



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-nzcf/>

NZCFS Wellington Branch - celebrating 70 years of promoting friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and China

Newsletter June 2022

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Hongzhi Gao

Mystical Dumplings, Business and International Relations: Is it Time to Demystify?

Hongzhi Gao is Associate Professor in the School of Marketing and International Business, Victoria University of Wellington. Dr Gao received his MCom (Distinction) and PhD Marketing from Otago University. Before coming to New Zealand, Dr Gao was as an analyst of foreign loans and risk management for Jilin provincial government in China. Dr Gao's publications appear in leading marketing and international business journals. Dr Gao has devoted the past ten years to researching New Zealand firms' marketing and business strategies in China. He is now researching the impact of the US-China trade war on Chinese, American, Australian, and New Zealand firms.



Dr. Gao shared his view of Kiwis and the Kiwi land, saying "Kiwis, at least those I meet, love dumplings! Dumplings can be mystical because you cannot see the fillings from outside, and it is good fun to guess what are in it, and how one cooks it (with a bit of Chinese whispering of course)... It has been a transforming experience for me living in Kiwi-land over the past 20 years, both academically and personally."

In this presentation, he will share his observations of the changes of the focus in New Zealand-China relations over the last fifteen years. He will also share his research journey that has started off looking at opportunities and risks around China market entry but recently moved to the impact of the US-China relationship on New Zealand in an increasingly deglobalized business environment. Dr. Gao will offer some food for thoughts for the ways forward, including a dynamic balancing approach that New Zealand may embrace in geopolitical conflicts and deglobalization involving China.

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

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

There is plenty of carparking onsite.



The following dates have been booked for our monthly meetings: Wednesdays 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, and 16 November. For these meetings we have now returned to Newtown School Hall. Please mark these dates in your calendar.

BRANCH MEETING 18 May 2022 — MEETING REPORT

On film making, and involving young people in NZCFS

At our May branch meeting, **Sylvia Yang** spoke to members and friends about her film making career, her involvement with young people in NZCFS, her running as a first-time local government candidate, and about other 'adventures' she has had in her life.

Sylvia migrated to New Zealand from China when she was 12. She feels that she has been blessed with the best of both worlds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE



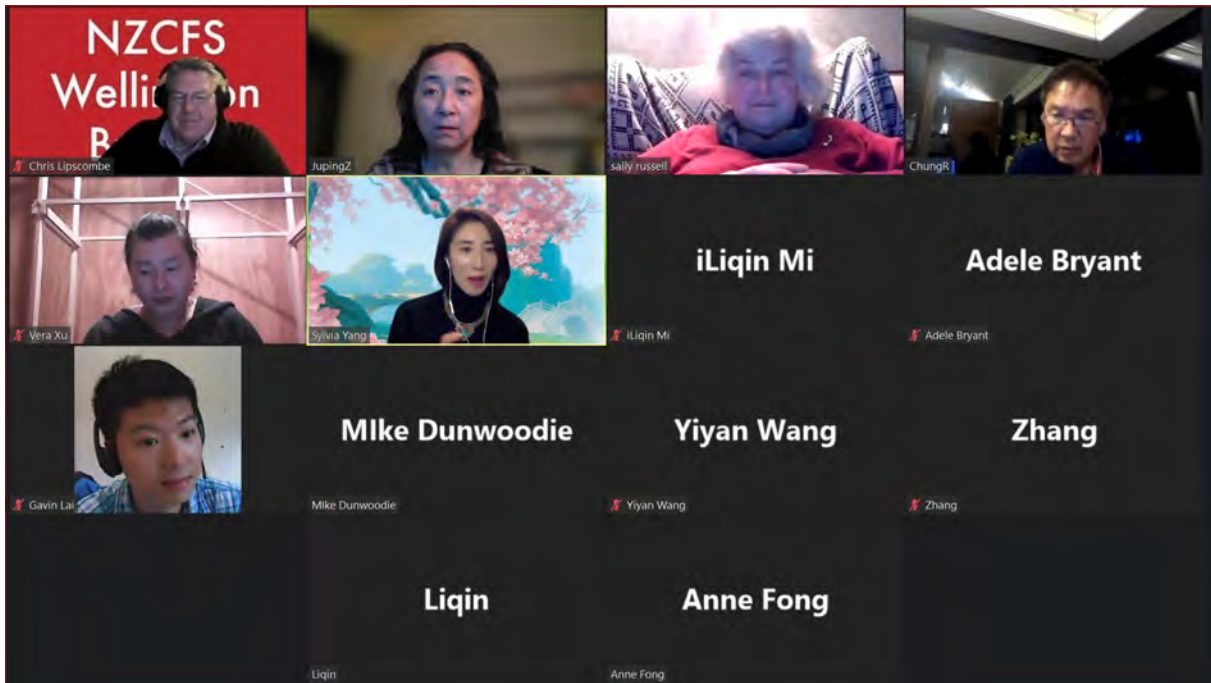
Sylvia is, this year, a first-time local government candidate. She explained the lack of diverse representation needed to change but there were barriers to young people, migrants, and those from ethnic minority backgrounds entering council. She says she wanted to "walk the talk", and encourage those from diverse ethnic backgrounds and age groups to run.

