

# THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER

## 新中通訊



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NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER  
PO Box 5423 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Website: [www.nzcfs.org.nz/wellington](http://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 November 2020

### Next Branch Meeting

**Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 6:30pm**

### Dave Bromwich, National President

**Speaking on what it means to be a friend of China in this changing world**



One of NZCFS' core objectives is "To promote friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of China and New Zealand..."

Our society is at a crossroads. We are one of many players involved with China. Does NZCFS have a point of difference?

In a time of increasing concerns about China, it is necessary to gain a deeper understanding of the foundation of "What is China", and how that is reflected today, in Chinese society and internationally.

Dave joined NZCFS in 1991. He has served on the NZCFS National Executive since 2000, including a three-year stint as Hawkes Bay Branch President, eight years as Vice President, and six years as National President.

Since 1991, Dave Bromwich has been to China more than 50 times. He has travelled extensively across the country for an accumulated total of more than nine years, and speaks the language. Come along and hear Dave give his views on the changing world we live in, and why it is important we remain as friends of China.

### Newtown School Hall

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

**This is our last meeting of the year.**



*Information about the Chinese New Year Banquet on Saturday 20 February 2021 will be sent out soon in the December Newsletter.  
Put the date in your calendar now!*

## **BRANCH MEETING 28 October 2020 — MEETING REPORT**

### **'A full heart' – engaging with China**

At our monthly members' meeting on Wednesday 28th October **Libby English Lyon** talked to us about her engagement with China and her own Mandarin learning journey. Libby also shared with us her experience of project managing this year's Chinese Language Week as part of Silvereye Communications, the company for which she acts as a U.S. consultant. The day following her presentation to us, Libby flew back to the United States with her husband Harrison to their home in Manhattan. We were extremely lucky that Libby was able to find time in her busy schedule to talk to us.



### **Engagement with China**

Libby was born and grew up in Wellington and had an interest in world affairs from a very young age. Her parents went to China when she was 10 years old. The photographs, postcards, and gifts they brought back with them made her, in her own words, 'desperate' to know more. While working for her father at Agribusiness New Zealand, Libby became involved in exporting to China, Russia, Kazakhstan, and other countries in Asia. In 2015 she accompanied her father to China as part of a fresh milk brand launch, visiting Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou, Tianjin, and Inner Mongolia. Libby shared with us her experience of staying in buildings taller than she had ever seen in her life, visiting Alibaba headquarters, and going to farms 'in the middle of nowhere'.

At that time Libby recalled saying to her dad that she needed to live in China. 'I wanted to learn Mandarin and I wanted to be part of this place that really felt like the future.' A trip back to China later that year with her family confirmed her intention. 'I left China with a full heart. I didn't know when I would be back, but I knew I would be back.'

## **Learning Mandarin**

Libby's opportunity to return to China came in 2018, when she won a NZ China Government Scholarship to attend Peking University to learn Mandarin. Libby had just become engaged to her future husband Harrison and now she was heading to Beijing for a full year's programme of study. Speaking frankly, Libby told us that 2019 was an extremely challenging year for her. 'The only Mandarin I knew was *ní hǎo* and *xiè xiè*, and I was suddenly alone in this gigantic city with Harrison who had never travelled to China before. He was just dropping me off so in a week I knew I would be totally alone.'

Libby talked to us about her experience of sharing a dorm room 'with a total stranger', getting from A to B, and setting up a bank account. She said that she had to learn very fast how to cope. Class every day for four to six hours was gruelling at first but soon it 'just became life'. Together with her classmates from Pakistan, Japan, America, Israel, India, Britain, Nigeria, and the Netherlands, Libby was broadening her world view. Later, when her language proficiency had improved, Libby was able to get around a little more easily, bargain with stallholders, and order food. According to Libby, 'all the day-to-day challenges and hard work became worth it.'



