

新中友好協會

NZ China Friendship Soc.
Hibiscus Coast Branch
Friends News

朋友們消息

péng yǒu men xiǎo xī

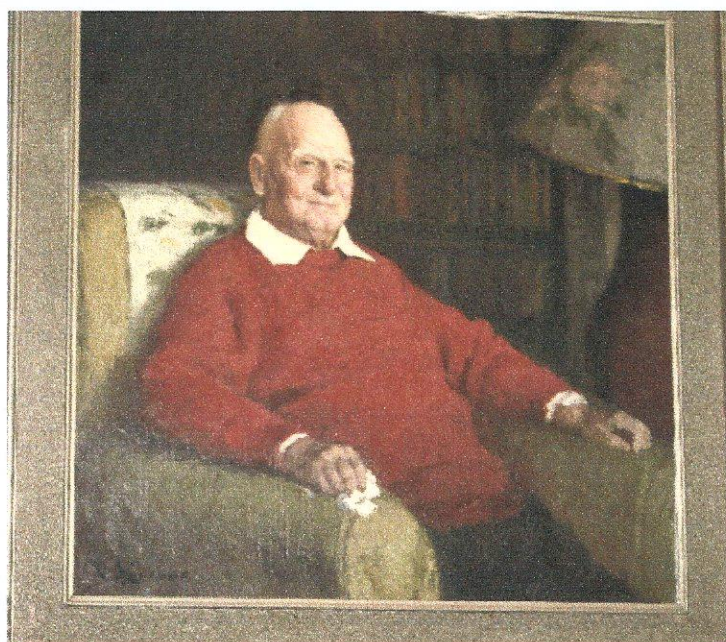
Nov/December 2007



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Rewi Alley

2 Dec 1897-27 Dec 1987



Portrait of Rewi Alley, located in his Beijing home

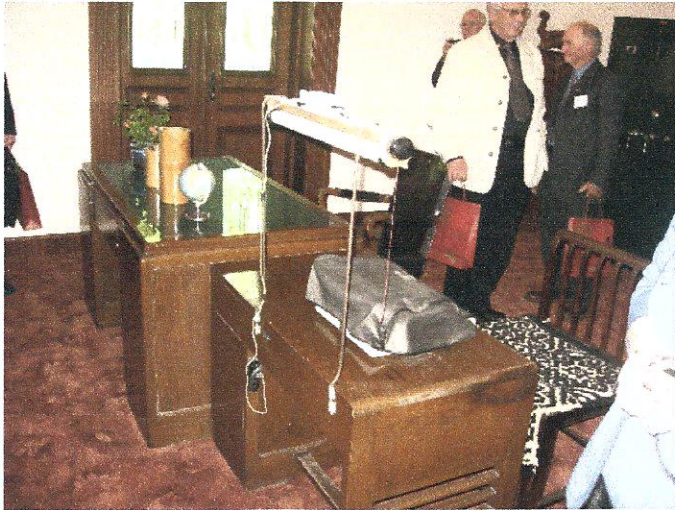
Appropriately, the compound in which his house is located is now the offices of **Youxie**

Celebrations for the 110th anniversary of Rewi Alley's birth took place Sep 7th in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, and 10th September at the Shandan Bailie School. They were attended by Margaret Cooper (NZCFS National President), Prof. Bill Willmott, Tony Howell (New Zealand Ambassador to PRC), and a number of Rewi's relatives

The celebrations were arranged by **Youxie** – the **Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries**.



Mme Li Xiaolin (Director of Youxie) and Mr Qing Boming (Youxi Director for Oceania) in Rewi Alley's home.



Rewi Alley's desk in his study
(where the members of the Prominent persons and Leaders changed clothes – formal to tourism!)



Rewi Alley's home
(in the compound now used by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries)

Text of a poster of Rewi Alley's life - by Youxie **(posted in his study)**

Rewi Alley, renowned New Zealand writer, educator and social activist, was a long-tested loyal friend of the Chinese people. Born in 1897, he enlisted into the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in 1916 to fight in Europe during World War I. Returning home after the war, he set up a farm with a friend. He came to China in 1927, and remained in this country ever since.

