



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

孔子学院

2014

Annual Report

Confucius Institute
at Victoria University
of Wellington





From the Chairman

Opportunities in New Zealand to learn Chinese and become comfortable and familiar with Chinese culture are growing. But there is still much room for improvement. Through our programmes of Chinese language teaching in schools and our programme of cultural events, the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington is playing its part in making New Zealand a more China-literate country. These skills are critical if our business, government, educational and other representatives are to deal successfully with China as that country assumes an ever bigger place in our economic, educational, scientific and diplomatic priorities. As a country we need to give study of China, its language and culture, a more prominent place in the school curriculum. To those schools that are taking a lead in making knowledge of China a priority for their students we offer our congratulations and continuing support. The Confucius Institute backs this long-term national priority, well-articulated in the Government's China Strategy, and, with generous support from China will continue to offer programmes that help New Zealanders build their China skills. I thank all those who have done so much to expand the Institute's activities this year.

Tony Browne,

*Chairman of the Confucius Institute at
Victoria University of Wellington*

Tony Browne being
interviewed by TV
One reporter Ryan
Boswell on Kiwis
learning Mandarin

Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington (CI VUW)

Our Mission

The mission of the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington (CI VUW) is to build New Zealanders' understanding of and familiarity with China, its language, culture and people.

CI VUW works to expand opportunities for New Zealanders to learn Chinese, at school, in community classes and through courses offered at the CI VUW. It acts to build knowledge in New Zealand of China's long and rich culture by bringing Chinese music, literature and visual art to New Zealand and by facilitating cooperation and exchange between Chinese and New Zealand creative industries. Being part of Victoria University of Wellington, it contributes to enhancing China studies and research about China, and to building academic links between China and New Zealand, especially those with its Confucius Institute partner, Xiamen University. Hosting the Confucius Institute is part of Victoria University's strategy to build its engagement with China.

Our History

The Confucius Institute at Victoria University is the newest of three such institutes in New Zealand and part of the worldwide association of over 400 CIs operating with financial backing and support of Hanban – the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing. CI VUW was launched by the then Vice President of China, Xi Jinping, in June 2010 as a partnership between Victoria University and Xiamen University, and it started operating in early 2011. Its establishment was hailed as an important step in building cultural, educational and academic links between New Zealand and China.

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CI VUW was launched in Wellington by then Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping on an official visit to New Zealand in 2010.



Luo Hui conversing with Laytee George of the Waiariki Institute, Rotorua at the 2014 MLAs farewell function



Luo Hui performing with his jazz ensemble Orient Express



(L to R) Xiamen University Vice President Professor Zhan Xinli, Chinese Ambassador HE Wang Lutong and CI VUW Deputy Director Yang Xiaoqing

Our People

CI VUW is staffed by both Victoria and Xiamen universities. Its Advisory Board, which is chaired by New Zealand's former Ambassador to China, Tony Browne, has senior staff from both universities, led by VUW Provost, Professor Neil Quigley, and Vice President of Xiamen University, Professor Zhan Xinli. The other members of the Board are Mr Chen Yue (Education Counsellor, Chinese Embassy), Professor Deborah Willis (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, VUW), Mr Mao Tongwen (Director of International Cooperation, Xiamen University), Professor Wang Yiyang (Professor of Chinese, VUW), Professor James Liu (School of Psychology, VUW), Mr Jeff Johnstone (Director Education, Asia New Zealand Foundation) and Ms Li Ying (New Zealand Correspondence School).

Victoria University appointed Dr Luo Hui as Director of the Confucius Institute; Xiamen University appointed Professor Yang Xiaoqing as the Deputy Director. CI VUW has three Hanban-sponsored teachers – Mr Liu Yaru based in Wellington, Ms Zhang Min based at Waiariki Institute in Rotorua and Ms Ying Lanhui based at Massey University. The office is managed by Ms Lai Ching Tan, Administrator. In addition to its regular staff CI VUW benefits from the expertise of its Musical Consultant, acclaimed composer Associate Professor Jack Body. The CI Discover China programme is implemented by a team of instructors, Mr Stan Chan (calligraphy and painting), Mrs Ping Ching Mabbett (calligraphy and painting), Mr Meng Fanxiao (martial art), Ms Vicky Ha (cooking), Mr Brad Howes and Ms Yang Jingjing (cooking) and Ms Kong Jingyuan (music).

