



# NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

APRIL 2014

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

\* **SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENTS**  
in Learning Mandarin in Dunedin

\* **Writing Competition**

## Recently...

\* **Television interview**

## Coming up...

\* **Dates for your diary**  
\* **NZCFS National Conference**  
**2014**

...and more...

## Branch President's Note:



Paul Fawcett has enthusiastically jumped in to his new role.

He has met with members of the Dunedin Shanghai Association, the Confucius Institute, and the Chinese Embassy; he has represented the branch and been part of the celebration when Columba College hosted the regional finals of the "Chinese Bridge" language competition(see below); he has been preparing for National Conference and doing additional research for the North East China Tour. A busy person.

Thank you Paul for your work.

## MANDARIN LEARNING IN DUNEDIN ...lots happening

### MANDARIN LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS

Our first eight week course for 2014 is now running. The course has been **oversubscribed** with **20 participants**. Watch for our notice about future lessons.



*Teacher Li Min and course members*

We are thankful for the teachers who have made the course possible, and other volunteers who are helping with kouyu ke (conversation).

Teachers: HUANG Baohua from Confucius Institute in association with Otago University



LI Min, from Beijing, Otago University student, majoring in Education.



*kouyu ke*



Course assistant Vera(right) with course members

Some participant comments:

*I am really enjoying the language course so far;*

*After one week my head is hurting a bit.*

*The tutor is very pleasant, and has created a good atmosphere in the classroom right from the start, which I think is very important. She has experience in teaching Mandarin and knows the little tricks how to make it easier for us to understand things like pronunciation. And she has an honest interest to teach us and she loves her language and teaching, which comes across very clearly*

Interested in future lessons:  
contact the branch secretary,  
or Mandarin Course Coordinator:  
Kate Miller [katebjb@gmail.com](mailto:katebjb@gmail.com)



## **We have welcomed Confucius Institute teachers to Otago**

There are now **five Mandarin Language Assistants** from Confucius Institute working in a variety of primary, intermediate and secondary schools, from Dunedin to Clutha. Ling Tu, the MLA of Otago Girls' High, Otago Boys' High, and Kaikorai Valley College writes:

*Everything here is going well. My homestay mother is very nice to me, so are all the HODs*

*and colleagues. I do enjoy myself here in Dunedin, such a beautiful and lovely city.*

It was great to meet the MLA's at our March meeting.

Branch members Colin and Vivienne Child facilitated a **training course** for the five MLAs recently. Their course director was Dr Wang Yu, Chinese National Advisor from ILEP: International Languages Exchanges and Pathways.



(from left) Ling Tu, Chen Xuanyi, Dr Wang Yu, Cancan Yang, Jinli Zhou, Viv and Colin Child, Lai Peng

**Backgrounder:** The team of **ILEP** is employed by Auckland UniServices on contract to the Ministry of Education to deliver the International Languages Exchanges and Pathways (ILEP) programme. ILEP supports schools and teachers to implement the Learning Languages curriculum area through the promotion of a five-stage professional learning pathway for schools and teachers in years 7-13. ILEP <http://www.ilep.ac.nz/>



**Confucius Institute:** The Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury is part of the global CI network jointly established by Hanban (Beijing), the University of Canterbury (Christchurch) and Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Wuhan). It is the second Confucius Institute to be established in New Zealand and the first in the South Island. <http://www.ci.canterbury.ac.nz/>



## More good news about Mandarin learning

With thanks to Confucius Institute Canterbury for this report:

### The South Island Regional Chinese Bridge Competition



On Saturday 29 March, the annual Chinese Bridge Speech Competition South Island Regional Finals were held at Columba College's Confucius Classroom in Dunedin. Guests present at the event included Dr Yanli Chu, Deputy Consul-General for China in Christchurch and the president of the New Zealand China Friendship Society's (NZCFS) Dunedin Branch, Paul Fawcett. Columba College had put a lot of work into preparing for the competition.

There were two events on the Saturday. In the morning, the Otago Sub-Regional Finals were held, and in the afternoon the South Island Regional Finals were held. Successful candidates from the morning's event went on to compete against students from the Canterbury region in the afternoon event. At least seven contestants from the Junior and Senior Secondary School categories will go on to compete in the National Finals, which will be held in Wellington in May. The winner (and only competitor) of the tertiary final was Emily Wilby. She will go on to compete in the world-wide finals in China. The winner of the Senior Secondary category was Christchurch Girl's High School's Da Yeon (June) Jung and the winner of the Junior Secondary category was Charlotte Walker from Lincoln High School.

