



THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER 新中通訊



NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER
Website: <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wellington-branch-of-the-nzcfs/>
NZCFS Wellington Branch - celebrating 60 years of promoting friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and China

Newsletter November 2021

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Rice

From Xi'an to Xinxilan! Curating the Terracotta Warriors



Dr Rebecca Rice will introduce what it means to be a curator at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, before discussing the challenges and joys of working on the exhibition *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality* in 2018.

Rebecca is Curator Historical Art at Te Papa. While she normally specialises in historical New Zealand art, she has worked on two important exhibitions

showcasing Chinese art and culture at Te Papa and has travelled to China many times. In 2014 she worked with colleagues at the National Museum of China to develop the exhibition *Shi Lu: A revolution in paint*, and in 2017 she began working on *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality*, an exhibition developed in association with Shaanxi Cultural Relics Bureau, Shaanxi History Museum, and the Qin Shihuang Terracotta Army and Horses Museum. The exhibition was shown at Te Papa from 12 December 2018 – 22 April 2019.

Our monthly meetings are held at **Newtown School Hall**.

The school is located in Mein Street, Newtown, Wellington (off Riddiford Street, car park entry from Mein Street alongside Wellington Hospital), and on bus routes 1, 3, 12, 18e, 23, and 29.

There is plenty of carparking onsite.



Information about the Chinese New Year Banquet on Saturday 19th February 2022 will be sent out in the December Newsletter. Put the date in your calendar now!

BRANCH MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2021 — MEETING REPORT

“The Film-Making Experience Between Two Cultures”

At our October branch meeting, Li Tao spoke to members about her film-making experience between two cultures.

Li Tao is from Wenzhou City, Zhejiang province, China. She first came to New Zealand 20 years ago, at which time she undertook Film Studies at Victoria University in Wellington.

Li Tao describes her time in New Zealand as being the period which transformed her from being a Chinese film maker into an international film maker.

After graduating, Li Tao worked as Chinese teacher at Hutt Valley High School. It was there that Li Tao met the four young people who came to be the subjects of her highly successful 2006 documentary *Waves: The Diaries of Chinese International Students in New Zealand*.

Waves is an “absorbing documentary about four Chinese students at a New Zealand high school and provides a rich and finely nuanced portrayal of cultural displacement.”

As described on the NZ International Film Festival (NZIFF) website:

Li Tao’s documentary about four Chinese students in a New Zealand high school is dedicated to teenagers who travel between cultures. That’s a big category in 2006 – and they could hardly hope for a lovelier, more helpful gift than her film. She renders their experience with great insight and tenderness, for the edification of those they’ve left behind in one country, and the enlightenment of those who don’t quite know what to make of them in another.



Li, formerly an international student at Victoria University herself, was their teacher, and the intimacy she achieves suggests that she and her camera became surrogate parent to her subjects. The delicacy of her attention to their woes and joys makes it clear how faithful to that role she remains.

Each of the four is given a chapter in which he or she is captured in a phase that represents a different aspect of the foreign student experience. Ken is seen at his loneliest; Rose at her most embracing of Kiwi freedoms; Lin at her most conflicted and uneasy; and the formidable Jane at her most triumphantly unassimilated. And yet we see that none of them is totally fixed in that particular phase.

It's the sociable Rose who tells the most painful story of alienated foreignness. As we're watching Lin in chronic panic about the school ball, we can see Ken, whose loneliness in the film's first section might break your heart, embarking enthusiastically on dancing lessons.

Li's finely nuanced portrayal of cultural displacement takes in a great deal more besides: adolescent vulnerability and resilience, the interdependence of individual and social identity, the ethnic diversity of contemporary New Zealand. It is in fact one of the richest, most absorbing films you are likely to see this year.



Since 2007, *Waves* has been used by the Ministry of Education as a teaching resource for all secondary schools in New Zealand.

Later, after the success of *Waves*, Li Tao was invited to Shanghai to teach Film Studies at Fudan University, Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts. In Shanghai she finished the documentary series *Shanghai in Cinema* as writer and co-director. Li Tao has also completed a feature film script *Gap Year Romance* as a China-NZ screen co-production project.

Li has also spent more than ten years digging out her family stories to complete a family epic documentary *Returning Home* (2020 NZFC documentary film development fund project). *Returning Home* reflects the lives of ordinary Chinese people within the changing culture and society of China over the past 50 years.



