

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – September 2021

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Ailsa Dodge
Anna Chen
Bill Willmott (Honorary Patron)
Dave Adamson
Alex Fraser
Matt McKenna
Chris Goodwin
Laura Carter
Cara Chen

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.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE RE NEXT

MEETING: at the moment we are going forward with planning for a 3 October National Day banquet, which means we will not have a normal monthly branch meeting on 30 September. However, if Covid means the level does not drop, we will probably not have the banquet and hold the monthly meeting on 30 September instead.

Either way we will email members, so **be sure to keep an eye on the Inbox!** Covid is certainly keeping us all on our toes at the moment!

Christine Ward

It is with great sadness we record the following information, which has been received from our Nelson branch.

*It is with an immense amount of sadness that we write to let you know that our highly esteemed branch secretary, **Christine Ward**, passed away on Sunday 12 September. While Christine had been battling some health issues for a while, this news has still come as a huge shock and it feels like the beating heart of our branch has suddenly stopped. She became involved in our Nelson activities very soon after she and Bruce moved up from Christchurch and had been a member of our committee ever since.*

She was branch president from 2010 to 2015 and, in an excellent tag team with Barbara, she became secretary in 2019. Her willingness to step up just when it was needed was greatly appreciated.

Christine was always someone with so many wise and wonderful ideas and the energy and forethought to organise events to perfection. She was passionate about the role of the New Zealand China Friendship Society and fully understood the importance of Rewi Alley to the society and to education. Her research was always meticulous and memorable, as were her readings of his poetry.

She was the author of several excellent, authoritative teaching books, including "Learning to Learn" and "Teaching to Learn". She worked with Chinese teachers in New Zealand and China to encourage the use of brain-friendly learning and these courses and lectures were very well-regarded and much sought after.

The projects she had been involved in are too numerous to list but certainly include the Appo Hocton Book project, which provided a copy of the book to every secondary school library in New Zealand and raised funds to support the teaching of Mandarin in Nelson, Chinese Culture Camps, Chinese Garden parties and the arrival of the Mandarin Language Assistants in Nelson...

What's more, with Bruce, she was a generous and gracious host to so many Chinese and New Zealand visitors to Nelson who always went home with delightful memories of their conversations, her thoughtfulness and her delicious cooking.

She leaves an enormous hole in our hearts and our branch, and will be truly missed.

Our thoughts are very much with Bruce and all Christine and Bruce's family.

We will let you know of the memorial service plans once these have been finalised, but it is likely this will be when Auckland family members are able to attend.

Barbara and Royden

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Nelson Branch



Role of national secretary

At the August meeting of the national executive, the resignation of the national secretary was announced, owing to work pressures.

Dave Adamson of our branch has picked up on the role and will stay in it until the May 2022 Annual General Meeting of our society. At that time, as was his intention before the national secretary vacancy occurred, he will step down from the national executive, after being on it for over 10 years.



Kumara Chinese Miners' Memorial Reserve, West Coast

This is the fourth article since February 2014 our newsletter has had on this interesting and exciting project.

Very briefly, many Chinese miners worked the Ross and Kumara goldfields on the West Coast in the 1870s. Most of them came from Guangdong Province. To honour the contribution these miners made, it was decided to build a Chinese Gold Miners Memorial Garden on the main street of each town. The purpose of each garden is to provide a restful and reflective garden/picnic area for local families and tourists to relax and enjoy the garden, while learning about the early Chinese pioneers who worked panning for gold in order to send money back to their families in China, many of whom they never saw again. The Ross garden has now been completed. The bigger and more complex Kumara project is still under away. Below is an update from Project Manager Fiona Pollard of the Kumara Residents Trust.



As an update, we were not successful in securing a contractor using our first approach (selecting two suppliers whose work came highly recommended). While this is not the outcome we had hoped for and even after what feels like a very long pause between waiting for engineer reports and then preferred contractor quotes, we are still very much invested/interested in the project and our shared goal.



