

## Christchurch Branch Newsletter – February 2024

Editor: Dave Adamson | Email: [dacb@outlook.co.nz](mailto:dacb@outlook.co.nz) | Mobile: 022 1283215

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### Contacts

- Patron: The Right Honourable Sir David Carter KNZM
- Hon Patron: Simon Deng Li MNZM
- President: Chris Goodwin  
[goodie.chris@gmail.com](mailto:goodie.chris@gmail.com)
- Secretary: Gwynneth Tinkler  
[gandgtinkler@gmail.com](mailto:gandgtinkler@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Anna Chen  
C/- P O Box 7366  
Sydenham  
Christchurch 8240
- Executive 2023:
- Graeme Tinkler (VP)
  - William Qiu (VP)
  - Vivien Qin
  - David Stringer
  - Dave Adamson
  - Alex Fraser
  - Matt McKenna
  - Felicia Chen
  - Laura Carter
  - Jodie Martin

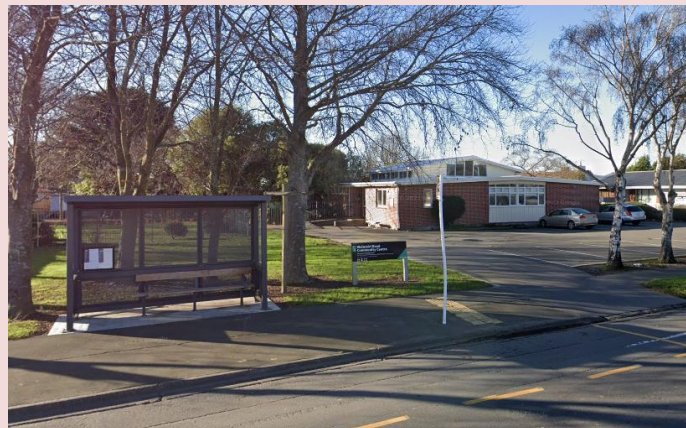
### 2024 The Year of the Dragon



People born in the Year of the Dragon are traditionally thought to be enthusiastic, intelligent, lively, energetic, and innovative.

### IMPORTANT: new meeting location

From our 29 February meeting, this will be our new home. Easy access, good parking.



**Waimairi Road Community Centre**  
166 Waimairi Rd, Ilam

## ***Next Meeting – 29 February 2024***

### ***Annual General Meeting***

The first meeting of the year always includes the branch's Annual General Meeting. Please give some thought as to whether you would like to stand for the committee. This is an opportunity to become more involved in our society's activities. We are all committed to the NZCFS; here's your chance to give your talents to achieve the aims of our organisation.

The following roles on our branch committee are to be filled:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- committee members

If you think you would like to become involved in the running of our branch, please come along and put your name forward; nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

**To be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting, you need to be a financial member.**

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

If you have not already done so, please ensure your 2024 membership is paid.

**Please note that for 2024 we have changed our membership fees to align with the fees charged nationally. For most people, this will result in a reduction.**

- Student (full time) \$10
- Single \$20
- Families / couples \$30

### **Payment Method**

#### **Bank Transfer**

Society bank account number: **38 9010 0816274 00**

#### **IMPORTANT:**

1. Please be sure to enter your name as a reference and
2. Please remember to send an email with your name, address and a contact number to [nzcfchristchurch@gmail](mailto:nzcfchristchurch@gmail.com) so we can add you to the membership list.



## 29 February Speaker

Following the Annual General Meeting, we will have a talk by Sam Lu about his journey to produce baijiu in New Zealand under the name of Taizi, and will also include some tastings!

Chinese liquor can be drunk straight, with a mixer, or as a substitute for most spirits in cocktails. It tastes fruity, like a pineapple Fruju, that has an alcohol content of 58%.

### What is Taizi?

You've possibly never heard of it. Taizi is a creation that could be both a stepping stone for the Western world and a New World baijiu for the Chinese. Chinese Baijiu - a flammable white liquor, and the most popular spirit worldwide (consumed more than vodka, gin, rum and tequila combined). Distilled from fermented sorghum, wheat and grain, Baijiu has been loved and treasured by all generations and dynasties for over 5,000 years. Now Baijiu is slowly entering the Western world, sharing its amazing rich Chinese essence. Taizi literally means "Extreme Purple" but sounds the same as "Crown Prince" in Chinese. It is the first Baijiu made in the west (New Zealand). Using high quality produce found in the Southern Hemisphere with a century-old copper distillation pot and pure underground spring water from the Southern Alps. It is a drink made for Crown Princes - The Ultimate Imperial Experience.