Li Tao is preparing to work on a follow-up documentary, *Waves 2*, and continues shooting film footage for *Returning Home*.

Notes:

1. The film *Waves* is viewable (in-person only) at the Alexander Turnbull Library (National Library, Wellington) www.natlib.govt.nz
2. NZIFF's film synopsis of *Waves* www.nziff.co.nz/2006/archive/waves

Calling for Candidates for Migrant Research Project

SHARE YOUR STORY

Are you interested in being part of a study about migrants growing old in Aotearoa New Zealand?

We invite you to participate in an interview if you:

- ✓ Are 65 years or older
- ✓ Immigrated to Aotearoa New Zealand between the ages of 18 and 50

What is involved?

We want to hear about your experience of living and ageing in New Zealand. If you agree to take part, you will be interviewed and simply asked to tell us about your life story. The interview will take 1-2 hours.

As a token of our appreciation you will receive a **\$50 supermarket voucher**.

If you are interested or have any further questions, please feel free to contact us:

Agnes Szabo (Senior Lecturer, Project Lead)
 Email: agnes.szabo@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 021 107 2595

Vanessa Sieng (Research Assistant)
 Email: vanessa.sieng@vuw.ac.nz

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington's Human Ethics Committee (reference number: 0000029035).

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington is looking for participants for a migrant research project. They are interested in hearing from migrants living in Aotearoa New Zealand and their experiences living and ageing in a foreign land. The purpose of this research is to uncover shared experiences among older migrants from different communities and understand the challenges that they may be facing.

If you are interested in taking part or have any further questions, feel free to contact a member of the research team:

Ágnes Szabó (Senior Lecturer, School of Health; Project Lead)
agnes.szabo@vuw.ac.nz

or

Vanessa Sieng (Research Assistant, School of Health)
vanessa.sieng@vuw.ac.nz

Te Papa's Voices of Asian Aotearoa' Initiative:

Chinese Languages in Aotearoa

On 28 July 2021, Te Papa officially kicked off the *Voices of Asian Aotearoa* initiative. Under this initiative there will be a variety of projects focused on the languages and cultural identities of different Asian New Zealand communities. The first project 'Chinese Languages in Aotearoa' aims to highlight the profound linguistic and cultural diversity within New Zealand's ethnic Chinese population. What does it mean, for example, when someone says that they 'speak Chinese'?



Shijia Chen interviews Ya-Wen Ho at Victoria University of Wellington, 2021. Photo by Grace Gassin. Te Papa

Curator Grace Gassin has interviewed poet Ya-Wen Ho (Mandarin), restaurant owner Tee Phee (Hokkien) and publisher Jack Yan (Cantonese) for this project.

You can read the first three instalments of the project on the Te Papa blog at blog.tepapa.govt.nz There are also links to the YouTube videos of their stories in their own languages.

Mandarin Corner (Wellington)

Mandarin Corner (Wellington) 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 at 6 pm. Zoom ID 660 699 6275.

For more information, follow them on Facebook www.facebook.com/ConfuciusInstituteWellington

BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

President:	Chris Lipscombe
Vice President and Treasurer:	Juping Zhou
Secretary:	Vera Xu
Committee Members:	Michael Dunwoodie, Liqin Mi
Immediate Past President:	Kirk McDowall
Honorary Advisors:	Luke Qin, Michael Powles

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

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2021

You can complete the [online form](#) to join us or renew your membership, or complete the subscription form below.

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:

Payment total is as follows:

Membership Subscription \$
Donation \$
Total \$

Payment method:

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

Please add your name, reference "Subscription", and code "2021" to your direct credit payment and email your completed form to wgtnczfs@gmail.com

Please tick if receipt is required.

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

PRIVACY STATEMENT

With the passing of the Privacy Act 2020, privacy protections for New Zealanders have been strengthened and there is a greater obligation on organisations like ours to take care of the information you share with us. We have adopted a privacy statement that describes how we will do this. If you have any questions about your privacy, please email the Secretary at wgtnczfs@gmail.com. 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 the 31st of December of the year to which the membership applies ("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 activities and to send you notices of meetings. 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 may 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. Non-current members will remain on our branch mailing list as supporters and we will continue to let you know about member events and activities. If you decide that you do not want to receive emails from us, you can 'unsubscribe' and we will remove you from our mailing list.