

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – October 2023

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Executive 2023:

- Graeme Tinkler (VP)
- William Qiu (VP)
- David Stringer
- Vivien Qin
- Dave Adamson
- Alex Fraser
- Matt McKenna
- Felicia Chen
- Laura Carter
- Jodie Martin

As from our 31 August branch meeting, our new location is:

**Upper Riccarton Methodist Church
3 Brake Street, Upper Riccarton**

26 October Speakers

Chinese Interpreters and Eric Livingstone

Well, we're certainly going to be spoilt this month with four speakers, three of whom are from our Chinese sister cities of Gansu Province and Wuhan.



L to R:
Christchurch China Sister Cities Committee Chair Michelle MacWilliam, Xueping Wang, Member of Parliament Megan Woods, Ma Chunqin and Wenhui Li.

Xueping Wang is from the Shandan Bailie School, Ma Chunqin (Tracy) is from the Gansu Foreign Affairs Office and Wenhui Li (Chloe) is from the Wuhan Foreign Affairs Office. They will give us a 10 minute talk on their experiences and observations of coming to New Zealand for the first time, which will be followed by our main speaker Eric Livingstone.



Eric Livingstone

Past National President New Zealand China Friendship Society & Life Member
Past Chair Christchurch Gansu Sister City Committee
Chair Rewi Alley 2017 Anniversary Commemorations Committee

REWI ALLEY – An Extraordinary Ordinary New Zealander

By Eric Livingstone

Brief Synopsis:

- Rewi Alley, founder of our Society – a look at what made him the man he was
- What was his greatest work that we know little of and he reluctantly talked about
- Why are there over forty memorials to him in China & ten in New Zealand
- Why did a British Bishop say “I have met a saint”; a British academic say “He is amongst my list of immortals”; and David Lange say to him “ You are New Zealand’s greatest son”.
- Why should we protect & perpetuate his memory

Eric has huge knowledge of the life and times of the remarkable Rewi Alley. What a great talk this is going to be!



New Zealand Chinese Association Canterbury

22 St Asaph Street, Central City

Reserved car parking available at Hagley Community College (Entry via Stewart St)

Christchurch Heritage Festival 2023

“Our Stories of Living and Learning”

Sunday 15th October 2023

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|---------------------|---|
| 9am | Open: “Honouring our heritage by learning, and bringing it to life” Public attendance: Invitation to join in full day activities. Registrations taken on arrival. |
| 9am – 10am | Health and Wellbeing Tai Chi Cancer Society Stand - Cancer Awareness (Q & A from 9am – 12.30pm) |
| 9.30-11.30am | Language and Culture: NZCA Canterbury Chinese Language School Open day Chinese lessons in Cantonese (only school offering Cantonese heritage language), along with Beginners, Intermediate and Advance Mandarin classes in action. |

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| <p>10.30am - 4pm</p> <p>2.30pm</p> | <p>All day Lantern making session – create an original lantern to be displayed at the upcoming “Happy Chinese New Year Festival” – Friday 9th-11th January 2024 (Materials will be supplied).</p> <p>Historical NZCA publications, photo’s, Chinese Traditional festivals, PowerPoint slides displaying NZCA Canterbury families and the community.</p> <p>Traditional Chinese dance performance - Ao Lan Dance Team</p> |
| <p>11.30am - 1.30pm</p> | <p>Cooking Demonstration:</p> <p>Learn the art of making Mooncakes and dumplings over a cup of tea.</p> <p>Chinese traditional tea tasting, tea etiquette, make your own Bubble tea (\$2)</p> |
| <p>1pm – 2pm</p> <p>2.30pm – 4pm</p> | <p>Activities:</p> <p>Food Sales: BBQ Pork buns, Mooncakes, dumplings, chicken curry, noodles...</p> <p>Give Sports a Go: Badminton, Mah Jong, Pickle Ball and Table Tennis</p> <p>Cultural Performance and Workshop:</p> <p>Ao Lan Dancers</p> <p>Qiao Yi Hong De Lion Dance Team</p> <p>Registration Day:</p> <p>74th Annual NZCA Easter Sports Tournament and Cultural Show, held in Wellington (Friday 29th March to Easter Monday 1st April 2024)</p> |



***The Ethnic Orchestra of Gansu Concert:
The Piano, 26 September***





Performed in front of a capacity crowd, this was something to be remembered! The orchestra came from Christchurch's sister city of Gansu province, and was hosted by the University of Canterbury School of Music to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The performers played a wide variety of instruments, several of which had probably not been seen in Christchurch before.

