



Dunedin NZCFS

Newsletter August 2018

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Coming up:

WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST 6.30 pm



A WINTER GET TOGETHER:

HEARTY SOUP AND DELICIOUS DESSERT

AND

“SHOW-AND-TELL”

Bring a personal treasure from China.

At this meeting we would like to see some of the interesting items that members have and hear the stories that make them personally valuable.

Your story could be a cautionary tale,

strange or interesting situation, or just memories of a particular person, place or time.

If you have a Chinese treasure to show and are willing to tell the story of why it's a treasure to you, we invite you to bring it along, share it with us, and hear the stories of other people's treasures.

Maybe it's a Ming vase, an item of clothing, a book, a photo, a memory, a pair of spectacles, you decide.



Tell us about it. Be flexible – 3-7 minutes depending on the number of people who share their stories.

All welcome – come and hear such a variety of experiences from our members.

Koha for dinner

Venue: South Dunedin Labour Rooms –
68 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin
(See page 5 for parking directions)

LANGUAGE LEARNING ...from Branch President Craig Holmes Xuexi-ing Zhong wen

Our Basic

Mandarin Learning Programme proved to be a success yet again and our teachers Annie and Miao did a great



job. Did we turn out a dozen fluent Mandarin speakers after a few weeks? No, of course we didn't but it gave the students an insight into the basics of what could be a long but both interesting and rewarding journey toward reasonable fluency in Chinese.

I have just commented on a forum, which was keen to point out that Mandarin was one of the hardest languages in the world to learn and expounded upon the difficulties of embarking on such a madcap academic venture. I said...

...but on the plus side, as a speaker of a 'western' language, if you really want to learn it (and you do have to really want it) then treat Mandarin Chinese as a lifelong learning programme. It can be incredibly rewarding, gives a great insight into a fascinating culture and you can be cool as when you help someone out by spouting forth with your basic Mandarin in mixed company. The older you are the cooler you look; just a personal opinion.

Don't take all those "Learn Mandarin in a month" gimmicks seriously, although some of them give some excellent coaching tips such as "Make lots of mistakes. The more mistakes you are making, the more you are using the language and learning from it." Just learn a little bit each day and set aside 10 years as a loose target timespan to become passably fluent if you

are studying outside China. As the Chinese would say 。。。慢慢来! (get started by looking that up on Google Translate)

Once you get into it you'll want to crack on over to China and get a bit of immersion in. That will accelerate the pace of your learning no end and the Chinese are incredibly appreciative and supportive of efforts to learn their language. In the unlikely event you meet one that is less than cooperative, leave them be and try one of the 1.4 billion others there are to choose from. Avoid, as far as possible, travelling or socialising with ex-pats who don't want to learn the language; you'll end up speaking your first language, getting out of the Mandarin groove and wasting precious learn time.



Start with a few basic phrases and soon you'll be getting curious about understanding the replies better and then you'll want to start reading some of the common signs that you see around the place; before you know it, you'll be typing Chinese prose using Pinyin then looking to write Chinese characters with a brush.

Learning Mandarin will also help you think positively. It can be so frustrating but once you learn to live with that, you'll big yourself up with the little victories and ignore the setbacks.

Start today and the 10-year plan will be complete sooner than if you leave it until tomorrow!

P.S. We will have another course in the future, and we also planning a special function for Chinese learners of English. Interested in future courses run by Dunedin NZCFS: contact coordinator Karen Tang lifeng01@163.com

BRANCH MEMBERS ...NEWS

Branch Committee members Colin and Viv recently had the opportunity to connect with NZCFS honorary members in China. These links with friends in China are enriching.

In **Baoding**, honorary member **Ma Baoru** showed them around a recently establish museum and photographic display honouring the work of kiwi nurse/missionary **Kathleen Hall (He Mingqing)**. Kathleen Hall is still honoured for her work in the 1930s and 40s. When she returned to New Zealand she was an active member of NZCFS in its early days.



Kathleen Hall photographic exhibition



Ma Baoru and Viv

Read more about Ma Baoru:

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/13931/ma-baoru-honorary-member/> and

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/32370/kathleen-hall-memorial-room-established-in-baoding/>

In **Lanzhou**, honorary member **Liu Guozhong**, showed them around the University which traces some of its roots back to the work of Rewi Alley. His philosophy of “hearts and minds together – create and analyse” is still a driving force behind the University’s programmes, and can also be seen in the public parks where people sing and dance.

Read more about Liu Guozhong:

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/13927/liu-guozhong-honorary-member/>



Liu Guozhong and Colin

Public park with Rewi Alley scenes on wall



And at **Shandan Bailie School in Gansu** province the heritage of **Rewi Alley** is very strong, alive and renewed in the school programmes, the memorials, and the huge new developments in this north western part of China. At a classroom level, kiwi teacher Michelle has a wonderful relationship with her students, but she passed the lesson over to Colin to enthuse with his English teaching and a touch of singing too.



Shandan classroom

Interested in teaching in China? Read more:

<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/1127/english-teacher-for-shandan-bailie-school/>

FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

A presentation
by NZCFS
President Dave
Bromich to the
10th Eco Forum
Global Annual
Conference in Guiyang.



‘Establishing a sustainable eco-society and alleviating poverty’, promoting the cooperative as an effective development tool

See: <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/?p=32989>

NZIFF NZ International Film Festival



Check out Dunedin
screenings
Ash is Purest White

<https://www.nziff.co.nz/2018/dunedin/ash-is-purest-white/>

NZCFS DUNEDIN BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Benefits of belonging – your subscription supports the work of the society – fostering understanding, language culture and friendship, and you might enjoy some of our local activities too!

Members - you should have received info about the Winston Churchill NZCFS Fellowship – now available for 2019. Info: Contact sec.



Send a reply email with *membership form request* in the subject box.

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/>

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

**For information about the Dunedin
Branch NZCFS**

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WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST 6.30 pm

PARKING DIRECTIONS - EASY

68 Macandrew Road

South Dunedin Labour Rooms

(No parking in Robbies across the Road)

Come into Hillside Rd then Glasgow St (ONE WAY)

Park in Glasgow Street or in pink areas adjacent to friendly businesses..