In Sylvia's position as a Chinese-born Kiwi, she has noted that the increasing Chinese and Asian populations have almost no ethnic Chinese representation at local government level.

Sylvia said some of the influencing factors for that were because some people didn't understand the business and purpose of local government due to a lack of accessible information Others did not have the capacity to take on extra work.

But — as Sylvia says — given what the world had been through in the past couple of years, “maybe it’s time to change all that”.

There is a discrepancy between the experiences of ethnic minorities and the Pākehā world, she said. “I don’t know if I can be the bridge or be one little brick on that bridge. I hope more people will join that force, and be bricks to close that gap.”



FILM AND PRODUCTION

Sylvia is a screen producer and a director and runs her own company, SODE Productions Ltd, based in Auckland.

She has a long and impressive history of work.

In 2005, Sylvia and her team created the first original Chinese musical in New Zealand.

The success of this musical led to Skykiwi (www.skykiwi.com) providing funding in 2006 for Sylvia and associates to produce the first NZ-Chinese Internet drama series — *Sunshine Beyond the Rain*. (To watch the 14 episodes, see the URL links at the end of this report.)

That Internet drama series started a life-long passion for storytelling in the screen industry. She had since worked on some amazing projects or, as Sylvia likes to call them, ‘adventures’!

Because of her experience in screen production, Sylvia was invited to create a branding video, *One Promise*, for the New Zealand China Friendship Society (NZCFS) in 2008. That’s where her journey with NZCFS began.

As a part of the branding, the video, *One Promise*, was showcased at the *Lantern Festival* in Auckland.

Other ‘adventures’ in Sylvia’s life, which she highlighted in her presentation, included:

- In 2009, Sylvia played a large part in making the video, *The Aotearoa Jasmine Project*, which was created to celebrate the NZCFS' 50th birthday and the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

To mark the occasion, a group of New Zealand and Chinese locals got together to produce a music video as a gift to China. About 600 people starred in a video singing the popular Chinese folk song, *Jasmine Flower*.

- In 2010, Sylvia was involved with the TV series, *Kia Ora, Ni Hao*. This six-part Māori Television series documented the experiences of six Māori language students from around NZ, on a three-week cultural field trip to Beijing, China. The teenagers took their own cameras to record their experiences.

They attended a local high school, lived with Chinese families, and took in the local sights and sounds. The series is in te reo Māori, with English sub-titles. (To watch some episodes, see the URL links at the end of this report.)

- In 2019, Sylvia worked at the NZ end of the production of the Chinese TV series, *The Great Ruler*, for Chinese online channel iQiyi. The on-location shooting in Queenstown was particularly fraught, due to an unexpected snowfall the night before filming started! (To watch the series, see the URL link at the end of this report.)
- Sylvia worked on the 2020, Disney film, *Mulan*. The film was directed by New Zealander Niki Caro, had a production budget of \$200 million USD, and features Chinese screen stars Liu Yifei (as Mulan) and Li Gong (as Xianniang).

