunlean (Dend Bangzhen)		30	John Meyers
Print	Rewi Alley Study (Dend Bangzhen)		65	Cecil Fowler
Print	Otago Mountains (Dend Bangzhen)		25	
Print	Silk Road (Dend Bangzhen)		45	Kim Jarrett
Painting	Artwork for NZ Expo Pavillion		Pamela Lim	545
Boat	China Sea drifter (Rewi Kemp)	Rewi Kemp	135	Dickie Hutchings
Painting	Plum Blossom scroll	Margaret Jones	125	Denis Orme
Dress	Silk		40	Duncan France
Glass	2 White & red vases	Aileen Su	60	Ian Howat
Glass	6 Kiwi glass plates -(turquoise)		60	Lu Bo
DVD	Billy T James Gang Rides Again		36	Lu Bo
DVD	Billy T Daughter	George Andrews	50	Nicole
DVD	Made In Taiwan		80	Denis Orme
Ceramic	Buddha	Kelvin & Glenys Stace	60	Pamela Lim
Book	New Australia Style		25	Kim Jarrett
Book	Selected Vintage Photos (Brian Brake)	Ronald Sang	130	Phillip Endean
Book	Architecture Inspired by NZ		50	Isobel Thompson
Painting	Bamboo (Colleen Kangwai)	Colleen Kangwai	60	Wendy
Painting	Chinese landscape 'Spring on Lake Dongting' (Duncan France)	Duncan France	50	Michelle Maitland
Painting	Chinese landscape 'Plum blossom near deep lake' (Duncan France)		50	
Bronze	Mother & Child (Lu Bo)	Lu Bo	650	Phil Henderson
Bronze	Young woman (Lu Bo)		0	Passed in
Bronze	Happy Boy (Lu Bo)		275	Tina Hart
Terracotta	Travelling Girl (Lu Bo)		230	Jenevere Foreman
Ceramic	Red China vase (John Parker)	John Parker	600	Mme Liao Juhua
Ceramic	Blue & white vase	Consulate	475	Denis Orme
Resin?	Bronze gui Zhou dynasty (wine libation jar facsimile)		360	Duncan France
Print	Cream House (Robin Morrison)	Morrison estate	0	Passed in
Portrait	Tamati Wwake Nene (Karl F. Sim)	Karl F. Sim	0	Passed in
		Total:	<u>4581</u>	

¹ The disparity in the figures is due to fact that each successful bidder chose to which fund his bid should go.



Just a selection of the auctioned items...

The World's Greatest Forger - Zhang Daqian



Identity: Zhang Daqian (1899-1983) was one of China's most famous artists.

Great Fakes: He completed about 30,000 paintings in his lifetime. His fakes span 1000 years of Chinese art - there is no forger of Western art who has covered such a range.

Zhang's life story is filled with excitement, strange events and unusual people! He was kidnapped by bandits, joined a Buddhist monastery, and spent almost three years copying paintings in the mysterious Caves of a Thousand Buddhas in Dunhuang, Gansu province, China.

In 1948, Zhang smuggled a huge collection of scrolls and paintings out of China. He later sold them illegally. He was friends with gangsters and lived all over the world. He lived for 20 years on his \$5 million 14-hectare Brazilian estate, which had a lake, a forest, monkeys, tigers and bears. He lived with many wives (at the same time!), dozens of children and still had time to paint approx. 30,000 original and forged paintings over the course of his life!

Zhang is known for his paintings on silk, his Chinese calligraphy and his flawless painting techniques.

His forgeries are so good that many museums have had to defend their so-called authentic works against accusations that they may, in fact, be fakes by Zhang.

WHY?

Zhang started copying famous paintings both to study them and for the challenge - as do many Chinese -brush painting artists (including the writer...!!).

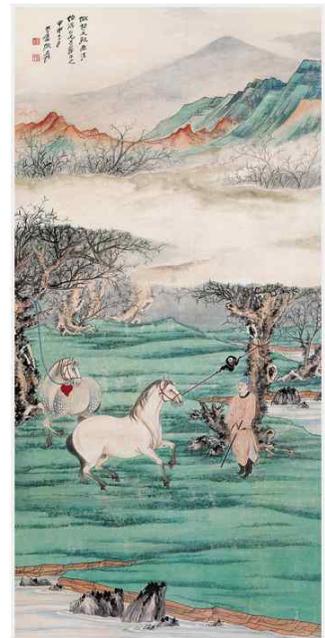
However, it became a challenge to trick the important people in Shanghai. Later, his reasons became financial.

HOW?

In Western art, the origin of a painting is usually described in a series of letters or catalogues or stories. In China, the owners (including the Emperor) of paintings signed and stamped their names and comments on the paintings they owned. Each time the art changed hands, the new owner added his seal to the work. Zhang used fake royal stamps (that he made) on his forgeries to make it look like his works had been signed by emperors hundreds of years earlier. The key to his success, aside from the convincing beauty of his paintings, was the realistic history of ownership he created for his paintings. He also mastered and forged hundreds of signatures. He used very old brushes, ink and antique silk to trick experts about the age of his paintings. He then had to select from among the 970 old chops he had in his possession (it is believed that these were forged too!), to show all of the owners through time.

