

# **National Treasurer Statements**

## **Jefferson Chen**

The reasons why I want to hold National Treasurer can be summarised into three main points.

Firstly:

I completed my master's degree in Accounting at AUT one month ago. Having now graduated, it is important for me to start making my contribution to Society. What better way than to apply my practical skills and knowledge for the benefit of the NZCFS, an organisation that I believe is very imperative in continuing to build enduring friendships and relationships between New Zealanders and the Chinese people.

Secondly:

My working experience at PWC in Shanghai, along with Tiger Brokers and Tourism Holdings Limited in Auckland, this involvement has given me 'hands on' experience as to how I can provide both practical and valuable contributions to the Society's day-to-day operations.

Thirdly

As a Shanghai young man who has been studying in New Zealand over the past two years, I have come to realise how strong the relationship is between China and New Zealand. I believe that my contribution, in the role of National Treasurer of the Society, could assist the Society in further growing the relationship between the two peoples in the areas where my experience and knowledge in finance, tertiary education, technology, culture, community service and business can be observed.

Having developed important and requisite personal skills, while holding leadership positions in several student and community organisations at AUT, I believe that I understand and possess that essential spirit of collaboration and teamwork, so vital in a voluntary Society. I love working with diverse people from many different backgrounds. I believe that I have the knowledge and experience, coupled with a humble attitude, to assist the Society to achieve many of its goals. If I achieve my desired role and I am elected as the Society's National Treasurer, I make a personal commitment to you that I will fulfil the role thoroughly and with diligence.

Respectfully, I ask for your support and vote.

## **Michael John Queree**

After my first visit to China in 2012, visiting Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, I developed a strong interest in China-New Zealand relations, Chinese history, culture and language and a love of China and it's people. This interest led me towards membership of the NZCFS and as secretary of the NZCFS - Whanganui Branch (2012-2016) I was able to share my passion and interest with other like-minded members.

Since 2012 I have travelled to China 7 times including two placements as a volunteer English tutor, one semester in Anhui, Wuhu (2014) and two semesters in Sichuan, Mianyang (2016 & 2017). I have travelled extensively across China since 2012 and amassed over 40,000km and 100 train journeys over this time. I have also recently started a small part-time business that supports school and tour groups from China wishing to have an exchange or tour to NZ, arranging the itineraries and making the necessary inbound travel arrangements. In 2018, in partnership with the Beijing Ski Association, I organised a two week "School and Ski" tour for a group of 26 Beijing School Children and Parents, visiting the Central North Island region where I am based.

My 40 year career has spanned the fields of Accountancy, Self-employment, horticulture, conservation, adult education and managing social services. My early career involved accountancy positions in Christchurch, London and the Middle East. I hold a Bachelor Degree of Commerce and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Natural Resource Management. I have many transferable skills including Accounting & Budgeting skills, Administration & Organisational skills, and IT skills. As I am now in a semi-retired phase of my life, I would be happy to share both my time and skills with the NZCFS in order to promote the aims and future aspirations of the society.

## **National Executive Statements**

### **Amy Tanabe**

Although I am taking a step small step back from the secretarial team, I still believe I can support the society in our mutual goal to promote friendship and understanding between New Zealand and China. I feel my knowledge with technology and IT have and will continue to be of benefit to the society.

### **Mark Price**

I, Mark Price, would like to extend my appreciation for being nominated for the position of National Executive for the National Committee.

I graciously accept this nomination.

I bring to the organisation my branding, event planning, communications, and digital transformation expertise. This will serve a great benefit for NZCFS as we move into the coming years as we utilise our existing resources to expand our organisation into New Zealand's largest city centres. I lived in China for two years as an English Teacher, primarily in Tianjin, but travelled to dozens of other cities. Since 15, I have traded primarily with chinese businesses, and with my father, flew to HK annually. Here in auckland, I am member of 3 international organisations, of which two I am a founding member.

### **George Andrews**

I stand on my record as an active member of NZCFS since 2004, my 10 years as Auckland President, and National Vice President North. I helped initiate the advent of the RAFE fund in 2012 and was personally responsible the DENG fund the following year.

I initiate projects and get things done. This approach has served me well in my broadcasting and film-making career and I believe my experience and judgement can continue to be of benefit to the NZCFS for the year ahead.

### **Simon Appleton**

Simon has spent the last three years as the National Secretary while he is pleased to step down from the role he still hopes to remain involved in the society as a National Executive member. Simon's enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture as well as his experience living and doing business in China will help enhance the National Executive.

### **John Hodgson**

I joined NZCFS soon after I returned to New Zealand in 2005 after having lived in China for four years where my wife and I were teaching English. Though we travelled widely most of our time was spent in Jiangxi Province where we had met many many people and established many long lasting friendships.

