

# 孔子学院

## 2023 Yearbook 年度报告

Confucius Institute  
at Victoria University  
of Wellington  
惠灵顿维多利亚大学孔子学院



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

Confucius  
Institute

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**WELLINGTON**  
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# Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington

惠灵顿  
维多利亚大学  
孔子学院



# Message from the Chairman

## 孔院理事长寄语

The return of the Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) after three years has been the key to a successful year at the Confucius Institute. Our 24 volunteers from leading Chinese universities have been supporting the learning of Mandarin in over 46 schools from Whakatane to New Plymouth and from Rotorua to Wellington. Half have been located outside of Wellington in rural and provincial cities. As the programme rebuilds the Institute's commitment to support students and schools from across our region to learn Mandarin and develop knowledge about China's culture and contemporary society remains strong. Given China's role in the world and its economic importance to us, having New Zealanders with the skills to critically engage with China and Chinese people is crucial.

With the arrival of the MLAs and a new Chinese teacher so many other activities were able to be restarted. The Institute saw a huge increase in the number of Discover China workshops provided by our team of Chinese cultural instructors in schools and the community. Activities like our Mandarin Corner conversation group and Mandarin Corner On Air broadcasts were able to resume. Our annual regional Bridge speech competition was able to be held in person and our representative was able to compete in China and return as Oceania Champion. A wonderful result and testament to the quality of teaching in the Wellington region.

The year was not without its challenges as the University worked towards financial sustainability. It is pleasing to end the year with secure funding and a strong commitment to the Institute from both its partners. We extend our thanks to Xiamen University and Victoria University of Wellington for their ongoing contribution to the Institute.

Roger Shew

*Chair, Confucius Institute Advisory Board*

*For nearly  
thirteen years  
we have  
expanded  
opportunities  
for New  
Zealanders to  
learn Chinese*

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

– From Confucius

温故而知新，  
可以为师矣。

## 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 nearly thirteen years 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. In March we welcomed Chen Wenqian as our Chinese teacher and two Mandarin Language Assistants, Lu Hanwen and Liu Chang to work part-time in our office. Adele Bryant retired as Director at the end of 2023. Zhao



Yezhu and Summer Jiang continued in their Deputy Director and Administrator roles.



The Advisory Board met twice in 2023 in September and November. It is chaired by Roger Shew, Director International of Victoria University of Wellington. It is co-chaired by Xiamen University’s Dean of Chinese International Education College, Chen Zhiwei. We farewelled two Chairs in 2023, Blair McRae in March and Rebecca Needham in September. Both Blair and Rebecca have provided valuable support and guidance to the Confucius Institute over the last six years, as members of the Board and through their roles at the University. Sean O’Connor, Education Director at Asia New Zealand Foundation stood down from the Board in December 2022 while Chris Ginter, Principal of Rotorua Boys’ High School stood down from the Board in November 2023. We thank all retiring Board members for their service and expert guidance. A list of 2023 Board members can be found at the end of the report.



## 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

Chinese Language Week Trust, Wellington City Council, the Wellington-Xiamen Association, the China Culture Centre in Wellington, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Within Victoria University of Wellington the Institute moved from the Strategic Partners and Engagement team to Wellington University International following the University's financial sustainability review. We maintained our collaboration with New Zealand School of Music -Te Kōkī 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, Kawerau and Whakatane.

## 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 as well as external management of the Mandarin



Language Assistant Programme. We also welcome the support of the Center for Language Education and Cooperation and the Chinese International Education Foundation.

## Our Year 本年度

The Institute’s focus was on restarting and managing a successful Mandarin Language Assistants (MLA) Programme. One of the highlights for the institute and Wellington-based MLAs was to meet China’s Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng, during a visit to Victoria University of Wellington in August.

Nationally Chinese language enrolments at secondary schools lifted in 2023 to 5245 reversing the downward trend seen over the last two years. This is an encouraging development which may continue with the resumption of the MLA programme and travel to China. In our region the outlook is mixed. We have seen a few schools stop offering Chinese while others are looking to increase their participation in the MLA Programme because interest or enrolments have increased.

