



### Message from the Chairman 孔院理事长寄语

2022 has been a year of two halves with the reopening of New Zealand borders in July allowing the Confucius Institute to prepare for the return of Mandarin Language Assistants after a three year absence. In November this year the Institute moved into premises on the University's Pipitea campus and is rebuilding its community and tailored language programmes. For the first time in three years there is a clear pathway for the Institute to take as it resumes many of its activities and relationships. We look forward to a more positive start to 2023 than we experienced in early 2022, when the Covid outbreak impacted heavily on our programmes.



Early in the year I took over as Chair from Tony Browne who contributed so much to shaping and developing the Institute over his ten years at its helm. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tony and to all our departing board members, from both New Zealand and China, for the contribution they have made to guide and improve the operation of the Institute.

The Institute would not be able to operate without the support it receives from the University and its partner, Xiamen University. Together we look forward to promoting Chinese language and culture and to strengthening the cooperation between our two Universities.

Blair McRae

Chair, Confucius Institute at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington



Blair McRae

### For over a decade we have expanded

opportunities

Zealanders to

learn Chinese

for New

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

- The Analects of Confucius

温故而知新, 可以为师矣。 论语

### Our Mission 使命

The mission of the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington – Te Herenga Waka is to help build New Zealanders' China capability, through a better understanding of the country, its people, language and culture.

For over a decade we have expanded opportunities for New Zealanders to learn Chinese through our Mandarin Language Assistant Programme in schools, our online courses and our courses tailored for professionals; and we have provided training and support to broaden the overall Chinese skills and China knowledge base in New Zealand.

By bringing Chinese music, literature and the visual arts to New Zealand and organising collaborative exchanges between the two countries' creative sectors, we continue to increase knowledge of the traditions and culture of historical and contemporary China.

Victoria University of Wellington's strategy of building strong engagement with China includes hosting the Confucius Institute. The Institute contributes to the University's China studies and academic links, especially those with its Confucius Institute partner Xiamen University, located in Wellington's sister city of Xiamen.

### Our History 渊源

Victoria University of Wellington launched the Institute during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping (then Vice President) in June 2010 as a partnership between Victoria University of Wellington and Xiamen University, and it started operating in March 2011. The two universities updated their Agreement to renew this partnership in September 2020.

The establishment of the Confucius Institute is an important bridge across the span of cultural, educational and academic relationships between New Zealand and China. Wellington is one of three Confucius Institutes in New Zealand, part of the worldwide network of over 500 Confucius Institutes.

### Our People 人员

Our Confucius Institute is staffed by Victoria University of Wellington and Xiamen University. Due to Covid-19 impacts on travel we have not been able to recruit Mandarin Language Assistants or replace teaching staff from China since early 2020 and our staff numbers have decreased to three. This year we welcomed Summer Jiang as Administrator to replace Lu

Chunxiao who completed her contract in April. Our teacher-designate, Guo Fang, was replaced by Chen Wenqian, who continued to provide online teaching courses from her base at Xiamen University. Over July and August we had the services of Lita Lyu, a PHD candidate, as an intern who provided administrative and teaching services. Adele Bryant and Zhao Yezhu continued in their Director and Deputy Director roles.

We farewelled our Chair, Tony Browne in February 2022 after ten years of service to the Confucius Institute. Tony's vision, energy and deep China knowledge shaped and guided the Confucius Institute from modest beginnings to running the largest Mandarin Language Assistant (MLA) programme in New Zealand.



Former Chair of the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington Tony Browne





The Advisory Board met twice in 2022. It is chaired by Blair McRae, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) of Victoria University of Wellington. It is co-chaired by Xiamen University Vice President, Yang Bin who retired in 2022. His contribution has been of real value to the Institute and we have greatly appreciated his support. Professor Jennifer Windsor and Dr Luo Hui stepped down while Professor Sarah Leggott, as Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor Humanities and Education, and Rebecca Needham, Director Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, joined the Board. We thank all our Board members for their service and expert guidance. A list of current Board members can be found at the end of the report.

Lita Lyu above left, Confucius Institute staff in their new premises. Summer Jiang, Administrator, Adele Bryant Director and Zhao Yezhu, Deputy Director (I-r)

### Our Partners 我们的合作伙伴

The Institute's primary collaboration is with the schools and organisations that teach and promote Chinese. This year we also worked with the Confucius Institutes of the University of Auckland and Canterbury, New Zealand Chinese Language Teachers Association, Tui Tuia Learning Circle, the New Zealand



Xiamen University is our partner in Wellington's sister city Xiamen

The Institute promotes Chinese language and culture across a large region from Wellington to the Bay of Plenty ...