In 2010 was invited to join NZCFS Tauranga Branch Committee and a year later was elected as President. I joined The National Executive in 2012 and this is when my experience in China became valuable with not only my contacts in schools but the relationships I have with senior officials in both Jiangxi Provincial Education Department and Jiangxi Foreign Affairs Office.

I was Chair of The Education Committee on the National Executive for two years and Chair of the Exchanges Committee for the last eight years leading a programme of annual secondary school exchanges with foccii such as International Business and Trade (2017), Journalism (2016), Horticulture (2015), Media (2018). Currently I am organising an indepth cultural exchange between Te Wharekura a Mauau (Total Immersion Maori School) and Nanchang Foreign Language School – the aim here is to go well beyond a superficial cultural exchange.

I have helped local schools to establish their own educational exchanges with schools in China and these programmes have continued on now for about four years totally independent of us at NZCFS. As well as the student exchanges I have organised tours for teachers to China visiting schools from Beijing and Shanghai to Nanchang.

Since its inception in 2012 I have been a member of The Simon Deng Arts & Culture Exchange Fund Administration Committee drawing on both my career in education and time in China. I have readily shared my experience and contacts in Nanchang with colleagues in NZCFS for their visits, exchanges, tours and commercial interests.

I believe strongly in the goals of NZCFS of improved understanding and friendship between New Zealand and China and am keen to continue the work I have been doing for The NZCFS National Executive generally but especially providing strong support for the revitalizing Tauranga Branch with its new committee.

### **David Stringer**

I joined the society about 5 years ago after starting to learn the Chinese language and because of my long standing love of the culture.

I was immediately immersed in the position of Branch Secretary where I have observed and learnt much, and now see I can be of (hopefully) valuable assistance to the Society at a national level, building on the knowledge, skills and contacts I have gained as branch secretary, as well as my many contacts in China both through the society and from my personal visits to China.

If elected, I hope to use my skills grow our society locally and to promote the China, her beautiful scenery, her people, and their culture.

### **David Campbell Adamson**

I am putting myself forward for a seat on the National Executive.

I have been a member of the Christchurch branch of the NZCFS for about 14 years, and on the National Executive for about ten years. Until two years ago, when I stood down, I had been Vice President South Island for five years.

Until I retired in 2009, I worked for 13 years in the Christchurch City Council Civic and International Relations team. The role's main focus was the city's relationships in China, predominantly the sister city links with Wuhan City and Gansu Province, but also working with delegation visits from various parts of China to the city.

Following my retirement, I was a member of the Christchurch China Sister Cities committee for several years, the last three or four as deputy chair. The committee handles Christchurch's links with Gansu Province and Wuhan City, plus other China activities. I was on the board of Sister Cities New Zealand for eight years, seven of them as Vice President.

I have been involved with China for 24 years. I have been there many times, and have a huge passion for China and her people. As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with all its challenges, my main focus is on helping to improve relations with China through educating New Zealanders about that amazing country and its people.

### **Vivien Qin**

I was born and raised in Hunan province of the People's Republic of China. I arrived in Christchurch 20 years ago, since then Christchurch has become my second home. I'm married with a gorgeous three year old daughter and am luckily having my mum living with us. I speak both Mandarin and English fluently. I've been working in the banking industry for over 10 years.

I've been serving as a committee member of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Christchurch Branch for over 10 years, including as the treasurer and vice president. I'm very passionate about using the opportunities that exist to improve the friendships between New Zealand and China.

I believe the free exchange of ideas and beliefs is important for a close understanding between countries and cultures. Person to person contact is fundamental to all relationships and NZCFS's role in fostering these one on one relationships is vital for continuously enhancing inter-country understanding. The greater the level of understanding, the greater the opportunities for enduring peace, enhanced economic growth and improved quality of life for all.

## **Kylie Meredith**

The legacy of the work of Rewi Alley, Kathleen Hall and so many other New Zealand people linked to the New Zealand China Friendship Society, is the story of our shared humanity and our struggle with the Chinese for a better life.

When I read of the life works of these New Zealanders, the value of their legacy for me is in providing mechanisms for people to transform themselves and their communities, through the sharing of knowledge and in a solidarity of purpose.

I have some skills which I would like to share and which I believe would support the organisations strategy and to enable further development of the legacy of the founders of the organisation.

I lived and worked in China for 18 months. During this time I spent a lot of my time in Hong Kong and Beijing although I did travel to a number of other areas within China. I returned two years ago to travel over a few weeks and loved the new experiences of the people again. It's impossible not to enjoy the company of Chinese people, their food and their culture. Their struggles as a nation and the struggles they have to help other nations were something I not only feel drawn to but a connection with.