As ever we have been grateful for the support and goodwill of our Victoria University of Wellington and Xiamen University colleagues, particularly during challenging financial times for the University.

*To do the  
work well,  
first sharpen  
the tools.*

–From Confucius

工欲善其事，  
必先利其器。

Wellington-based MLAs meeting China’s  
Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng





Promoting  
Chinese Language  
in Schools and  
Communities

在中小学与社区中推广中文



# Mandarin Language Assistants – Welcome Back

The Institute’s Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) are the most important vehicle for our support of Chinese language teaching in schools. 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.

From 2012-2019 the Confucius Institute provided volunteer Chinese teachers to New Zealand primary and secondary schools to support the teaching of Chinese. For three years MLAs were not able to come to New Zealand because of Covid-19 travel restrictions. In late February 2023 we were pleased to welcome back 24 MLAs to work in 46 schools in eleven cities and towns in the lower half of the North Island. We estimate these MLAs were teaching some 8822 students. Our 2023 MLAs were carefully selected from 12 of China’s top universities.

While numbers of MLAs are lower than in previous years the Institute’s programme remains the largest in Australasia, and we expect that demand will grow in future years. We acknowledge the strong commitment from all our partner schools - principals and teachers - and our Chinese partners for funding, pedagogical guidance and pastoral care which contributes to the success of the MLA programme.

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

A welcome back of the MLAs on the steps of the New Zealand Parliament.





