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NZCA Waikato

47 Lewis Street
Glenview, Hamilton

Celebrating Our Community & Upcoming Activities

Our association continues to bring people together through cultural celebrations, community connection, and shared activities. Thank you to all our members and volunteers who make these events possible — your involvement is what keeps our community strong, visible, and welcoming.

President's Report

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed some well-deserved time with family and friends. As we begin the New Year, I extend my best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy year ahead. I also look forward to celebrating the Chinese Luna New Year — the Year of the Horse — with you next month.

Since September 2025, it has been a productive and rewarding period for the NZCA Waikato Branch. Our activities during this time align closely with NZCA's four strategic pillars: Voice, Community, Heritage, and Sustainability.

1. Voice — Representation and Advocacy

We have maintained active representation of our local Chinese community through regular Police–Ethnic Community meetings, ensuring open communication and raising issues of importance to our members.

In October 2025, committee members and community representatives participated in a visit from the Ombudsman. This provided an important opportunity to exchange information and deepen our understanding of issues affecting our community.

Our Mid-Autumn Festival was another key highlight. We were pleased to welcome Councillor (now Mayor) Tim Macindoe, whose attendance reflects ongoing support for our Association and our role within the wider Waikato community.

2. Community — Connecting People and Building Relationships

Bringing people together and strengthening connections remains central to our work.

In September 2025, we collaborated with NZCFS Hamilton at the Welcoming Communities event. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with the Golden Age Group and the Waikato Chinese Lion Dance Group, further strengthening local partnerships and raising awareness of NZCA.

Our End-of-Year Fusion BBQ provided a relaxed and festive occasion for members and families to enjoy each other's company. Attendees shared in summer-themed activities and games, fostering fun and fellowship.

Planning is also underway for the 2026 NZCA Sports and Cultural Tournament, which continues to be a significant event for bringing communities together across regions.

3. Heritage — Culture, Language, and Social Activities

Celebrating and sustaining our cultural heritage remains a strong focus.

The Mid-Autumn Mooncake High Tea was a great success, featuring mooncake making, a friendly mah-jong competition, and a visit from the current Mayor. Holding the event a few weeks ahead of the festival worked well and helped avoid clashes with other community activities.

Our Social Saturday mah-jong sessions, held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, continue to attract regular

President's Report

participants. These gatherings provide a welcoming space for social interaction and cultural engagement.

4. Sustainability — Strengthening the Branch

Significant effort has been invested in ensuring our branch remains strong, sustainable, and well governed.

During September and October 2025, we ran "Give It a Go" sessions at a local indoor sports centre to encourage interest and participation in the 2026 NZCA Sports and Cultural Tournament.

One of the major initiatives during this reporting period was the comprehensive review of our branch rules to align with new legal requirements. This review involved many hours of careful discussion, and I extend sincere thanks to our committee for their diligent and collaborative work. The updated rules were approved by our members at the Special General Meeting on 6 December 2025.

National Highlight

Although slightly outside this reporting period, an important national event worth acknowledging was the 80th Anniversary Commemorations in Beijing, held from 1–3 September 2024.

As National President, I attended at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. The programme included official ceremonies, cultural and historical exhibitions, gala events, and a large military parade involving approximately 12,000 personnel.

A particularly meaningful moment was receiving a commemorative medal in recognition of the contributions made by members of the New Zealand Chinese community during the 1940s. In discussions, Madam Chen observed that

New Zealand was among the largest contributors per capita to the war effort. The medal symbolizes our shared history and ensures that the sacrifices and contributions of earlier generations are honoured by future generations.

Thank You

Finally, thank you to our committee members, volunteers, partners, and all our members for your ongoing support. Your involvement is fundamental to keeping our branch active, welcoming, and strong. I look forward to continuing our work together and to celebrating Chinese New Year with you all.

Paul Chin
President
NZCA Waikato Branch

Upcoming Event

Date: Saturday, 21 February

Time: 11.30am to 3pm

Venue: Community Hall, 47 Lewis Street, Glenview

RSVP: by 18 February 2026

Cost: Free to members who bring a plate of food to share

Membership may be paid or renewed on the day

Join us as we welcome the Year of the Horse with a vibrant community celebration. Open to members, families, and friends, the event will feature lo hei/yu sheng/prosperity toss, dance performance and cultural activities, shared food, and opportunities to connect while celebrating Chinese culture and traditions. It's also a great occasion to invite friends who may be interested in joining our community.



Looking Ahead

Give It a Go Sessions

Held in September and October at a local indoor sports centre, these sessions encouraged members and the wider community to get involved and promoted the upcoming 2026 NZCA Sports and Cultural Tournament.

NZCA Sports and Cultural Tournament (Easter Tournament)

Planning and promotion are underway. We have begun gathering members and others interested in participating, with more details coming soon. Members are encouraged to get involved as participants or attendees.

Alongside sporting events, there will be non-sporting activities such as mahjong, social gatherings, and opportunities for different age groups to connect, including intergenerational dinners and attendance at the opening cultural ceremony. Members are also welcome to join for a day to experience the atmosphere and connect with the wider community.

Please register your interest by replying to this email or text to Janet 0272161888 by 14 February.



Culture, Heritage & Social Connection

Social Saturday

Bi-monthly mahjong sessions continue to attract a dedicated group of members, providing a relaxed and enjoyable way to connect, socialise, and maintain cultural traditions. This will resume after our Chinese New Year celebration. New participants are always welcome.