We have now taken up the kind offer from Westland District Council to support our Trust to run an open tender process. Presently the Council Asset team are reviewing the documentation and we are developing the tender approach. It is hoped with their leverage and contacts in the building market we will be successful with this approach.

I will let you know when the tender is released. Once the tenders have closed and our Trust has secured a contractor we would like to arrange a meeting with the Chinese community and key stakeholders in Christchurch to inform the group and answer questions as we continue to work to achieve our goal.

This project has certainly had its share of trials and tribulations, but there is no doubt Fiona and her determined team will see this memorial reserve through to its completion.

Have a look also at <http://www.greystar.co.nz/content/coast-chinese-tribute>

He Mingqing's 125th Birthday

Webinar, 2:00 - 15:20pm, 29 July

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of New Zealand friend Kathleen Hall (He Mingqing). To mark the occasion The Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Chinese Bethune Spirit Research Association and the New Zealand China Friendship Society jointly organised this online commemoration webinar to continue the international friend brand project to promote the friendship between China and New Zealand.

About 50 people globally took part in this very interesting event. It was sited in the multifunctional Hall of the Beijing branch of Youxie. Those taking part on the Chinese side were directors and staff of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Youxie), members of the Chinese Bethune Spiritual Research Association and personnel of cooperating units and representatives and staff of Shaanxi Women's Federation. On the New Zealand side were members of our society.

Fan Miao, Waikato president and NZCFS national Vice President introduced the guests and exchanged greetings. Speeches were then given by Zhang Qian, Executive Vice President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, our national president Dave Bromwich, Michael Crook, chair of Gung Ho-ICCIC, introduced the Kathleen Hall Memorial Room in Baoding, Hebeia and Ma Guoqing, Executive Vice President of the Chinese Bethune Spiritual Research Association.

This was followed by the very interesting 30 minute documentary on the life of Kathleen Hall, which has recently been produced by our Waikato branch. We then listened to speeches by Fan Miao, Wu Shemei, Chair of Liaison Department of Shaanxi Women's Federation and Christchurch branch member Alex Fraser, Youth Representative of NZCFS.

The webinar concluded with an online signing between BPAFFC and NZCFS of a memorandum of friendship and cooperation for 2021-2025. This was a very interesting webinar, with some good speeches. These two links give further

details <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202107/29/WS61026f09a310efa1bd66553f.html>

and

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzA4OTIxNDY4Nw==&mid=2651057394&idx=1&sn=19e30fbc6d60df9a045cd1f705ddb7ad&chksm=8be91742bc9e9e540b34a0076724ef119355224ba3443c7b6d590121dc7c1ab7d1a59ef81112&mpshare=1&scene=1&srcid=07298S2wPfw27VKdlqnvij7D&sharer_sharetime=1627561275073&sharer_shareid=aba232cb84f59c5524d8402a7fd769f0&exportkey=AuKyV%2BjZnC6GWnbIWHAY04I%3D&pass_ticket=cRr4SZybChUWMYNP4KtZK0PZ27ypgQBNJTeQganynj%2BN%2BfWHEyHH03MbQMtdxxS&wx_header=0#rd

** Asian Festival Week: 18 – 21 November*



The South Island Moon Festival, Ōtautahi Christchurch's newest cultural event, will illuminate the city this spring with a vibrant display of art, lanterns, performances and food.

The festival will take place **18 – 21 November 2021**, building on the huge success of the South Island Lantern Festival. Moon festivals are a traditional time of celebration in China and many East Asian communities, where families gather to watch the full moon, eat moon cakes and recite moon poems.

The inaugural festival will feature an exciting and diverse range of local artistic talent, with a focus on both traditional and contemporary cultures of Ōtautahi Christchurch. Audiences will enjoy spectacular lantern displays, food and beverage providers and free outdoor entertainment.

Full details are at <https://www.southislandmoonfestival.co.nz/>

* **IMPORTANT** Owing to Covid, these dates may change. Please follow the website.

How to Make Drunken Chicken Roll, Easy Chinese Recipe!

CiCi Li - Asian Home Cooking Recipes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FxnjJ8UnaA>

and the Chinese version:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UMYMzm3Qms

Thought this might be worth trying at home as something different - good for summertime!

