

Christchurch Branch Newsletter – August 2024

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- William Qiu (VP)
- Dave Adamson
- Matt McKenna
- Laura Carter
- Mike Wu
- Bruno Unger
- Fay Song

Our two 29 August Speakers: Nick Chen "Talk on anti-scam, individual privacy protection and IT security"



I am a design engineer who specialises in fire safety and risk assessment, and I am passionate about safety and security in general but also that of each individuals'.

In 2023, CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) NZ received 7,935 reports of cyber incidents, which included scams and other forms of cybercrime. New Zealanders lost a record \$9 million to internet scams in just three months, highlighting the prevalence and impact of these crimes. The ten most widely reported scam types in New Zealand are Phishing Scams, Courier Scams, Tech Support Scams, Investment Scams, Romance Scams, Lottery/Prize Scams, Online Shopping Scams, Charity Scams, Invoice Scams, and Remote Access Scams. People lose security, lose money often lifetime savings, left emotionally devastated and sometimes lose their lives to scams. To prepare and avoid scams, people should stay informed about common phishing types, how phishing works and why do they work.

Everyone is conscious of the constant threat of technology scams, be it through our phones or computers; we need to be there to hear what Nick has to say on this very important issue. Nick is the son of branch member Anna Chen.

Followed by

Ms. Zhu Yu, Director of the Consular Section and Mr. Xu Li, Director of the Bilateral Section of the Chinese Consulate General in Christchurch will give a brief talk on the Status Quo of China - New Zealand relationship and the latest China Visa Policy for New Zealand citizens, which will be followed by any questions people may have.

New Members

Mr. Yue Cheng is from Changsha City. He is an economist and held several senior roles in his city. He is now retired, and he and his wife have lived in Christchurch since 2019.

Cecilia Chen is from Beijing, and has lived in New Zealand for 26 years. She started her own architectural design company and runs a motel.

Cecilia Xiao has lived here for 17 years, and is a commercial sales consultant with Harcourt Grenadier.

We are delighted to welcome them into our branch family and look forward to meeting them at our various activities.



Obituary: Diana Madgin



We announce with great sadness that our Branch Honorary Patron, Diana Madgin, widow of late Emeritus Professor Bill Willmott (who was national president of our society for many years), passed away in Christchurch on 13 August.

Di was Christchurch Branch President for three years, and also served for several years on the National Executive. She had a larger than life personality, which meant she always left her mark on everything she was involved in with the society. Her involvement in all society activities was always a truly tour de force. You always knew when Di was in the room!

Along with Bill, she had a huge passion for China and led family and garden tours there on behalf of our society.

Di designed the Chinese Garden at Amberley (where Rewi Alley spent his boyhood years), North Canterbury, which was officially opened on 2 December 2017 by the Governor-General, Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy. The garden cemented the sister district relationship forged between the Hubei, Changping and Hurunui Districts and acted as a dual celebration of the work and legacy of the late Rewi Alley on the 120th Anniversary of his life. She also had a role in the design and construction of the Lan Yuan Chinese Garden in Dunedin, which is recognised as a six-star Garden of International Significance.

Immediate Past National President Dave Bromwich has said: *"It was a shock to learn ... of Di's death. I met her firstly through her husband Bill, then as an executive member of NZCFS when I was president. She came across as a most warm and sincere person, with a deep sense of compassion. Her energy inspired confidence in the activities that were close to her heart: her chairmanship of the Kathleen Hall committee, her passion for gardens, her devotion and support for Bill.... She was simply a lovely person and will never be forgotten"*.

It would be fair to say Di and Bill were a couple of national significance within our society for many years, and her passing brings to a close a very eventful and rich period in its history.

Her passion for gardening was reflected in the many years she wrote regular articles for the gardening page of the local Christchurch newspaper, and this, combined with her deep knowledge of Chinese garden design meant she was well known and highly respected by the gardening community in the city.

She is survived by her daughters Katherine and Sarah and grandson Jack, to whom we give our profound condolences on the passing of a remarkable woman.

NZCFS Vietnam and China Tour, March - April 2024



Tinkler and Dave Adamson.

Our society ran an annual tour to China for many years, and in some years had two. Covid put a temporary stop to that. However, now that the pandemic is over.... this March and April, our society had a 24 day tour of Vietnam and China, which included nine days in Tibet; the first to China since 2019.

The tour itinerary was planned and led by our immediate previous National President Dave Bromwich, in conjunction with China-based Wang Fang; they have worked closely on our society tours for about 13 years; very experienced and a good team. There were 20 people on the tour, from as far and near as Whangarei and Dunedin and everything in between, including Christchurch branch members Graeme and Gwynneth

This article, on the Vietnam part of the tour, will be the first of three over the next three months; September will be on China and October will focus on the Tibet portion of the tour.

We all met up at Auckland airport. Some of us knew each other and some didn't, as the group was made up of a mix of NZCFS members and members of the general public, so there was the usual slight reserve and reticence and polite conversation. However, it didn't take too long for us all to start chatting away and breaking the ice.

Once we reached Hanoi airport we quickly got our luggage, went through customs and were met by our local guide and Wang Fang, who would be with us for the full length of the tour; it was like meeting an old friend; she's a real gem. From there it was off into the bustling city for a bowl of noodles; delicious.

The first day we all went to a money machine and got out some Vietnamese Dong; the conversion rate was 15,000 Dong to the NZ\$; wow, I felt wealthy! We then spent two days on a whirlwind of visiting the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh (where I got told off for walking where I shouldn't!), the Hoa Lo war museum, known during the Vietnam War as the Hanoi Hilton, a very sobering visit; it was interesting to read the captions with the photos, which not surprisingly gave a different slant to what we in the West were told at the time. I found it almost a little surreal to be there as a Westerner.



