



Christchurch Branch December Newsletter 2019

Articles for submission can be sent to nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com

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Monthly Meetings Held

Last Thursday of the Month (except January, September, November and December)
 7:30 pm
 Rewi Alley Education and Cultural Centre
 (Wharenui School)
 32 Matipo Street, Riccarton

Seasonings Greetings

**WE WISH YOU ALL
 A VERY MERRY
 CHRISTMAS AND A
 HAPPY AND
 PROSEROUS NEW
 YEAR FOR 2020.
 SHENG DAN KUAI
 LE
 XIAN NIAN KUAI LE.**

Contacts

Patron: The Hon Philip Burdon
 Hon Patron: Simon Deng Li

President: Chris Goodwin
 027 4223142
goodie.chris@gmail.com

Secretary: David Stringer
 021 510017
stringer@ihug.co.nz

Treasurer: Vivien Qin (VP)
 C/- P O Box 7366
 Sydenham
 Christchurch 8240

Executive 2018:
 Ailsa Dodge
 Anna Chen
 Anna Lu
 Bill Willmott (Honorary Patron)
 Craig Ashby
 Dave Adamson
 Graeme Tinkler
 Izzie Guo
 Michelle MacWilliam (VP)
 William Qiu
 Matt McKenna
 Felicia Chang

A note from our branch president

2019 has flown by and our branch has had another great year.

We started the year with our usual Chinese New Year Banquet attended by 70 members & guests.

We had a presence at Lantern Festival in February along the Oxford Street promenade.

Several members attended the Society's National Conference hosted by Wellington Branch in May.

In August we had another Yum Cha at Red Bowl to which everyone enjoyed.

We held our traditional China National Day banquet attended by 85 people. We would have enjoyed seeing more of our members attend, This was our annual fundraiser for the He Ming Scholarship and we raised over \$600 from the ticket surcharge and the raffle.

We held our annual prize giving ceremony for Mandarin language again this year.

Again, David Stringer, Anna Lu, Vivien Qin and Jian Chen did a great job putting this together among the other activities.

The final event branch members took part in was the Santa Parade.

Several members assisted in decorating the float we shared with other Chinese associations.

We had a range of good speakers managed by Graeme Tinkler.

It is not an easy task to co-ordinate them.

This year, attendance from members at our monthly meetings was down though we did manage to attract more guests.

We continued our segment at the beginning of the meetings where young Chinese spoke about their home towns which was well received and very interesting.

If you know of interesting speakers please let Graeme know so he can tap them on the shoulder to speak.

We hosted members of Gung Ho International over 2 days at the end of November.

They were able to see places where Rewi lived and was educated.

It was a pleasure to host them.

Our committee did a great job again this year.
We finished the year with over 80 members.

We are looking forward to another great year next year. However, we are open to suggestions from the members for activities which would be supported by the members,
and increase awareness of our Society and this branch. Please help up to encourage new members.

Chris Goodwin
Branch President.

Chinese New Year Banquet 2020



NZCFS



**CHINESE NEW YEAR
BANQUET 2020**

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 6PM

North and South Restaurant

300 Lincoln Rd, Addington

Seats are \$30 or \$300 tables of 10

RSVP by Wednesday 29th January

All payments **must** be made by Friday 31st January.

Book your seats by emailing nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com

Payment instructions will be sent by reply email

Limited seats are available for this event so get in quick

NZCFS Annual Rewi Alley Memorial Prizegiving

This year's Annual prizegiving was attended by over 80 people including members, students and their families.

It was great to see so many students supported by their families at a very important part of their learning.

We had speeches from the many VIP's who reiterated the importance of learning Mandarin in our world today as we come together in a multicultural society and business environment.

This year was the last of many tiring years that the founder of this event, Di Madgin has put into creating an amazing recognition of achievement.

We the New Zealand China Friendship society cannot express our thanks and gratitude enough to Di for her dedication to this wonderful event.

In her final speech she spoke of a lonely Chinese student who had come to Christchurch to study and the struggles of trying to fit in with culture and diet and how everyone had to learn new ways back then.

I think we all can learn from this, as new ways are always upon us.

Thank you, Di Madgin.



Gung Ho Visit

In late November our branch hosted five members of Gung Ho (International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives) during their four day visit to New Zealand. They were accompanied by a journalist from Xinhua News who reported the visit in the Chinese media, both here and in China. Two Gung Ho vice chairs were part of the group, Mr Li Jinping and the national president of NZCFS, Dave Bromwich.

In Chinese, the term Gung Ho means 'working together'. The movement was founded in 1938 by Rewi Alley and various other Western expatriates, to promote grassroots industrial and economic development in China. The movement was especially active during the 1930s and 1940s, a time of enormous unrest and deprivation for the people of China.

