

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – November 2023

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Executive 2023:

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

**Our meeting location is:
Upper Riccarton Methodist Church
3 Brake Street, Upper Riccarton**

**7.30pm, 30 November Speaker
Confucius Institute
- Jodie Martin and Dr Zhu Linglin**



Jodie Martin is a social worker who currently has the role of Project Coordinator of the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury, and is also a member of our branch committee. Together with Dr Zhu Linglin, one of CIUC's Chinese instructors, Jodie and Linglin will introduce CIUC, share a little of its history, as well as a general overview of what CIUC does and what it offers the community. One of the core aims of the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury is to be a bridge between China and Aotearoa New Zealand, through promoting a language and cultural exchange. It is hoped that by providing the tools to learn Chinese and showcase Chinese culture, New Zealanders can better understand China and its rich diversity, whilst in return, providing a platform for young Chinese teachers to have an opportunity to live and work in Aotearoa New Zealand and understand the way of life here.

This will be a very interesting talk.

Moon Festival fundraising dinner



On the evening of 28 September about 200 people sat down to a sumptuous banquet, which included an auction as a fundraiser for a Christchurch multicultural Chinese New Year Festival Celebration planned for 9 – 11 February 2024, which will be held in North Hagley Park. The festival will include stage performances from multicultural groups in the afternoon and Chinese groups in the evening, as well as food stalls and a lantern making festival. The Chinese Advisory Group, a group of representatives from nine local organisations, has been formed to make this exciting festival a reality.

This proposed event is being led by Chinese communities, with support from other community groups. It is a celebration of Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), and all community groups are welcome to participate. The Chinese Advisory Group is committed to creating an inclusive event that celebrates the diversity of our community.

We will keep you posted on this festival as further information comes to hand.



The auction, which included everything from bottles of maotai to a very impressive set of deer antlers, was handled by local real estate agent Don Yee as the very capable auctioneer. The happy and positive outcome of this enjoyable evening was the raising of approximately \$26,000 towards the festival.

We are proud that branch committee member Vivien Qin is a member of the Chinese Advisory Group and is very involved in making this exciting festival become a reality.



Harcourts Gold Spitfire Art Competition Prizegiving Ceremony

The prizegiving ceremony at Tūranga (Central Library) on Saturday 4 November was the culmination of several months of hard work (for background details to this event, refer to the August and October newsletters), and built on what was learned from the first competition last year. This involved distributing competition information to all schools in the South Island, and then collecting, sorting and judging all the entries; not an easy task, as the standard was high.



Over 240 entries were received, from Nelson to Invercargill. Once received, it was a matter of sorting them into three age groupings. This was done at the office of Mark Wang, of Harcourts Gold Spitfire, who has generously sponsored these awards in 2022 and 2023.

As the art works were being sorted into their different groups, the first thing that struck everyone present was the amazing standard of the entries. Some of them in fact were outstanding. Once sorted, our three judges got down to the very challenging process of deciding the winners in each category.

Judges: L to R: Gray Leonard, Li'Ying Cai and Lieve Bierque



Following a welcome from branch president Chris Goodwin, brief speeches were given by Madam He Ying, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China, competition sponsor Mark Wang of Harcourts Gold Spitfire, as well as a judge’s overview from Lieve Bierque HOD Art, Christchurch Girls’ High School, artist and Honorary Consul of Belgium.

Mark Wang, Harcourts Gold Spitfire



This was followed by the prizegiving ceremony, with the prizes being awarded by Cr Tyla Harrison-Hunt, Branch President Chris Goodwin, NZCFS National Patron Sir David Carter and Madam He Ying. The ceremony was interspersed with a number of cultural performances. It was delightful to watch the young artists coming forward to receive their prizes, which were vouchers for Westfield Mall; Third Prize \$100, Second Prize \$200 and First Prize \$300 and those who received a Highly Commended were given small gifts by the Chinese Consulate.



Cr Tyla Harrison-Hunt with award recipients



NZCFS National Patron Sir David Carter with award recipients



Dance: Xi yue



Committee members took the opportunity of talking to several of the parents and visitors and received a lot of positive feedback; we feel we've made some useful contacts. The process, from distributing information to schools right through to the ceremony, was a huge success.

A special vote of thanks must go to the three judges, Gray Leonard, Li'Ying Cai and Lieve Bierque, for their expertise and enthusiasm to be involved; it was very much appreciated.



The branch committee would like to acknowledge the generosity of Mark Wang and Harcourts Gold Spitfire and AJ Motors for the very generous sponsorship of this exciting and rewarding annual event.

The great news is that Harcourts Gold Spitfire has generously announced it will sponsor the art competition again next year! A big Thank You to

Mark Wang and his team!!

