



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 March 2024

Annual General Meeting 2024

Wednesday 3 April, 6:30pm

A G E N D A

1. Welcome from the Chair
 2. Apologies
 3. Call for Proxies and Nominations from the Floor
 4. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 15 March 2023
 5. Actions Arising from the Minutes (if any)
 6. **President's Report**
 7. Financial Report
 8. Membership Fees
 9. Appointment of Auditor
 10. Changes to Incorporated Society and Charitable Trust Status
 11. Election of Officers and Committee
 - Current President to relinquish the Chair
 - Call for nominations from the floor
 - Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)
 - Election of Committee Members
 - Counting of votes (if required)
 - Re-elected (or new) President to take the Chair
 12. Other Business
 13. Conclusion of AGM
- Guest speaker: Nancy Lu (National Party Member of Parliament)

Presentation by our guest speaker will be followed by a shared Chinese meal at \$20 per head. If you would like to join us for a meal, please make the payment to our bank account (details at the end of this newsletter), RSVP to wgtnczfs@gmail.com by Thursday 28th March, and state number of people attending.



Nancy moved to New Zealand with her parents from China in 1987 when she was nine years old. She graduated from the University of Auckland with first-class honours in international business and a double major in accounting with her Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Lu has recently gained a Master in Public Administration qualification from the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School in the US. She works as a chartered accountant and has a professional background in accounting, finance, and international trade.

Nancy has worked in New Zealand, Hong Kong and China in various roles including with Auckland Council, Dashang, PwC, EY, Fonterra, and COSCO.

Nancy will talk about her background, her journey towards becoming an MP, and the things **she'd like to achieve while she's in Parliament.**

PLEASE NOTE that to vote at the AGM or to nominate any person to the Committee or to one of the Officer positions on the Committee you must be a current financial (paid-up) member of NZCFS Wellington Branch.

If you are not already but wish to become a current financial member, please complete the membership subscription (at the end of this newsletter), or complete the [online form](#), or email the Wellington Branch Secretary at wgtnczfs@gmail.com for further information.

This year, our AGM and monthly meetings will be 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, 4, 12, 18, 23, and 29.

There is plenty of carparking on site.



The following dates have been booked for our Wednesday monthly meetings:

3 April (AGM), 15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September, 16 October, and 20 November. Please mark these dates in your calendar.

WELLINGTON BRANCH CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET 2024

Chinese New Year Banquet a memorable success

On a warm and blustery Wellington evening still trembling from the recent change in government and tingling at the increasing anti-China rhetoric washing in from abroad, friends of China found sanctuary in fine food, excellent wine, and the tremendously sensible encouragement from our significant list of guest speakers.



To open the festivities, our Wellington and National President of NZCFS, Chris Lipscombe, reminded us all that in the face of negative attitudes toward China the best and only response appropriate for our society is steadfast maintenance of progressive effort in bridge building, as our founder Rewi Alley encouraged us to do.

After a warm greeting to us all and especially to our several distinguished guests, President Lipscombe announced the long-anticipated resumption of NZCFS China Tours, the first in nearly five years to depart in March this year, and the next in September.

If, dear reader, you are interested in expertly guided NZCFS tours to China organised by our former President Dave Bromwich, please register on the NZCFS website.

NZCFS National President, Chris Lipscombe

An overview of the several high-level delegations, incoming and outgoing, that have been keeping teams busy, including performances by visiting artists, the first in several years, was shared.

President Lipscombe went on to say, "So we are once again seeing a flowering of exchanges between our two countries. On a more sombre note, this comes at a time when we see countries stepping away from global cooperation and turning inwards, with a focus national self-interest."

"Let me make my position perfectly clear. My country is a country that is not afraid to make up its own mind and chart its own direction in world affairs."

"My country is a country that is not afraid to declare that the Chinese people are our friends."

His Excellency Dr Wang Xiaolong, China Ambassador to New Zealand, our keynote guest speaker, broadly echoed the same sentiments as our President, noting that, **"despite the headwinds in the global economy, bilateral trade between China and New Zealand has held up well, and China is still by far the largest trading partner, export market, and source of imports to New Zealand."**



Ambassador Wang Xiaolong

The Ambassador went on to share that, “Over the past year, despite an increasingly complex and sometimes even challenging global environment, China-New Zealand relations have continued to evolve and grow.”

Ambassador Wang noted that as well as delivering the full dividend of our bilateral Free Trade Agreement by promoting traditional trade in meat, timber, and dairy products, “new growth points of cooperation could also be cultivated in areas like electric vehicles, agricultural machinery, resilience infrastructure, et cetera, which will meet the domestic needs in New Zealand and help to improve the well-being of local people.”

The Ambassador shared reports of several high-level exchanges between our countries in the fields of the sciences and the arts, and expressed a firm sincere wish for continued cooperation with NZCFS in the shared goal of assisting more friends of various walks of life and especially the younger generation to better understand China and the China-New Zealand relationship through engaging innovative approaches.

“The Embassy is ready to work with all of you, with the dynamism and vitality of the Dragon, to promote our friendship, so as to bring greater benefit to both countries, particularly the two peoples.”

Labour List MP Ginny Anderson was our next guest speaker. Ginny Anderson has family connections to China and is proud of them! Already for many years, close family has settled in China to raise a Chinese-New Zealand family of their own.