# 我们是 2023 Mandarin Language Assistants

## NEW PLYMOUTH



Fu Yiwei

## WHANGANUI



Man Yanting

## PALMERSTON NORTH



Bao Jiahui

## KĀPITI



Xue Qing

## UPPER HUTT



Wu Danlei



Zong Yan

## WELLINGTON



Lu Hanwen



Liu Chang



Chang Shuqi



Lyu Liping



Weng Xin



Li Yingjing



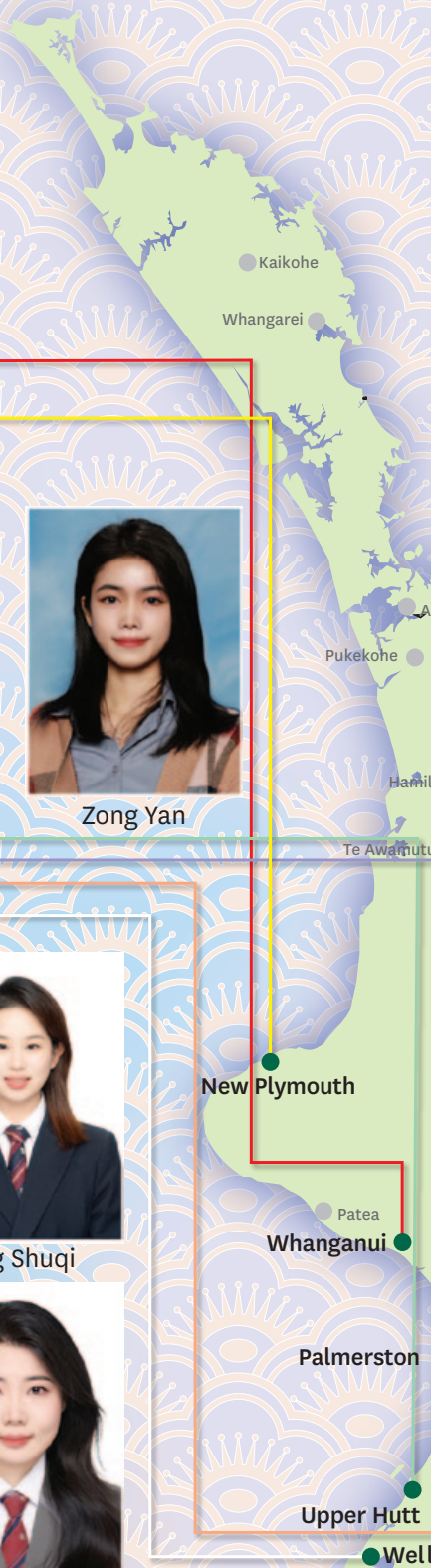
Cao Hanwei



Huang Yuelin



Li Tianyi





## TAURANGA



Li Xuejie



Luo Min



Sun Xin

## KAWERAU



Zhang Shuang

## WHAKATANE



Zhu Shu

## ROTORUA



Hu Minyao



Wang Zepeng

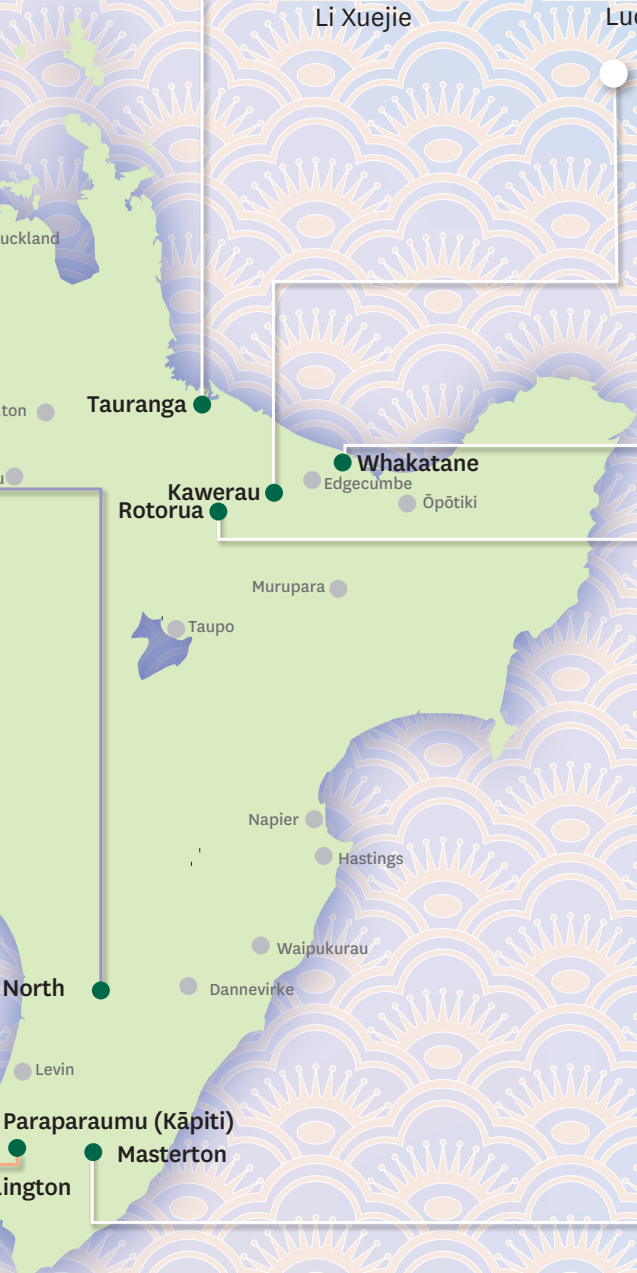


Yang Xin

## MASTERTON



Min Yezi





# Bridge Speech Annual Competition



Miranda Underhill winner of Bridge Speech Annual Competition Junior Championship



Telesia Tanoa'i joint Bridge Speech Annual Competition senior champion and Oceania Champion, winner with Counsellor Dong and Chair Rebecca Needham



Reina Jones joint Bridge Speech Annual Competition senior champion

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 returned to an in-person event in May for the first time in three years. The event, held at the University, was great fun for the 20 participants from 12 schools and their enthusiastic audience of 50 supporters. Telesia Tanoa'i from Samuel Marsden Collegiate School and Reina Jones from Whanganui High School were joint Senior Champions while Miranda Underhill of Wellington East Girls' College won the Junior Championship. The Institute thanks the Chinese Embassy for their sponsorship of this regional event.



