



Christchurch Branch Newsletter – November 2021

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Monthly Meetings Held

Last Thursday of the Month (except January, September and December) 7:30 pm

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Thursday, 25th November 2021

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.

25 November Meeting Speakers

Having had to cancel our October meeting, we have been able to transfer Professor Tom Davies' talk to our November meeting. Thank you for being flexible in these tricky times Tom.

Before he speaks, we will be given a brief and very interesting talk by Di Madgin on her wonderful late husband, Bill Willmott. Of course we all knew Bill well, and what he did for our society over many decades. However, there will be things Di will tell us which quite a few people present will have not known about this interesting man and his fascinating and varied long life.

Our speaker this month, as you'll see below, is going to give us a very interesting talk:

(continues on the next page)

Professor Tom Davies



I started teaching in 1990 and was quickly disillusioned with the teaching of Mathematics in the UK. I developed my own style and resources and became a specialist teacher of Maths using Problem Solving techniques. This was particularly successful with students in the UK who had literacy issues. On arriving in NZ in 2005 these techniques and styles matched the NZ Curriculum and became effective here.

As a result of travel internationally I met Professors and a Dean from Hangzhou Normal University in 2018. They invited me to visit and teach there. My first visit was in 2019. I was subsequently invited to Lecture at the University and undertake research in Chinese schools in 2020. As a consequence of Covid that did not happen. However I was invited to lecture and deliver my course on line to Maths graduates at the University. I am also, in cooperation with another Professor and past students undertaking research into Problem Solving in China and continue to lecture.

Thank you for inviting me to share my experiences.

Professor Tom Davies

Lecturer, Teacher & Researcher

Hangzhou Normal University & Hanmer Primary School.

Riverside Multi-Cultural Festival:

Friday 19 November - Sunday 21 November 2021

Riverside Market is holding a Multicultural end of year celebration from Friday 19th until Sunday 21st November. Keep on an eye on all media sources for details of what will be a fun and pleasurable event.

New Zealand Chinese Language Week: 26 September - 2 October

New Zealand Chinese Language Week (NZCLW) is a Kiwi-driven initiative launched in 2014 by Chair Jo Coughlan and Raymond Huo and NZCFS Wellington branch president Chris Lipscombe is one of the trustees. NZCLW is designed to increase Chinese language learning in New Zealand. The first of its kind in any Western country, NZCLW seeks to bridge the cultural and linguistic knowledge gap between China and New Zealand by delivering fun and practical initiatives that assist Kiwis to learn Chinese.

Branch members Laura Carter and Alex Fraser were nominated and selected as Mandarin Superstars for the 2021 event. They traveled to Wellington for two days for the opening ceremony at parliament and to take part in other events.

The function was attended by 10 other Mandarin superstars from around the country. There were also three Youth Ambassadors who were schoolchildren doing well in their language learning journey. There were also friends and family, representatives of the sponsors' companies as well as a number of MPs.



Each superstar was called forward to accept an award (a certificate and goody bag) and then asked to say a few words on their language learning journey. Laura talked about having moved to China at 18, not being able to speak a word of Chinese, and learning from there. Alex's speech was largely the same; he spoke on why he learnt Chinese, and what a rewarding journey it has been.

They were encouraged to spend the week sharing Chinese with friends and colleagues, and using social media to teach friends some new words and phrases.

The event was also an opportunity to show off the new trilingual picture book *Daniel's Matariki Feast*, in English, Te Reo and Chinese (pinyin and characters).

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, everyone had to be seated; in happier times they did a cocktail party-type of activity.

However, all was not lost, being the resourceful people they are they went to the botanical gardens and foraged for some wild spring onion and wild fennel before heading back to Alex's friend's place on the 26th to make dumplings from scratch to celebrate national dumpling day!

Alex's friend Lilian came with them and live-streamed the event on her Chinese Tik-tok page, where she has 1 million followers.

It proved to be a very pleasant activity for Laura and Alex and meant they were able to meet new friends and of course give our branch a great profile. Well done guys!



Turtle power propels Qinzhou

Chen Xingqian, 56, made his fortune by raising turtles in Qinzhou, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

An advertisement with the tagline "Raising turtles can make you a fortune" changed an orange farmer's life.

"My life has an unbreakable bond with turtles," 56-year-old Chen Xingqian says.

He saw the small poster in Nanning railway station in 1981, when he was on a business trip to the capital of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

He paid 360 yuan (\$60), nearly eight months of his salary, for a one-day training session on breeding turtles and received six small water turtles as the "starting capital" of his business. His friends and family were skeptical.

A year later, however, a relative from Hong Kong visited him, bringing encouraging news - the six turtles he raised were worth more than HK\$10,000 (\$1,290) in the Hong Kong market, because local people believed drinking turtle soup was good for health.

Chen became more steadfast about his choice. Caring for the six turtles became his priority after work each day. He bought small fish and shrimp from the nearby fishing port to feed his six "babies".

The six turtles started laying eggs four years later and allowed him to make some serious money when sold in Hong Kong with the help of his relatives. The money was the equivalent of several years of income from Chen's farm work.

In 1986, he quit his job and committed all of his money and time to breeding and raising turtles. By the early 1990s, he was one of the most famous millionaire turtle breeders in Qinzhou.



His wife's skepticism disappeared and she offered to help with the business. The whole family was mobilized and invited to participate in the venture.

The original six turtles are still alive today and live among the 100,000 edible turtles in his five turtle farms in Qinzhou.

With the Chinese mainland's rapid development, Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces have become Chen's main target markets after Hong Kong, with strong demand in these areas since the late 1990s.

Newsletter Articles

Although I write the newsletter, that doesn't mean I have a monopoly on all items of likely interest for it. If you think you have information or a story that would be of interest to our members, please let me know dacb@outlook.co.nz I'm always looking for good stories. You don't necessarily have to write it, even if you send me a series of bullet points and I can massage a story out of it.

Dave Adamson

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