

**President: Barbara Markland**

Phone: (03) 544 4712

Txt: 021 447 180

**Secretary: Roy Markland**

Phone: (03)544 4712

Website: [www.nzchinasociety.org.nz](http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz)

email: [erm@xtra.co.nz](mailto:erm@xtra.co.nz)

email: [secretary.nelsoncfs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nelsoncfs@gmail.com)

Fb: NZ China Friendship Society Nelson



No 2- March 2023



## March meeting

**Friday, March 31, 5:30 p.m.**

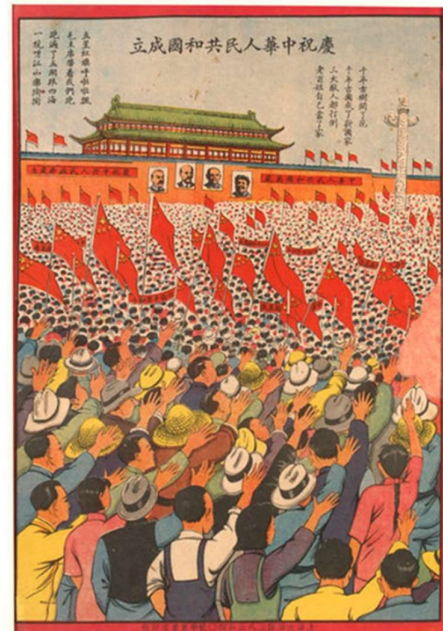


### Rose Kerr is back to enthrall us again

We are delighted to again have Rose Kerr speak to us. Rose, an internationally renowned art historian specializing in Chinese art, is a good friend of our Society, and has made a number of previous talks, all enthralling. Her speciality is Chinese ceramics, on which she has written a number of books. After studying Mandarin and Chinese art at the School of Oriental and African Studies (1971–75), she worked at the Percival David Foundation (1976–78). She joined the Far Eastern Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1978 and became the Keeper of the Far Eastern Department in 1987, a post she held until her retirement in 2003.

In 2015, she was made an honorary citizen of Jingdezhen, China, the historic centre of Chinese porcelain production, in recognition of her academic research on Jingdezhen ceramics, and her promotion of cultural exchange between the United Kingdom and China. She was the first non-Chinese citizen to be so honoured.

Her talk this time is titled Chinese Political Art. Starting with the victory of the Chinese Communists in 1949, the Chinese State has used art as a means of political expression and a carrier of ideology. Paintings, prints, textiles and ceramics have all embodied political messages, and the lecture will discuss and illustrate a variety of them.



The meeting will be at the usual place, Hearing House, 354 Trafalgar Square (next to Synagogue Lane). We start the meeting at 5:30, the meal arrives at 6p.m. and the guest speakers may begin after 6:45 p.m. Visitors are very welcome.

**If you wish to have the catered meal costs \$17. Please note the price increase due to cost increases. Preferably please pay by Internet banking to our NZCFS Nelson account, 03-1354-0490726-00, use your name as reference, or by cash at the door, and contact Barbara Markland on 021 447 180. Please let her know you are coming.**

## AGM and Banquet

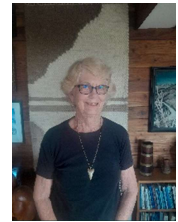
The AGM, and banquet to celebrate Chinese New Year, was another wonderful occasion. The 42 attendees included two Branch Life Members, local MP Rachel Boyack, representatives of the Nelson Marlborough Chinese Association, the Coordinator of TDC's Welcoming Committee, and the two Mandarin Language Assistants recently arrived in Nelson.



Royden Smith gave his last Treasurer's report, his 21st. Royden has been a dedicated Treasurer and Committee member. He is already a Life Member, having had the work he does for NZCFS acknowledged some years ago and he received further thanks and acknowledgement at the meeting.



Sally Warren also retired after many years on the committee. Sally contributed thoughtfully to committee discussions and was always a willing helper, especially setting up and clearing the food table at branch meetings and taking home tablecloths, plates and utensils to wash them. Sally's practical approach will be missed.



Those present were entertained by two members of the local Chinese community, Tong Wei and Diana Zhou, before enjoying a very convivial Chinese Banquet. Pictured above is Wei Tong singing a beautiful Chinese song watched by members and guests.

### Your elected Officers for the Nelson Branch 2023:

President: Barbara Markland

Vice President: Bill Findlater

Secretary: Roy Markland

Treasurer: Ian Lister

Committee: Jane Lister, Bruce Ward, Craig Holmes, Alfred Condell, Gail Collingwood.

We are all looking forward to an exciting year restarting initiatives curtailed by COVID and starting new projects especially reaching out and celebrating festivals with the local Chinese community and focusing on youth initiatives.

## Our own Facebook Page

Nelson branch now have our own Facebook page kindly set up by Alfred. We will post upcoming events and other information here. We will still be sending out our newsletter but you will also be able to get our news faster by liking us at **NZ China Friendship Society Nelson**.

## Positive Settlement Expo



Nelson Branch will be out to support the Positive Settlement Expo being held at Saxton Oval on Sunday 26 March 2023 from 2pm to 5pm.

This will be a fun, family-friendly, informative afternoon where you can enjoy free and affordable food and drinks, meet foreign-speaking locals, cultural groups and communities and also learn how organisations can help you settle.

This is a FREE and Eco-friendly event organised collaboratively by Citizens Advice Bureau Nelson Tasman, Welcoming Communities Nelson and Tasman, Multicultural Nelson Tasman, Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council.