Who We Work With

CI VUW's primary collaboration is with the schools and other organisations that are teaching Chinese, or wish to introduce Chinese into their curriculum. Within Victoria University, the CI VUW works to develop partnerships with the Chinese Programme, the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, the Centre

for Lifelong Learning and other sections of the University involved in developing links with China.

Promotion of its cultural programmes sees CI VUW working closely with the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation, the New Zealand School of Music, Te Papa (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa), the New Zealand Federation of Film Societies, the Asia New Zealand Foundation, International Languages Exchanges and Pathways (ILEP), New Zealand China Friendship Society, New Zealand Chinese Language Association and Chinese community organizations. CI VUW values its close working relationship with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Where We Work

CI VUW not only promotes Chinese language and culture in Wellington, but also reaches out to schools and communities across the lower North Island. Resources make it difficult to extend full support to all parts of that region, but particular effort is being placed on supporting the exceptional commitment to Chinese teaching in Palmerston North, Whanganui, and the Bay of Plenty.

Resources

CI VUW is grateful for the support it receives from Victoria University of Wellington, from Hanban and from Xiamen University. CI VUW shares a building at 18 Kelburn Parade with the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre. Victoria University meets approximately half of CI VUW's costs with the provision of premises, staff, administrative support, facilities and equipment. CI VUW also benefits from the generous support for its operational budget provided by Hanban, along with the supply of books, teaching materials and other resources. Xiamen University supports CI VUW by supplying staff, organising meetings and visits, and offering on-going guidance.



Musical Consultant, Composer and Associate Professor Jack Body

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Promoting Language and Culture in New Zealand Schools



MLA Kong Jingyuan in
a music workshop

Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs)

2014 again saw substantial growth in our MLA programme, which has become CI VUW's primary channel for promoting Chinese teaching in New Zealand schools.

Year	Number of MLAs	Teaching Bases	Number of Schools
2012	3	Rotorua, Whakatane & Opotiki, Tauranga	9
2013	11	Wellington, Lower Hutt & Upper Hutt, Rotorua, Whakatane & Opotiki, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Whanganui	24
2014	21	Rotorua, Whakatane, Opotiki, Tauranga, Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Palmerston North, Whanganui, Masterton, Featherston,	37
2015	38	Rotorua, Whakatane, Opotiki, Tauranga Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Palmerston North, Whanganui, Edgecumbe, Tokoroa, Reporoa	71

The cumulative achievements of the MLAs are noteworthy. In 2014, 21 MLAs worked with 37 schools in 11 districts. Together they provided a total of 995 language classes to over 7000 primary, intermediate, high school and tertiary students, almost doubling the numbers reached in 2013. This dramatic increase in scope and impact is largely due to the enhanced financial support from Hanban, pedagogical guidance, administrative support and pastoral care from local principals and teachers, and the dedication and hard work of the majority of the MLAs. The new group of MLAs for 2015 is likely to number around 38, to be placed in 71 schools.



MLAs and the school principals and teachers



(clockwise from top left) Liz Rhodes, Principal of Brooklyn Primary School, MLA He Yue, Andrew MacFarlane, Principal of Kelburn Normal School, Colleen Restieaux, Principal of Cardinal McKeefry School and Kristin Holmes, teacher of Te Aro School at the 2014 MLAs farewell function

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MLAs Lu Dandan and Liu Wenyi
holding a class in calligraphy



Mid Autumn Festival Celebration
at Tauranga Girls' College Chinese
Community School

Confucius Classrooms

CI VUW's fourth Confucius Classroom was inaugurated this year at Wellington Girls' College. It will begin operating in the 2015 academic year, and is a tribute to WGC's 26 years of Chinese language teaching.

