



# THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER 新中通訊



NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Website: <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wellington-branch-of-the-nzdfs/>

*NZCFS Wellington Branch - celebrating 70 years of promoting friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and China*

## Newsletter April 2023

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Elspeth Sandys

### **"A Communist in the Family: Searching for Rewi Alley"**



Elspeth Sandys has published nine novels, two collections of short stories, and two memoirs. She has also written extensively for radio and television, both here and in the United Kingdom. In 2006 she was awarded the ONZM for services to literature.

In our April monthly meeting, Elspeth Sandys will talk about the process of writing her book *A Communist in the Family: Searching for Rewi Alley* and her relationship with her 'Uncle Rewi' Alley.

In her book, Elspeth talks about Rewi Alley's life and work in the context of his time. This is a multi-layered narrative that is part biography, part travel journal, and part literary commentary.

Elspeth will share how she came to write the book (Rewi Alley was her **mother's first** cousin) and a little about the trip she made with other members of the Alley family to China in 2017. She will also read a short extract of the book.

There will be some books for sale on the day. The retail price of the book is \$40. Elspeth will be selling these for \$25. If you wish to purchase a book, please bring cash.

Our monthly meetings are held at Newtown School Hall, Mein Street, Newtown, Wellington (off Riddiford Street, car park entry from Mein Street alongside Wellington Hospital), on bus routes 1, 3, 12, 18, 23, and 29.

There is plenty of carparking on site.

The following dates have been booked for our Wednesday monthly meetings: *17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18 October, and 15 November*. Please mark these dates in your calendar.



## WELLINGTON BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16 MARCH 2023 — REPORT

The Annual General Meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, prior to the normal monthly members’ meeting.



At the AGM, the 2022 Wellington Branch **President Chris Lipscombe** presented the **President’s Report in respect of the Wellington Branch’s activities, achievements and reflections for 2022**. At national and branch level, 2022 had been a busy year, with **NZCFS celebrating Rewi Alley’s 125<sup>th</sup> birthday**, **the Society’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, and the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China-New Zealand diplomatic relations**.

The financial report for 2022 year was approved. Election of the officers of the Wellington Branch Committee for 2023 resulted in the following appointments (all appointments valid for a 12 month period):

- President – Chris Lipscombe
- Vice President & Treasurer – Juping Zhou
- Secretary – Vera Xu
- Committee Members – Liqin Mi, Paul Sayers

After many years of serving on the committee, Michael Dunwoodie decided not to seek re-election. We thank Michael for his work and support over the past years.

## WELLINGTON BRANCH MEETING 16 MARCH 2023 — REPORT

After the AGM, Michael Powles spoke to members and friends on the topic of **'What would we expect of Rewi Alley today?'** Michael is a former NZ Ambassador to Beijing and is currently both Honorary Advisor to the Wellington Branch Committee and Branch Life Member.



Michael began his talk by pointing out it was a bit presumptuous to assume that anyone today could really speak for Rewi Alley, and in particular, how he would react to current events. Alley passed away some time ago and no-one now associated with the NZCFS had been acquainted with him — **except of course his nephew Maurice Alley, who is currently the Manawatū Branch President.** However, based on what is known of Alley's activities during his life, Michael felt that some valid conclusions could be drawn, especially **Alley's likely reaction to the current level of anti-China rhetoric being expressed in the US, the UK and Australia.**



Michael gave some examples of this, as expressed in the Australian media, and stated that he was firmly of the opinion that certain sectors of Western society were almost eager for a military confrontation with China, most likely with Taiwan as the excuse. He also felt that the groups pushing this agenda had no real comprehension of what a conflict between the West and China would be like, and that any dissenting opinions were being ignored, even when they came from individuals with a great deal of experience in relations with China or in determining **their own country's interests.**

Given this current situation, Michael felt that Rewi Alley would expect NZCFS members, as far as they were able, to make the case against confrontation with China. This does not mean agreeing with the Chinese position on all matters. When there are grounds for disagreement, NZ should make our position clear. However, we should be prepared to make the case that outright confrontation with China benefits no-one, and that it is not in NZ's interest to take part in it.

**Michael concluded his talk with some personal experiences of his time as NZ's Ambassador to Beijing,** which he felt showed that dialogue rather than confrontation was a better way of dealing with points of contention, however severe.

**After Michael's talk, some members and friends enjoyed** a delicious dinner from the Basin Noodle House <https://basinnoodle.co.nz/>.



## NZCFS 2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 19–21 MAY

NZCFS 2023 National Conference and AGM will be held from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May in Tauranga. Both events will be held at the Armitage Hotel in Tauranga city centre.

The theme of the Conference is *Friendship in Action* 友谊在行动. More information on the National Conference can be found at <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/conference-2023/>. Participation via Zoom will be supported. All members are welcome to attend.



### BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

President: Chris Lipscombe

Vice President and Treasurer: Juping Zhou

Secretary: Vera Xu

Committee Members: Liqin Mi, Paul Sayers

Honorary Advisor: Michael Powles

WEBSITE: <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wellington-branch-of-the-nzcf/>

[Pay your 2023 subscription here](#)

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

To join as a member or renew your membership, you can complete the [online form](#) or the membership form below.

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2023 (subscription period January to December):

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged / Student (full-time) / Superannuitant | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single   | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family   | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation                                   | \$50 |

Name: .....  
(Given names) (Surname)

Spouse's/Partner's Name: .....  
(Given names) (Surname)

Address .....

Email .....

Contact Person for Organisation: .....

Payment total is as follows: Membership Subscription      \$ ..... Donation ( <i>optional</i> )              \$ ..... Total                                      \$ .....	Payment method: Payment by internet transfer to: NZ China Friendship Society ANZ Bank Acct No: 11-7200-0080836-11
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When making internet banking payment, please quote your NAME and the word SUBS, and be sure to email this form separately to [wgtnczfs@gmail.com](mailto:wgtnczfs@gmail.com). Please let us know if a receipt is required.

*Note: Donations over \$5 are tax-deductible. (Charities Registration No: CC27242)*

Privacy Information: On acceptance of your membership subscription, you or the organisation you represent will become a member of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Incorporated ("the Society"). Your membership will expire on the 31st of December of the year to which the membership applies ("the expiry date"). The information you provide on this membership subscription form ("the information") will be held by us electronically in a Register of Members as required by the Incorporated Societies Amendment Act 2005 and will be removed from the current Register of Members following the expiry date. The information will be used by us to tell you about member events and activities and to send you notices of meetings. The information will be held securely by us and will be available for you to view at any time on application to the Secretary. The information may be shared with our parent organisation the New Zealand China Friendship Society Incorporated. We will not disclose the information to any other parties, except where required by law. Non-current members will remain on our branch mailing list as supporters, and we will continue to let you know about member events and activities. If you decide that you do not want to receive emails from us, you can 'unsubscribe' and we will remove you from our mailing list.