



# Dunedin NZCFS

## Newsletter November 2018

### In this newsletter:

- \* **Lunch, Learning and Friendship**
- \* **DECEMBER Get-Together “Best 10”**
- \* **NZ Chinese Language Week**
- \* **and more... Tour, Writing...**

### \* Recently...

## ENGLISH AND KIWI CULTURE

### Lunch, Learning and Friendship

Committee member Simon Wang is helping some Chinese families adapt to Dunedin life. In September we held a shared lunch and teaching session.

Chinese food and ideas for kiwi style school lunches.



Then at 1.00pm branch member Miao Zhang took a session on learning English and preparing for the IELTS exam for our Chinese guests.



A well-received time together.

One of NZCFS goals: *To assist both visiting students and new migrants from China requiring help to fit in to New Zealand society.*

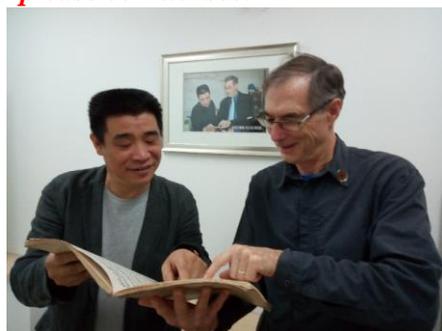
## DECEMBER GET-TOGETHER “BEST 10”

Lots of our branch members have been to China this year – for business, tour, friends, family holiday, education ... Come and hear about their experiences and see their 10 best photos.

**Time: Thursday 13 December 6.30pm**

**Place: St John’s Roslyn**  
*(email sec. if you need directions)*

*BBQ and salads supplied. Bring a plate or koha. Members who want to present their 10 Best – please contact sec.*



*(Two of Colin’s favourites – sharing a score with piano teacher Mr Miao at Baoding, and in classroom at Shandan)*



**Come and listen to the stories of others; learn some travel tips; good company.**

## NZCFS Explore China – The Southeast 2019 Tour

**March 21 to April 10 2019**

Come and Join NZCFS for some of the most picturesque and exotic locations in China. From the traditional Hakka minority group round houses, the renowned Dahongpao tea plantations in the dramatic landscapes of Wuyi mountains to the ultra-modern metropolises of Shanghai and Guangzhou. We travel by bullet train, air-conditioned coach, by foot through historic water villages, and drift on bamboo rafts.



Keep some space in your luggage to bring home some modern pottery from the ancient kilns of Dingdezhen. Our tours are famed for seeking out the best of the diverse local cuisines of the regions that we travel through.

This itinerary offers a range of experiences in a compact tour, designed to better explore one region – the south-east – with efficient travel itinerary that captures the best cities modern and old, sites of historical and cultural significance, ethnic minority groups, beautiful ancient villages, breath taking scenic wonderlands, and a brief connection to Rewi Alley.

It will be a tour of local experiences, enjoying the tea culture, tasting the cuisine typical of the area. A reasonable level of walking fitness is required to participate in all the activities.



*A gentle walk in Wuyishan Dahongpao valley: beautiful scenery and scattered tea plantations*

Estimated all inclusive cost \$8250

**Up to date info on the website,**  
<http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/>  
**please email [tours@nzcfs.org.nz](mailto:tours@nzcfs.org.nz) for expressions of interest**

## **From BRANCH PRESIDENT Craig Holmes.....**

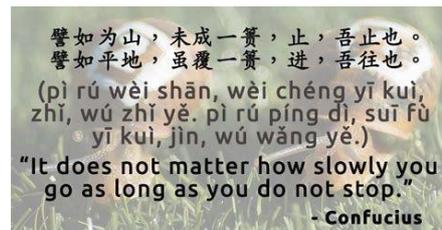
Presidential Address

Our newsletter is looking fantastic as usual, but could you do even better or present it in a different style? If so, your committee would love to hear from you, since our long-standing secretary, newsletter editor and rock of the local branch has given long notice that he is going to be standing down (from the first two roles at least) at the next AGM, which will take place in February next year.

As usual, all the offices of the committee will be up for grabs and we would be better served if we could have some competition for these positions, none of which are onerous by any means. As John F. Kennedy actually said: “Ask not what NZCFS branch can do for you – ask what

you can do...” But seriously, the next AGM may well be something of a litmus test for the future of the branch, in that we are going to have to cope without the dedicated efforts of our current secretary.

We are progressing at a steady pace but to quote 孔子 Kong zi /Confucius 《只要你不停下来，你走得有多慢并不重要》”It doesn’t matter how slow you go as long as you don’t stop”.



So, we do need to “keep on keeping on” ...to chuck in another quote; this time from British playwright Alan Bennett.