Inaugural Principals' Delegation

An important development in our language programme is the first delegation of principals to China. This was a two-week event, with participation by 10 principals, representing primary and high schools in Wellington, Lower Hutt, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Tauranga, Whakatane and Hawkes Bay. Meetings were held with the Chinese Ministry of Education, New Zealand Embassy and schools in Beijing and Xiamen.

Feedback from principals has been excellent, both in regard to the arrangements and the knowledge gained for starting or improving their Chinese programmes. Some of the principals have begun looking for partner schools in China; others are considering exchange programmes for teachers and students. They are part of CI VUW's growing constituency of partners working together with us to increase Chinese language teaching in New Zealand.

Support for VUW Chinese Programme

Giving maximum support to Victoria University's Chinese programme is a top priority for CI VUW. This year we continued to assign a dedicated MLA to the Chinese Programme who assisted with regular tutorial support and extra-curricular activities. The MLA also ran music workshops and the Chinese Club, a VUW student initiative.

Discover China Workshops

Discover China workshops have been extremely popular with schools in Wellington and elsewhere. The target of 50 workshops was well exceeded before the end of Term 2. By year's end, over 90 were run, reaching some 2500 students, both primary and secondary. This is double the number of students participating in

Discover China last year. The spread of workshops to date has been at colleges, intermediate schools, primary schools, university and community centres.

In the lead-up to Chinese New Year 2015, CI VUW is collaborating with Asian Events Trust, a community group which has organised Chinese New Year festivities in Wellington for many years, to run special *Discover Chinese New Year Festival* workshops. Participating school and students will feature at the festival in February 2015.



Two of the talented MLAs performing at the CI Day 2014 Sunrise Ceremony



Dumpling making as part of *CI Discover China* workshop

CI VUW's Language Programme

CI VUW has 3 full-time teachers funded by Hanban. In Wellington, we ran Chinese classes for adults, coordinated Chinese language proficiency tests (HSK and YCT), ran a teacher training course, and continued the community pilot programme for the Arlington Community Centre (free twice-weekly language classes to families). This is a good initiative and has been run for three semesters, a total of 30 weeks. The second teacher is based at Rotorua's Waiariki Institute and began classes there from March 2013. She remains the sole Chinese language teacher in the institution. The third teacher started at Massey University in April and teaches weekly Chinese classes, in addition, to running a weekly community language class.

Discover China workshops have been extremely popular with schools in Wellington and elsewhere.

Chinese Speech Competitions




The many faces of the participants at the 2014 New Zealand National "Chinese Bridge" speech competition

CI VUW organized the Wellington Regional Speech Competition at Queen Margaret College in May for 50 competitors, and sponsored and supported the National Chinese Bridge Speech Competition at VUW, also in May, for 29 participants. In August CI VUW sponsored and supported the Rotorua Chinese Speech Competition (80 participants) and the Palmerston North Chinese Speech Competition in October (60 participants). These worthwhile events are a good incentives for language learners, together with attracting a total audience of close to a thousand people.



Chinese Ambassador HE Wang Lutong with first prize senior entrant Luke Butler at the 2014 New Zealand National "Chinese Bridge" speech competition held at Victoria University of Wellington

A group of people, including men and women of various ages, are performing a haka. They are wearing traditional Maori clothing, including white and black cloaks (haka) with red and black patterns. The background shows a modern building and a blue and red structure with a logo. The scene is outdoors during sunrise.

