



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-nzdfs/>

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

Newsletter September 2022

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 6:30pm

Mooncake Making



The Mid-Autumn Festival (simplified Chinese: 中秋节; traditional Chinese: 中秋節), also known as Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is a traditional festival celebrated by Chinese people and also other East and Southeast Asian people. It is the second-most important holiday after Chinese New Year with a history dating back 3,000 years.

The festival is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese luni-solar calendar with a full moon at night. On this day, the moon is at its brightest and fullest size, coinciding with harvest time in the middle of Autumn. This year, the Moon Festival is on 10th September. **We will be making mooncakes at our September monthly meeting to celebrate this festival.**

Entry is by koha (donation). Please email us at wgtncfs@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this event, so that we can start to prepare the material.

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: Wednesday 19 October and 16 November. Please mark these dates in your calendar.

BRANCH MEETING 17 AUGUST 2022 — MEETING REPORT

The Chinese Languages in Aotearoa Project at Te Papa



At our August branch meeting, Dr Grace Gassin spoke to members and friends about the Chinese Languages in Aotearoa Project at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Grace Gassin (Lim Sò-chin 林素真) is Curator Asian New Zealand Histories at Te Papa. 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.

The 'Chinese Languages in Aotearoa' project at Te Papa highlights the many Chinese languages, cultures and identities to which people of ethnic Chinese heritage in Aotearoa are connected.

Grace told us that 'Chinese Languages in Aotearoa' is the first step in an ongoing exploration of Asian Aotearoa's diverse cultures through languages. The project began with four videos of people – a poet, a restaurateur, a typeface designer, and an interpreter – sharing stories of their connection to their Chinese heritage through speaking Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese, and Hakka. These videos, made by local Chinese and Chinese New Zealand filmmakers, are available to watch on YouTube. Subtitles are available in English, Traditional and Simplified Chinese (Mandarin), and in the heritage languages of the speakers (click on the Settings icon). Links are on the Te Papa website at <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/chinese-languages-aotearoa>.

Chinese Languages in Aotearoa is part of **Voices of Asian Aotearoa**. For more information, read our introductory blog **Exploring Asian Aotearoa's diverse cultures through languages**.



Exploring Asian Aotearoa's diverse cultures through languages

Voices of Asian Aotearoa will see a variety of projects focused on the languages and cultural identities of different Asian New Zealand communities. Curator Grace Gassin introduces our first project, Chinese Languages in Aotearoa.

Watch: Hakka, with interpreter Henry Liu

Henry Liu is an interpreter and the first and only New Zealander to have held office as President of the FIT (International Federation of Translators). Here, he speaks about language interpretation, the struggles of minority languages, and the difficulties of not being about to communicate.

Watch: Cantonese, with publisher and typeface designer Jack Yan

Jack Yan was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Wellington. Here he discusses how he has remained connected to his mother tongue, Cantonese.

Watch: Penang Hokkien, with restaurateur Tee Phee

Tee Phee, owner of Wellington's Little Penang restaurants, is a fluent speaker of Penang Hokkien and was always determined to ensure that her local-born children grow up speaking the language. Here she discusses her relationship with the language.

Watch: Mandarin, with poet Ya-Wen Ho

Ya-Wen Ho is a 1.5 generation Taiwanese Hakka New Zealander, a poet, and type researcher at Wai-te-ata Press in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington. Here she discusses her complicated relationship with Mandarin and how it became her 'mother tongue'.

At the meeting, Grace shared behind-the-scenes stories of the filming and showed how the videos showcased the variety of heritage languages linking people to their homeland and place of origin. A blog devoted to Ya-Wen's story has been published on the Te Papa website at <https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2022/08/23/what-does-it-mean-to-be-chinese-in-aotearoa-an-interview-with-ya-wen-ho/>



The second part of the 'Chinese Languages in Aotearoa' project consisted of illustrators responding to stories from people of diverse Chinese cultural backgrounds in Aotearoa.

Koreen Liew-Young, a fifth generation Chinese New Zealander, shared her story about her long-gestating relationship with Cantonese and Mandarin. The illustration by Mengzhu Fu was based on Koreen's experience of buying a rabbit balloon in Beijing. "[Buying a balloon] was such a simple and playful act, but it reminds me of the wholesome joys that connecting with your culture can bring."

Growing up, Koreen had this complex about not being a 'true' Chinese person because she didn't speak a Chinese language. At university, Koreen started to explore her culture identity and the history of Chinese people in New Zealand.

In her 20s, Koreen travelled to China to explore her heritage. She later married a Malaysian Chinese, continued her Chinese language learning, and started teaching her son Chinese. Koreen hoped that her little sixth-generation Chinese New Zealander would be more confident in who he is and appreciate his connection to the previous five generations. Koreen's story is published on the Te Papa website at <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/chinese-languages-aotearoa/koreen-liew-youngs-story>



The videos, and Grace's own experiences in designing and delivering both parts of the project, generated considerable discussion. At the end of her presentation, Grace was presented with the traditional bottle of wine by Chris Lipscombe, our Wellington Branch President (and National President). We thank Grace for her thought-provoking talk and will follow the project with much interest.

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-nzcs/>

[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.