



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 August 2022

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 17 August 2022 at 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Grace Gassin

The Chinese Languages in Aotearoa Project at Te Papa



Dr Grace Gassin (Lîm Sò·chin 林素真) is Curator Asian New Zealand Histories at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Since completing her doctoral studies in History at the University of **Melbourne in 2016, Grace's** wide-ranging research interests have grown to encompass both the historical and contemporary experiences of Asian diaspora communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

At the museum, Grace has been involved in a diverse range of research and collection projects in **recent years, including Te Papa's** Chinese Languages in Aotearoa, a project highlighting the many

Chinese languages, cultures and identities to which people of ethnic Chinese heritage in Aotearoa are connected — see <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/chinese-languages-aotearoa>

In this presentation, Grace will discuss the collective work involved in bringing the Chinese Languages in Aotearoa project to life and offer some **insights into the project's** inspirations and the language-related stories and conversations it has helped bring to a wider audience. In addition, she will also reflect on the community-engaged and collaborative approach taken by the project team.

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 17 August, 21 September (Mooncake Making), 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 20 July 2022 — MEETING REPORT

LIQIN MI'S REPORT ON NZCFS' 70TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM

At the July branch meeting, Wellington Branch committee member Liqin Mi presented her report on the Annual Conference and AGM.

On 17-19 June 2022, on behalf of the Wellington branch, Liqin **attended the NZCFS' 70th National Conference and Annual General Meeting** held at the Rewi Alley Commemoration Hall in Auckland. **The theme of the conference was "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) About 80 people participated in the conference. It was a successful and impressive conference — inspiring and entertaining.

There were three sessions — the Youth Forum on Friday 17th, the National Conference on Saturday 18th, and the AGM on Sunday 19th — and a conference banquet on Saturday night.

At the Youth Forum on Friday, **five young speakers, including alumni from NZCFS' education tours to China**, shared their learning and working experiences in China, which were life-changing to them. They were all passionate about China and wanted to contribute to the NZ–China relationship.

The National Conference on Saturday included a number of high-profile speakers, including the China Ambassador Dr Wang Xiao Long; former Speaker of the House, Minister of Agriculture and NZCFS Patron, Rt Hon Sir David Carter; Labour MP Nasi Chen; National MP Melissa Lee; former NZ Ambassador to China and Chair of the NZ China Council John McKinnon; **and Mr Lin Songtian, President of Chinese Peoples' Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).**

There was a consistent theme from all these speakers — NZCFS has an invaluable role to play in promoting friendship, understanding, and goodwill between our two countries and peoples.

Ambassador Dr Wang Xiaolong praised the strong relationship between our countries, the healthy relationship between President Xi Jinping and PM Jacinda Ardern, and acknowledged the legacy of Rewi Alley.

Patron Sir David Carter admired China's achievement and appreciated the opportunities that China brought to NZ, while criticising misrepresentation of China through current media reports.

National President Dave Bromwich also expressed concern that China is being misrepresented in the western media.

President Lin Songtian spoke from Beijing via a **pre-recorded video on CPAFFC's long** relationship with NZCFS and its commitment to keeping that link strong.

Chair John McKinnon gave a summary of his involvement with China from 1972 to the present. **He acknowledged the NZCSF's accomplishments** in promoting NZ-China relations and stated his belief that the society would continue to achieve its goals.

As well as presentations by the speakers, the conference included three panel sessions:

- Youth Experiences — breakout groups led by youth panellists explored strategies and actions that could make NZCFS more appealing to young people, and considered what approaches they could take to promote an interest in China and participation in NZCFS.
- Business Insights — panellists shared views from different perspectives about the Chinese market and how New Zealanders benefit from trade with China, covering both imports and exports.
- Media Perspectives — panellists brought a variety of perspectives and discussed differences between Chinese and western interpretations of China. Some of the questions to the panel explored how western and Chinese journalists might develop partnerships with each other.

During conference breaks, the participants enjoyed a range of delightful musical and cultural performances by Ersha Island and 100 Flowers Art Troupe.

On Sunday about 20 people attended the **Society's** AGM. Chris Lipscombe was elected as the National President of **NZCFS**. **In recognition of outgoing President Dave Bromwich's** contribution to NZCFS, Dave was made a life member of the society.

Most conference attendees also went to the conference banquet, organised with the assistance of former National MP Jian Yang. Speakers at the banquet reinforced messages from the conference and celebrated the 70th anniversary of these annual events.

You can see more photos from the conference at <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/photo-gallery-nzcfs-70th-annual-conference/>





CHRIS REPORTS ON HIS FIRST MONTH AS NZCFS PRESIDENT

At the branch meeting, Chris Lipscombe (NZCFS Wellington Branch President and, newly elected National President) spoke to members and friends about his first month as NZCFS National President.