The award ceremony was presided over by Dr Adam Lam, Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury. Miss Elizabeth Wilson, principal of Columba College gave the opening speech, welcoming competitors, their families and teachers to the event. As the awards were being given out NZCFS Dunedin Branch's president Paul Fawcett gave an impromptu speech expressing respect and admiration for the level of Chinese language displayed in the competition. After the awards were given out, Dr Yanli Chu gave a speech which detailed the recent developments in the relationship between New Zealand and China, especially in regard to Dunedin's sister city relationship with Shanghai. She urged the students to be like Rewi Alley, who promoted friendly relations between the two peoples, saying that this would truly build a Chinese Bridge.

<http://www.ci.canterbury.ac.nz/>



**Branch Secretary Colin Child was invited to Channel 39 Dunedin Television to talk about the programme the Mandarin Language Teachers are involved in.**

### Nightly interview: Colin Child

April 3, 2014 - 6:47pm

"New assistants are working in Dunedin schools as part of a renewed effort to ramp up Mandarin language teaching in the city.

The New Zealand China Friendship Society is a supporter of the move, and its branch secretary Colin Child joins us..."



Watch the clip here:

<http://www.dunedintv.co.nz/content/nightly-interview-colin-child>



## 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/>

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There are **advantages** in membership of the branch.

- \* Free participation in NZCFS Language Classes - beginner classes now on; intermediate classes later
- \* Specific support for the aims of NZCFS, and national and local projects.
- \* The New Zealand China Friendship Society has had 60 years experience working with China. This has given us strong connections and good contacts.
- \* Opportunities for participation in unique NZCFS tours and delegations.
- \* We need your membership support to continue the work.

**Thanks to new members and those who have recently renewed membership.**

**Please join. Check out our goals and activities on the website and**

Contact the branch treasurer [vivholmes1@gmail.com](mailto:vivholmes1@gmail.com) with ‘membership enquiry’ in the subject line.

## NZCFS National Conference 2014



As well as association business the conference has a theme of **“Voices for Youth”**.



Xi Yao, a young traditional Gu-Zheng musician with the Traditional Chinese Music School in Hamilton, has composed a musical work to be transcribed by the Hawke’s Bay Youth Orchestra for western instruments and performed as a feature of our

Conference concert.

A number of young people will speak about their thoughts and experiences including Hawke’s Bay high school exchange students recently returned from Hastings’ Sister-City schools in Guilin and other young adults from various Branches.

Hawke’s Bay, 23 – 25 May 2014

Havelock North Function Centre

**Read more about Xi Yao here:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen\\_Xiyao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Xiyao)

## BRANCH MEETINGS:

### Later in the year:

### Chinese Music and Song

- please contact the president or secretary if you have useful contacts or ideas for an evening of Chinese music and song.

**China Tour** – at the end of June/beginning July we are planning a shared meal, (Chinese Mains/Kiwi Dessert) at which Branch President Paul Fawcett will tell us of the highlights from the NZCFS tour on his return from NE China.

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## WRITING COMPETITION

Branch Member and Dunedin Chinese Garden Visitor Services Officer Ute Keck writes:

*Through my Tower Room library project I got to know Jean Jin, from the Shanghai Library. She has made it possible for us to start up our library in the Tower Room with a very generous donation of books. And we are now also part of the 'Window of Shanghai' library scheme, which enables us to get lots of new books sent very year. Jean now has sent me the details of her new project that she's in charge of – the annual writing contest which I*



would like to help to promote.

Please find some more information about it here:

“Shanghai Get-together 2014—The Third Recitation and Writing Contest” Calls for Participation

Your works on the topics of China and Chinese culture are highly welcomed. We are looking forward to your joining to win your ticket to the award ceremony in Shanghai with free round trip airfare and free local accommodation.

ENTRY DEADLINE: 31 July 2014

Contest Website:

[http://windowofshanghai.library.sh.cn/activities/get\\_together2014en.htm](http://windowofshanghai.library.sh.cn/activities/get_together2014en.htm)

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## FOR YOUR DIARY

- \* **May 23-25 National Conference**
- \* **July 31 Deadline Writing Comp.**

**For information about the Dunedin Branch NZCFS Contact:**

**President** Paul Fawcett  
paul.fawcett@otago.ac.nz

**Treasurer** Vivienne Child 027 2808860  
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**Secretary** Colin Child [cchild@clear.net.nz](mailto:cchild@clear.net.nz)