Chinese Language Week Trust, Wellington City Council, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the Asia New Zealand Foundation. We are pleased to support the Wellington-Xiamen sister city link and Lanterns on the Awa in Whanganui. We also sponsored activities with the Asia Events Trust and New Zealand Federation of Film Societies

Within Victoria University of Wellington the Institute is part of the Strategic Partners and Engagement team and collaborates with New Zealand School of Music -Te Kōkī, Wellington Uni-Professional and the School of Languages and Cultures. We also sponsor the Victorious Dragon Boat team.

We value our relationships with a wide range of organisations and media including the Ministry of Education, New Zealand China Friendship Society, Xiamen University Alumni Association, Home Voice, and Xinhua News Agency.

### Our Region 区域

The Institute promotes Chinese language and culture across a large region from Wellington to the Bay of Plenty, covering schools and communities in Wellington City, the Hutt Valley, Kapiti Coast, Wairarapa, Palmerston North, Whanganui, New Plymouth, Rotorua, Tauranga, Hawkes Bay and Gisborne. This year our engagement was more limited by the Covid outbreak but several schools and community organisations participated in our Mandarin Language Assistant programmes, Discover China cultural workshops, the Bridge speech competition and HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi) language proficiency tests and online preparation courses.

#### Our Resources 资源

Our Confucius Institute is grateful for the support of Victoria University of Wellington and Xiamen University. The University provides premises, administrative support, staff, facilities and equipment. Xiamen University provides staff and the project budget. We thank Xiamen University for its flexibility around extending staff contracts and for providing a teacher to enable continuation of online HSK preparation courses this year. We also continued to benefit from support provided by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation for the Local Mandarin Language Assistant programme.

In November the Institute moved from its temporary offices on the Kelburn campus to the Pipitea campus in the Parliamentary precinct. The refurbished office provides a modern and secure premise for the Institute. We look forward to working alongside other Engagement team members and having easier access to our works of art and cultural and teaching resources.

Our Year 本年度

There was considerable impact from the Covid-19 outbreak on the Institute in the first half of the year, and we had to cancel or reschedule our work. It was though a year of two halves. As New Zealand reopened its borders the Institute was able to proceed with restarting of the MLA programme. The Deputy Director returned to China in October for the interview process and liaison with Xiamen University staff.

Nationally Chinese language learning continued to decline in secondary schools - part of an overall decline for most foreign languages - from a peak of 6368 in 2020 to 5044 in 2022. The lack of Mandarin Language Assistants and loss of Chinese programmes, especially at intermediate level, as well as the inability for students to travel to China are thought to be among contributing factors. On the positive side several schools propose to introduce Chinese into their curriculum and will participate in the 2023 MLA Programme.

As ever we have been grateful for the support and goodwill of our Victoria University of Wellington and Xiamen University colleagues, particularly as we prepare for the MLA programme in 2023.

To do the work well. first sharpen the tools.

> - The Analects of Confucius

工欲善其事, 必先利其器。



### Mandarin Language Assistants - Welcome Back

Since 2012, the Confucius Institute has provided volunteer Chinese teachers to New Zealand primary and secondary schools to support the teaching of Chinese. A Mandarin Language Assistant (MLA) is a high-performing Chinese university graduate who spends a year in New Zealand schools as an on-site Chinese teaching resource. The Mandarin Language Assistant Programme has been an outstanding success and was a key factor in the growth of students learning Chinese in New Zealand primary and secondary schools.

For three years MLAs have not been able to come to New Zealand because of Covid-19 travel restrictions. Last year, with the support of the Center for Language Education and Cooperation, we provided funding to 15 schools and over 2400 students to enable them to employ suitable native-Mandarin speakers as Local Mandarin Language Assistants or Teachers. This continued for most of the schools into 2022 and some will continue into 2023. Participating schools noted a positive impact on learning and staff support while around half of the schools reported they would not have been able to provide a Mandarin programme without our financial support.