## **Chinese Language Week**

Back in New Zealand, Libby resumed working with her mother's company Silvereye Communications, taking specific responsibility for managing Chinese Language Week. Founded in 2014 by Jo Coughlan and Raymond Huo, the week-long event has grown to include 'a few hundred' discrete events around the country. When Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited New Zealand in 2017, he celebrated New Zealand as 'the first country to hold a nationwide Chinese Language Week.' From the start, the event has received strong support from both Chinese and New Zealand governments.

This year, the event included the donation of children's books written in three languages — English, Mandarin, and te reo Māori. Videos of ordinary New Zealanders speaking Mandarin were published on the Chinese Language Week website and distributed via social media. Youth ambassadors — high school students from around the country placed in the top ten in the Chinese Bridge speaking competition — showcased how our globally equipped young people can take on the future. In Auckland, the Sky Tower was illuminated for the first time in the NZ Chinese Language Week colours.

Libby told us that events like Chinese Language Week are 'critical to teach our kids the importance of diversity and inclusion.' In her own engagement with China, Libby feels she has built a deeper understanding of China and is committed to improving her language and her relationships. 'Tomorrow I jump on a plane to New York but as soon as I can I cannot wait to head back to China'.

Zhù ní yí lù píng ān! (Wishing you a safe trip!)

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY CHINA (ONLINE)**

New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington is running an online international conference on **Chinese Economy: New Policies, Challenges and Directions** from 17 to 19 November 2020.

2020 has been a challenging year for economic policymakers all over the world. China is faced with managing the ongoing structural transformation of the economy, the fallout from the US-China Trade War and the global economic slowdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Join us for three talks on how Chinese planners are responding to these challenges through new policies, priorities and economic directions.

Please register for each talk that you are interested in attending. Registration is free but essential. Register [here](#).

## **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](mailto:xiaosheng.zhou@vuw.ac.nz).

## **WELLINGTON CHINESE GARDEN PROJECT GETS \$1 MILLION DONATION**



The Wellington Chinese Garden Society was presented with a \$1 million cheque at a Wellington City Council meeting on Thursday 22 October 2020 to contribute towards a new Chinese garden in Frank Kitts Park. More information can be found on [Stuff](#) online, and on the [Wellington Chinese Garden Society](#) website.

## **ONEPURE CUP COVID-19 GLOBAL ESSAY COMPETITION**

New Zealand Messengers, a Chinese weekly newspaper based in Christchurch, has launched the ONEPURE Cup COVID-19 Global Essay Competition.

There is no restriction on the style of writing (but the content should be non-political), in both English and Chinese, and the number of words is unlimited. Submissions open from 30 October 2020 to 30 April 2021. More information about the Essay Competition can be found on <https://nzmessengers.com/category/essaycompetition/>

## **BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

President:	Chris Lipscombe
Vice President and Treasurer:	Juping Zhou
Secretary:	Vera Xu
Committee Members:	Michael Dunwoodie, Bing Fon and Nigel Murphy
Immediate Past President:	Kirk McDowall
Honorary Advisors:	Luke Qin and 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-nzdfs/>

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2021**

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2021 (subscription period 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: .....

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**Payment total is as follows:**

Membership Subscription	\$ .....
Donation	\$ .....
Total	\$ .....

**Payment method:**

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

Please add your name, reference "Subscription", and code "2021" to your direct credit payment and email your completed form to [wgtnzcs@gmail.com](mailto:wgtnzcs@gmail.com).

Please tick if receipt is required.

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

On acceptance of your membership subscription, you or the organisation you represent will become a member of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Incorporated ("the Society"). Your membership will expire on 31 December of the year of subscription ("the expiry date"). The information you provide on this membership subscription form ("the information") will be held by us electronically in a Register of Members as required by the Incorporated Societies Amendment Act 2005 and will be removed from the current Register of Members following the expiry date. The information will be used by us to tell you about member events and to send notices such as the date of the Society's Annual General Meeting. The information will be held securely by us and will be available for you to view at any time on application to the Secretary. The information will be shared with our parent organisation the New Zealand China Friendship Society Incorporated. We will not disclose the information to any other parties, except where required by law.