NZCFS YOUTH

Sylvia also has been an active member of the NZCFS, particularly in the Auckland branch.

She believes that it is essential to involve young people in our Society. They are the future of our country and their perspectives will shape the future.

With the Society's newly established Youth Club — established through Sylvia's vision — she hopes to attract young people to the Society by offering them networking opportunities. They, in turn, can offer the Society their creativity, their energy, and their passion.

In her involvement with NZCFS, Sylvia will continue to encourage and promote young people in our Society. Please feel free to contact her if you have any ideas or questions about the Youth Club and its activities.

Links:

- *Sunshine Beyond the Rain* — all 14 episodes are available on Youtube (in Mandarin) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ad_NE_RR9Xw&list=PL1iBq0Vma9o_EVsfL1ic82Huut37yAauC
- *One Promise* — NZCFS branding video <https://vimeo.com/902580>
- *Kia Ora, Ni Hao* — two episodes available (in te reo Māori with English subtitles) <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/kia-ora-ni-hao-2008/series>
- *The Great Ruler* — (in Mandarin with English subtitles) https://www.iq.com/album/the-great-ruler-2020-19rrhx6xhl?lang=en_us

Acknowledgements:

Parts of this report were taken from the following sources:

- Stuff — 'Candidates, experts and advocates call for more diversity in local government' <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/128568929/candidates-experts-and-advocates-call-for-more-diversity-in-local-government>
- Radio NZ — 'The Aotea Jasmine Project' <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2087119/asian-report-for-6-october-2009-the-aotearoa-jasmine-project>
- Stuff — 'The Aotea Jasmine Project' <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/western-leader/2729598/People-needed-for-video>

ASIA: ART STORIES IN AOTEAROA

Produced for RNZ by Diva Productions, Kadambari Raghukumar profiles 18 diverse Asian-origin NZ artists working in fine arts, music, dance, theatre, multimedia and design. Weaving together personal stories and artistic practices with different cultural perspectives, *ASIA: Art Stories in Aotearoa* explores how New Zealand's cultural landscape is shifting and how the arts can help spark more inclusive conversations that build bridges of understanding.

You can watch the series on RNZ website <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/art-stories-in-aotearoa>

NZCFS 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM



The 70th Annual Conference of New Zealand China Friendship Society will take place in Auckland on June 18. The Society will be commemorating 70 years since its founding, celebrating the 125th birthday of Rewi Alley, and acknowledging 50 years of the NZ-China bilateral diplomatic relationship. Speakers include the China Ambassador H. E. Wang Xiaolong, Hon Sir David Carter, and John McKinnon. Programme includes youth, business and media forums. Come join us! More information about the National Conference can be found [here](#).

The National Conference theme is "What do friends do? Renewing and enhancing NZ China friendship in difficult times." 作为朋友该怎么做？在困难时期重振和增进新中友谊。 This follows last year's theme "What it means to be a friend of China". Book your tickets [now](#).

BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

President: Chris Lipscombe
Vice President and Treasurer: Juping Zhou
Secretary: Vera Xu
Committee Members: Michael Dunwoodie, Liqin Mi
Honorary Advisor: Michael Powles

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

[Pay your 2022 subscription here](#)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

To join as a member or renew your membership, you can complete the [online form](#) or the membership form below.

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for 2022 (subscription period is January to December):

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged / Student (full-time) / Superannuitant | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation | \$50 |

Name:
(Given names) (Surname)

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

Address

Email

Contact Person for Organisation:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Payment total is as follows: | Payment method: |
| Banquet \$ | Payment by internet banking to: |
| Membership Subscription \$ | NZ China Friendship Society |
| Donation (<i>optional</i>) \$ | ANZ Bank Acct No: 11-7200-0080836-11 |
| Total \$ | |

Privacy Information: 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.