During the second half of 2022 the focus of the Institute was on restarting the MLA Programme with a small number of MLAs. The intention will be to build numbers back up as both programme management capability and school demand increase. For 2023 the programme is targeting high schools and intermediate level schools with a commitment to a sustainable Chinese language programme. The Institute invited 43 schools to apply and received 27 applications covering more than 37 schools, including new schools just starting their Chinese language programmes. In October the Institute conducted Zoom interviews and selected 24 MLAs to cover the needs of host schools. We are planning for MLAs to arrive in February 2023.

"For 2023 the programme is targeting high schools and intermediate level schools with a commitment to a sustainable Chinese language programme.. "

# Bridge Speech Annual Competition



Seve Taunga-Leamanuvae-Su'a of Wellington College receives his trophy from CI Director Adele Bryant

Senior Category		Junior Category	
William Sok -	Rotorua Boys' High	Seve Taunga-	Wellington
Top Talent	School	Luamanuvae-Su'a – Top Talent	College
Joshua Smith	Rotorua Boys' High School	Paloma Sen	Scots College
Anna Riley	Wellington High School	Rosa Martelletti	Wellington High School
Telesia Tanoa'i	Samuel Marsden College	Lena <u>Waswo</u>	Wellington Girls' College
Nitchanan Wannasiri	Scots College	William and Joshua are eligible to participate in the international Bridge	
Finley English	Western Heights High School	competition later in 2022!	

The Chinese Bridge speech competitions for tertiary and secondary school students provide a great incentive for students to improve language fluency and build interest in language and culture. The competition was run online for the third year in a row with a change to the secondary competition which allowed regional winners to advance directly to the international competition without competing nationally. Ry Hammersley of Massey University was our Tertiary Champion while William Sok of Rotorua Boy's High School and Seve Taunga-Luamanuvae-Su'a were Senior and Junior School Champions respectively.

### New Zealand Schools Chinese Language Celebration



To replace the national competition Auckland Confucius Institute hosted a well-attended Chinese Bridge Speech gala in Auckland on 24 September where regional winners were invited to speak and showcase their Chinese talents. Five participants from the Wellington region delivered their Bridge speeches, danced and wowed the audience with their 'crosstalk' alongside ten other students and performers from Auckland and Canterbury.



### Language Classes

Taking advantage of our location in the New Zealand capital, the Confucius Institute has actively supported Chinese language teaching in government departments and workplaces. Due to Covid our teaching focus shifted to online courses rather than the tailored Chinese language and culture training and courses which we have run in the past for government, local government and business and community groups. Our online weekly Mandarin Corner conversation classes for all-comers ran intermittently during the year due to a lack of Chinese teachers.

Our ten-week HSK Online Preparation courses continue to be popular and were run by Chen Wengian and Lita Lyu for four groups of students from level 1-4. Students find these particularly helpful for when they plan to sit an HSK test.

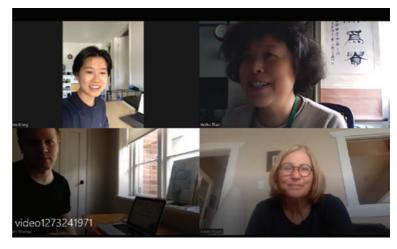
### Language Proficiency Tests

The Institute is a Test Centre offering HSK and HSKK language proficiency tests for adults and school children and assists students with Confucius Institute scholarship applications that have taken them to China for further study. This year 37 people attended four exams, including two online home-based tests.

l-r: Finley English (Western Heights High School), Joshua Smith and William Sok (Rotorua Boy's High School), Telesia Tanoa'i (Samuel Marsden Collegiate)

"The classes were so organized and the tempo was so good, 90 minutes just flew by...."

""I found this course very helpful for keeping Chinese language fresh in my mind, whilst building on my knowledge steadily.""



### Professional Development

The success of Chinese learning at school and university lies in the quality and commitment of teachers. Our Institute works with the NZ Chinese Teachers Association and others to provide training, resources and to share knowledge at annual roundtables and other events. In July 2022 the Director presented to a Tui Tuia Learning Circle Immersion Day for around 24 Chinese language teachers on restarting the MLA programme. This was an opportunity to discuss the priorities for a restarted MLA programme and remind teachers of the helpful role which language assistants play in the school.





# **New Zealand Chinese** Language Week 25 September – 1 October 2022

We worked with the NZCLW Trust to ensure school Bridge finalists from our region took part in the opening function of New Zealand Chinese Language Week at Parliament attended by the Speaker, Rt Hon Adrian Rurawhe, Minister of Ethnic Communities, Hon

Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Chinese Ambassador Wang Xiaolong and Members of Parliament. Three students from our region became 2022 Youth Ambassadors. They were William Sok and Joshua Smith of Rotorua Boys' High School and Telesia Tanoa'i, of Samuel Marsden Collegiate.