Ginny wished the assembly all the very best for Chinese New Year, clearly with her own family held in her heart, sharing their love for China and her love for them in one beautiful package gifted to us all.

Our final guest speaker for the evening was Wellington Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon, who is a third-generation New Zealander with Chinese roots. Her late grandfather was a well-loved and successful market gardener in the Hutt Valley who grew the best kai around, and who generally spoke only Cantonese.

Laurie Foon recalled how assimilation into mainstream New Zealand society stripped later generations of her family of their language heritage. The Deputy Mayor seems resolved in her effort to remedy that, sharing Year of the Dragon blessings with the assembly in Mandarin!



Ginny Anderson



Laurie Foon

The common theme expressed by all our guest speakers was one of genuinely warm familial relationships, of compassion, understanding and cooperation as found amongst family being the defining feature of New Zealand's relationship with China.

Then came the food, gloriously presented. A sumptuous feast was served, paired with fine white and red wine gifted by the Embassy. Guests and friends indulged in warm conversation as this year's raffle tickets were sold. Prizes this year, a fine array of artisan products and special gifts, attracted much attention.

A conversation overheard at one table, in response to the keynote addresses by our NZCFS President and the Ambassador, explored the differences between **"walking a tightrope" of obligations between friends and allies and the much more comfortable and rewarding "following our own groove" of steadfast service to all**, while gently rolling along the easier and secure middle way.

While we dined, we were entertained.

This year, in a slight departure from previous years, a special effort was made to attract young aspiring talent to perform for us. As we all know, the future belongs to the youth of today.

Our first guest, Mina Yu, only 13 years old, in firm possession of a maturing rock-metal voice, **boldly explored her impressive range with a rendition of "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor, a resilient rock ballad well suited to priming a generous gathering.**

Then a change of pace and style through 13-year-old twins Emma and Baily Jiang, who elegantly performed traditional ballads in Chinese, self-accompanied by ukulele and guitar, and with special deployment of a unique instrument, the hulusi.



Emma and Baily Jiang



Grace Chen



Mina Yu

Nestled between the last raffle ticket sales and the prize draws, after a suitable delay, the talented teacher of the young performers we had recently admired presented on stage with a flourish as a fully-fledged consummate professional.

Coloratura soprano Grace Chen worked in Beijing as a professional opera singer and now works in Wellington as a vocal coach.

A coloratura soprano flies a powerfully expressive voice like a fluttering kite, fully extended under firm control, surging like a rapidly undulating flock of birds in perfect harmony. Her fine, graceful performance was surprising and exciting. Many guests were wide eyed in appreciative amazement. Grace expertly sang "Little Bird on the Border" 边境的小鸟 and "Reed Flowers" 芦花.

As our warm and engaging evening among friends drew to a close, there was humour and great good fortune. One of our guests, the renowned artist Rangimoana Taylor, was the recipient of no less than three lucky raffle tickets this year.

May the Year of the Dragon bring blessing to you and yours also!

LANTERN FESTIVAL AT THE BOTANIC GARDEN

The Pacific Radiology Wellington Lantern Festival 2024 was successfully held on 24th Feb at the Botanic Gardens and Anglican Chinese Mission Church Wellington. There was a great turnout of VIPs and audiences from Wellington region. The event filled with over 6 hours of community cultural performances, food and cultural stalls, lion dance, dragon dance and lantern making!





2024 Mandarin Corner

Mandarin Corner is a monthly event where people 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.

This year the start of the 2024 Mandarin Corner kicks off on 23rd March.

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

Upcoming Sessions: Chinese Mahjong @3:30 – 5:00pm, Saturday 23rd March 2024, RHG24, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus.

All are welcome! Come to learn, share, and celebrate the beauty of Chinese culture through one of its most cherished games. Stay tuned for more information on the upcoming events and activities planned for this year.

NZCFS GRAND CANAL TOUR SEPTEMBER 2024



This is a new and unique offering from NZCFS, building on our legacy of offering educational and enjoyable tours to members and the public.

You can read more about the tour on the [NZCFS website](#).

NZCFS 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 17–19 MAY

NZCFS 2024 National Conference and AGM will be held from Friday 17th May to Sunday 19st May in Nelson.

The chosen theme of the Conference is **"Reaching Out"**. It focuses on finding ways to connect with people of Chinese descent in local communities, reflecting a key focus of the Nelson Branch. More information on the National Conference can be found at <https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/conference-2024/#programme>.

The conference Early Bird Fee has been set at \$135 per person and the banquet and wine tasting \$55. Registration after 19th April is \$150.

Participation via Zoom will be supported. All members are welcome to attend.



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 2024 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 2024 (subscription period January to December):

fulltime student \$10 individual member \$20 family/couple \$30

Applicant:

Given Names

Surname

Contact phone number:

Spouse/Partner:

Given Names

Surname

Contact phone number:

Address:

Email:

Payment total is as follows:		Payment method:
Membership Subscription:	\$ _____	Payment by internet transfer to:
Donation to NZCFS Wellington:	\$ _____	NZ China Friendship Society
Total:	\$ _____	ANZ Bank Account 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. Tick the box 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 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.

Donation Receipts: Following the end of each financial year, you will be sent a receipt for the total amount you have donated in that year. If you are a New Zealand tax resident earning taxable income in that year, you can claim a tax credit for the amount you have donated.