WEEK 1

In his first week in the job Chris hit the ground running, including the preparation and distribution of media releases covering two highlights of the recent National Conference:

- Ersha Island musical performance — <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/chinese-kiwi-musical-duo-wows-conference-goers/>
- NZCFS Honorary Patron **Sir David Carter's speech** — <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/former-politician-turned-farmer-attacks-misconceptions-about-china/>

Reports on the National Conference were also prepared in English and Chinese — see <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/report-on-nzcfs-70th-annual-conference/> and <https://cn.nzchinasociety.org.nz/post/19008/>

Chris met with the new Cultural Attaché at the China Embassy, Second Secretary Linan Wang, and discussed a project to promote the life and work of James Bertram — the New Zealand Rhodes scholar, journalist, writer, relief worker, prisoner of war and university professor who, **amongst other things, was the first western journalist to reach Xi'an following the Sian Incident in 1936 and later interviewed Mao Zedong in the caves of Yan'an.**

WEEK 2

In Week 2, Chris **slowed a little when he caught Covid! However, even though he couldn't get out of bed for two days, he still seemed to achieve a lot, including:**

- Discussion with Djany (Amy) Tanabe about improving the look and content of the **Society's website and monthly newsletter.**
- Discussion with Adele Mason (Deputy Executive Director) and James To (Senior Adviser, Research and Engagement) at Asia NZ Foundation about the proposed James Bertram project.
- Discussion with Michael Hart (NZCFS Auckland Branch President) to discuss the planned meeting with Chris and the Auckland Branch committee regarding future plans and closer integration.
- Arrangements for the two upcoming Strategy and Governance workshops (22 July and 20 August 2022) intended to assist the NZCFS National Executive in its strategic planning, performance and execution.

WEEK 3

No let-up for Chris in Week 3, including:

- Further discussion with Michael Hart (NZCFS Auckland Branch President) regarding upcoming meeting with the Auckland Branch committee and fixing the date of Saturday, 13 August 2022 for their meeting, accompanied by Northern Vice President Miao Fan.
- Conversations with NZCFS Whanganui Branch President Jon Parson and former NZCFS National Secretary Alistair Shaw about the possibility of developing a fixed, physical location where the NZCFS can store its physical archives, including administrative records, resources, and original documents and photographs.
- Preparing a submission to MFAT on the strategic assessment **of New Zealand's** international context through to 2035.

Chris was also interviewed by the Gansu Province Foreign Affairs Office on the legacy of Rewi Alley — see <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/congratulations-from-gansu-foreign-affairs-office/>

WEEK 4

There's no denying that the role of NZCFS National President requires constant communication and attendance at events. In Week 4, Chris:

- Joined Immediate Past President Dave Bromwich in a dinner with the China Ambassador Dr Wang Xiaolong.
- Held a pre-workshop planning meeting with the Strategy and Governance workshop facilitator, John Page.
- Sent a congratulatory video to Gansu Provincial government to commemorate their **40 years' Sister City relationships** (relationship with Christchurch established in 1984).
- Delivered a short speech at the opening of an exhibition organised by NZ Pacific Cultural and Arts Development Association in Auckland, followed by a celebratory banquet.

NEXT STEPS

Next up, Chris will be focused on two priority goals:

(1) Develop an inclusive, united Society; and,

(2) **Address the Society's current financial reality and, in particular, focusing on revenue generation** (including different ways of fundraising, focused on both National and Branch level activities).

Chris told us that preparing for the National Executive meeting and the second Strategy and Governance workshop on 20th August will also be occupying much of his time. Phew!

MANDARIN CORNER (Online)



Mandarin Corner is a weekly event where students learning Chinese meet with native speakers of Chinese for conversation in a friendly, relaxed setting, and is open to intermediate/advanced levels.

Mandarin Corner is restarting online on Thursdays at 6:00pm — Zoom ID 975 3237 0553 with Dr Lita Lyu.

For more information follow the Confucius Institute Facebook page on www.facebook.com/ConfuciusInstituteWellington

NZ CHINESE LANGUAGE WEEK



This year, New Zealand Chinese Language Week is scheduled for the week 25 September to 2 October.

For more information, keep a look-out on social media and on the website at <https://www.nzclw.com/>

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF REWI ALLEY'S BIRTHDAY

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Rewi Alley's birth. Watch this space for upcoming events commemorating the anniversary. You can read more about Rewi Alley [here](#)

WELLINGTON CHINESE COMMUNITIES NATIONAL DAY DINNER

The National Day Dinner is to be held at the Grand Century Restaurant 6:30pm Sunday 25th September, at a cost of \$45 per person. More information will be sent out closer to the day. If you are interested, please contact us at wgtnczfs@gmail.com

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-nzcf/>

[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.