序号	学校名称 Name	成立年份 Year of Establishment	所在地 Location
1	Rotorua Boys High School	2010	Rotorua
2	Wellington College	2013	Wellington
3	Whanganui High School	2013	Wanganui
4	Wellington Girls' College	2014	Wellington
5	Samuel Marsden Collegiate School	2015	Wellington
6	Wellington East Girls' College	2015	Wellington
7	Te Aro School	2015	Wellington
8	Western Heights High School	2015	Rotorua
9	Te Kura Kaupapa Motuhake O Tawhiuau	2015	Murupara
10	Tauranga Intermediate School	2015	Tauranga

### **Confucius Classrooms** 下属孔子课堂

There are ten Confucius Classrooms in our region which receive additional resources to support well-developed Chinese language programmes. Schools, like Whanganui and Western Heights act as a hub providing support to surrounding schools, though activities were constrained by the Covid pandemic this year.



### Chinese New Year Festival, Tiger Trail and Lantern Festival



In February we continued our longstanding sponsorship of the Wellington Lunar New Year Festival with support for the 'Elements of the Tiger' trail. Five artists painted five tiger sculptures representing the five elements (water, wood, earth, fire and metal) and the sculptures were placed in locations around Wellington.

In October the Director attended the Lanterns on the Awa Festival in Whanganui which was supported by our Confucius Classroom, Whanganui High School. Discover China instructor and guzheng musician, Jia Ling, played to an audience of over 2000 people at the event.

# China Crossing Composition Competition

Music is a special focus for the Institute and our growing partnership with New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) - Te Kōkī has been instrumental in developing world-class exchanges and joint projects with Chinese musicians and conservatories. Our collection of traditional Chinese instruments is housed with the NZSM Asia-Pacific Music Studio Collection and is available for use by the School and community. Our China Crossing project is now in its sixth year and has brought together students, composers and musicians in both a cultural and musical sense. It has been a wonderful example of how the Institute can enhance NZSM and the University's reputation for performance excellence and for innovative musical composition.

Our second Composition Competition for students, run in partnership with NZSM, attracted six entries and drew on instruments in our Chinese collection. As part of the competition



Inspire the mind with poetry, build character with propriety, and finish with music.

- The Analects of Confucius

兴于诗, 立于礼, 成于乐。 论语

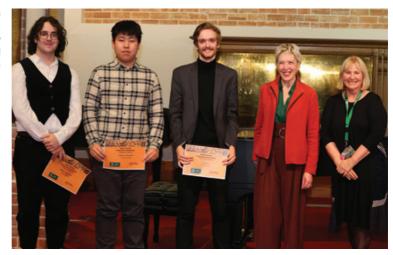


Directors of the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington, Wen Powles (2014-2016) Adele Bryant (2019-) Dr Luo Hui (2010-2014) and Rebecca Needham (2017-2018) (l-r)

China Crossing Competition winners Liam Hotter, Haochen Zhu and Liam Furey with Sally Jane Norman and Adele Bryant (l-r)

The opportunity to compose for the China Crossing Competition 2022 was an incredibly enlightening experience. Members of the Confucius Institute were generous in showing how to play the instruments at an NZSM Composition Workshop, which inspired me to write for the competition. As a composer, connecting with instruments previously unfamiliar to myself enriches my understanding of my craft.

Liam Furey - 2022 first prize recipient of the China Crossing **Composition Competition** 



we participated in a composer's workshop at NZSM for about 40 students featuring the erhu and guzheng to give students the chance to engage with musicians and explore the instruments. Judges drawn from NZSM and from China awarded first prize to Liam Furey and highly commended awards to Haochen Zhu and Liam Hotter. Liam's winning composition was titled "Many Points of Convergence" for guzheng, pipa and erhu. The students were presented with their awards at a concert in September by Professor Sally Jane Norman, Director NZSM.

