



Our Home Page

Our Auckland Branch 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 16 April at which we elected our 2023 – 2024 Executive Committee



Back row from left: Selina LI, Yi ZHANG, Robert Reid, Leo De Graff, Neville Cant, Leo FENG, Ken LIU. Front row: Dorothy Waymouth, Mike Dawson, Mei DING, Lucy De Graff-Li

Our Auckland Branch Officers and Committee Members are:

President: Mike Dawson
Vice Presidents: Evan WU & Galina May
Treasurer: Leo FENG
Secretary: Selina LI
Minute Secretary: Neville Cant

Committee Members: Dorothy Waymouth, Ken Liu & Leo De Graff

Committee Meetings

Our Branch Committee meets on the **2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm** to attend to Branch Society matters and to discuss activities and plans for the year ahead.

To inform our decisions when dealing with matters of interest to Members we invite members to raise issues concerning or affecting them and to contribute ideas for our Primary Objective, which is:

To promote Friendship, Understanding and Goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and the peoples of China by encouraging visits, and facilitating exchange of ideas, information, culture, and trade between both countries.

All suggestions will be seriously considered and reported back on. You may send them to: auckland@nzcfcs.com

Recognising Outstanding Member Service

George Andrews ONZM has been our Auckland Branch's Life Member for many years in recognition of his outstanding service as our Auckland Branch President from 2009–2016. George is a distinguished NZ Broadcaster & documentary producer and was one of the founders of TV3. He remains an active member! 😊



2023 National Conference & AGM Tauranga 19 May to 21 May



A child's picture from Shangrao, Jiangxi Province, China celebrating Rewi Alley and the 50th Anniversary of China-NZ Relations

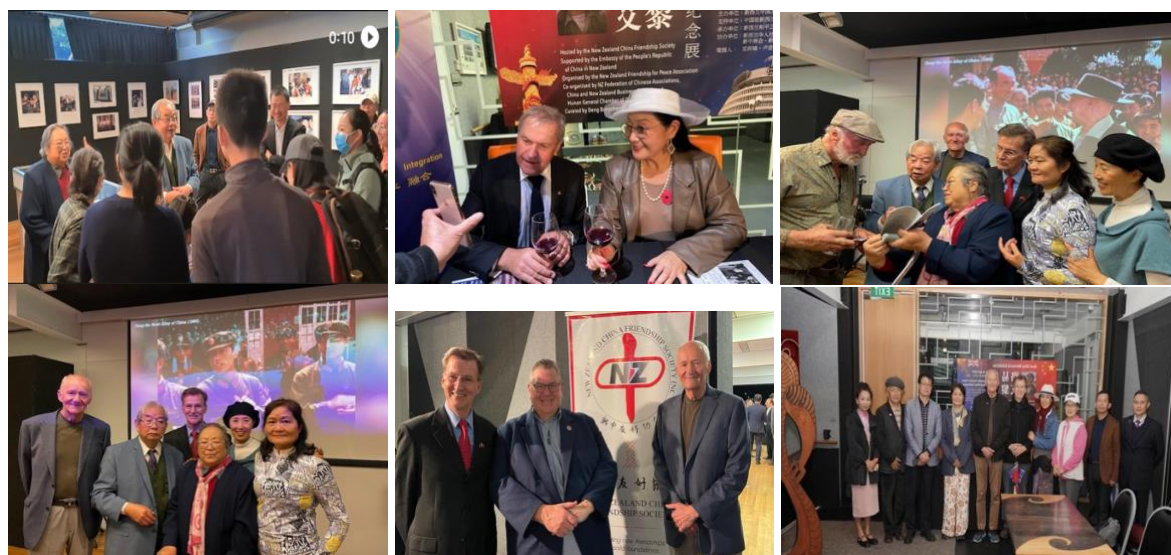
Tauranga Branch members are working hard preparing for the Society's National Conference to be held in Tauranga during the weekend of 19–21 May. A comprehensive programme has been developed for attendees and we are looking forward to welcoming members and friends from all around New Zealand, from Australia and from China.

An early highlight will be on Friday evening at the The Armitage Hotel conference venue. For more information on our conference go to [The 2023 National conference page here.](#)



Congratulations Lu Bo & Deng BangZheng [Rewi Alley's Foster Son] for a very successful Rewi Alley Memorial Exhibition

A Delegation of 4 Members from our Auckland Branch, being our President Mike Dawson and his wife Mei Ding, and Committee Members Leo De Graff and his wife Lucy De Graff-Li, attended this wonderful Art and Culture Exhibition Sponsored by the New Zealand China Friendship Society and Curated by Deng Bangzheng and Lu Bo. It was held in New Zealand's Capital City of Wellington over the weekend of Friday 21 to Sunday 23 April.



