



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 June 2023

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 6:30pm

Dumpling Making



We will be making dumplings at our June monthly meeting to celebrate the mid year.

We will make three styles of dumplings (vegetarian, beef and pork). We will share ways of making/wrapping the dumplings and the finished products (dumplings) will be pan-fried and boiled for participants to taste. You are welcome to bring your own filling if you wish to make special-flavoured dumplings for yourself.

If you are coming to the session, please bring \$5.00 entry fee, a plate and cutlery for the dumpling tasting. Or you could deposit \$5.00 into our bank account beforehand if you wish: 11-7200-0080836-11.

Our monthly meetings are held at Newtown School Hall, Mein Street, Newtown, Wellington (off Riddiford Street, car park entry from Mein Street alongside Wellington Hospital), on bus routes 1, 3, 12, 18, 23, and 29.

There is plenty of carparking on site.

The following dates have been booked for our Wednesday monthly meetings: 21 June, 19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18 October, and 15 November. Please mark these dates in your calendar.



WELLINGTON BRANCH MEETING REPORT 17 May 2023

At our May branch meeting, Zoe Li delivered an interactive presentation on the ancient Chinese musical instrument, the Erhu. Zoe is originally from Beijing. She began learning how to play the Erhu at the age of six, and now has over twenty years of experience with the instrument. After moving to New Zealand, she obtained her Master's at Victoria University of Wellington, and now teaches and demonstrates the Erhu in schools.



The Erhu is a two-string instrument, played with a bow, and is sometimes known in the West as the Chinese violin. It is a classic instrument of traditional Chinese music, often used in Chinese Opera, or to accompany folk songs. In the 1920s it began to be used as a solo instrument, and since then it has appeared in both small ensembles and large orchestras, playing both traditional and contemporary music, including jazz, pop and rock.

The Erhu is thought to be derived from two Tang dynasty instruments, the Huqin and the Xiqin. These were traditional instruments of the Hu and Xi nationalities. As time passed, the name Erhu came to be used for all these types of instruments — "er" for the two strings, "hu" as a reference to the instrument's origin with the Hu nationality.



Before going on to discuss the construction of the Erhu, Zoe demonstrated the versatility of the instrument by playing some recordings of Erhu music. She also demonstrated how different techniques could be used to produce different feelings in the listeners by playing some tunes live.

Like the Western violin family, the Erhu has diverged into a wide variety of sizes, but the basic structure consists of a long handle coming out of a sound box. Near the head of the handle there are two pegs used to tighten the strings, one for each string. One string is the outer string, the other is the inner string, and the bow is always between them. This is one of the main differences between the Erhu and Western string instruments, where the bow

is a separate item. Another difference is that the Erhu is played vertically, with the sound box in the musicians lap. To play the Erhu, the musician draws the bow across either of the strings. The bow is usually kept close to the sound box, and moves horizontally, parallel to the front of the musicians body. As in Western string instruments, the musician can also alter the sound of the Erhu by placing the fingers of the hand not holding the bow at various places along the strings.

Zoe concluded her talk by passing out Erhu to members of the audience so they could have a brief experience of what playing the instrument is like. The audience members were very appreciative of this opportunity, although it is somewhat debatable if any other listeners felt the same way.

NZCFS 2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM



This year the Society's National Conference was held in Tauranga, New Zealand's busiest port and key export hub for our produce into China. The theme for this year was: "Friendship in action 友谊在行动." This follows last year's theme: "What do friends do? Renewing and enhancing NZ China friendship in difficult times."

NZCFS National President Chris Lipscombe led the assembly. Our hosts were Tina Zhang, NZCFS Tauranga Branch President and John Hodgson of NZCFS Tauranga Branch Committee, assisted by MCs Kelly Li and Mia Zhang. The programme spanned an entire weekend, from a welcoming event on Friday evening to the AGM on Sunday. All events were held at the Armitage Hotel and Conference Centre.

On the Friday evening there was a live signing via zoom of an updated Memorandum of Understanding between NZ China Friendship Society and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC).

On Saturday the keynote address via Zoom was from Dr Wang Xiaolong Ambassador of the **People's Republic of China to New Zealand**, introducing the theme of the conference. NZCFS National President Chris Lipscombe also gave a keynote address urging continued active expressions of friendship in action at branch and national levels.