Our new committee member Alfred Condell, who has excellent mandarin skills, will be working alongside Lili and Bic from Nelson Chinese Association to provide Mandarin and Cantonese language interpretation for attendees, helping them understand the help and assistance that can be provided by the various government agencies. For more information please email Lenka at [coordinator.nelsontasman@cab.org.nz](mailto:coordinator.nelsontasman@cab.org.nz) or call Birte on 027 700 3139.

## Multicultural Festival

The 2023 Multicultural Festival will be held at Founders on Sunday 19 March from 11am to 4pm at Founders organised by Multicultural Nelson Tasman. NZCFS (Nelson) will be there alongside the Nelson Chinese Association, who are providing food and entertainment, and representatives of other ethnic groups in our region to help celebrate unity in diversity together with young and old, new and established Nelsonians and every interested member of our community.

Multicultural Nelson Tasman says “it is going to be a new venue this time, which is the Founders Park and will include different sorts of interesting mini activities than previous Multicultural Festivals. Be inspired by the kaleidoscope of delicious food and brilliant entertainment by our rich multicultural community. Choose from a number of tantalizing food stalls that will delight your senses. Check out the arts and crafts and community/educational stalls. Enjoy the music, songs, and dance from around the world.”



As a side note, Mary Bronsteter has unfortunately had to take leave of absence as Chairperson of Multicultural Nelson Tasman for family reasons and Marie Lindaya, who many of you will know as a member of NZ China Friendship, is now acting Chairperson. We wish Mary all the best.

Bring your family and friends along for Nelson's best day out. If you are able to help on our stand for any or all of the day please contact Ian on 027 229 0020 or email [treasurer.ncfs@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.ncfs@gmail.com).

## MLA's give learning mandarin language a boost



**Xiaojie Sun (Jenny)** (left) and **Yiting Yang** (right) are based at NMIT's Confucius Institute and are here for one year to work as Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs). Jenny is from Henan Province and studied in Chengdu and Wuhan, majoring in English/Chinese translation. Her major studies were a motivation for her to come to New Zealand, as well as experiencing the benefits of a cultural exchange, helping others to learn Mandarin and understand more about Chinese culture. Jenny thinks Nelson is a beautiful city with sunshine, blue sky, a beach and nice scenery with lovely helpful people!

Yiting is from Changsha City in Hunan Province and she studied in Jilin Province and Wuhan University, majoring in English Language and Literature. She was drawn to become an MLA through her love of Chinese history and culture, as well as the charm and beauty of the language. She is passionate about being a teacher and communicating with people from different backgrounds. Yiting is finding herself at ease with life in New Zealand, despite some initial culture shocks. She loves the beautiful scenery and finds people here friendly and welcoming. Yiting considers herself very lucky to have the opportunity to live in New Zealand for a year.

We warmly welcome Jenny and Yiting to Nelson and hope to hear more from them at our May branch meeting.

## Mandarin Language Corner reignited

We are delighted to restart the Mandarin Language Corner (Zhongwen Jiao) after all the Covid interruptions of recent years. We meet every **Thursday 4.30pm – 6pm in the downstairs library at NMIT.** All levels are welcome from beginners to native or fluent speakers. For further information, please contact **Jane 027 260 2808.**

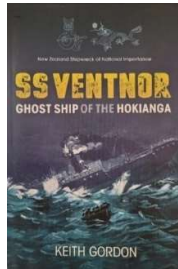


## Mandarin classes for Kids



Nelson Chinese Academy (run by the New Zealand Chinese Association Nelson Branch in association with Confucius Institute) are running a programme for kids to learn Chinese in a fun and friendly environment. Classes, run on Sunday afternoons during term time, are taught by experienced and qualified teachers and are specially and designed to suit school age learners of different levels. For more information contact Bic on 021122 3908, Laurie 021 226 8258, Lili 0225394278 or email [nelsonchinesesacademy@hotmail.com](mailto:nelsonchinesesacademy@hotmail.com)

## SS Ventnor - Ghost ship of the Hokianga



Most of us will know the story of the sinking of the SS Ventnor in 1902 off the North Island coast. It was carrying the remains of 499 Chinese miners back to China for reburial. In 2013 the site of the shipwreck was found.

A gripping book, giving the story from the time of the miners, through to the sinking and then discovery of the shipwreck many years later, has been written by retired aircraft engineer Keith Gordon. He is a pioneer underwater explorer with extensive underwater and shipwreck exploration experience. With a keen interest in maritime heritage, his underwater exploration expeditions have taken him to remote areas of the Pacific and South East Asia to search for and explore historical shipwrecks.

This is a very interesting read, which really draws you in as you follow the story from the early Chinese gold miners, the exhumation and loading of the remains onto the ship right through to its ultimate sinking and then the rather interesting conclusion to the story. Recommended. The book can be ordered from Searov Publications by email: [searov@xtra.co.nz](mailto:searov@xtra.co.nz) or online from: [www.seatech.co.nz](http://www.seatech.co.nz) (click on SHOP then BOOKS). Cost - \$39.99 plus NZ postage \$7.20.

## Please renew your membership

As you will have noticed from the above, NZ China Friendship Nelson Branch is a very active branch creating strong friendships at the personal and family level. We also facilitate excellent relationships with our sister cities Huangshi and Yangjiang and have the experience, expertise and contacts to assist businesses looking for opportunities in China.

Your membership and subscriptions are important to us and help us achieve these things.

**Subscriptions for 2023 are due by 31 March.** 2023 subscription rates are

Individual	\$15.00
Couple/family	\$25.00
Schools	\$25.00
Corporate	\$30.00

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