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No. 10 – November 2017



November Meeting A Botanist in South-west China



Friday, November 24, 5:30 p.m.



Our speaker will be Uta Purcell who has worked for DOC and is a keen tramper. She has recently been in Sichuan and Yunnan and says:

"Mountains have always attracted me and I trekked expedition style through Himalayan countries, then looked further to Central Asia from the Caucasus to Mongolia. With a more recent interest in botany, my last trip took me to Yunnan and Sichuan, where the great plant hunters of the 19th century had been collecting. I am happy to share the great joy our international group experienced, roaming at altitude through the most colourful floral riches. But as I am just an amateur amongst botanists, I also recorded opportunities to meet people and visits to cultural sites."

The meeting will be at Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square (next to Synagogue Lane). Visitors are welcome. Meals are \$12, payable at the door or by direct credit, and must be booked, with names, with Barbara Markland.

**To arrange catering, please contact Barbara Markland
by Tuesday, November 21
ph. (03)544 4712 text: 021 447 180 e-mail: erm@xtra.co.nz
Please make sure she knows you are coming!**

Cancellation of Garden Party

The decision to cancel the Sunday afternoon event, turned out to be needlessly cautious! There was rain in the morning in the city (although not in Richmond and Stoke) and the forecast was indicating that it was likely that there would be more. So, the decision was made.

As it turned out, there was no more rain, the clouds parted, and in the afternoon the Chinese garden would have been a pleasant place to be.

China Week

China Week is over, with not much fanfare and little publicity although the Nelson Mail did manage an item featuring the visiting primary school pupils from Nanning -

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/98748226/cultural-celebrations-come-to-a-close>

The official Opening was in the newly-opened addition to the Trafalgar Centre where the Art Exhibition and the photos of Rewi Alley from Shanghai Museum were on show. Jifang Black and Ferry van Mansum were responsible for organising and arranging these exhibits, along with other members who were working until shortly before the opening. Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese, and Chinese Consul-General Wang Zhijian spoke at the opening and the visiting pupils gave a brief performance.



Results of judging the exhibition were announced:

Prize for best Local artist:

Tony Milner - "The Smile", oil on canvas (pictured)

Prize for NMIT student:

ZiZhe Dai - "2017 Nelson mid-Autumn festival", A3 poster

Highly commended:

Doreen Lumberg - "Kang Xi period of the Qing dynasty", china painting, Buddhist symbol.

Nigel Hucklesby - "Tiger Hill, Suzhou", pen and wash

Yi Qi Zhou (NMIT) - "An Hui Huang Shan", photograph

Han Wang (NMIT) - "Hong village", drawing on paper

People's Choice Award (result of votes from visitors to the exhibition):

Jifang Black - "Chinese Lady", watercolour on silk

Other works on display were loaned and provided because of their links to China – paintings from China, works in the style of Chinese periods, and calligraphy. Along with the Rewi Alley photographs we showed a NZ National Film Unit movie from 1980 called 'Gung Ho – Rewi Alley of China'.



The two exhibitions were open all week for people to visit and a number did so each day. Donations of more than \$140 were received from the visitors. At the end a small team of volunteers packed all the photographs away (they are needed in Christchurch), took the art works down and arranged for them to be delivered to their owners, and cleared the space – thank you to those who helped.

In addition to the public events, there was an official mayoral dinner at NMIT which was attended by visiting teachers as well as local councillors and representatives from the Nelson Regional Development Agency and this NZCFS branch. Some workshops for businesses intending to be involved in China were also held during the week.

China week offered a Thursday evening rich in artistic cultural and musical theatre at the Theatre Royal. Primary students from the two visiting Nanning schools, Minzhu Road and Guiya Road Primary Schools, performed traditional Chinese crafts, poetry, song and group dance for our Nelson community. An upbeat Spanish dance, a traditional mythic mask dance, piano and flute recitals also highlighted the event. Twice during the evening, showcasing their classical skills, students hastily created calligraphy scrolls and paper cutting symbols which were gifted to members of the audience. The evening was a beautiful experience of New Zealand and China friendship. We look forward to our next Nelson China Week.