Recent Highlights

Welcoming Communities - Manaaki Village

A successful collaborative event bringing together local ethnic groups to strengthen community connections. We worked alongside the NZ China Friendship Society (Waikato) and connected with the Golden Age Group, and the Waikato Chinese Lion Dance Group. This raised awareness of NZCA Waikato in the community.



Shared at the Mid-Autumn Festival - Mooncake High Tea

During the celebration, our President, Paul, shared highlights from his recent visit to Beijing, China, including attending a commemorative event recognising international support during the Japanese War.

Mid-Autumn Festival - Mooncake High Tea

Members and guests enjoyed mooncake making and a relaxed high-tea celebration focused on cultural sharing and connection. Mayor Tim Macindoe attended and took part in activities, adding to the significance of the occasion.



Recent Highlights

On behalf of the New Zealand Chinese Association, Paul, as National President, was honoured to receive a war memorial medal acknowledging New Zealand Chinese Association's monetary contribution during that period. In his talk, he reflected on the enduring historical links between New Zealand and China, and the role of overseas Chinese

communities in remembrance, peace, and mutual understanding.

Members appreciated hearing this account in person, which added a meaningful historical dimension to the Mid-Autumn celebration. (Article below on NZCA contribution to the war)



A Mahjong competition was trialled, kindly organised by Jannine Rhodes. This friendly competition was won by Ronnie Yee.



Highlights and Community Voice & Representation

End-of-Year BBQ Lunch & Special General Meeting

A BBQ lunch provided an opportunity to enjoy the festive spirit through activities and games, and to thank members and volunteers for their contributions throughout the year. A Special General Meeting was held alongside the event, where members approved updated rules to support the future of the association.



Community Voice & Representation

Police Ethnic Community Meetings

There is ongoing representation from our Association to ensure the local Chinese community's voice is heard.

Ombudsman Visit (October 2025)

Members attended to learn more about services and information relevant to community needs.

NZCA History - Contribution to War Efforts

Credit: NZCA WELLINGTON
BRANCH

Background

- The New Zealand Chinese Association (NZCA) was formally established in 1935, uniting Chinese communities across New Zealand who had previously been organised in regional or clan-based groups.
- The timing was significant: in 1931 Japan had invaded Manchuria, and by 1937 Japan launched full-scale war against China. Overseas Chinese communities worldwide were deeply involved in fundraising and relief efforts.

Contributions from NZ Chinese to China during the Japanese invasion

1. Fundraising and Donations
 - o The NZCA and local Chinese groups across New Zealand organised large-scale fundraising drives for China's war effort.
 - o Funds were collected to purchase medical supplies, ambulances, clothing, and relief for refugees in China.
 - o Community events such as concerts, film nights, charity dinners, and public appeals were held.
2. China Relief Fund
 - o In 1937, the NZCA and affiliated groups launched the "China War Relief Fund" (sometimes referred to as the "China Relief Fund").
 - o Chinese communities contributed generously despite being a small, working-class population in New Zealand.
 - o A remarkable total of over £100,000 (equivalent to many millions in today's dollars) was raised across New Zealand by the Chinese community and their supporters.
3. Ambulances for China
 - o One of the most notable campaigns was raising funds to send ambulances to China. These were purchased in New Zealand and shipped overseas to support the Chinese resistance against Japan.
4. Engagement with Wider NZ Public
 - o The NZCA encouraged and successfully gained support from sympathetic New Zealanders, churches, unions, and political groups who opposed Japanese aggression.
 - o Some Pakeha New Zealanders joined in fundraising efforts for China alongside the Chinese community.

5. Political Advocacy

- o The NZCA advocated within New Zealand for awareness of the war in China and sought fairer treatment for Chinese in NZ, arguing that the community was making sacrifices for the anti-fascist cause.
- o These efforts helped improve the image of Chinese New Zealanders in wider society, at a time when anti-Chinese prejudice and the poll tax still cast a shadow.

Legacy

- The wartime contributions built solidarity within the Chinese New Zealand community and strengthened ties with China.
- The efforts also demonstrated Chinese New Zealanders' role as global citizens committed to the fight against fascism.
- After the war, the NZCA continued to be a unifying body advocating for the rights and interests of Chinese in New Zealand.

NZ was one of only 11 countries given this recognition in what China terms their fight against the war of aggression against the Japanese uprising during the Second World War period. The medal acknowledges the significant contribution made by Chinese across New Zealand and the New Zealand Chinese Association.



NZCA Waikato Membership form

To comply with the new rules, all members will need to provide a signed form with their details. This will remain current if membership is renewed each year. Please see below.

**NEW ZEALAND CHINESE ASSOCIATION (NZCA)Waikato also known as
Waikato Chinese Association -WCA
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

APPLICANT FULL NAME:	MEMBERSHIP START DATE:
PHONE NUMBER:	OTHER PHONE NUMBER::
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: Street N. and Name:	
Suburb:	City and Post code:
SPOUSE/PARTNER FULL NAME:	
PHONE NUMBER	OTHER PHONE NUMBER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
DEPENDANT CHILDREN UNDER 18L	
NAME:	DOB:
NAME:	DOB:
NAME:	DOB:

MEMBERSHIP (Put a 'Y' next to the type of membership):		
Type of membership	MEMBER(Chinese)	ASSOCIATE (non Chinese)
FAMILY: \$25	COUPLES: \$20	INDIVIDUAL: \$12
Donations would be appreciated: \$		TOTAL PAYABLE: \$

PAYMENT METHODS (Put 'Y' in between Brackets):

() Direct Credit to Acct# 03-1560-0056023-00, NZCA Waikato Branch. Put first name and initial of last as reference please

SIGNATURE..... DATE:.....