



THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER 新中通訊



NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER
PO Box 5423 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Website: www.nzcfs.org.nz/wellington

NZCFS Wellington Branch - celebrating 60 years of promoting friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and China

Newsletter October 2020

Next Branch Meeting:

Wednesday 28 October 2020 at 6:30pm

[note change of venue and time for our branch meetings]

Libby Lyon English

on her Chinese experience and organising the Chinese Language Week

Libby will be speaking about her engagement with China and her passion for learning about Chinese people, culture, and language. Libby will also be talking about her involvement in organising Chinese Language Week (20-26 September).

Libby is Silvereye's US consultant, normally based in New York and currently living in Wellington. In 2019, Libby studied Mandarin at Peking University in Beijing after winning the New Zealand China Government Scholarship through the Confucius Institute. She worked for the New Zealand Institute in Beijing and wrote a monthly blog for The New Zealand China Year of Tourism, a partnership between China and New Zealand.



Earlier, while living in London, Libby worked for Albany Investment, an international investment company and Peter and Porter, a high-end shoe manufacturer. In New Zealand, Libby has worked for Agribusiness New Zealand Limited an international investment and exporting company.

Libby's role with Agribusiness NZ took her to the Global Ag-Investing Conference in New York and, amongst other interesting ventures, the launch of a fresh milk brand into China. Libby has met Chinese governors, business leaders and diplomats and has worked on large international deals.

Libby is a communicator, connector and a thinker. She has travelled extensively throughout China and the globe and has a passion for culture, diversity and a globalized world.

Libby has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Religion from Victoria University of Wellington. She is also an accredited member of the Public Relations Institute of New Zealand.

Note change of venue and time for our branch meetings.

Newtown School Hall

Mein Street, Newtown, Wellington (off Riddiford Street, car park entry from Mein Street alongside Wellington Hospital)



MEETING DATES FOR 2020

The last monthly meeting for this year will be on **Wednesday 18 November**. National President Dave Bromwich will join us to talk about what it means to be a friend of China.

BRANCH MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2020 — MEETING REPORT

On Wednesday 16 September 2020, the Wellington Branch welcomed newly elected Wellington Branch President, Chris Lipscombe, to speak of his impressions of Chengdu from his trip in November 2019.



Chris travelled to Chengdu, Sichuan province, to deliver a keynote address at a Conference for *Dialogues and Cooperation of the Belt and Road*. Over the five days Chris was in Chengdu, he also took the opportunity to explore the city, visiting commercial and industrial sites; *Jinli Ancient Street*; a central city music and performance space managed by New Zealander Kristen Ng; and an outdoor museum dedicated to Tang Dynasty poet, *Du Fu*.

(1) The Conference

The Belt and Road Conference for Chambers of Commerce and Associations ran over two days. As well as delivering a keynote speech, Chris had the chance to meet with Patrick Nijs, the former Belgian Ambassador to China and co-founder of the EU-CJII, and to exchange gifts with the Chengdu Vice Mayor, *Madam Jing Jing*. The event concluded with representatives from the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg), Greece, Spain — and New Zealand — standing on stage to affirm the '*Chengdu Initiative on International Cooperation*'.



(2) The Business Tour

At the conclusion of the conference, Chris and his fellow delegates visited the *Chengdu International Trade Centre*, the *Chengdu Railroad Inland Port* (destined to be a major hub in China's Belt and Road connections through Central Asia to Europe), and the *Chengdu Cross-border E-commerce Association*.

Chris noted that trade volumes moving through Chengdu have doubled every year for the past three years. He said he saw an obvious future for NZ exporters in Chengdu!

(3) Jinli Ancient Street

On the first night of the conference, Chris with others explored *Jinli Ancient Street*. The street is reputed to be one of the oldest shopping streets in Sichuan Province. The original thoroughfare can be traced back to the Three Kingdoms Period, over 1,800 years ago.

The street showcases the culture of Shu-Han — one of the Three Kingdoms in existence from 221 to 263 C.E., along with the northern kingdom of Wei and the southern kingdom of Wu. The architecture is typical of the style of the residences in western Sichuan Province, with houses overhanging the streets and waterways running alongside.

(4) NU SPACE

On the second night of the conference, Chris made a point of going to a music and performance venue in Chengdu, called NU SPACE. Chinese-New Zealand musician, Kristen Ng, who is now living in Chengdu, manages the venue called NU SPACE in Kuixinglou Jie. Lonely Planet, Chris told us, calls the area 'delightfully hip'. Chris explained that, as well as events, Kristen also produces electronic music under the name '*Kaishandad*', and that, in 2017, she had organised a tour taking the Wellington underground band, *The All Seeing Hand*, to Chinese audiences, spanning over three weeks and ten cities from Inner Mongolia to Fujian. A film of the band's experiences during their tour of China shot and produced by Wellingtonian Dan Harris was screening that night at the venue.

(5) Du Fu Thatched Cottage Museum

While in Chengdu, Chris also made time to visit the *Du Fu Thatched Cottage Museum*. The museum is a National Heritage site and comprises a large park and museum, built in honour of the Tang Dynasty poet, *Du Fu*.