# China Crossing Concert: RE:Connecting Through Music and Poetry

To celebrate New Zealand Chinese Language Week the Institute organised a concert featuring Chinese music and poetry at the University on 27 September. About 60 people attended and were entertained by the New Zealand String Quartet,



Dr Luo Hui poetry recital at the China Crossing Concert



William Berry, NZSM at China Crossing Concert



NZ String Quartet, China Crossing Concert

Dr Luo Hui of the School of Languages and Cultures, guzheng player Jia Ling and pianists Ben Kennedy and William Berry, students at NZSM. The poetry complemented and set the scene for the music which ranged from modern Chinese compositions from Gao Ping and Tan Dun to more traditional tunes.

Complementing language classes are the Institute's popular Discover China! workshops in schools, the university, and communities.

### "Discover China!"

Complementing language classes are the Institute's popular Discover China! workshops in schools, the university, and communities. The interactive sessions showcase the talents of our team of seven skilled instructors who offered 24 workshops this year for over 250 people ranging from music, dance, art, calligraphy, martial arts, Lion dance to hotpot and dumpling making. We continue to look for individuals who can offer their Chinese cultural expertise to schools and the community, especially in centres outside of Wellington.









Learning more than one language encourages diverse ways of thinking - From the NZALT Conference, July 2022

### Chinese Literature, Art and Film

The Institute has for many years supported the showing of Chinese films in partnership with NZ Film Societies. In October the Wellington Film Society screened 'Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains' to a large and appreciative audience.

In August a temporary exhibition of photographs from the Confucius Institute collection was installed in the Kelburn Campus Library. Feng Bin's 'Hutong at Night' shows large brooding nightscapes of Beijing neighbourhoods taken by the photographer from 2005-2008.

## Raising Awareness of the Confucius Institute's Work 提升对孔子学院工作的认知

We combined with other New Zealand Confucius Institutes as a Bronze sponsor of the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers Conference 2022 held in July. The Director joined around 250 language teachers in Dunedin and represented the three New Zealand Institutes at the conference which provided an opportunity to support language teachers, share best practice and explore issues affecting language learning. Much discussion focused on the NCEA change programme and review of achievement standards and the New Zealand curriculum refresh with languages expected to be a focus in 2024-25. The aim is to complete both reviews by 2026.

Facebook and Youtube continue to be the main platforms for engaging with our New Zealand social audience with Facebook followers increasing from 641 at the beginning of 2022 to to 700 by December 2022. We continue to provide stories where we can to our Chinese facing platforms - Wechat and local Chinese paper Home Voice.

During the year we produced videos for our MLA recruitment in China and to publicise United Nations Chinese Language Day with assistance from Rotorua Boys High School, Whanganui High School and Wellington College. The Institute also began a video series on the language journeys of students covering the last 50 years of New Zealand-China diplomatic relations which will be published in 2023.

## Special Thanks 特别感谢

#### Our Partners 我们的合作伙伴

Victoria University of Wellington

惠灵顿维多利亚大学

School of Languages and Culture

语言文化学院

Wellington Faculty of Education

教育学院

New Zealand School of Music

新西兰音乐学院

Wellington Uni-Professional

终身教育中心

Xiamen University

厦门大学

Confucius Institutes of New Zealand

at Auckland and Canterbury

奥克兰孔子学院, 坎特伯雷大学孔子学院

Center for Language Education

and Cooperation

中外语言合作交流中心

Chinese International Education Foundation 国际中文教育基金会

Ministries of Education, New Zealand and China 中华人民共和国教育部、新西兰教育部

Asia New Zealand Foundation

新西兰亚洲基金会

New Zealand Chinese Language

Teachers' Association

新西兰中文教师协会

Tui Tuia|Learning Circle

New Zealand Chinese Language Week Trust 新西兰中文周基金会

Embassy of the People's Republic of China 中华人民共和国驻新西兰大使馆

#### Advisory Board 理事会成员

Blair McRae, Chair of Confucius Institute 2022-

Professor Yang Bin, Co-chair, Xiamen

University (XMU) 2018- 2022

Professor Sarah Leggott , Victoria University

of Wellington (Wellington) 2022-

Chen Zhiwei, XMU 2021-

Rebecca Needham, Wellington 2022-

Chris Grinter, Rotorua Boys' High School 2018-

Dong Zhixue, Embassy of the Peoples

Republic of China 2019-

Sean O'Connor, Asia New Zealand

Foundation 2019-

#### Our Staff 孔院工作人员

Director 外方院长

白若兰 Adele Bryant

Deputy Director 中方院长

赵叶珠 ZHAO Yezhu

Administrator 行政

姜阳 Summer Jiang

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