



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-nzcfs/>

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

Newsletter October 2023

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 18 October 2023

Guest Speaker: Stella Li

Flowers of China

At this month's Branch Meeting, Stella Li will present 'Flowers of China', drawing our attention to the cultural significance of season, shape and colour through an educational, entertaining and informative interactive discussion.

From common tokens of renewal through allegory of the human condition to the Empress' own, a rich gamut of colourful significance blooms in invitation of understanding. Health, wealth, wisdom, romance and more are communicated through hue, each in its season.

Stella Li is a professionally trained, experienced and accomplished teacher of pre-school, primary and secondary aged children and young adults, and is confidently working and studying in a tertiary environment. She is a qualified practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), possessing a practical working understanding of a wide array of cultural arts such as calligraphy, music, dance and martial art (ranked top three in Beijing competition for Kung Fu). Stella was born into a long family tradition of accomplished TCM practitioners and scholars.



In addition to academic study in China, where she won scholarship in economics on two occasions, Stella is continuing her studies in New Zealand.

Please join us for a fascinating exposition of the timeless indigenous cultural experience of China. This presentation will continue the discussion on the historical and cultural significance of Chinese gardens presented earlier in the year to branch members by Chinese scholar Duncan Campbell.

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: 18 October, 15 November. Please mark them in your calendar.



WELLINGTON BRANCH MEETING REPORT 20 September 2023

In our September monthly meeting, Luo Hui gave a very inspiring talk of the poetic journey he has taken over the years.

The meeting began with Luo Hui relaying apologies from his intended co-presenter, Madeleine Slavick. Unfortunately, Madeleine was unable to attend due to a back injury. To compensate for this, Luo Hui decided to split his talk into two parts. The first covered his work, and the second Madeleine's.





Luo Hui began his talk by reciting a poem written by a modern Chinese poet, Zheng Danyi 郑单衣 (1963 -). The poem "Feng Er 凤儿 (Phoenix)" was written in 2003, and was selected as an example of how Chinese literature was opening up to new ideas at that time. It was also interesting as an example of how a poet can insert themselves into their work, which was something both Luo Hui and Madeleine often did.

He then described his first major collaboration with Madeleine, which began just after he had completed his PhD and while Madeleine was still living in Hong Kong. For twenty-six weeks, Madeleine would take a picture and send it to him, and he would send her a short piece of text in return. At the end of this time, they swapped roles for the next twenty-six weeks.

Luo Hui refers to this work on this collaboration as "Ghost Records", because his PhD thesis was on Chinese ghost stories of the 17th century. Like the texts for the photographs, these ghost stories were all written in response to something the writer had seen or had been witnessed by other people who then reported to the writer. After this collaboration with Madeleine, Luo Hui carried on working with her, translating her English poems into Chinese, and also began to write poetry himself.

Luo Hui then read several examples of modern Chinese poetry, both his own work and others. These included works from two poets who wrote as one person, and another work where the Chinese words could have more than one meaning, leading to different interpretations of the same poem.

He then moved on to consider several examples of Madeleine's work, including simultaneous recitations of the same poem in English and Chinese, and further examples of poems relating to photographs she had taken over her career. He stated that the dual-language recitations

gave an additional layer of meaning to people who could understand both languages, and that her photography was an example of her ability to find beauty in unexpected places.

The talk concluded with a recitation by Paul Sayers of one of Madeleine's Chinese poems "Guancha 观茶 (Staring into Tea)".

Staring into Tea

for Chou Yu

In his father's large glass
of water and tea: Sky, earth,
sea, forest. He learns shift, saturation,
softness; staring is allowed the child

The oolong body smells its way
into his manhood — the warmest
honey needs the longest roots

觀茶

— 給周渝

父親的大杯子
盛滿水和茶：天，地
大海，森林。他學會篩選，濃淡
軟硬；從小他就被允許窺探

烏龍的天地何處
成年：最暖的蜂蜜
需要最深的根

NZCFS "HANOI TO EVEREST BASE CAMP" TOUR

HANOI TO LHASA, with option to Mt Everest An adventure with NZCFS, March–April 2024



You can read more about the tour on the [NZCFS website](#). For all enquiries and expressions of interest, please email tours@nzcfs.com. No commitment is required at this stage but places are filling up fast. Please indicate if you are interested in the extension to Everest.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP ARE COMING

At the Society's National Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Tauranga in May this year, members decided that it was time the Society adopted a simpler and more streamlined approach to membership.

From 1st January 2024, all branches will use the same membership classes, and all branches will charge the same fees. There will be one annual fee for each class of membership — \$10 for a fulltime student, \$20 for an individual, and \$30 for a family/couple.

More information is available on the [NZCFS website](#).

MANDARIN CORNER

Mandarin Corner is a monthly event where students learning Chinese meet with native speakers of Chinese for conversations in a friendly and relaxed setting. The event is open to all levels of learning, although it may be most beneficial to those at an intermediate/advanced level. Please email confucius-institute@vuw.ac.nz to ensure access.

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

Upcoming Sessions: @3:30 – 5:00pm, Room G24, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus.

- 14th October 琵琶与传统音乐 Chinese pipa and traditional music
- 4th November 新能源汽车 Development of **China's new energy vehicles**

NEW REPORT ON NZ CHINESE-LANGUAGE MEDIA

On the Record: An Introduction to Aotearoa New Zealand's Chinese-language Media is a new publication by the New Zealand Contemporary Chinese Research Centre.

Aotearoa New Zealand's Chinese-language media are important sources of information for many people. In recent years, some outlets have faced public scrutiny for censoring topics **that may reflect negatively on the People's Republic of China (PRC) and for their ties to the PRC party-state**. Despite this widespread but intermittent attention, local Chinese-language media are still poorly understood outside of the communities that they serve. This report written by Caleb Hoyle is intended to contribute to a **general understanding of New Zealand's Chinese-language media**.

An e-copy of the report is available [online](#). For a hardcopy, please contact [the China Research Centre](#).

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-nzcf/>

[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 |

NOTE: Membership classes and fees will change for 2024.

Name:
(Given names) (Surname)

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

Address

Email

Contact Person for Organisation:

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