From 1927 to 1938, he worked in the Shanghai Municipal Council of the International Settlement. During this period, he witnessed many injustices of Chinese society and the tragic life of the exploited and oppressed Chinese people. He came into contact with the underground Chinese Communist Party in 1934. Since then, he braved all hardships and dangers to support China's revolutionary struggle in various ways. Early in 1938, shortly after the anti-Japanese war broke out, Alley initiated, along with the American journalist Edgar Snow, Helen Snow and other foreign and Chinese friends, the Gung Ho (Industrial Cooperatives or Indusco) Movement which was aimed at organizing unemployed workers and refugees for production to support the War of Resistance.

After 1942, he shifted his attention to training Gung Ho cadres and established the Bailie Technical School at Shandan County of Gansu Province in the Northwest. The school, practicing a new type of education based on half-study half work, succeeded in training a large number of technical personnel for New China. In 1949, he sent all the school's trucks to help transport troops of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, thus contributing to the liberation of Yumen and other places.

In 1952, Alley attended the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions held in Beijing, and was elected a member of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian

and Pacific Regions. He settled down in Beijing in 1953 and moved his residence to this building in 1969. He travelled all over China and visited many countries to disseminate knowledge about New China and spared no efforts in supporting China's development. He was prolific in writing poems and articles, translated into English numerous Chinese ancient and modern poems, delivered countless speeches, met with thousands of friends from other countries, and advanced valuable suggestions for China's modernization. In his late years, Alley donated to Shandan nearly 4,000 pieces of cultural relics he had collected all his life. He also diligently advocated the revival of Gung Ho so that the Gung Ho International Committee resumed work after 35 years.

During all his 60 years in China, Alley stood firmly on the side of the Chinese people under all circumstances. He gave his all to the Chinese cause. His work was greatly appreciated by the Chinese people, the people of New Zealand and peoples in other countries. Since the 1930s, Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and other Chinese leaders met and highly praised him on many occasions. Deng Xiaoping called him a veteran fighter, comrade and friend of the Chinese people. He was awarded various honours both in China and New Zealand.

Alley never married, but adopted the children of some revolutionaries and poor ordinary Chinese, which blessed him with all the happiness of one big family of four generations in his late years. He **died on December 27, 1987** at age 90. According to his wishes his ashes were scattered in his second homeland, Shandan.

For Wikipedia Rewi Alley article:, click on:

❖ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rewi_Alley

For details of: **Gung Ho Cooperative movement**, click on:

❖ <http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz/gungho.html> – history *

Shandan Baillie School, click on:

❖ <http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz/shandan.html> *

* To get to the Home Page, click on big arrow at end of each page



Text of Rewi Alley's explanation of the title of his book:

"YO BANFA!", 1952, published by *China Monthly Review*

有 般 法

YO BANFA!

(*Pinyin: yǒu bān fǎ*)

IN the old China, in the exploited, ruined villages and cities, subject to perpetual wars, to floods, famine, pestilence, there was a cry, accompanied by baffled and angry eyes, the cry of a people who could see no way but.

It haunted, it spread like an infection. A truck -would limp to a stop and the driver get out, look at the decrepit engine, hurl his wrench at it and mutter savagely, "Mei yo banfa!"-No way!. Refugees with hungry children, soldiers dying of their festering wounds, would murmur. desperately, "Mei-yo banfa ... " If was the cry of the defeated, the hopeless.

Then there began to appear men who changed the tune. As the Japanese imperialists penetrated, these men fought back. The "Mei-yo banfa" changed to "Yo Banfa!"-We *have* a way! It *can* be done!

In this Hall, in which major moments in the history of modern China have been observed, it is appropriate that we again honour someone who did so much to help build modern China.

Today we start by recalling that 110 years ago it was in New Zealand that Rewi was born.

Rewi spent more of his life in China than he did in New Zealand. His greatest achievements were here in China. But he is nonetheless honoured in New Zealand as a great New Zealander.

Rewi's very name, the name of one of the great figures in Maori history, linked him to a proud tradition in New Zealand – of being a fighter, of bravery, leadership, willingness to confront authority, of respect for tradition and of honouring cultural values.

Rewi had all those qualities. As a young man he fought in terrible conditions in Europe in the First World War: he endured the hardships of trench warfare, he was injured, and carried the scars of that war for the rest of his life. From that experience he began to form ideas that shaped his future life and thinking – ideas about politics and international relations, about fairness and respect for one's fellow human beings, regardless of race, background or status. He came to question the view, still widely held in New Zealand at that time, that empires and military alliances provided a blueprint for the future.