Du Fu (712–770 C.E.) was a Chinese poet and politician of the Tang Dynasty. Along with *Li Bai*, he is frequently named as one of the greatest Chinese poets.



In 759 C.E. *Du Fu* moved to Chengdu, built a thatched hut near the *Flower Rinsing Creek* (also translated as Blossom Bathing Brook) and lived there for four years. The 'thatched hut' period was the peak of *Du Fu's* creativity, during which he wrote two hundred and forty poems, among them '*My Thatched Hut was torn apart by Autumn Wind*' and '*The Prime Minister of Shu*'.

We thank Chris for his talk and take this opportunity to provide a brief introduction to those who do not yet know Chris.

Over the past four decades Chris has built successful careers in graphic design, book publishing, marketing, IT, and local government across New Zealand, Australia, United States, UK, Singapore, and Dubai. Since 2000 Chris' company Ground Zero has provided strategic planning, training and business support services to companies and government agencies in New Zealand and overseas, including North Asian market entry and investment. Chris continues to work with local businesses and organisations seeking partnerships in China. As well as being the current President of the Wellington Branch of the NZ China Friendship Society, he is also President of the NZ China Cross-Border Electronic Commerce Foundation, Chair of Porirua e-Learning Trust, and on the board of The Printing Museum.

New Zealand Chinese Language Week

New Zealand Chinese Language Week (NZCLW) is a Kiwi-driven initiative designed to increase Chinese language learning in New Zealand. Starting from 2014, this year marks the seventh year of NZCLW.

This year, the NZCFS Wellington Branch members were involved in the following activities:

- Committee member Nigel Murphy presented to the public on Tuesday 22 September at the National Library about the Chee Kung Tong history and Treasures from the Doris Chung Collection. Community advocate Kirsten Wong, a niece of Doris Chung and Doris's family also explained how the collection was kept and the value of the collection.
- Branch President Chris Lipscombe was named as one of nine Mandarin Superstars for the NZCLW 2020. Watch the Youtube videos of Mandarin Superstars on the [NZCLW Youtube channel](#).

MANDARIN CORNER (WELLINGTON)

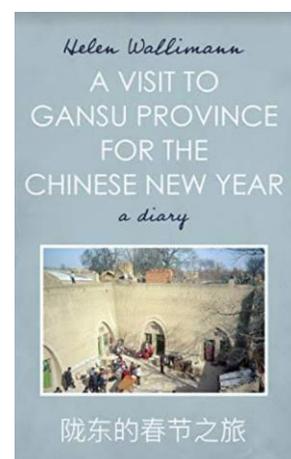
Mandarin Corner (Wellington), established in 1995 by NZCFS, is a weekly event where students learning Chinese meet with native speakers of Chinese for conversation and cultural activities in a friendly, relaxed setting, and is open to all levels. This year, Mandarin Corner is run online on Thursdays.

For more information contact Xiaosheng Zhou at xiaosheng.zhou@vuw.ac.nz.

E-BOOK BY HELEN WALLIMANN, A VISIT TO GANSU PROVINCE FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR 陇东的春节之旅

Helen Wallimann was born and brought up in Cheltenham, UK. After obtaining her MA from Edinburgh University she worked in publishing in Munich, Paris and London. From 1973 until 2001 she was employed as a teacher of French and English in Switzerland.

Helen taught English at Chinese universities for two years (1989-90 and 2002-03). In 2008 and in 2011 she taught English didactics to Chinese schoolteachers in Gansu Province. This book is about her stay with a Chinese family in their farmhouse on the loess plateau of Gansu Province, northern China.



There, during the Chinese New Year holiday, Helen witnessed everyday family life, the busy market, weddings and preparations for weddings, and also various traditions connected with the New Year celebrations and the commemoration of the dead.

Helen Wallimann's descriptions and photographs of a New Year stay in Gansu give a wonderful, lively picture of daily life for millions of Chinese people, far from the neon lights and skyscrapers of China's coastal cities.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy, you can find the book on [Amazon](#).

BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

President: Chris Lipscombe

Vice President and Treasurer: Juping Zhou

Secretary: Vera Xu

Committee Members: Michael Dunwoodie, Bing Fon, Nigel Murphy

Immediate Past President: Kirk McDowall

Honorary Advisors: Luke Qin, Michael Powles

Life Members: Michael Powles, Ray Brownrigg, Bing Fon, Rob McKibbin, Bernie Richmond, Elaine Richmond, Christine Strickland, and Luke Qin.

WEBSITE

<https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wellington-branch-of-the-nzcfs/>

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2020 (the financial year is January to December):

- | | | | |
|--|------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$32 | | |

Name:
(Surname) (Given names)

Spouse's/Partner's Name:
(Surname) (Given names)

Address
(Postal Code)

Phone Email

Contact Person for Organisations:

Payment total is as follows:

Membership Subscription \$

Payment method:

- Payment by Direct Credit to New Zealand China Friendship Society
Bank Account No 117200 0080836 11
ANZ Bank

Please quote your name and "Subscription" and be sure to email details to wgtnczfs@gmail.com

- Please tick if receipt is required.

Note: Donations over \$5 are tax-deductible. Registration No: CC27242