Photos from top left: 1.Deng BangZheng & Lu Bo 2. The Right Honourable Sir David Carter KNZM & Suhua Botany Chinese Association 3. Lu Bo translating a Chinese brochure to a local visitor (and 4 of her keen supporters) 4.Deng BangZheng & Lu Bo with Auckland Delegation 5. NZCFS National President, Chris Lipscombe flanked by Auckland President Mike Dawson & Exec Member Leo de Graff 6. NZCFS Auckland's Mike & Leo with George Qiao, Sophy and Members of the NZ Friendship and Peace Association.

I was super great to see Lu Bo and Deng Bangzheng in such a rewarding and happy environment as they soaked up the admiration and love of all those who attended their Rewi Alley Memorial Art Exhibition.

Their dedication to friendship and peace is awesome, as is their great creative artistic skills. Bangzheng & Lu are an integral part of the living legacy that has been passed on to us by Rewi Alley.

A very Special Thank You goes to the President of the New Zealand Friendship and Peace Association, George Qiao, and his many co-members who together attended and worked very hard setting up all the paintings and other exhibits.



The 6th Race Relations Day Multicultural Festival 2023

This was an amazing Event Hosted by Steven Wong, Chairman of the Federation of the NZ Chinese Association on 15 March. This event was attended by VIPS galore, including the NZ Deputy Prime Minister (Māori: Te pirimia tuarua o Aotearoa) Carmel Sepuloni, all of whom will recognize themselves and others in the Group Photo below!



Deputy Prime Minister & Fungai Mhlanga

Sharing a laugh

Auckland Branch Event Team

Greeting Ambassador WANG Xiaolong

The very best part of such events is meeting old and new friends and supporters and building relationships within the Community and other Societies.

There is something extra special about working for friendship, (better) understanding and peace! **Make Peace Not War!**



2023 DRAGON BOAT DAY FESTIVAL HELD 15 APRIL

Also held on 15 April 2-23, the Dragon Boat Day Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday that falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. Many other Asian countries and regions also celebrate this Festival, as do Chinese communities all over the world!

On 30 October 2009, the Dragon Boat Festival was added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List. This is a HUGE Honour for the Chinese People and Nation!!

The origin of the Dragon Boat Festival is said to be from the Warring States Period when, in 278 BC at 38 years of age, the patriotic poet and politician Qū Yuán drowned himself in the Húnán Miluō River on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month.

Local people had **raced their boats** to search for his body and dropped lumps of rice into the river so the fish would not feast on Qū Yuán's body. The origins of the Dragon Boat Festival also include a focus on health, wellbeing and the prevention of disease.

Fast-forward to the 21st century when these two factors come together in:

- Dragon Boat Races, including those held by the International Breast Cancer Paddlers' Commission to help breast cancer teams post breast cancer recovery, which, last month, were held for the first time in the southern hemisphere right here in New Zealand; and
- The kinds of Celebrations that are being held here today now, open to all peoples in New Zealand, and which are held annually all over the world.

Thus, a Chinese cultural event over 2,400 years old still continues to make a major contribution to fostering Friendship, Understanding and Goodwill between peoples of countries and communities all over the world!

A Taste of Chinese Culture

Here are a few shots of how Dragon Boat Day was celebrated in Auckland this year! The Dragon dance was a big hit with the kids who came along, as was the cake stall!





This is a particularly nice way to introduce Chinese Culture, with friendship, music, dance and what else but Chinese Food!



Auckland Branch Members and Committee Members (not all in this pic) enjoying an evening meal and a Quiz Competition in Auckland with Yezhu Zhao the Deputy Director of the Confusion Institute at Victoria University Wellington.



Lucy, Yezhu Zhao, Leo, Mike, and a Confucian Teacher



Linda Zhang, Mei Ding, Yezhu Zhao, Lucy de Graff-Li in Wellington

Mike organised 8 members to come with him to the Quiz Competition organised and compared by Sylvia Yang and Caroline Li. It was great fun, and so great to see young and older Members sharing a good laugh and a having great time together!

ARTICLES, NEWS & ITEMS OF INTEREST WELCOME!

Members and Supporters are most welcome to contribute articles, news snippets and items of interest that may be included in our Newsletters.

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