



NZ China Friendship Society

Dunedin Branch

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Recently...new Branch President

WELCOME TO MLAs 11 March

CHINA FILM FESTIVAL in Dunedin

Members News

Language Classes

Future programmes

RECENTLY...

Our Dunedin Branch NZCFS Annual General meeting was on **16 February**. **Branch President Paul Fawcett spoke about** what we have achieved over the past year, and thanked those involved. And he delighted us with his version of Rooster personality characteristics. We appreciate his leadership over the past three years and Paul now joins the executive committee as past president. **New President elected: Craig Holmes.** Thank you Craig for taking up this role. *See some info about Craig below.*

Dinner at Sichuan 88 was an enthusiastically chatty affair!

Committee elected: Paul Fawcett, Annie Zong, Karen Tang, Simon Wang, Viv Child, Colin Child.

COMING SOON



We support the Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) from the Confucius Institute who are working in Dunedin and Otago schools. We are holding a **welcome activity** for them in March. In past years this has been a much appreciated and enjoyable event.

We will take you and the MLAs on a guided walk - a lovely local bush walk - followed by a dinner at the home of committee



member Annie Zong. A chance for MLAs from Balclutha and Dunedin to get-together, and to get to know some of us and our varied interests and experiences in China. We would like to find out how they are settling in to their schools and NZ way-of-life. We hope you can join us.

Saturday 11 March 3.00pm

Meeting Place: Home of branch member Annie Zong - 540 Highgate, Maori Hill.
Branch members – please bring a plate.

CHINA FILM FESTIVAL

The Dunedin City Council is thrilled to announce that the city will host New Zealand's first ever official China Film Festival in March/April 2017.

This item was published on 09 Feb 2017.

Partnering with the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Shanghai office and the Shanghai Art Film Festival (SAFF), the DCC has secured six new release feature movies to play at the festival which will be held at the Regent Theatre from March 31 to April 2.

Mayor of Dunedin Dave Cull says, "Hosting this festival is a major coup for Dunedin. It reflects our city's increasingly outward looking focus and heightened consciousness of our Chinese heritage. It is also an opportunity to further develop creative, cultural and commercial collaboration between Dunedin and our sister city Shanghai."

The idea for the China Film Festival came about after the presentation of a New Zealand Film Festival in Shanghai in 2016, which included films such as *An Angel at My Table* and *In My Father's Den*, both of which were filmed in Otago.

A high level delegation from China, including political and film industry representatives, will travel to Dunedin for

The China Film Festival opens on Friday, March 31 with a mayoral reception and red carpet at the Regent Theatre and plans for celebrations in The Octagon.



Farewell My Concubine (3D)

The six festival films (all subtitled):

– Farewell My Concubine, IP Man 3, Soul Mate, Cock & Bull, Shanghai Park and Time Raiders



Park Shanghai

Tickets prices \$15 and are available from The Regent Theatre and online from Ticket Direct.

<http://www.regenttheatre.co.nz/china-film-festival/>

MEMBER'S NEWS

Introducing 2017 Dunedin NZCFS Branch President, Craig Holmes.



He writes:

The Dunedin branch of the NZCFS' new President is a pig! Born in 1959 at the end of the main runway at Heathrow Airport and brought up in rural Berkshire and Oxfordshire, The prospect of visiting the moon was marginally more probable than ever seeing China and the prospect of learning the language was never on anyone's radar in 1970's Britain.

The Chinese Zodiac however had me down as a pig from day one and has graciously, if probably erroneously, endowed me with such traits as ebullience, flexibility (physical or mental is not specified), gentleness and optimism; an even-temper, kind heart, positivity and loyalty. Then it takes a decided turn for the worse – gullible, slow-witted, impetuous yet hesitant (can you be both?).

Exchanging rural Oxfordshire for the open ocean had the effect of opening the mind, as travel often does, and the early

years of an on-going seafaring career was spent almost entirely in the Far East and proved to be an overwhelmingly positive experience. The lottery of life then served up years spent in the coastal trades of Europe and, after starting a family, a short 5-year stint in the Metropolitan Police. That sojourn ashore was followed by a return to sea as Master-Owner of a ship and then the beginning of a more shore-based existence as a harbour pilot in the Severn Estuary/Bristol Channel area. Another ticket from the same lottery eventually took my wife Liz and I, with our two boys, 12 000 miles in a roughly south-easterly direction when a harbour pilot job at Port Otago presented itself.