Initially he used his strength and determination to try to develop one of New Zealand's harshest areas for farming. It helps explain, perhaps, why he felt so much at home years later battling nature in Gansu.

His experience of farming in New Zealand brought out attributes of persistence and a tolerance of hardship. It gave him a sense of identity with those who struggle to earn a living from the land. It taught him that those who work in the most difficult circumstances need spirit and determination, that they must be prepared to live with failure and not give up, they must learn from it and be willing to start again. By the time Rewi came to China he had well and truly imbued in him that spirit of human tenacity.

So it was with this formative background that Rewi left New Zealand in 1927 and came to China. He left New Zealand physically, but he never left it emotionally. He never ceased to be a New Zealander. When I knew him fifty years later, in the mid 1970s, he wanted to talk about New Zealand, to remember the land of his birth and discuss what was happening there. He was critical of the New Zealand government, (in private he was critical of much of what the then Chinese government did too). But he was also quick to praise what he admired.

Those who changed the tune were not well-armed, they were not well-fed, they were not well-clothed. But they had something else. They had confidence born of new understanding and in that confidence they pushed forward, gave leadership.

Then, as the years passed, with the savage, degenerate old order, rent with more and more contradictions, the new life began to enter and take hold. Everywhere men began to look with hope at their tasks, at difficulties overcome, began to turn to one another and say, "Yo banfa!"

The idea spread. The little groups became larger groups until they swelled into an overwhelming tide that engulfed the old, swept away its rottenness and cut new, clean channels.

;So many achievements have been made in these last three years that the chroniclers of events find it hard to keep pace with them. But to one who has lived so long under the old, the thing that gets one is to see the light in two lads' eyes when, as they complete a job, they look at each other and say, almost with one voice, "Yo banfa!" In this lies a whole new world of respect for themselves, for one another, for the endless potentialities of their people and for the glorious future that now faces their country.

REWI ALLEY

Text of speech by Tony Browne, Ambassador of New Zealand to PRC, at 110th Anniversary of the Birth of Rewi Alley, Great Hall of the People, Beijing, 7 September 2007

E nga iwi, e nga mana, e nga reo, mai i nga topito o Aotearoa ki tenei pito o te Ao –
Haere mai! Nau mai! Haere mai!
E tau i runga i te aroha o te tangata ki te tangata.

We are here today in the Great Hall of the People to honour the memory of a very distinguished New Zealander. It was in this building that milestones in Rewi's life were marked – his 80th birthday when Deng Xiaoping, who had had dealings with Rewi dating back some forty years, hosted the party. And it was here that his memory was honoured on the hundredth anniversary of his birth.

Today the number of New Zealanders who have come here to join these commemorations is a mark of the pride that New Zealanders take in Rewi's accomplishments.

But it is because of his achievements here in China that his name is still honoured, twenty years after his death. There was a period in Rewi's life when these achievements were discounted or disparaged in his homeland. There were those who attempted to blacken his name, to question his motives, to deny his achievements. It is an episode of which New Zealand is not, and should not be proud. But history is not only a healer. It also strips away the peripheral and the unimportant. It reveals the essence of events and of men.

History's judgement of Rewi is one that is, and will continue to be, strongly positive. It will acknowledge his humanity. It will honour his scholarship for we must not forget that Rewi was not only a fighter, a builder, and educationalist. He had a hunger for learning about the land he lived in. The library he built, the collection of cultural treasures he built up, the poetry he wrote and the classics he translated for the benefit of a western audience. The soldier and farmer with little formal education became a scholar.

I will leave others to recall Rewi's achievements in Shanghai, in flood and famine relief, behind the Japanese lines with the Red Army, in the Gong Ho movement, and later the work he did at Shandan in Gansu. It was practical, it developed work skills that China needs today, it pointed to the need to develop China's west, so loudly echoed in the policies of China's government today. It is a record that has inspired many. In 1986 New Zealand's Prime Minister, David Lange, came to Beijing and called on Rewi. There have been many great sons of New Zealand, he said to him, "but you, Sir, are our greatest son". It is why, when Jiang Zemin went to New Zealand, a visit to Rewi's old school to honour him there was unquestioningly included in his programme.