The movement disappeared after the 1950s, but was revived in 1987 by Rewi Alley. Gung Ho, in continuing the legacy Alley has left us, assists in the establishment of cooperatives in the modern China economy. This is supported by the Chinese government, especially in the case of rural development. The aim of the visit was to retain solid connections with places of interest coming from the legacy of Rewi Alley,

During their time in Christchurch, they visited the Farmlands Co-operative Society, where they were well received and learned about how the co-operative operates. They were impressed to learn that Farmlands has 90,000 members and is the largest co-operative in New Zealand.

After lunch, they were taken to Springfield to visit the Rewi Alley Memorial. Mr Li, who had been Rewi's private secretary during his last five years, had been there on previous visits but for the other members, it was their first visit to Christchurch and Springfield. They were impressed by the memorial, both in quality and presentation, especially the well maintained grounds. They were pleased to see the local residents were maintaining the site with respect. They were impressed and took plenty of photos of the Chinese language road sign.

Branch executives hosted the delegation to dinner at Daphne's Restaurant and each delegate was presented with a copy of the Rewi Alley biography. Mr Li was also presented an additional biography, together with a copy of Elspeth

Sandys' recently published book *A Communist in the Family* as gifts to the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, of which Mr Li is one of the Directors. Our Mayor Lianne Dalziel upon learning of the visit made time in her schedule to meet with our delegates to their delight.

Next day they were taken to visit the Garden of Reflection in Chamberlain Park at Amberley, the site of the old school house and the school itself, where Rewi lived the first several years of his life. This garden is superb, and well worth a visit. It was then decided to drive them past the current Amberley school. Seeing as we were there, we thought we'd ask and see if it was possible for our visitors to walk around the school. We were invited in, and shown the library. Just before we left, one of the teachers asked if we'd like to see the children working in the craft room? We were delighted to do that. Our visitors couldn't get over the way the children were creatively working together ('*so stuffy if it was all formalised, it was a very good experience*'), and the children certainly enjoyed the visit; they were quite animated. And we were given a cuppa afterwards! Thank you staff.

The informality of the visit made it very special, and it certainly left a very good impression with our guests.

After the visit to Hurunui, four of the delegates were taken to see the previous site of Christchurch Boys' High School at the Arts Centre, which Rewi had attended. From there they were taken to see the Asian collection at Canterbury Museum. They were amazed at the contribution of Rewi to establish this collection. At the same time, Mr Li was taken to meet with Bill Willmott and Di Madgin, dear friends of many years.

Although it was a (typically) brief visit, the delegation had a wonderful time and will have gone home with many happy memories of visiting Rewi's homeland.



NEW ST JOHN AMBULANCES FOR PEOPLE OF CHRISTCHURCH

Thanks to a generous donation from The Christchurch Foundation following the March 15 attacks, two new emergency ambulances worth over \$200,000 each are now in service.

The two new Generation 4 ambulances were formally presented to St John and blessed at a special dedication ceremony today, 16 December, at the St John Christchurch ambulance hub in Winchcombe Street. Members of Christchurch's Muslim community, Chao Shan General Association, the Christchurch Foundation, Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel, local MP Poto Williams and St John members were present for the handover.

In response to the March 15 attacks, members of the Chao Shan General Association and the Teochew International Federation gave more than \$2 million dollars to the Christchurch Foundation's Our People Our City fund, requesting the funds go towards ambulances for St John Christchurch.

The two associations have been a long-time supporter of St John and wanted to recognise the bravery of the St John ambulance officers who responded to the events of March 15.

St John South Island Regional Manager Craig Stockdale says the two new ambulances will enable ambulance officers to continue doing the life-saving work they do every day.

"These new vehicles will help St John to continue doing the great work it does in the community. I am incredibly proud of our ambulance officers who responded on March 15. The skill and courage they displayed that day in such difficult circumstances was exceptional.

"We are humbled and thankful for this very special gift from the Asian community," Mr Stockdale says.

The Christchurch Foundation's CEO Amy Carter says they wanted to thank the Chao Shan General Assembly and Teochew for their generous donation following the events of March 15.

"Not only does the money help Christchurch St John in the vital work they do, it also acknowledges the incredible work of St John staff in a horrendous situation."

Upcoming Events

NZCFS Chinese New Years Banquet Sunday 2nd February 2020.

An exciting new event created by several Chinese associations to celebrate Chinese New Year.

These events will be around the 25th January and we will bring you updates as they come to us.