Promoting the Arts and Cultural Awareness in the Wider Community

Sunrise Ceremony of Confucius
Institute Day 2014



Chinese media in Wellington
covering CI Day 2014



MLAs in ethnic costume
for CI Day 2014



One of many casual audiences
enjoying various performances
on CI Day 2014

Music and drama, the visual arts, literature, and popular cultural events continued to significantly raise the profile of CI VUW in 2014. In particular, the China-New Zealand Music Exchange series continued with three major projects curated by Jack Body and delivered to acclaim, not only in Wellington but elsewhere in New Zealand: *Tales from the Forbidden City* (featuring composer-pianist Gao Ping), *Asia Away and Beyond* (featuring composer Jia Daqun), and *High Mountain Flowing Water* (featuring guqin virtuoso Wu Na, among others). The highlights are summarised below.

Special Event: International Confucius Institute Day 27 September 2014

Confucius Institute Day marked the tenth anniversary of the founding of the first CI. It was celebrated worldwide, each CI receiving special funding from Hanban for this purpose.

CI VUW held a celebration with a difference. In the words of the Provost, Professor Neil Quigley:

“At a sunrise ceremony to kick off a day of Institute activities, and to ensure that we were the first Confucius Institute in the world to mark the event, I was joined by Peter and June Jackson and Mark Ormsby (Port Nicholson Trust), Chinese Ambassador His Excellency Wang Lutong and Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, together with Deborah Willis and Rāwinia Higgins from Victoria and colleagues from our Confucius Institute and Chinese programme (including Tony Browne, Hui Luo, Wen Powles, Yiyan Wang and Xiaoqing Yang). It was a cool and breezy morning on the waterfront at 6am, but the integration of Māori, Pākehā and Chinese tikanga captured a significant slot for Victoria in CNTV’s coverage of the world-wide Confucius Institutes’ celebration.

“Speaking at the ceremony on Saturday morning I used a second saying of Confucius:

Ko tā te tino kaiako whakamau i a tuarangi e mārama ai a nāiane.

A true teacher is one who, keeping the past alive, is also able to understand the present.

“This saying not only captures the core values of our Confucius Institute and its role in making traditional Chinese knowledge relevant in contemporary New Zealand, but it also resonates with a very wide range of scholarship in our social science and humanities disciplines.”

Video footage of the Sunrise Ceremony was shown at Hanban's Beijing official ceremony, with the Wellington ceremony being hailed on national CCTV news that night as the first celebration of the Day anywhere in the world. This gave significant exposure to CI VUW and Wellington City. There was valuable media coverage: Chinese CCTV included our ceremony and Professor Quigley's comments in its reports, Xinhua news agency similarly, as did Radio New Zealand (website-link <http://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player/20154020>) and local Chinese newspapers.

CI Day also gave us the chance to take *Discover China* to the streets. Hundreds visited our CI Day open-air cultural fair on the Wellington waterfront. Over four hours, CI booths offered everything from Chinese opera make-up to noodle-making demos. A non-stop programme of performances unfolded for visitors, including a guest appearance by the Shaolin monks, courtesy of Wellington City Council. CI staff, our MLAs and a band of volunteers did everything from modelling costumes to musical and tai chi displays to entertaining the kids. The Chinese Embassy showed appreciation for CI VUW's work by providing funding support.

October China Cultural Month

CI Day was the start of a month of cultural highlights that had been in the organisational pipeline for many months. Together, this concentration of popular and high culture attracted an array of audiences that we do not normally reach.

Main cultural events:

- *High Mountain Flowing Water* (*Gao Shan Liu Shui* 高山流水) was undoubtedly the highlight of this year's CI cultural programme. The original music drama was commissioned



Shaolin Monks demonstration at CI Day 2014



Noodle Making demonstration at CI Day 2014



Cantonese opera performance at CI Day 2014



A crowd enjoying a performance on CI Day 2014

*High Mountain
Flowing Water'*
(*Gao Shan Liu Shui*
高山流水) was
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High Mountain Flowing Water
Performers Gao Ping (composer and
pianist), Dong Fei (opera artist) and Wu
Na (guqin)

by CI VUW, curated by Jack Body and supported by NZSM. It featured premier Chinese and New Zealand talent: direction and choreography by Sara Brodie, literary arrangements by Luo Hui, compositions by Gao Ping (piano) and Wu Na (guqin) and opera performance by Dong Fei. The world premiere at the Otago Arts Festival (to rave reviews), followed by performances in Wellington (NZSM) and the Nelson Arts Festival, brought an audience of over 500 to *Gao Shan Liu Shui*. Radio New Zealand's Arts and Voices programmes interviewed the performers.
<http://www.odt.co.nz/entertainment/theatre/320142/review-high-mountain-flowing-water>