So Rewi is a man that two nations are proud to claim, and to share as their own. His legacy is something on which those two nations have been able to draw as we have built our modern relationship over the past 35 years. In his later life he enjoyed nearly 15 years when New Zealand had the government presence here in China that he had argued for decades we needed to have. He became an honoured and frequent guest at the Embassy, and a bust of him sits now in the entrance foyer to greet all those who go there.

Those of us who knew him in that period recall the generosity of time, advice and encouragement he gave us. Those who came later can only admire a life of huge achievement.

So we all today, Chinese and New Zealanders alike; those who knew Rewi personally and those who know him by repute, his family and his friends, we join in acknowledging the memory of a great son of New Zealand and of China.

No reira e nga tini mate, e Rewi ma, takoto mai, moe mai.

Ratou kua wheturangitia ki a ratou, Tatou nga morehu ki a tatou,
no reira tena huihui tatou katoa.

Please go to the Society's Home Page: <http://www.rewi.co.nz> for:

- ❖ Text of speeches by Margaret Cooper and Prof. Bill Willmott,
- ❖ Pictures during the Celebrations in Beijing,
- ❖ Details of the Silk Road Tour taken by Prof. Bill Willmott and subject of his talk, and which also took in the Rewi Alley Celebrations)

You may have been offended, as a friend of China, by a newspaper headline describing that country as "the great polluter".

Everyone agrees that 'pollution is a bad thing', but the 2006 figures record that the USA, in spite of all its modern technology, is still the world's greatest polluter – with a population a quarter of China's.

Then too, there were the headlines on the formaldehyde tests – which were proved faulty, but were well publicised on TV3.

There is **no danger in clothing from China**. But the correct tests never got headlines.

Then too, there is the matter of food quality. The USA with strict border controls records that it has turned down more shipments from India and Mexico than from China – and Japan has found more faults with shipments from the EU and US than with those from China.

Comment by Rewi Kemp (Auckland Branch) based on *Information from the Beijing Review August 2, 2007*

Membership News

Our AGM was held 26th November, at Pohutukawa Rooms, Whangaparaoa Library, at 7.00pm

Membership stands at 32 + 2 Corporate members (Orewa College and Reg Subritzky.

Dicky acknowledged the substantial support (\$1200) that the Consulate has made to the Society. Everyone agreed.

The branch had \$518.48 in the bank after paying for all expenses associated with the October dinner.

It was agreed that the annual subscriptions remain the same for the next year. This was agreed.

The renewal date was set at 1st December. Also, it was agreed that members who had joined after 1st November last, would not be required to renew until next year.

Annual Subscription:

Personal	\$20
Family	\$30
Corporate	\$50

Contact: Dicky Hutchings (Branch Treasurer)
09-426-4480
dickyh@xtra.co.nz

The following officers were elected:

Branch President:	Lady Rhyl Jansen	(Allen/Duncan)
Branch Vice-President:	Allen Crosby	(Leonore/Rhyl)
Branch Secretary:	Helen Li	(Allen/ Rhyl)
Hon.Treasurer:	Dicky Hutchings	(Allen/ Rhyl)
Editor:	Duncan France	(Allen/Rhyl)
Committee Members:	Trish Hutchings	(Allen/ Duncan)
	Simon Yang	(Duncan/ Trish)
	Lucy Wright	(Allen/ Duncan)
	Bob Greatham	(Dicky/ Trish)
	Reg. Subritzky	(Dicky/Trish)
	Glen Murphy	(Dicky/Trish)
	Claris Dittmer	(Allen/ Rhyl)
	Bjorn Simonsen	(Duncan/Peter)

Programme: Many ideas for activities for the coming year were outlined, starting with:

- ❖ A public Chinese dinner at the star Restaurant, The Plaza, Whangaparaoa, on the first day of Chinese New Year (Thursday, February 7). This is expected to cost \$30.00 per head with details to be announced at the end of January 2008.