Enscorced in the bottom right-hand corner of the world map, I realised that my latent desire to learn a second language fluently could now be let off the leash and so, given the number of Chinese speaking people in New Zealand and the fact that for all intents and purposes Mandarin is the second most practical language here, I thought I'd give it a go for a month.



That was in 2008 and now I'm hooked to the language like it was an opiate. Rewarding and frustrating in roughly

equal measures; it's a fantastic exercise regime for the grey matter and, of course, inextricably allied to the language comes the culture that defines it, and which it in turn defines.

The joys of the oriental maritime meanderings of my youth have not been forgotten and armed with a working knowledge of Chinese, I'm now able to enjoy exploring the hinterlands of rural China as well as the coastal haunts of old, accompanied by an equally enthusiastic wife and travel companion.



An article by branch member Martha Bell

CHEN ZHO



Chen Zhou's art residency at the Blue Oyster Gallery, Dunedin, January 2017

Chen Zhou is a media-maker from Shanghai who makes

feature length films and short pieces of video art. Usually an art piece would last about 30 minutes. He enlists young people, often his own friends, to act in the pieces, intentionally mirroring their own lives. His films document virtual life entangled with real life as young 30-somethings encounter life that imitates life. In fact the full-length film he has completed is titled *Life Imitation*.

I met Chen Zhou a few days after he had arrived for his month-long Summer Residency at the Blue Oyster Gallery on Dowling Street in Dunedin. Thanks to the Asia New Zealand Foundation, the Caselburg Trust and the Gallery his visit to Aotearoa New Zealand was fully supported. He was interested to hear more about the New Zealand China Friendship Society and Rewi Alley's work in education in mainland China. It is his first trip out of China.

Following his time in Dunedin, Zhou wrote that it was his "first and best" residency. He was most impressed with the people of summertime Dunedin who cared for him and took an interest in his work. He loved commuting to the city from Broad Bay. The new film is titled *Alive Game* and will be ready for screening in Dunedin later this year.

See a sample of his work here:

<https://vimeo.com/187296355>

Martha Bell

An article by branch member Jenny Christensen

Jenny lives near Cromwell but is a keen supporter of Dunedin NZCFS, and an enthusiast for NZCFS tours, (and a fine photographer!)

Here she comments on an outing to Dunedin with her local book club.

...Actually it had a very Chinese flavour. We stopped in Lawrence on the way down and went to the opening of the Joss House.



We all enjoyed the noisy fireworks, Lion Dance, dumplings etc. The speeches were interesting as was seeing pigs cooked in a traditional Chinese manner.



Some of the group went on to festivities at the Chinese Garden during the evening.

The following day a large group of us went to Toitu to see the 150 minute documentary on the Chinese in Otago. I have been to most of the historic sites shown in the film. It was really interesting but a great deal to take in in one sitting. I enjoyed seeing the historic footage of southern China around (then) Canton.

Jenny Christensen

BRANCH NEWS...

Mandarin Language Classes.

Our own Mandarin Language Classes will be underway soon.

Interested in learning Mandarin:

Contact Language Class facilitator, committee member Karen Tang

Liantingtang2013@gmail.com



Another important branch member is Vivienne Child, Treasurer, and she says it is time for branch **membership applications and renewals**.

IN our February newsletter we announced a prize draw for those renewing by the end of the month. The winner is **Thelma Brown and Juay Lim** and a gift is on its way.

For others...!

NZCFS Membership Fees now due for 2017.

Your membership fee is appreciated as it supports the work we do (meeting expenses, Mandarin classes, projects and the wider work of NZCFS)

See the attached form. Remember to include your name when you make an automatic bank transfer.

Please note the change in fee for couples.

2017 looking forward

Anticipate interesting presentations this year on acupuncture, music, China in the Pacific, a fundraising venture focusing on supporting youth connections to China, Rewi Alley celebration...

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/>

For information about the Dunedin

Branch NZCFS Contact:

President Craig Holmes advara@gmail.com

Treasurer Vivienne Child

vivholmes1@gmail.com 027 2808860

Secretary Colin Child

cchild@clear.net.nz 021 02222 679

SOCIAL MEDIA OF DUNEDIN

NZCFS Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/nzcfsdunedin>

WeChat: 444858620

Twitter <https://twitter.com/nzchinasociety> to receive instant notification of NZCFS National News, Project Updates and more