- A guqin recital by Wu Na at the NZSM; a 'taster' to *Gao Shan Liu Shui*. This is in line with our aim of building knowledge of not only Chinese music but traditional Chinese instruments. Through her 'collaboration' with musical electronics invented at VUW, Wu Na gave the ancient seven-string Chinese zither a contemporary and theatrical twist.
- '*Asia Away and Beyond*', a concert at NZSM featuring well-known Chinese composer Jia Daqun of the Shanghai Conservatory, whose works were played by Stroma, Te Kōkī Trio and soloists from the NZSM.



- A series of Mid-Autumn festivities in our partner schools around the lower North Island, led by the MLAs, and support to local music groups celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival.
- The first CI Chinese poetry reading event, celebrating the advent of spring. Organised with Wellington City Library, the event drew a hundred people and featured readings by poets Diana Bridge, Madeleine Slavick, Luo Hui and members of the public. We aim to continue these 'seasonal' poetry readings as a way of promoting classical and contemporary Chinese literature.



Children taking part in the CI Chinese poetry reading event

New Zealand Festival: Tales from the Forbidden City

Making an impact with New Zealand audiences was a world-class concert at the New Zealand Festival in March, sponsored by CI VUW and by VUW. The renowned Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra from Beijing jointly performed with the New Zealand String Quartet. The concert “was both international and distinctly adventurous in artistic terms ... music that was emphatically Chinese, by both Chinese and New Zealand composers”: review by *New Zealand Listener*. The collaborative project, guided by Jack Body, traversed original compositions by Chinese and New Zealand composers, and brought performers of both countries together in a truly collaborative fashion. In addition to CI VUW, those involved in supporting the project included China’s Ministry of Culture, the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing and Creative New Zealand.



Tales from the Forbidden City:
(from l to r) New Zealand composer, Gao Ping, Music director and conductor of Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra, Liu Shun, Associate Professor Jack Body and CI VUW Director Luo Hui

The Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra from Beijing, Xiao Ma and the New Zealand String Quartet



Visual Arts, Literature and Cultural Symposia

This year, CI VUW was a lead sponsor and supporter of Te Papa's Chinese exhibitions, *Throne of Emperors* and *Shi Lu: A Revolution in Paint*. This was a significant contribution by CI VUW to cultural exchange between China and New Zealand. The Director was a member of Te Papa's China curatorial advisory committee, of these first-ever exhibitions from the National Museum of China in New Zealand. The exhibitions attracted 24,000 visitors. Many more purchased the exhibition catalogues which featured CI VUW's brand and input.

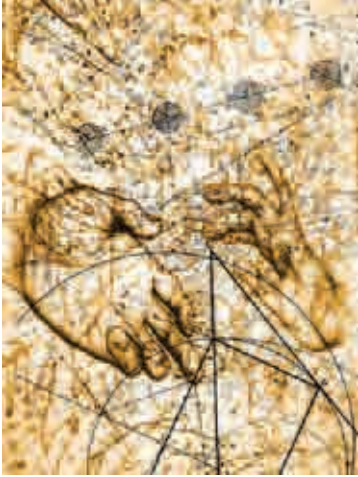
CI VUW was also a sponsor and supporter of an art and cultural symposium, *China in the Pacific*, organized by Te Papa and also supported by UNESCO and the Asia New Zealand Foundation. The Director was on the organizing committee of the symposium and one of its speakers, as was archaeologist Dr Wu Chunming of Xiamen University, which funded Dr Wu's visit.