NZCFS Upcoming Tours

NZCFS EXPLORE CHINA: The North-East and NORTH KOREA September 6 to September 26, 2020 NZCFS Tours are **QUALITY TOURS**, providing **REAL** experiences, with enthusiastic companions in a cohesive small group, escorted by knowledgeable people who provide an in depth understanding of China. Have a quick look at the SE Tour report. NZCFS are pleased to offer this special tour, going far into the North of China, with a four day excursion into North Korea. Is this a glimpse at how China may have been in earlier decades? We will have opportunity to find out for ourselves. Further information and itinerary is here in a revised presentation. The tour plans to visit the following locations and sites . See over for detail. Jilin Province • Changchun • Manchu Guo puppet state Liaoning Province • Shenyang • Dandong • Dalian For expression of interest and enquiry, contact tours@nzcfs.org.nz Heilongjiang Province • Harbin • Wudalianchi Unesco Scenic site • Qiqihar www.nzchinasociety.org.nz Contact tours@nzcfs.org.nz Fully escorted, 4 star twin share accommodation. All inclusive price \$8250 (estimated, subject to currency exchange), includes domestic flights in NZ, all meals, etc, (excludes Chinese visa and insurances). North Korea • Pyongyang • Demilitarised zone • Tianjin, • Beijing September 5 Depart NZ September 6 Day 1 Arrive Harbin St.Sofia Church, Central Street and Stalin Park. Stay in Harbin. Day 2 Siberian Tigers, other sites in Harbin Day 3 Bus to Wudalianchi (4.5 hours). Visit geological sites, Wudalianchi Day 4 Further sites in Wudalianchi Day 5 Bus to Qiqihar(3.5hrs); Zhalong National Nature Reserve, Qiqihar Day 6 Bullet train to Changchun(10:02-12:45), Pu Yi's Manchu Imperial Palace, Babadu Manchu offices, Changchun Day 7 Bullet train to Shenyang(09:53-11:16). Former Palace before Qing government settled the capital in Beijing; Marshal Office of Zhang family: the warlord leaders in NE China in 1920s . Stay in Shenyang. Day 8 World Horticultural Exposition, once the site of Shenyang botanical garden, "9.18" Historical Museum; Zhongjie pedestrian street, Shenyang Day 9 Bus to Dandong(3.5hrs). Broken bridge on Yalu River, a witness of the war to resist U.S. and aid Korea; Hushan Great Wall, the east end of the Great Wall of Ming dynasty. Stay in Dandong. Day 10 Train to Pyongyang via Sinuiju, North Korea(DPRK) 8:30-17:30, check in the hotel in Pyongyang Day 11 Day trip to

Kaesong, visit demilitarized zone, Panmunjom, other sites in Koryo, subway stations back in Pyongyang. Day 12 Various city sites in Pyongyang Day 13 Strolling in Kim Il Sung Square before go to the railway station for Pyongyang-Sinuiju-Dandong (9:40-16:35) return to Dandong Day 14 Bus to Dalian (4hrs) On the way visiting Yalvjiang Nature Reserve where the godwits fly to and from NZ; Bangchui Island, depending on the arrival time in Dalian Day 15 City sites in Dalian, Baiyu hill to have a panoramic view of the city and visit the naval armory Naval port park, Xinghai Square, Binhai Road, Beida qiao: also called long-lasting love bridge. Dalian Day 16 Train to Tianjin:10:06-14:18, one of the 4 municipalities Check in the hotel. Ancient cultural street and dinner there Cruise for night views(50min) Tianjin Day 17 City sites in Tianjin: strolling in Wudadao: thousands of Europeanstyle buildings, mainly as the former residences of celebrities in 1920s. Cifangzi: a French-style house decorated by porcelain, Shijizhong Square, Dagukou Fort Ruins Museum(1h bus, single way)Tianjin Day 18 Shi's Grand Mansion: one of the best preserved large-scale civil building complexes in North China. Bus to Beijing (2.5hrs) Check in the hotel in downtown Beijing Days19 and 20 City sites to be arranged :Ti'anmen Square, Forbidden city, Songqingling Former residence, hutongs, Great Wall, Summer Palace . Stay in Beijing Day 21 depart for airport, arrive NZ. September 27 NZCFS EXPLORE CHINA: The North-East and NORTH KOREA For full itinerary go to http://tours.nzchinasociety.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/northeast_and_northkorea.pdf

Contact tours@nzcfs.org.nz

Subscriptions are now due for 2020

NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2018 (the financial year is January to December):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$50 (Includes Advertising in our Newsletters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged | \$20 |

Payment Methods

Please send your cheque (with clear name and contact details) to:

Vivien Qin
C/- P O Box 7366
Sydenham
Christchurch 8240

OR

BANK TRANSFER Society Bank Account No **38 9010 0816274 00** (Kiwi Bank).

IMPORTANT: please be sure to enter your name as a reference.

Remember to send an email with your Name, address and a contact number to nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com.

We are always looking for new members so please do not hesitate to bring along any friends who may be interested in our society.