

REWI ALLEY – CELEBRATION LEGACY AND FUTURE

Dunedin NZCFS 22 NOVEMBER 2017

BACKGROUND

The New Zealand China Society was founded in 1952, at a time when the Cold War had destroyed all relations between New Zealand and China. Some of its



founding members had been involved in both material and personnel assistance to the efforts of New Zealander **Rewi Alley** to alleviate rural poverty through co-operatives and education.

The Society's main aim during the 1960s and '70s was providing opportunities for New Zealanders to learn about the new China, through public meetings and tours, and the campaign for diplomatic recognition of China by New Zealand, which finally occurred in 1972. In 1977 NZCFS became an Incorporated Society.

The most famous New Zealander in China – Rewi Alley (1897 -1987) contributed perhaps more than any other foreigner to the Chinese revolution. He was the founder and inspiration for the NZ China Friendship Society, dedicating 60 years of his life to his adopted country, while remaining a New Zealander at heart.

Rewi organised thousands of industrial co-operatives during the war against Japan. He also pioneered technical

training schools, the most famous at Shandan in the Gobi Desert.



Bust of Rewi Alley on Lanzhou City University campus

2017 CELEBRATES Rewi Alley's Birth 120ys

At Dunedin NZCFS we will celebrate...

1. WE CELEBRATE HISTORY

A visual presentation and gallery of photographs

2. WE CELEBRATE THE LEGACY AND PRESENT

* Branch member *Stephen Young* has recently visited Shandan, and we see a **video from the current NZ teacher in Shandan.**



* Responses to the book "**Rewi Alley**"

recently "republished for the next generation", and the 2017 "**Collected Papers on Rewi Alley's Internationalist Spirit**" (copies of both available.)

3. WE CONSIDER THE FUTURE

* **The Rewi Alley Friendship and Exchange Fund**

* '*A Guide for Independent Travellers to Rewi Alley Locations in China*'

Join us for a fascinating evening:

**TIME: Wednesday 22 November
7.30pm**

PLACE: St John's Church - seminar room. 373 Highgate, Roslyn. (Come up the driveway. Warm welcome and supper)