Other proposals include:

- ❖ A DVD presentation by Rewi Kemp of a documentary on the book, "1421 The Year China Discovered the World",
- ❖ One or more events associated with the Beijing Olympics (including a possible photograph display supplied by the Chinese Embassy, which is set to tour New Zealand),
- ❖ A talk on the NZ China Trade Agreement, hopefully by HE Ambassador Zhang Yuanyuan
- ❖ Further talks on China by Professor Bill Willmott
- ❖ Talk on acupuncture by Dr. Joan Campbell,
- ❖ Potunghua lessons for adults and Chinese Culture and Mandarin for Children (thanks to offers by Shelly Sun).

The AGM was followed by:

Professor Bill Willmott, a past President of NZCFS and one of NZ's leading authorities on China, who gave a slide presentation of "**Recent Experiences of the Silk Road Through Moslem China**" following his return from leading a recent tour of the western provinces of China (and attending the celebrations in Beijing and Shanban, marking the 110th anniversary of Rewi Alley's birth).

Duncan gave a vote of thanks to the speaker for another fascinating presentation, this time of this ancient trade route.

Forthcoming Events 最新動態

Songs from 20 Century Concert – Celebrating 35 year's diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre & The-Edge

Date: 16 December

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre

Admission: Tickets for sale via Ticketek

活动: 2007年 Songs from 20 Century Concert
新中建交35周年

日期: 2007年12月16日

地点: Aotea中心的ASB劇場

入場: 售票

2008 First Night Auckland Celebration

Presented by: The-Edge

Date: 31 December 2007

Time: 6:00pm on 31 December 2007 – 2:00am on 1 January 2008

Venue: Aotea Centre, Auckland City

Admission: **Free**

活动: 2007年(第9屆)年除夕狂歡夜

日期: 2007年12月31日一直持續到2008年1月1日

时间: 下午6:00開始到凌晨

地点: 奧克蘭市中心Aotea中心的廣場和大廳里

入場: 免費開放

"Terracotta Warriors of Qin" Exhibition

See the Terracotta Warriors at SKYCITY Theatre
from **5th Jan to 10th Feb** (closed Sunday 20 & Monday 21
January)

This should be excellent!

Tickets at Ticketek. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

ADULT PRICE:	\$15.00
CHILD PRICE (15 YEARS & UNDER):	\$10.00
CONCESSION PRICE (SENIOR CITIZEN):	\$12.00
FAMILY PRICE (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN):	\$40.00

19 Jan. Chinese Lunar New Year Market Day

ASB Show Ground, Greenlane (10:00-5:00pm)

Free entry

3 Feb. (9th) Multicultural Festival and Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration

Free Event by Complimentary –tickets.

Details to be announced

4 Feb* Mu Xun and Yuan Yizhen Art Exhibition

In art gallery of Aotea Centre

*Opening Function on 2 Feb. 08

7 – 8 Feb Shaolin Monk (13 Shaonlin Warriors) performance

At SKYCITY Theatre.

Details to be announced.

Tickets will be available from Ticketek

22, 23 & 24 Feb Lanterns Festival (4000-5000 lanterns are displayed)

At Albert Park.

Free entry

Performance: 5:00-10:30pm everyday)

Count-down to the Beijing Olympics, August 2008

The following is based on an e-mail received from **Prof. Bill Willmott** in August 2007.

[Editor: *Apologies for the tardiness..*]

They've (we've) started the count-down to the opening of the Beijing Olympics, which will take place at 8 seconds 8 minutes past 8pm on 8 August 2008, which can be summarised as 08/08/08/08/08/08.

Can't get more auspicious than that!

The Chinese for 8 is 八 **bā** (first tone), which brings to a Chinese mind the eight treasures of Buddhism, cooking, etc., as well as the word **fā** (first tone) with which it is a homophone in some Chinese languages and probably was in classical (Han Dynasty) Chinese.

发 **fā** has all sorts of good meanings, such as:

- ❖ generating (profits, electricity),
- ❖ emitting (sun's rays, good **qi**, etc.),
- ❖ developing, expanding, growing and flourishing.

In the common New Years' greeting, "**Gongxi Facai**", **facai** means 'expand wealth' i.e., get rich, so there's a connotation in 'ba' regarding wealth as well. **Gongxi** translates as "congratulations" -

Gōngxǐ Fācái 公喜发财

Congratulations! Get rich!

So the opening will be a **bā bā bā bā bā bā 八八八八八八!**

How good can it get!? Let us hope they manage to clear up the pollution by then!