Be sure to bring your taste buds along!!



## Needlework

Members may remember the article in the August 2022 branch newsletter (Pages 4 and 5) about branch member Dave Adamson's offer to produce a needlework for UUNZ, a Chinese business institute in Auckland. It was based on an artwork UUNZ Director Cathy Zhang's daughter Sarah had designed for the amazing Rewi Alley Memorial Hall at UUNZ, depicting the word love in Chinese, English and Māori, with a pounamu-styled background. Dave sent a hi resolution image of it to a woman in Spain who produced a needlework chart for him to work from.



15 months, 711 hours and 97,200 stitches later, it was finished!! Then it was a matter of washing, ironing and stretching it, followed by pinning and lacing it on to artist's board. This process took three days. He then couriered it to UUNZ, which arranged for it to be framed. UUNZ kindly flew Dave and his wife Carol to



Auckland for the 19 December unveiling ceremony, which was attended by local dignitaries and several members of our society.



*UUNZ Director Cathy Zhang and Dave Adamson*



*Carol and Dave Adamson*

This is a link to the full ceremony....

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tidzdKc6qrXpNzzc8>

.... or, here is a link to a shortened 30 second version:



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20426.mp4

Our society's National President, Chris Lipscombe and Northern Vice President Miao Fan were at the ceremony, and each gave a speech. The ceremony was a very good opportunity for our society to be promoted and highlighted to a cross-section of important Auckland people.



Dave said he was very proud to have this artwork as his legacy to the society, and the memory of the great Rewi Alley. He would encourage anyone going to Auckland to go to UUNZ ([www.uunz.ac.nz](http://www.uunz.ac.nz) [info@uunz.ac.nz](mailto:info@uunz.ac.nz) 09 915 3390) and visit the Rewi Alley Memorial Hall, you will be made very welcome.



## **Chinese New Year Festival**

Readers may remember the articles in the August and November 2023 newsletters about the proposed 9 – 11 February 2024 Christchurch multicultural Chinese New Year Festival Celebration. The Chinese Advisory Group, a group of representatives from nine local organisations, was formed to make this exciting festival a reality, and branch member Vivien Qin had a major role in the planning and running of the event. The Group's hard work certainly paid off; it proved to be a huge success with 36 stalls, 150 performances and about 40,000 visitors over the three days of the festival.



Amongst the performers at the festival was a group of four singers and dancers from Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Their visit was organized by the Chinese Consulate General in Christchurch.



They were accompanied by Li Jing, Deputy Chief of the European, American and Oceania Affairs division of the Gansu Foreign Affairs Office. Li Jing, or Becky as she is known to us, has been to Christchurch several times and is well known to quite a few members of our branch.

Maurice and Colleen Hunt, Dave and Carol Adamson and Judy and Eric Livingstone home hosted Becky when she studied here at the local polytech many years ago.





The Christchurch China Sister Cities Committee (CCSCC) had a stall at the festival, which proved to be very popular and gave it the opportunity to promote its activities to the public of Christchurch.



On the Friday, it was visited by Ambassador Wang Xiaolong and Consul General Madame He Ying. The group was only here for four days, but they certainly managed to cram a lot in during that time. The Christchurch China Sister Cities Committee, in conjunction with the Selwyn Sister City Committee, arranged for them to visit both Springfield and Amberley as well as several schools which, following the visit of local principals to China last September, are now linked with schools in Gansu province. They are sure to have gone home with very happy memories.





*Hurunui Mayor Marie Black with delegation members at the Amberley Chinese Garden.*



*Advisory Group, which organised the festival (branch member Vivien Qin fourth from right).*



### ***China's 'Year of the Widow'***

This is an interesting article. Who would have ever thought China would be concerned about declining population; we live in strange times indeed:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/china-weibo-internet-year-of-widow-marriage-birth-rate-superstition-2024-1>



#### ***Branch Officers***

President: Chris Goodwin [goodie.chris@gmail.com](mailto:goodie.chris@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Graeme Tinkler [gandgtinkler@gmail.com](mailto:gandgtinkler@gmail.com)  
Vice President: William Qiu [nzpr.group@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nzpr.group@xtra.co.nz)  
Treasurer: Anna Chen [annachengf@gmail.com](mailto:annachengf@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Gwynneth Tinkler [gandgtinkler@gmail.com](mailto:gandgtinkler@gmail.com)  
Branch Honorary Patron: Diana Madgin