# Outstanding International Chinese Bridge Result

Telesia Tanoa'i joined three other regional winners from New Zealand and 110 representatives from 97 countries in Beijing and Yunnan province at the 16th International Chinese Bridge speech competition for secondary school students from 16-31 October. After several rounds of competition, Telesia was named Oceania Champion, one of the top five Chinese learners in the world and receives a three-year scholarship to a Chinese university. Her teacher, Jingying Herrington also received an outstanding tutor award.



Telesia Tanoa'i Oceania Champion with and JingYing

*“It was an honour to represent Aotearoa and the Pacific region on that stage. I hope my success will encourage others to learn Chinese and open a world of opportunities and international experiences.=*

## 2023 Educators’ Delegation

Providing opportunities for principals and teachers to strengthen their China knowledge is an important goal for the Institute. In September, Zhao Yezhu led a delegation to Beijing and Xiamen for a ten-day visit. The delegation comprised two Principals and seven educators from Wellington, Upper Hutt, Rotorua, and Canterbury. The group visited the New Zealand Embassy, Center for Language Education and Cooperation, Xiamen University and two primary and middle schools in Xiamen.

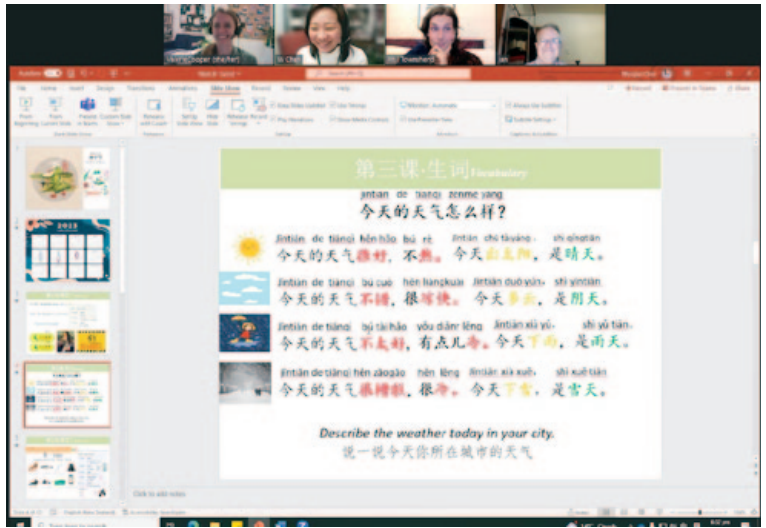


# Language in the Community

Our ten-week HSK Online Preparation courses continue to attract students and two rounds of ten-week classes were run by Chen Wenqian for 12 students from beginner to more advanced levels.



Chen Wenqian



## Mandarin Corner

After a three-year hiatus our Mandarin Corner conversation group led by Wellington-based MLAs restarted with monthly meetings on a Saturday from June until November. In September, the Mandarin Corner On Air language broadcasts hosted by MLAs and school guests restarted on Wellington Access Radio. Six programmes have been recorded. These activities provide students and members of the public opportunities to practice conversation and learn the most up-to-date Chinese vocabulary and social trends.

*After a three-year hiatus  
our Mandarin  
Corner  
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from June until  
November.*





# Language Proficiency Tests

The Institute is a Test Centre offering HSK and YCT language proficiency tests for adults and school children. This year we ran 15 HSK exams covering all levels from 1 to 6 and one YCT exam for a total of 65 people, including one in Palmerston North and one at Wellington College.



## New Zealand Chinese Language Week

### My Journey of Learning Chinese

This video project involves five New Zealanders sharing their learning experiences and challenges and motivations for learning Chinese. The videos were released in September to mark New Zealand Chinese Language week. Most presenters are graduates of the University, and some have studied at Xiamen University or with the Confucius Institute.





For New Zealand Chinese Language Week we contributed a video greeting from our MLAs and nominated Youth Ambassadors and Teacher Awards for the opening event in Parliament.