Shaoxing wine is available at Ilam New World as well as Chinese supermarkets. It's salted wine and has a very distinctive flavour so you really can't replace it with Kiwi wine.

Rock sugar could probably be replaced with brown sugar or raw sugar.

The full ingredients are in the description (click on 'show more').

David Stringer

Villagers learn value of mangroves

BEIJING/NANNING - For thousands of years, mangroves have thrived along the coast at Zhushan village, protecting the land from the surf and lately attracting tourists and photographers with their unique ecology.

For many villagers, though, the mangroves have become more than a beautiful buffer zone from the sea, and are a major source of income.

Yet, it was only in recent years that the locals began exploring this side of their natural, longtime protector.

Lin Dingxiu, 61, raises sea ducks. For years, he barely broke even selling the eggs, but then he got an idea.

"I found that the mangroves provide multiple food sources for sea ducks, as well as small fish, shrimp and sea snails. They are all scattered around the trees beside the sea," he said.

Lin started keeping his birds in the mangrove. Because the ducks have adequate seafood, the eggs they produce are bigger and more delicious than ordinary eggs, and they sell at a good price.

"I can sell every kilo for 24 yuan (\$4) at the local market. That's several times more than (the price) for ordinary duck eggs," Lin said.

His eggs have become so well known that he no longer has to go to the market to sell them.

"Since 2009, buyers have come to my home regularly to buy eggs," he said.

"We want to buy 15 boxes of sea duck eggs from Lin Dingxiu for Spring Festival, but he can only offer us six boxes because the demand is too high," said Su Shiyi, an official in Zhushan, which is in Dongxing city in South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

Lin, who was packing the eggs, explained that sea duck eggs are popular during festivals, and many people buy them as gifts.

"Most of the eggs have already been reserved, and some people require as many as 30 boxes, so there is not much left now," he said.

Before moving the ducks to the mangrove about 10 years ago, Lin barely scraped by.

"Before 1998, I just kept the ducks in an enclosure, like farmers in other parts of the area did. I sold eggs in the morning, and in the evening I used the money to buy rice as feed for the ducks," he said. "The money I made selling eggs went almost entirely to buying the rice."

He had been on the verge of giving up, but now he makes around 200,000 yuan a year with the sea ducks. "The mangroves really helped me a lot," he added.

About 400 families in Zhushan farm sea ducks and shrimp in the mangrove, said Su Shiyi, the village head.

In addition to crop and poultry farming, the villagers beside the vast mangroves have turned their attention to the increasing number of tourists flocking to enjoy the scenery.

Lin Dinghan, who used to raise shrimp in his pond, opened a restaurant in 2010 to cater to the rising number of visitors.

Compared with shrimp farming, he said, a restaurant is less risky and offers a more stable and higher income. The local government has provided preferential tax policies for restaurants.

"I opened the restaurant in 2010, and by the end of last year I had made 300,000 yuan," Lin Dinghan said.

He now rents his 1-hectare pond to another villager and focuses on the restaurant. To cope with growing number of tourists, he employs three waiters and a chef.

Last year, about 100,000 tourists visited the village and mangroves, Su estimates. Many of them came from neighboring provinces.

"We paid no attention to the value of the mangroves before. Most of the villagers started the use of them only after 2009," Su, the official from Zhushan village, said, adding that many villagers have risen from poverty by raising sea ducks or shrimp, or opening restaurants or hotels for the tourists.

"In addition to exploiting the mangroves, the villagers are eager to protect this precious resource because they know that it is vital to their home and livelihood," Su said.

Fishermen are careful not to harm the mangroves when they put out to sea, and young trees are planted there every year, he said.

Lin Dinghan, the restaurant owner, has planted 2 hectares of mangrove near the village since 1991.

The village has also set up a team to make the villagers aware of the importance of the mangroves and ensure that they conserve the resource.

"Our efforts to protect the mangroves have produced results," Su said.

"The rising number of tourists to our village is an indicator showing the mangroves are well preserved."



Branch Officers

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