The Community Day at NMIT on Saturday was the culmination of the week of events. Our local NZCFS had a large stall of Chinese souvenirs, mementoes and objects for sale as well as Appo Hocton books, Rewi Alley's reprinted biography, general information and pamphlets. Particularly popular were the beautiful bird cards created by Jifang Black. Along with donations from Mark Soper's tea stall, we received a pleasing \$345.



NMIT looking for homestay accommodation

NMIT try to offer international students the opportunity to live in a New Zealand household and so become more familiar with our customs and way of life. For such homestays arranged through NMIT, there are fixed charges and some expectations of the accommodation provided. It is best if the home is near NMIT or within reach of public transport.

Many people find that hosting an international student grows an international friendship. If you could be interested in this, contact (03) 546 9175 ext 651 or e-mail internationalsupport@nmit.ac.nz.

From other branches

Wellington branch October meeting had a talk and presentation about the Chinese settlement in Haining Street. Many older New Zealanders will be familiar with the name Haining Street and its reputation as the 'Chinatown' of Wellington. This area has now changed beyond recognition, of course.

Lynette Shum, Oral History Adviser at the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, whose grandmother had a laundry in the area, researched the settlement for her M.A. thesis and hopes to turn it into a book. For the NZCFS meeting she played recordings of some of the old residents and showed photographs of the lives of these early Chinese settlers.

Christchurch branch are involved in organising the 120th anniversary commemoration.

Farewell to MLA Cindy

Once again, another of our visiting Mandarin Language Assistants is shortly returning to China, having been working here for a year. Cindy (Xing Wang) is leaving in December, and we intend to give her a Christmas party and Kiwi summer barbecue as her farewell. This will be on Thursday, December 14, at the barbecue area on Bisley Walk, Tahunanui beach. We will meet at 5 p.m., come when you are able. Bring your own food and drink and plates.



Rewi Alley 120th anniversary commemoration

Preparations for this are well advanced for this commemoration which will occur over the first weekend in December. The Friday events include unveiling of a plaque and a symposium on recent research into Rewi's life and work.

On Saturday, December 2, which will be 120 years since he was born in Springfield, events will include visits to Springfield and Amberley as well as a number of sites around Christchurch which have relevance to his life and influence in New Zealand. A banquet is also planned.

Nearly 100 people are coming from China. Some of these include children of Rewi's adopted sons and others whose parents were associated with the Bailie schools in Shuangshipu and Gansu province.

Some projects arising from the commemoration are:

Units of Learning for secondary students

Commemorative plaque in the Christchurch Art Centre where Rewi went to High School

Information pamphlet on locations connected to Rewi Alley

Establishment of a Rewi Alley Trust to protect the 'Rewi Alley' brand

Translation and reprint of the biography by Philippa Reynolds

From Nelson Executive, November

- Rewi Alley biography books have been gifted to the branch and can be used as gifts.
- Eastern Cuisine has been booked for the AGM and dinner Sunday February 18.
- China Week income: HMQ donations \$144.40; NMIT Sales table \$463.30; 15% of sold art works.
- It was decided to change the wording on the donation box to allow more flexibility in the use of the money.
- China Week:
Thanks to all who helped.
Jifang's painting 'Chinese Lady' won the People's Choice award.
The branch was represented at the Mayoral dinner where Mayor Reese acknowledged the work of the branch.
Lack of community interest and involvement was disappointing.
- Barbara advised delegations are expected in December from Huangshi and Yangjiang.
- Bruce and Christine advised they will attend the Rewi Alley birthday celebrations in Christchurch as Rewi Alley relatives. There they will meet Rewi's grandchildren who will be among the 90 visitors from China. Also present will be a group of 11 descendants of 1944-45 Bailie School students. Christine will present a paper 'Rewi Alley at Shandan: a Unique model of Educational Leadership.'
- Yangjiang Student Exchange:
The exchange is to proceed but is dependent on receiving \$9000 requested from the DENG Fund.
11 applications have been received.

Next year

The first meeting for 2018 will be the usual Annual General Meeting and our Chinese banquet. The Chinese New Year is late this time, it occurs on Friday, February 16, and so our banquet is scheduled for Sunday, February 18. Make a note of this and keep that evening clear for our celebrations.

Our November meeting is the last for this year of the rooster; in 2018 the Chinese zodiac rooster gives way to the dog.

This is the last newsletter for this year. Wishing you and your whanau a happy and refreshing holiday period for Christmas and New Year.

