

JANUARY 2024 AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Dear NZ China Friendship Society Auckland Members, Friends and Supporters

The New Zealand China Friendship Society in Auckland wishes you all the very best for 2024. May this year be a great one for us all and may our collective and individual efforts during this year further strengthen the peaceful and mutually beneficial relationships that have been built up over the last 71 years between the peoples of New Zealand and the peoples of China

We trust you had an awesome Christmas and a great day celebrating the New Year. The year 2023 had been a particularly busy one for your Branch, with invitation after invitation for our Branch leadership to participate in, and often speak at, other Societies' and Association's events held throughout the year.

New Zealanders Making a Difference – Celebrations and Planning for 2024

As our Society's Auckland Branch President & Chairman, I had great pleasure in inviting our VIP and Celebrity Guests, Members, Supporters and Friends to join our Committee Members on Friday, 1 December 2023, to rejoice together and Celebrate:

1. Rewi Alley's 126th Birthday Anniversary;
2. His outstanding contribution to the positive relationship between New Zealand and China;
3. New Zealanders Making a Difference – Rewi Alley and Kathleen Hall (He Ming Qing); and
4. Our 'Involving Business' Session – *Maintaining Friendship & Doing Business with China*.



Some of the participants attending our New Zealanders Making a Difference Celebrations on 1 December 2023

Brief Summary of our Auckland Branch President's Opening Ceremony Speech

The friendly relations between New Zealand and China that Rewi Alley's and Kathleen Hall's support helped establish, have provided invaluable opportunities for New Zealanders of all ages, contributing many billions of dollars to the New Zealand economy, income that would otherwise go elsewhere.

His friendship and support for China in its darkest hours has helped get us to where we are today. However, as important as this relationship is, it is what we continue to do today and tomorrow, that really matters. These relationships have provided, and continue to provide, favourable trade outcomes and valuable opportunities, trade & otherwise, for New Zealanders of all ages.

Rewi Alley knew the essential pre-condition for successful social and economic development was the securing of peaceful relations between nations. Peaceful relations with other nations is what China seeks, nothing more. It does not call on other nations to provide troops and/or weapons for wars, nor does it interfere in other countries internal affairs.

Informed engagement on the part of New Zealand businesses is absolutely essential to achieving economic success, especially for middle sized to small businesses. New Zealand is a country with a very high proportion of middle to small businesses, which, nonetheless, make up a significant proportion of our import/export trade. Well informed, they can do much better.

The Auckland Branch of the NZCFS has now embarked on a Campaign to engage with business to bring about a greater awareness within the Business Community of the role Friendship plays in our Relationship with China. Relationships, especially friendly relationships, are everything to Chinese people, doing business or otherwise. Businesses and their staff are best placed to maintain economic success in NZ.

Some VIPs, Organisers and Members who attended our celebrations



Mike Dawson Auck Chair, Chen SheJie China Consul-General Auck, Nancy Yan CANSC (AUCK NZ), Naisi Chen Ex-MP, Yang Jian Ex-MP, Nancy Lu MP, Sir David Carter NZCFS Patron, Dave Bromwich NZCFS Past Nat President, Xinli Deng, Grandson of Rewi Alley.

New Members joining us in our celebrations on 1 December 2023

It was great to see a number of new members join us on the day, and wonderful to meet, chat and get to know them a little. It is always a great pleasure when we have new members. Given the geo-political tensions in the world today, there has hardly been a better time, in this century, where our message of peace and friendship is in greater need.



Sandra Tau, Mae Ding, Mike Dawson, Kennedy Fualu



Ian McIntosh

A Wonderful Rewi Alley Art Donation

The very talented New Zealand Chinese artist XingNin QI, see her photo below, created a beautiful painting of Rewi Alley and, at our New Zealanders Making a Difference, etc, Celebrations on 1 December 2023, donated it to the Auckland Branch of our Society. I was moved when accepting it on our behalf, and advised Grace that we would endeavour to have it displayed in an art gallery, preferably in Auckland, where it could be regularly viewed.



The good news is that Joshua Zong and Fang Xu, the owners of Ai International Art Gallery in Epsom, Auckland, readily agreed to display it in their gallery where it can be viewed and appreciated by all who visit! 😊

Youth Session

China GongHe International Committee Online & China International Students Association

This session was very interesting and it was super great to see so many young people who not only know about Rewi Alley's work and support for Chinese people, but also know about his Legacy.



Rewi Alley's grandson, DENG Xinli

Xinli, pictured above, spoke to this Session and following is what he had to say.

"Grandpa Alley used to frequently receive many visitors from all over the world. He often gave my paintings as gifts to visitors. A New Zealand lady visited Grandpa Alley back then (and one of my paintings was given to her by Grandpa Alley at that time. He also wrote an explanation on the back of the painting. After so many years, she has been keeping this painting. Now she has found me and returned the painting to me." Xinli added that this showed great respect for "grandpa".



New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc.

Patron: Sir David Carter KNZM

Honorary Lifelong Patron: Simon Deng Li MNZM

Auckland Branch President: Mike Dawson

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Charities Commission Registration: CC24101

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A HUGE THANK YOU

Herewith is a huge Thank You to the 2023 Alley Week Group who helped with the planning for this event, listed in alphabetical order as follows: Doris Xing, Caroline Li, Mae Ding, Mike Dawson, Nancy Yan and Neville Cant. It was great working with each of them and the Auckland Branch deeply appreciates the support they gave.

Notice of Committee Meetings and Members' Invitation

Our Branch Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month 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 that may help us to achieve 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.

To this end, we invite Members to make contact and to offer suggestions as to what they would like to see us doing to better foster friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and the peoples of China.

This year we are aiming at creating a number of activities that our Members and their families, and our friends and supporters, can enjoy and participate in. If you can play a musical instrument of any kind and/or can sing, or you have any games that we can all share in the fun of at such events, please let us know!

If you would like to know more about our Branch Committee or its activities, please feel free to ask or come along to some of our Notified Gatherings or other Society Events and Celebrations and meet your Committee Members and people from other Societies.

To help with our Newsletter or to just let us know ...

If you come across any information or photos that could help us create relevant Newsletter articles or make us aware of anything that could help us with our work, please let us know by emailing them to auckland@nzcfs.com or WeChat at "staynz".

We wish you all a wonderfully happy and safe summer break!

Kia pai tō ra

Mike Dawson
Chair/President
AUCKLAND BRANCH