In his later years, Zhang's failing eyesight made him shift to a new style, in which large splashes of dark ink and color are made into mysterious and evocative images.

It is clear that Zhang wanted to make an impression. Although he lived during modern times, he dressed in robes and carried a large wooden staff. He also grew a long wispy beard.



"For Zhang, copying paintings was not a crime. He would say, 'The person who wants to buy it is the guilty one.... I am not a forger, I improved it, actually!'"

-- William Kiang, former Chinese diplomat

Exposed

While he was eventually exposed as a forger, Zhang was never caught in his lifetime.. More than twenty years after his death, historians and experts are busy trying to find out just how many "historical" Chinese paintings are actually the work of Zhang Daqian.

Based on an article in "The Ten Greatest Art Forgers" by Bonnie Shepherd (2007), Scholastic Publishers.

Note: In this book, Karl Sim, aka C.F. Goldie, figured as the No. 8 Greatest Forger.

For more information of Zhang Daqian click this link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhang_Daqian

Society News

Branch News:

Following our AGM:

Subscription remains unchanged: \$20 for a single person, \$30 for a couple, \$50 for a business and \$10 for a student.

The main change is that regretfully, three members of last year's committee no longer participate and have not paid their subs. With that in mind, the decision was made to close their membership.

Following the recent Spring Festival Dinner, with its covert membership drive, our membership numbers are now at: 5 couples and two single persons, i.e. 12.

Allison Orme has agreed to join the committee, and we welcome her especially for her drive, enthusiasm and her input of new ideas.

BRANCH EVENTS & MEETINGS: Please mark these dates on your calendar :

Events Schedule for 2011:

Date	Speaker	Topic	Venue	Note
April 17th, Sunday	Mrs Raewyn Ho	"Being a banana?!" - reflections of a second generation Chinese Kiwi	St John Catholic Church Hall, 180 Centreway Road, Orewa	3pm
May 19th	Mr Hong Chen of Fonterra Milk Products	Milk in China		Date and time to be confirmed

We thoroughly recommend that members refer to the newly revamped Society website,

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

Have a look at it. You should find it much easier to find your way around than the old one.

For example, you can download the very informative brochure for the **Society Tour to**

China in April (or click here: <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/NZCFSDiscoverChinaApril2011.pdf>)

National Society News

National Exec Meeting was held Feb 12th in Wellington. No minutes are available yet. This is understandable as Eric Livingstone (President) has much more serious preoccupations following the Christchurch earthquake.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011:

The 2011 National Conference and AGM will be hosted by the Wellington Branch from 27-29 May. The theme of the Conference is 'China & NZ: The Next Decade', indicating an emphasis on looking forward to the future of the friendship between our two countries. The programme is looking very exciting with several interesting speakers.

(as at 25 March 2011)



**THE NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC
NATIONAL CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 27 -29 MAY 2011
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**CONFERENCE THEME:
"China & New Zealand: The Next Decade"**

PROGRAMME

Friday 27 May

- 3 – 5 pm National Executive meeting
5.00 pm Registrations
5 – 6 pm *Drinks and Nibbles*
6.00 pm Welcome by Wellington Branch President Bernie Richmond
Official Opening by Councillor Ian McKinnon, Deputy Mayor of Wellington
National President Eric Livingstone
Keynote Speaker: Hon Tim Groser, Minister of Trade and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (tbc)
7.00 pm Open dinner arrangements

Saturday 28 May

- 8.30 am Registrations
9.00 am National President's Address
9.15 am HE Mr Xu Jianguo: "New Measures for Further Development in China"
9.45 am *Morning tea*
10.15 am Mr David Feickert: "A Better Way of Dealing with Disasters in China and NZ"
10.45 am Ms Laytee George: "The Teaching of Chinese in NZ Schools: The Rotorua Experience"
11.15 am Mr Stuart Fergusson: "The Misconceptions of the Difficulties in Trading with China"
11.45 am *Lunch*
1.15 pm Dr Les Molloy: "The New Zealand Involvement in the World Heritage Sites in China"
1.45 pm Mr Dave Bromwich: "NZCFS Projects in China"
2.15 pm Dr Hui Luo: "The Confucius Institute Model: Building Relations Between China and NZ"
2.45 pm *Afternoon Tea*
3.15 pm Hon Philip Burdon: "The Role of NZCFS over the Next Decade"
3.45 pm National Executive Session
5.00 pm Close of Session
7.00 pm Conference Banquet at Dragons Restaurant, 25 Tory St

Sunday 29 May

- 9.00 am Annual General Meeting
10.00 am *Morning Tea*
10.30 am Annual General Meeting continues
12 noon Close of Conference
Lunch
1.00 pm Meeting of 2011-2012 National Executive

Up to date information will be on the website <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>