CI VUW will continue to actively sponsor and participate in areas of Chinese cultural, arts and literary research, both at Victoria University and elsewhere.

Victoria University Library and Confucius Institute Art Gallery

The new art space on Level 3 of Victoria University's Library was launched last year. This year, we began exhibiting visual art by contemporary artists in and outside China. Their work represented creative responses to Chinese culture, history and society in a contemporary context, and these themes will be continued next year in the art space.

The inaugural exhibitions, *Five Senses* and *The Hollian Thesaurus*, ran from March to June and featured two suites of photographic works by a pair of Hong Kong-Canadian artists, Lee Ka-seng and Holly Lee. The second series of exhibitions, *Dynasty* and *Zoo*, ran from August to October and featured two mixed-media artists, Han Xu and Wang Hung-Fei whose photo-based works pay homage to traditional ink-wash painting.



Le Ka-seng's FIVE SENSES



Han Xu's DYNASTY

Film

Film continues to be a strong suit of CI VUW's arts programme, and film societies and festivals effective, readymade platforms to promote Chinese films and film-making. In 2014, we continued our sponsorship of New Zealand Film Society programmes, with 9 screenings of two Chinese films, *Fallen City* and *The Vanishing Spring Light*, in 6 cities. Both films were documentaries on contemporary issues in China: surviving the Sichuan earthquake and surviving old age.



Guzheng performance at the Michael Fowler centre

Chinese Festival Celebrations

Hanban is supportive of CI sponsorship of traditional Chinese festival celebrations in the local communities. In 2014, we sponsored a range of Chinese New Year celebrations in Wellington and Palmerston North, and Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations at Capital Performing Arts (Wellington) and the Manawatu Chinese Community Trust (Palmerston North), as well as various other festival celebrations in Rotorua and Tauranga.



Calligraphy at the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Michael Fowler Centre

Mandarin Corner

Mandarin Corner has been growing in popularity since it was re-launched by CI VUW from August 2013. We are the main organiser and sponsor of the weekly gathering for social Chinese language practice. The New Zealand China Friendship Society and the New Zealand Chinese Language Association (Wellington) are supporters and promoters of Mandarin Corner.



CI VUW update

With Director Dr Luo Hui commencing research leave in July, Wen Chin Powles joined CI VUW as Acting Director for the period August to December. Wen has a background with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Te Papa.

CI VUW will appoint a new Director in 2015 to replace outgoing Director Luo Hui. Luo Hui's outstanding achievements in firmly establishing CI VUW as an active and distinctive Confucius Institute, in just 3 years, has been recognised and valued by Victoria University, CI colleagues in Auckland and Canterbury, and by the leadership of Hanban and Xiamen University. Luo Hui's highly professional, creative and collaborative leadership has ensured our Institute's reputation and standing, and especially in the significant musical and cultural projects that have characterised CI VUW in New Zealand and elsewhere. Luo Hui has agreed to be CI VUW's Arts Adviser next year.

Executive Chair Tony Browne has been appointed one of 22 Senior Consultants by the Director-General of Hanban, a position awarded to eminent leaders in the Confucius Institute's global network. The position is significant to the promotion of Chinese language and culture in New Zealand and internationally, and is an honour not only for Tony but also for all those at Victoria University of Wellington who have worked to support the growth of the Confucius Institute.

CI VUW in 2015 will continue the emphasis on (1) Chinese language teaching, (2) our arts and cultural programme of high quality collaboration and exchanges between leading musicians, artists and institutions in New Zealand and China, and (3) literary and cultural research and outreach.

Contacts

Chairman of the Board

Mr Tony Browne

Director (*Research leave from July 2014*)

Dr Luo Hui

Victoria University of Wellington

Acting Director (*August to December 2014*)

Ms Wen Chin Powles

Victoria University of Wellington

Deputy Director

Professor Yang Xiaoqing

Xiamen University

Hanban Chinese Teachers

Mr Liu Yaru

Ms Zhang Min

Ms Ying Lanhui

Administrator

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