

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – May 2021

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Monthly Meetings Held

Last Thursday of the Month (except January, September, November and December)

7:30 pm

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

Rewi Alley Chinese School

Wairarapa Building

Oak Drive

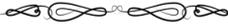
(off Parkstone Ave or Solway Ave)

Access instructions: Drive along Parkstone Ave or through Solway Ave to the Oak Drive entrance, enter the campus, turn left, and you will be at the drop off and pick up area in front of the Rewi Alley Chinese School classroom (ED 18 - Block 4 Wairarapa building).

You may find this map of some help:



It will be well signposted.



Next Meeting – Thursday, 27 May 2021

Adopting our two daughters from China - a 32 year journey

Our main speaker this month will be branch member Brent Robinson, who is going to give us a very interesting talk on his family's journey. The following is his backgrounder to it:

This talk will cover multiple facets of our adoption journey including not only adopting and raising two girls from China but also the enrichment of our lives in ways we would never have anticipated at the beginning of the journey. These include becoming a multi-cultural family, opening doors to friendships with ordinary Chinese people, and witnessing first hand the phenomenal changes in China over the past 32 years.



Carina Shu will start off the evening by giving us a short talk as follows: I aim to introduce my hometown- Chongqing, in which includes three parts: 1, the culture code of Chongqing hotpot 2, incredible infrastructure in Chongqing 3, foreigners living in Chongqing. I will explain these to help all attendees to know more about China.



Timely wise words at a difficult time

Simon Draper, Executive Director of New Zealand Asia Foundation has written *“We all need to understand China more, including the broader relationship New Zealand has with the Chinese people, society and culture. And we need more context on difficult issues and more perspectives on how to solve these. New Zealand’s views and values differ from China’s on key issues such as human rights, but we have nonetheless sought to discuss those differences respectfully. It’s important to continue to engage and to have honest conversations about our values and interests, no matter our size difference.”*



John Cochrane on his China Tech journey

[John Cochrane on his China Tech journey - New Zealand China Council - New Zealand China Council \(nzchinacouncil.org.nz\)](https://nzchinacouncil.org.nz)



STOP ASIAN HATE street march

On Saturday 17 April local resident Leon Lee organized a street march in the central city, helped by branch member Craig Ashby. It was sparked by the terrible shootings in the USA and the growing number of anti-Asian acts occurring in New Zealand. He felt the local Asian community needed a show of support. Leon says *I respect every voice, but the fundamental reason of organize this is to create attention for my own people, not to make any trouble, we shall respect every culture and people living in this country, not just Asian people, I'm just a normal guy who do not prefer to keep silent.*



The event began at the Bridge of Remembrance. There were about 200 people there on the day, and speeches were given by Mayor Lianne Dalziel, Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner, Councillor Jimmy Chen, David Stringer and Craig Ashby from NZCFS, and of course Leon.

Following is the text of Leon's speech:

Today, we gather here is not because we want to, it is we have to be here.

We are here to support our Asian brothers and sisters. I think many of you heard the Anti-Asian hate crimes in the USA, you ask question about why we are organizing a march here in New Zealand, first of all, I have to say that NZ is one of the most friendly countries I've been to, you walk on street people greet to



each other, offer you a hand when you in need, we have such a great community vibe here. But when we look back, the racism which has a root growing here too, whether subtle or direct. I'm sure you all heard about poll tax charged from our older generation who came here with other European settlers, people says that you shouldn't look back in anger, however, over the years, we've heard of Asian mum lives here for 5 generations and her children are not consider as

a Kiwi; we've seen a talented lady has achieved all the qualification but not receive any job interview only because she was using her true Chinese name, until one day she married to local European migrant, things have all got changed; We've seen grandpa from our community feared to hangout due to the horrendous brutal attacks towards Asian people; We've received words telling our kids to keep our virus and stay at home during Covid-19 pandemic; We've also confronted someone randomly in the post-office telling us to go back to our own country....Is this enough, I can keep it going all day.

We are human-beings-not a virus. With this peaceful and well-intentioned event that will educate, we can then move forward to achieve a more equal, kind community of Aotearoa and stand strong all together. We

are not harm or point fingers, we want support shown for how discrimination towards Asians, regardless whether in the USA or NZ, affects us all deeply individually and is intolerable. Asians need this more than ever in this scary world for us right now. Please allow me to quote #WeAreOne from our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to say this to my own people, our culture and tradition teaches us to stay quiet and peace,

we don't want to bother anyone, I think this is the time we should wake up and stand up, if there is any of our words today inspired you and to our younger generation, we finally achieved this.



Following the speeches there was a march from the Bridge of Remembrance to Cathedral Square.



China in the news

❖ John Sudworth, BBC correspondent in Beijing, on being pushed out of China:
www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56607815

❖ China's attempts to stifle foreign media criticism [Why China's attempts to stifle foreign media criticism are likely to fail \(theconversation.com\)](http://theconversation.com/why-china-s-attempts-to-stifle-foreign-media-criticism-are-likely-to-fail)

❖ How China eradicated absolute poverty:
www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202104/12/WS60738cc0a31024ad0bab4c0c.htm



InCommon

InCommon began in the aftermath of the Christchurch mosque attacks. As Cantabrians and all New Zealanders came together in support of the Muslim community, several champions of the kaupapa discussed ways in which that energy could be sustained.

The working group membership increased as people with expertise in certain areas were brought on board. Many other organizations saw the value of a campaign that addressed the divides that gave rise to the tragedy by focusing on the things we have in common.

InCommon funders of the Working Group include the Office of Ethnic Communities, the Christchurch City Council, and the Rātā Foundation. Members, which have provided endless hours of volunteer time and expertise towards the campaign.

Have a look at www.incommon.org.nz for further details of this interesting and worthy project.



Chinese ANZACS

I suspect this is a story a lot of us don't know about; I know I certainly didn't until I read this.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/voices/audio/201797925/new-zealand-s-chinese-anzacs-a-buried-history>



Society Annual Conference will be 21 - 23 May in Havelock North. Several branch members are going to what should be a very interesting conference, and we will have a report on it in our June newsletter.





針繡風華

姚紅英
刺繡藝術

Magnificence of Embroidery

By Hong Ying YAO



Group Tour Special!

15 MAY - 29 AUG 2021 03 341 6276
2 Harakeke St, Riccarton

Any group tour booking over 15 pax will receive an exclusive gift of handmade embroidery. *Limited edition*

Date: 15 May -- 29 August 2021

Time: 9:00 am -- 3:00 pm

Admission: FREE

The Magnificence of Embroidery Exhibition by Hong Ying YAO is now back in Christchurch!!!

You are welcome to bring friends and families together to see this exciting exhibition.

The Embroidery Art Exhibition by Ms Hong Ying YAO features Ancient Chinese painting, flowers and birds, oil paintings and portraits into her needlework art.

Ms YAO uses both parallel and random stitches. The needle is her paintbrush, and the threads are the colours. She incorporates thin and thick threads, long and short stitches and different techniques of colour, layering and winding to create combinations of lines with rich expressions.

For a two-dimensional embroidery piece, shiny threads with a mix of colours and techniques are used.

The amazing Embroidery Exhibition will be shown at Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery Christchurch.

Opening Ceremony:

Date : **Saturday 15 May**

Time : **1 pm**

Limited seats available, [RSVP now](#) to secure your spot.

Any group [tour booking](#) ver 15 pax will receive an exclusive gift of hand made embroidery. Limited edition.

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