

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – June 2022

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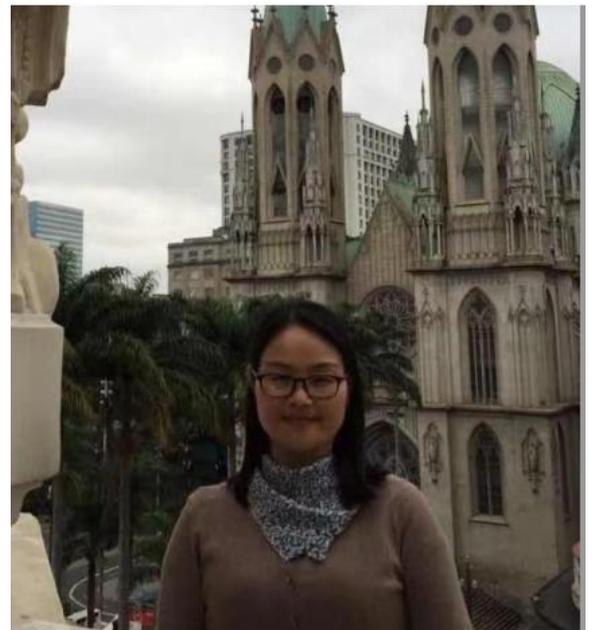
Next Meeting – Thursday 30 June 2022



We have two speakers this month. Branch member **Mishu Song** will give us a brief talk on what it was like to grow up in Shanghai. If this image of her is anything to go by, it must have been a

lot of fun!

Mishu's talk will be followed by Associate Professor Janet (Quinhua) Yu of the Confucius institute in Christchurch. Confucius Institute is a non-profit education network which devotes itself to satisfying the demands of people from different countries and regions in the world who learn the Chinese language, to enhancing understanding of the Chinese language and culture by these peoples, to strengthening educational and cultural exchange and cooperation between China and other countries, to deepening friendly relationships with other nations, to promoting the development of multi-culturalism, and to constructing a harmonious world. This will be a very interesting talk.



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May Meeting - National President Dave Bromwich

Our national president was in Christchurch in mid-May to have a meeting with Mayor Lianne Dalziel, the chair of the Christchurch China Sister Cities committee and representatives of Selwyn and Hurunui districts, at which he gave an overview of our society's activities over the years in Gansu province, and the Shandan area in particular. Present at the meeting were our branch president David Stringer and national secretary Dave Adamson.

Of course this was a great chance for us to bring our monthly meeting forward a week and have him come along and give us a very interesting and at times amusing talk on his experiences in China, with a particular focus on the many educational tours he has led over the years, as well as some details of proposed future tours. Once again, we were all impressed with his knowledge about the people and culture of China. I'm sure there's a book to be written there somewhere!

As he will not be standing for re-election at the 19 June AGM in Auckland (after nine years of loyal and excellent service) we were honoured to have had his presence at what was his last visit to a branch before he steps down.

For those who were going to join by Zoom, please accept our apologies. At the last minute there was a glitch in the system which meant it could not be accessed; very frustrating.



China and the World Forum

A colleague has forwarded me this link to a webinar he attended a few weeks ago called *China and the World Forum - Modernity on the Silk Road: The United States, China, and the new Cold War*.

It runs for 1 1/2 hours so of course you probably don't want to watch the whole of it, but I can absolutely recommend dipping your toes into what is a very interesting and thought-provoking discussion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKADPp8FwPk>



Annual Conference

As you will know, our national conference this year will be held in Auckland, 17 - 19 June. We will have nine branch members at the conference, which is very heartening. A great conference is guaranteed for all, and we will report back on it in our July newsletter. The intention is to have a Zoom link so that those not actually there are able to watch it. We will get this link out to you in the next day or two.



An Interesting Rewi Alley Anecdote

This very interesting information has been received from Zhu Yuming (Stephen) of the Gansu FAO.

Shandan Alley Memorial discovered Communist Party of New Zealand Member's Card of Rewi Alley recently. In 2016, Archives about Rewi Alley collected in Beijing moved to Shandan, and researchers found one document saying Alley was member of Communist Party of New Zealand. On the member's card, one can read quotations of Lenin, 'in this struggle for power, the proletariat has no other weapon but organization'. It also said, 'Party members should regard it their duty to buy and study the "People's Voice" and the "NZ Labour Review".'