Speaking to China's significance to NZ, presentations were made by Bill Wasley, Commissioner, Tauranga City Council and by Greg Simmonds, General Manager of Priority One. Both highlighted the Port of Tauranga's vital trading ties to China.

Delegates from afar were formally welcomed (mihi whakatau) onto the venue on Saturday morning by Tamati Tata, hapū of Ngai Tamarawaho (Huria Marae), who through genuine congenial warmth and gracious humour enabled all visitors to feel at home.

After the mihi whakatau and aforementioned keynote addresses there were two panel discussions.

The first, representing the subject of “Migrant Communities in Tauranga” featured three panellists — Tauranga Multicultural Council President Premila D’Mello, NZ Police Community Liaison Officer from the Bay of Plenty Constable Weiwei Verran, and Bay of Plenty Regional Councillor Matemoana McDonald, with questions from the floor moderated by Tina Zhang.

A second panel discussion addressing the subject of “International Students in Tauranga” was moderated by Chris Lipscombe. Panellists included Toi-Ohomai international student Christina Ji, Toi-Ohomai International Services Manager Ada Chen, and Access NZ Immigration Adviser Doris Schoeller. Andrew King, Oropi School Principal, was unfortunately unable to attend.

A most cordial message expressing friendship and warm welcome from Mr. Lin Songtian, President of Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) was read in English translation by NZCFS National President Chris Lipscombe.

An interesting and engaging address was also given by Parley Reynolds, Strategic Development Manager for Zespri in China.

A full report of the pleasant, interesting, engaging, educational and worthwhile weekend, including a tour of port facilities and a working kiwifruit packhouse, and a report on Saturday night’s excellent Chinese banquet where delegates were entertained by kiwifruit farmer, kaumatua, and Member of New Zealand Order of Merit Turi Ngatai, together with an extensive picture gallery, is available [here](#).

CHINA LOOKS TOWARDS THE PACIFIC

Last month National President Chris Lipscombe travelled with fellow Pacific China Friendship Association members to Fuzhou, Ningde and Pingtan Island in Fujian province to take part in a China-Pacific People-to-People Friendship Forum organised by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). While in China, Chris also spent two days in Wellington’s sister city Xiamen and attended a Belt and Road Forum in Chongqing.

Chris’ article on Chinese initiatives to support Pacific peoples and a possible New Zealand response was published in *People’s Daily* [here](#) (Chinese language text).

His article on recent changes in Xiamen was published on the official Xiamen FAO website [here](#) (English language text).



National President of New Zealand China Friendship Society Chris Lipscombe responds to questions from local media following his presentation at the China-Pacific People-to-People Friendship Forum organised by CPAFFC in Fuzhou, May 2023.

MANDARIN CORNER

Mandarin Corner is a monthly event where students learning Chinese meet with native speakers of Chinese for conversation in a friendly, relaxed setting, and is open to all levels though may be most beneficial to those with intermediate/advanced levels. Mandarin Corner is restarting on Saturday 17 June at 3:30pm at Room G24, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus, 33 Bunny Street with Mandarin Language Assistant (MLA) Lu Hanwen as the Coordinator and a team of Wellington-based MLAs.

Please let Hanwen know if you are coming at lu.hanwen@vuw.ac.nz so Confucius Institute can ensure access.

For more information follow the Confucius Institute Facebook [page](#).

NZCFS 'NZ HEROES IN CHINA' TOUR

Our society's "NZ Heroes in China Tour" this October is on its way! While the focus is on Rewi Alley and Kathleen Hall, and the itinerary is based on sites and partnerships important to their legacies, the tour is much more. The tour will explore other sites of historical, cultural and scenic beauty, most of which are not offered on standard tours. You can read more about the tour on the NZCFS [website](#).



BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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

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

[Pay your 2023 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 2023 (subscription period 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:
Membership Subscription \$	Payment by internet transfer to:
Donation (<i>optional</i>) \$	NZ China Friendship Society
Total \$	ANZ Bank Acct No: 11-7200-0080836-11

When making internet banking payment, please quote your NAME and the word SUBS, and be sure to email this form separately to wgtnczfs@gmail.com. Please let us know if a receipt is required.

Note: Donations over \$5 are tax-deductible. (Charities Registration No: CC27242)

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.