Indeed, one reason I ask if there is a potential newsletter editor out there in membership land is that the secretarial role and newsletter editorial role can easily be split between two people willing to do a little bit each and maybe creating the new committee position of magazine editor into the bargain.

With a bit of luck, when the time comes, we can persuade the immediate past-secretary, who will hopefully remain a committee member, to contribute more of his prize-winning prose to the newsletter, which can in turn contribute to the gradual creation of an aura of academic elitism for the branch, thus perhaps affirming Abraham Lincoln’s contention that “You can fool all of the people some of the time...”

祝好  
海瑞

## SHANGHAI WRITING CONTEST

Dunedin Branch secretary Colin Child was a finalist (4<sup>th</sup> place) in the 2018 Shanghai Get-together Writing Contest. You can read his entry below.

## CHINESE LANGUAGE LEARNING

### Good article in ODT recently about NZ Chinese Language Week

There was no shortage of Chinese fans or fans of China at Columba College yesterday, when pupils celebrated New Zealand Chinese Language Week with traditional folk dance and martial arts training.

They are among 64,874 primary pupils and 5820 secondary pupils learning Chinese.

Chinese Language Week organisers are concerned it is only 8% of the total number of pupils in New Zealand, and the drop-off at secondary school-level indicates pupils are not realising the benefits of learning the language.

Columba College Chinese language teacher Ivy Ding said it was becoming increasingly important for young New Zealanders to learn to speak Mandarin and learn about Chinese culture, as tourism and business ties between the two nations were getting much closer.

### Read more and see video

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/fantastic-way-learn-culture>

## 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!

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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Read below...

2018 Shanghai Get-Together Writing  
Contest...  
Colin Child's entry:

**JUST A BEGINNER**

I come to Shanghai just a beginner.  
Just a night flight from home.  
I am a kiwi in the land of the panda.  
I have seen a kiwi, though it is a night bird  
and hides.  
I have never seen a panda.  
I have seen sunsets and night skies and  
street markets and museums  
and canal boats and skyscrapers  
and heard the sound of horns from hotel  
windows and music in the park  
and water swirling around river piles.  
And now I am in China. I am beginning to  
find them in Shanghai.

So I sit at my window in the late evening.  
From one corner I can see the far side of  
the Huangpu River,  
the Pudong area, the east,  
with its glistening towers.  
I learn that less than a generation ago  
this area was wharves  
and farmland, with peasants toiling,  
not scaffolders high in the sky  
with their welders at night  
and financiers below wielding their magic  
by day.

Just out of sight below me, hidden by the  
buildings,  
is the bund.  
The sounds come -  
a horn from the river,  
a distant fire siren,  
high pitched laughter.

I picture what I saw earlier today –  
my first day.  
Tourists standing by the bull and  
polishing its horn;  
young lovers strolling, eagerly posing for  
the selfie;  
the policeman leaning against his minicar,  
watching;  
In the early morning when I arrived  
there were old men flying their kites,  
old women practising tai chi ,  
and the young woman in high heels  
walking her dog.

Straight across from my window is a  
kaleidoscope of time and colour:  
the back of old buildings, small  
courtyards brown and grey  
where city workers try to cool off in open  
windows and complete their chores,  
washing dishes, folding clothes, repairing  
machines;  
and the front of other buildings bright  
with golden signs, glistening  
red and yellow  
shouting their newness, their sparkle  
and their youth.

I reach for the book that I brought with  
me on the plane.  
It is "Peace Through The Ages,  
Translations from the poets of China",  
by Rewi Alley.  
Rewi Alley, or Lùyì Àilí, was another kiwi.  
He too was once new here.  
He became a fireman in Shanghai. It was  
1927. He was 30.  
But Aili grew old in China and knew its  
people and its sights and sounds.

Is it serendipity or something more that  
allows my eyes to flick through  
and rest on this poem

from Tu Fu:

*NIGHT THOUGHTS ON PEACE AND WAR*

*A cool breeze from the bamboo groves  
enters my room: bright shafts of  
moonlight dance*

*wildly in the courtyard:  
a heavy dew is falling;  
and here and there stars twinkle;  
fireflies flit*

*from one dark place to another;  
and the waterfowl  
by the river call to each other:*

*And I, pondering...”\**

If Rewi or Tu Fu were sitting here  
Would the fireflies be the sparks from the  
welders

adding another level to the high-rise?  
Would the moonlight fade behind the  
neon signs and the glowing towers?

To me the city is full of energy, and light -  
but perhaps that is just  
on the surface.

I am just a beginner. Let me ponder and  
discover more.

Tomorrow when the sun rises over  
Pudong

I will find out more of Shanghai  
alive

in this bend  
of the Huangpu.

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*\*from "PEACE THROUGH THE AGES" Translations from the  
poets of China. Translated and Published by Rewi Alley,  
Peking, China, 1954*