## 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. Staff of the Institute attended the Fifth Oceania Chinese Language Teachers' Conference in April and the 25th NZASIA Conference in November. The Institute met with Wellington-based teachers in March and December to discuss issues affecting Chinese language teaching and our future work programme.

The institute provided a four-day orientation programme in March and a two-day professional development programme for its MLAs in August with input from university staff, Chinese teachers and others who support the MLA programme. These courses introduce the New Zealand education system and classroom and provide useful material and tips for teaching and life in New Zealand.

Five MLAs from regional centres had the opportunity to attend the 'Step up to the World' global citizenship conference in Auckland organised by the Centres of Asia Pacific Excellence in September.







“2023 was a great comeback after three years of Covid-19. Our MLA Man Yanting was excellent and all the Whanganui primary schools she worked with are going to continue with Chinese next year.”

Beck Ding, Whanganui High School

# Confucius Classrooms

## 下属孔子课堂

There are ten Confucius Classrooms in our region which can receive additional resources to support well-developed Chinese language programmes. Many act as a hub providing support to surrounding schools like Whanganui High School and Western Heights High School in Rotorua.

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	Whanganui
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 Tāwhiua	2015	Murupara
10	Tauranga Intermediate School	2015	Tauranga





Promoting Chinese  
Culture and the Arts  
推广中国文化艺术

琴瑟和鳴



# “Discover China!”

Complementing language classes are the Institute’s popular Discover China! workshops in schools, the university, and communities. With the return of MLAs the number of workshops has boomed. The interactive sessions showcase the talents of our team of seven skilled instructors who offered 116 workshops this year for over 2,250 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.





We made full use of MLA talents, especially of our Tea Master, to create videos and celebrate festivals such as International Tea Day, the Dragon Boat Festival and UN Chinese Language Day with schools and the University. In April we supported the Wellington-Xiamen Association and sister city link by promoting and participating in the “Friends of Xiamen” book club which culminated in an online meet the author event.



## China Crossing Composition Competition

Music is a special focus for the Institute and our 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. This year our China Crossing exchange took a break while the University's financial sustainability review was completed



We ran our third Composition Competition for students in partnership with NZSM and two young composers were awarded prizes for music scores drawing on traditional Chinese instruments in our Collection. First prize went to Eva Bedggood and highly commended award to Cici Qian. The winning composition was titled “Magnolia” for erhu, cello and piano.



Eva Bedggood



Cici Qian

# The Art of Dunhuang Grottoes



*“I will have connections for life with these musicians and instruments now, something I am so grateful to the Confucius Institute for providing.”*

Eva Bedggood

In November we partnered with the China Culture Centre in Wellington and NZ China Friendship Society to host a public

lecture on The Art of Dunhuang Grottoes by Professor Zhao Shengliang, a renowned Chinese art historian. This attracted a full house of over 60 engaged participants.

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

Our WeChat, Facebook and YouTube posts have increased significantly with the arrival of MLAs. WeChat stories and videos about their activities and life in New Zealand provide great advertising for future MLAs. Facebook and Youtube continue to be the main platforms for engaging with our New Zealand social audience with Facebook followers increasing from 700 at the end of 2022 to 772 at December 2023 with a reach of nearly 10,000. We continue to provide regular columns to local Chinese paper Home Voice and our Institute featured in two Chinese media articles in People's Daily Overseas Edition and on the website of the College of International Chinese Language Education (ICLE) of Xiamen University.





# 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
- 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
- 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

- Roger Shew, *Chair of Confucius Institute* 2023-  
Chen Zhiwei, *Co-chair, Xiamen University* 2023-  
Professor Sarah Leggott, *Victoria University of Wellington* 2022-  
Yu Hongbo, *Xiamen University* 2023 -  
Chris Grinter, *Rotorua Boys' High School* 2018-2023  
Dong Zhixue, *Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China* 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
- Chinese Teacher 中文教师  
陈文倩 CHEN Wenqian
- Administrator 行政  
姜阳 Summer Jiang

## Follow us on



更多信息请详见孔院 Facebook, YouTube 及微信公众号。

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