"In its struggle for power, the proletariat has no other weapon but organisation."—LENIN.

AUCKLAND.—Room 36, St Kevin's Arcade, Karangahape Road. Phone 48-723.

WELLINGTON.—Unity Centre, 125 Cuba Street. Phone 53-528.

CHRISTCHURCH.—121A Manchester Street. Phone 36-095. P.O. Box 1000.

Party members should regard it their duty to buy and study the "People's Voice" and the "N.Z. Labour Review".

COMMUNIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND MEMBER'S CARD

National Committee

308 Pacific Building,
Wellesley Street East,
P.O. Box 1785,
AUCKLAND, C.1.

N^o 1506

Grams: NECOMPAR
Telephone: 45-526

1959-60

District *Member at Large*

Branch *Large*

TRANSFERRED TO

District ~~.....~~

Branch ~~.....~~

Date.....195.....

LEVIES

Levy	Amount	Receipt
.....		
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DUES PAYMENTS

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March *Paid V.S. Wilcox*

It is very interesting to note the signature at the bottom of Vernon Wilcox, who was General Secretary of the Communist Party of New Zealand at the time.

Following is a link to an article when he spoke in Beijing in 1968 (or Peking as it was called at the time) [nz-wilcox.pdf \(marxists.org\)](#)



Fun with Chinese – numbers

Following on from Roger Davies' piece in the May newsletter, David Stringer thought he would add a little piece of his own.

Those of you who know Roman Numerals (I, II, III IV etc) should have no problem recognising the first three Chinese numerals 一, 二, 三。 Easy?

Four is a little different, but it has four sides 四。

For the sake of completeness, the rest are 五, 六, 七, 八, 九 and 十。

Six has three 'legs'. Two times three is six. Seven is written upside down with a line through it, European fashion. Five, eight and nine you just have to learn to recognise the shape. Ten is two hand of five fingers each, often represented by the Chinese crossing two fingers to create the character, when talking.

The number eight 八 is also to be seen on the Japanese restaurant Hachi (which means eight in Japanese)

But why know the numbers one to 99? Oh, did I say 99? Well 11 is 十一, 12 十二, etc up to 99 九十九。 (9tens and 9). No irregulars like eleven or twenty (why not twoty??? or two tens?)

Anyway, the Chinese are nothing if not logical. If you know your numbers, you know your months of the year. 一月 is January up to 十二月 is December. 月 is a picture of a (crescent) moon, for moonths (or months as we now say)

Similarly days of the week are Monday 星期一 or 周一 through to Saturday 星期六 or 周六。

Sunday is 星期天 or 周日 the last characters meaning 'day' and 'sun' respectively. (The use of 周 is for more formal settings, like in publications – but I like it because it is easier to write!!)

And how did I learn to say them? I started with the first four, and would recite them as I paced back and forth waiting for the bus after work (in time to my pacing) . Any bit of down time would be suitable. As I became confident I added an extra number until I had them up to ten. The pinyin is yī èr sān sì wǔ liù qī bā jiǔ shí

Another method came about through learning to sing in Chinese. It was a class exercise at one time to sing scales up and down using numbers, yi, yi er yi, yi er san er yi... and so on up to ba (8) being of course, a whole octave, or complete scale. A lot of fun as we would then do it in reverse. Even the Chinese had difficulty with that and we would often end up doubled over with laughter.

You will find numbers often used for all sorts of things, so learning your numbers will be a big help if you are ever traveling in China (and yes, there is a character for 0 (líng 零) and for 100 and for 1,000 and for 10,000. But you have more than enough for now to be going on with.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.



China and the South Pacific

Here's a rather interesting background on matters to do with China and the Pacific, a subject much in the news at the moment. The emphasis on future trading opportunities is an encouraging sign.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi ended the meeting with the closing remark *“Don't be too anxious and don't be too nervous, because the common development and prosperity of China and all the other developing countries would only mean great harmony, greater justice and greater progress of the whole world.”*

A thought-provoking read.

<https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2022/05/30/china-drops-south-pacific-security-in-pacific-islands-dialogue-to-concentrate-on-trade/>

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