From there we went to the Tran Quac pagoda on an island in Hanoi's West Lake, and then on to the

Temple of Literature. This was all topped off with the water puppet festival, which was a very fascinating thing to watch (how do they do some of these things??).

The next day we travelled by coach and ferry to Cat Ba Island. We were taken to a secret bombproof hospital which the North Vietnamese had built inside a cave (and what a scramble up to the entrance!) during the Vietnam War. It was certainly a sobering experience, imagining what it must have been like for both wounded soldiers and medical staff.

This was followed by kayaking in Ha Long Bay. Those who did not wish to do this could go in a



punt - where all the work was done for you! From there it was back to Viet Hai village to cycle along the village paths and see the traditional Vietnamese bamboo houses.

We then went back to Hanoi for a night. Next morning we travelled through the Red River delta to Sapa and visited ethnic minority villages. By this time, we were all getting to know each other better, and I realised it was a very eclectic mix of interesting and well-travelled people - quite frankly, if someone had said they had been to the moon I wouldn't have been all that surprised! It was the start of many interesting conversations.



Next day we travelled to the Vietnam - China border to Hekou. A crucial gateway between China and Vietnam, it is adjacent to the Red River - and so started the China part of the adventure. That's for the September story.

A final Vietnam observation - the people are friendly and it's sad to think of what they have been through, but oh boy, they certainly need to do something about the littering; we were all shocked.

Story: Dave Adamson Photos: Graeme Tinkler



A Friend in Need is A Friend Indeed

Following the crash in icy conditions of two buses of Chinese tourists, which occurred 100 metres apart on State Highway 8 - the Tekapo-Twizel Highway - on 18 July, Consul General He Ying of the People's Republic of China in Christchurch, had a very touching letter of thanks published in a Timaru local community paper. It is a heartfelt read and is printed here; a glowing testimony to the strong bond between the peoples of our two countries.

As the old saying goes, a friend in need is a friend indeed. Recent bus accident involving Chinese tourists close to Lake Tekapo is a perfect example of what true friendship means.

In this accident, dozens of Chinese tourists including some children were injured. Soon after the accident, the Mackenzie District Council, the Canterbury police, the local civil defence and community volunteers rushed to the scene and immediately sent the injured to hospitals and others to the local welfare centre, where volunteers provided meals, translation services and psychological counselling. The children, in particular, were not only properly accommodated, but also accompanied by volunteers to play basketball, so that they would feel less pain and stress brought by the accident.

When I visited my fellow Chinese citizens injured in this accident, many of them broke into tears and repeatedly asked me to convey their gratitude to the local passers-by who lent a hand without hesitation after the bus crash.

A lady said, "My son's face was covered in blood and I was petrified. A gentleman squatted down to help bandage my son's wounds and kept giving him encouragement and comfort."

Another lady said, "I am very grateful to a kiwi mother who was holding a baby. It was very cold at that time. She came to us with her baby, put all the clothes they brought over my child and asked us to stay in her car to keep warm."

Another said, "My husband and child were both taken to the hospital, so I was very worried and helpless. A lady came over and kept comforting me and listened to me patiently. I am especially grateful for her understanding and consolation."

On behalf of these Chinese tourists, my team and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the New Zealanders who provide your priceless help and support. Please forgive me for not being able to thank you all in person. Your actions demonstrated the true essence of the humanitarianism of the New Zealanders and your deep friendship for these Chinese tourists, which warmed our hearts. This also reminded me of our New Zealand friends who stood with us shoulder by shoulder in times of difficulty.

We won't forget Katherine Hall, a New Zealand nurse, who came to China during the most difficult years of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, regardless of her own safety, providing medical services to Chinese soldiers and ordinary people under extremely harsh conditions. She had a beautiful Chinese name, He Mingqing.

We won't forget James Bertram, a New Zealand journalist, who went to the front line to report stories of the Chinese people's resistance during World War II, and helped the western world better understand China's great sacrifice and contributions to the final victory of the Allied Countries.

We won't forget Rewi Alley, an old friend of Chinese people, who initiated Gung-Ho movement (the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives) and Beili School in China during World War II. For him, sixty years in China was just like a single day, as he devoted all his time and energy to China and its people, making an important contribution to the establishment of diplomatic relationship between China and New Zealand. His great deeds are still remembered by the Chinese people today.

In this race against time to rescue the injured, all the kiwi friends who generously rendered help are Katherine Hall, James Bertram, and Rewi Alley of the day. What you have demonstrated is not only excellent professional competence but also profound respect and care for life. Through your actions, we are once again moved by the warmth and harmony of New Zealand society and the enthusiasm and kindness of the New Zealand people.

These heartwarming stories and deep friendship between China and New Zealand laid the cornerstone for the stable development and further advancement of China-New Zealand relations. Chinese people will always remember with gratitude those kiwi friends who have supported us through thick and thin, whether in the past, present or future. We are willing to work hand in hand to ensure that the friendship between China and New Zealand will be passed on to future generations, further benefiting our two peoples.



Membership

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW OVERDUE; Have you paid yours?

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.com so we can add you to the membership list.**



Newsletter Content

We're always looking for interesting content for our branch newsletter, and of course for the national monthly newsletter as well. If you know of something which could be of interest to our members, please forward it to the editor (details on the first page of this newsletter). Please be aware this does not mean it will automatically go in, but certainly anything deemed to be of interest will be seriously considered.

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