Over the years the orchestra has been mainly responsible for researching, composing and performing musical works on the Silk Road and Dunhuang themes. The orchestra has nearly 160 players, 31 of which visited Christchurch.

A rather fascinating detail of the performance was that some of the music they performed was from the Tang dynasty, and was from music found in the very early 20th century amongst ancient manuscripts in the famous Mogao Caves on the Silk Road.



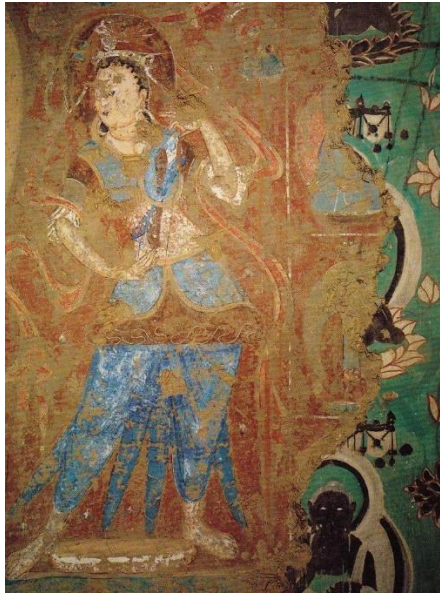
The concert was attended by Consul General Madame He Ying, our society's National President Chris Lipscombe and our society's National Patron Sir David Carter, as well as several regional mayors and councillors.



Gansu Ethnic Orchestra Performance and Workshop



The following afternoon, seven of the women gave a performance for the general public in the Great Hall at the Arts Centre. This was really fascinating, as they each explained about their instruments, some of which were modelled on instruments shown in murals discovered in the Mogao Grottoes. The Mogao Caves, also known as the Thousand Buddha Grottoes or Caves of the Thousand Buddhas, form a system of 500 temples southeast of the centre of Dunhuang, an oasis located at a religious and cultural crossroads on the Silk Road, in Gansu province.



In some ways this was even more enjoyable than the concert the night before, because of the intimate and personal nature of it. Each woman's instrument was explained and shown to the audience. It is fascinating how every culture seems to have invented a musical instrument which is essentially a wooden box with a hole and strings pulled tight across the face of it.

It was a very enjoyable and interesting afternoon for what was a disappointingly small audience.



China National Day Banquet, 1 October

Over 90 branch members and friends sat down to what was a fun evening and great food to celebrate the commemoration of this important day.



Photo: John Tan

A message of welcome was given by branch president Chris Goodwin, followed by speeches by MP for Wigram Megan Woods and Mr Zhai Xingfu of the Chinese Consulate.



We were honoured to have amongst us three interpreters from our Chinese sister cities of Gansu province and Wuhan, and, as you will see from the front page of this newsletter, they are going to be speaking to us at our branch meeting on 26 October which should be very interesting (be sure to be there!).

Once again wine for the evening was generously provided by Harcourts Gold. Thank you guys!

Committee member Felicia's Polish boyfriend Daniel played several tunes for us on his piano accordion; a delightful touch from another culture.

As always, we held a raffle, the revenue from which goes towards the He Ming Qing (Kathleen Hall) scholarship programme our society runs for training young women in the hill villages in China to become nurses.



Photo: John Tan

Art Competition

Branch members will remember we held a very successful art competition last year, with prizes being generously provided by Harcourts Gold Spitfire.

Following this success, we decided to repeat it this year. By the time you read this, the artworks will have been received from schools all around the South Island, and the judging will have occurred. There were three classes of entry: Year 1 – 4; Year 5 – 8; Year 9 – 10. The theme this year is *Happy Chinese New Year*.

All entries will be displayed for 10 days from **10 am Saturday 4 November in the TSB room, Level 1, Tūranga (Central Library), 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch, with the prizegiving commencing at 2.30 pm on 4 November.**

Please be sure to come along and view the art works in this exciting competition, and in particular be sure to be there at 2:30 pm on 4 November to witness the prize giving ceremony for these clever young people.

Branch Officers

President: Chris Goodwin goodie.chris@gmail.com
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