

## Christchurch Branch Newsletter – September 2023

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

**PLEASE NOTE: we don't have a branch meeting this month,** because of course we are instead having our ....

### ***National Day Banquet***

**6.30pm, Sunday 1 October**

**Focus Restaurant (was North and South Restaurant)**

**300 Lincoln Road**

**\$40 per diner**



The branch committee had its meeting there recently, and we can report the food was fabulous, the owner delightful and the surroundings wonderful. The restaurant is under new management and has been completely refurbished.

This banquet is a branch function we always enjoy. Please be sure to get your booking in quickly to [christchurch@nzcfs.com](mailto:christchurch@nzcfs.com) as it is limited to 100 seats.

Payment is to be made to **38-9010-0816274-00** and please don't forget to include your name.

## **Function at Springfield**

China's Minister of Education, Mr Huai Jipeng, attended the New Zealand International Education conference in Christchurch in August, where he was a keynote speaker. During his visit to the city, he took the opportunity to have lunch with Mayor Phil Mauger, as well as visiting both the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University.

The Selwyn Sister City Committee was asked to arrange a visit for him to Springfield on Saturday 19 August, to visit Rewi Alley's birthplace. Committee chair Allison Rosanowski welcomed Mr Huai, and explained to him the background to the sculpture in the Rewi Alley park, which was created by Lu Bo, the husband of Rewi Alley's foster son Deng Bang Zhen.



Photos: Dave Adamson

Attendees moved on to the Springfield school, where Mr Huai planted a tree, with the assistance of some of the local schoolchildren.



Photo: John Tan

Mr Huai Jipeng with Selwyn Mayor Sam Broughton, Consul General Madame He Ying and



Springfield School children, left to right: Lora Cropper, Douglas Ellis and Jessie Davis

Everyone then went into the school where Mr Huai gave a delightful speech, emphasising the role the Rewi Alley legacy has played in the very strong relationship New Zealand and China enjoy. He was a very warm and pleasant man, and his speech was well received.



Photo: John Tan  
Allison Rosanowski and Mr Huai Jinpeng



Photo: John Tan  
Principals of Springfield School, Sheffield School, Darfield Primary School, Darfield High School, Windwhistle School, Greendale School, Mairehau High School and Otago Girls' High School with Selwyn Mayor Sam Broughton and Allison Rosanowski

The 10 Principals and one International Director will go to China with Allison Rosanowski, 15 - 29 September, at the Invitation of the Beijing Cultural and Language University to explore the Rewi Alley legacy. The group will visit Beijing, Lanzhou, Shandan, Dunhuang and Shanghai, and is a Selwyn District and Christchurch Chinese Consulate endeavour.



## ***Moon Festival Celebration and Fundraising Banquet***

Our August newsletter gave brief details of this large and important event, which will be held 9 - 11 February 2024. An advisory group, composed of representatives from nine local organisations, has been formed to plan this multicultural festival.

While details of the festival are yet to be finalised, the intention is for there to be stage performances from multicultural groups in the afternoon and Chinese groups in the evening, as well as food stalls and a lantern making festival.

Some funding for the event has been provided by the Christchurch City Council. However, to ensure its success, further funding is needed. For this reason, a fundraising banquet is being held:

**6.00pm., 28 September 2023**

**Fee: \$80 per person**

**Madam Kwong Restaurant**

**2/155 Blenheim Road**

**Dress Code: Business casual**

**Limited availability of seats**

Key highlights of the banquet:

- Welcome Reception; Exquisite Dining Experience; Inspiring Speakers; Entertainment, including live performances throughout the evening; an Auction, where unique items and experiences will be up for grabs, adding an exciting element to the night, as well as Raffle Draws.

\$40 of each banquet booking will go directly to support the 2024 Happy Chinese New Year Festival. Your generous donations will make a positive impact on a remarkably successful 2024 Chinese New Year Festival!

**To RSVP and secure your spot at this meaningful event, please:**

- **transfer the fee of \$80 per diner to 06-0665-0507172-01 with the reference 'cny-fr' and your name, and simply reply to [chinesegroups@outlook.com](mailto:chinesegroups@outlook.com) with your name or the name of your association, the number of attendees and the bank transfer approval.**

This is going to be a great evening. Please give this fundraising event your support to ensure the February 2024 festival is a huge success for our city.



## Unveiling of Rewi Alley Statue



In the first visit to China of a New Zealand minister in four years, New Zealand Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta unveiled a bronze statue in March of Rewi Alley in the Beijing compound of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), where Rewi Alley lived for the last 30 years of his life. More than 40 participants attended the ceremony, including Ambassador of New Zealand to China Graham Morton, Foreign Minister Mahuta and her delegation and Mr Lin Songtian, president of CPAFFC as well as senior Chinese officials and people from mainstream media and staff of the CPAFFC. Mr Lin said "In order to pay high tribute to his outstanding contributions to China's revolution, construction, reform and opening up and the sincere friendship he helped forge with the Chinese people, carry forward his spirit, and encourage more people of vision to participate in the friendship cause between China and other countries, we have not only renovated his former residence, set up a photo exhibition of his life, but also sculpted a bronze statue of him. It is a great honor for me to join Foreign Minister Mahuta to unveil the statue of Rewi Alley today. The CPAFFC is willing to work with friends from all sectors in New Zealand to make new contributions to promoting our bilateral relations to a new high, so as to bring more benefits to the peoples of our two countries". Minister Mahuta thanked the CPAFFC for inviting her to take part in such a symbolic event. "In coming here and visiting the place where Rewi stayed, it's a demonstration of how friendship can lead to diplomatic relations," Mahuta said.

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### Branch Officers

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