Photos: John Tan

Annual Prizegiving Ceremony

Our branch has held an annual prizegiving ceremony for the best students of the Chinese language in Christchurch since 1998. Originally, it was held at the Christchurch Polytechnic of Technology (now ARA), for the best students of Chinese at that institution, which provided both the venue and the catering for the supper which followed the ceremony. Di Madgin and Bill Willmott of our branch drove the early days of this annual process, in conjunction with Margaret Pierson and Qi Lubao at the polytech. From those early days, it grew to the point where something like 10 or 11 schools were involved.

With the establishment of the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury in the last few years, which runs its own annual prizegiving process, we felt the time had come, especially with the resources it has available compared to us, that we combine our ceremony process with its. Therefore, after much thought, our branch committee reluctantly decided that last year would be the last time we did it.

The Confucius Institute event was held earlier this month, and is reported on below.

Confucius Institute Prizegiving

On November 1, the Confucius Institute's award ceremony for outstanding Chinese learners in Canterbury was held at St Margaret's College. Professor Kevin Watson, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Chair of the CIUC Board formally welcomed the attendees and award winners. Madam He Ying, the Consul General of The People's Republic of China in Christchurch, our Branch President Chris Goodwin, and Dr Zhifang Song, Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury, gave speeches, encouraging and congratulating all Chinese learners and participants of the National Annual Chinese Calligraphy Competition.



The event attracted more than 400 teachers, Chinese learners and their families from Christchurch schools offering Chinese classes. The award ceremony focused on the "2023 Chinese Learning Excellence Awards" (Primary School Group, Secondary School Group, University Group), the "14th Aotearoa New Zealand Chinese Calligraphy Competition Award", and the HSK and YCT Examination Excellence Awards, with more than 100 school representatives and outstanding students taking the stage to receive awards. Education Consul Shen Jian, President Chris Goodwin, Executive Dean and Professor Kevin Watson, Consul General He Ying, and Dr Song Zhifang presented honorary certificates and prizes to the winning schools and students and expressed their warm congratulations.





Interspersed during the ceremony was a Tai Chi sword performance from CIUC's martial arts teacher, Wang Hongchun, and a dance from Xinjiang, "Why are Flowers So Red" performed by CIUC Mandarin Learning Assistant, Zhao Yuanjun.



This was an excellent event, and those of us in attendance from our branch committee quickly realised we had made the correct decision in moving forward and combining with the Confucius Institute from now on with this annual event.



Convergence Art Exhibition
4th Floor, Tūranga (Central Library)
11 November - 3 December



This very interesting exhibition has artworks by five local artists; Marshal Wang, Haruko Furukawa, Masako Fisher, Sayoko Pettigrew and LiYing Cai who is a member of our branch!

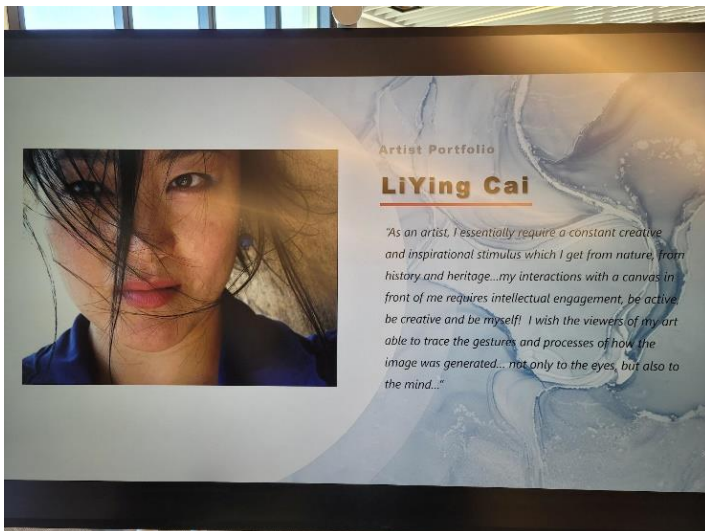
The exhibition has been curated under the Ardour Charitable Trust, which was founded by three enthusiastic Christchurch mothers in June 2012. It is a charitable organisation, where the three trustees work alongside and together with many volunteers.

The object of the Trust is to help create more opportunities for young people from different ethnic communities, with the aim of creating leadership amongst young people, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and promoting cultural exchanges and strengthening multiple ethnic groups ties with local communities.

Have a look at <https://ardournz.org> for further details about the Trust, and be sure to watch the Chinese children doing Irish dancing – delightful!

The Chinese Consulate has given support to the Ardour Charitable Trust, and the exhibition was opened by Madam

He Ying, Consul General of the People's Republic of China.





Look closely; you might see a tiger...



This exhibition is well worth a visit - and the artworks are for sale, so there may well be something there to catch your eye!



Branch Officers

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