



# 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*

Find us on  
facebook.

## Newsletter August 2023

Branch Meeting: Wednesday 16 August 2023 CANCELLED

Owing to the chilly weather (it's the middle of winter, after all), we thought this month we'd encourage our members to have a night in, rather than a night out. The members' meeting scheduled for this Wednesday (16 August) is therefore CANCELLED.

As a suggestion, perhaps you'd like to settle in and watch a Chinese movie at home?

- Chinese movies available to rent from Arovideo <https://www.arovideo.co.nz/showcase.php?list=170&Country=10&rentalSales=Rental>
- **You can also search 'Chinese movies' on your favourite paid streaming service** (Netflix, Prime Video, Disney+, DocPlay, AppleTV+, etc)
- **For free streaming services, try TVNZ+ and Māori+**

Best enjoyed with a glass of New Zealand wine and a plate of home-cooked dumplings :)

September Branch Meeting: Wednesday 20 September 2023

Guest Speakers: Madeleine Slavick and Luo Hui

Portraits of People & Places



Poetic recollections of people and places, past and present.

An evening to travel across the Chinese, Hong Kong, Canadian and Kiwi diasporas.

In the eyes of two presenters who have lived in the East and West, North and South.

Featuring literary passages, poetry, photography, translations, and a bilingual reading from their publication project, delicate access 微妙之途.

LUO HUI has written on Chinese cinema, poetry, ghost tales, crime fiction, and issues of soft power — academic writing as well as creative non-fiction. He has lived in China, US, Canada, and now lives in Wellington where he is senior lecturer in Chinese at the School of Languages & Cultures at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University. He is also co-director of the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation.

MADELEINE SLAVICK has authored various books of non-fiction, poetry, and photography, several of which relate to China and Hong Kong. She has lived in the US and Hong Kong, and now lives in Wairarapa, where she runs adult programmes at a public library, works in a bookstore, and directs the arts residency programme NZ Pacific Studio as well as the writer series Wairarapa Word.

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: 20 September, 18 October, and 15 November. Please mark these dates in your calendar.



## WELLINGTON BRANCH MEETING REPORT 19 July 2023



In our July monthly meeting, Duncan Campbell gave an informative talk about flowers in Chinese culture.

Duncan has been researching gardens and parks in Imperial China since 1974. His particular focus is on the gardens of the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368 to 1644, and 1644 to 1911 respectively).

Duncan began by explaining how important gardens were to the Chinese scholar class. This importance is clearly indicated in the literature of the period, which not only contains numerous

references to the pleasure gardens and plants gave but also uses them to advise on how a gentleman is expected to behave, as well as give philosophical and political commentary on the society of the time.

However, although this literature is quite extensive and contains a lot of useful descriptive information, it lacks practical information on how the gardens were created and maintained.

The reason for this is that although the writers may have owned gardens, they were not gardeners themselves, and may even have considered gardeners beneath them. The one book we have that was written by an actual gardener seems to have been looked down on as it was not written in the style expected of a refined person.

Duncan then went on to explain that almost 80% of the plants used in Western gardens originated in China, being brought to Europe by travellers. Additionally, since all traditional Chinese gardens were based on plants from the southwest of China, almost all the plants currently used in gardens throughout the world can be traced back to this region.

Duncan concluded his talk by taking some questions from the audience on how gardens were used as status symbols by persons who had climbed the social ladder, and what kind of technologies the Chinese gardeners used.



## NZ CHINESE LANGUAGE WEEK

This year, New Zealand Chinese Language Week is scheduled for the week 17 to 23 September.

For more information, keep a look-out on social media and on the [website](http://www.nzclw.com).



## 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. The event is open to all levels of learning, although may be most beneficial to those at an intermediate/advanced level.

Mandarin Corner will be held at 3.30pm on Saturdays @ Room G24, Rutherford House, 33 Bunny Street. Remaining 2023 dates are 19 August, 16 September, 14 October and 4 November. Email [confucius-institute@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:confucius-institute@vuw.ac.nz) so we can ensure access. For more information follow [the Confucius Institute Facebook page](#).



## MANDARIN CORNER 2023

Date	Topic
19 <sup>th</sup> August	闽南茶文化 Tea Culture in Fujian Province
16 <sup>th</sup> September	行在中国 Travelling in China
14 <sup>th</sup> October	琵琶与传统音乐 Chinese pipa and traditional music
4 <sup>th</sup> November	新能源汽车 Development of China's new energy vehicles

Time: 3:30-5:00PM

Venue: Room G24, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus.

CAPITAL THINKING.  
GLOBALLY MINDED.  
MAI I TE HINGA KI TE HINGA



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

## ENCOUNTERING CHINA Programme 21-22 July

The Wellington Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society collaborated with Wairarapa Word bringing together a **2-part ENCOUNTERING CHINA** programme in **Carterton & Masterton in the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

You can see more photos and captions on [the Wairarapa Word Facebook page](#)

### 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-nzdfs/>

[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 [wgtnczcs@gmail.com](mailto:wgtnczcs@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.