

# Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc



## 澳中友好协会

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## Bulletin

2018/7 July 2018

### Coming events

**Conversation evening**

**5 August**

**Talk on Chinese culture**

**15 August**

**Talk on Art Deco Department stores of Shanghai**

**September**

**ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble concert**

**7 October**



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## For your diary

### Chinese – English conversation evening: 5 Aug

One Sunday each month there is a Chinese-English conversation evening from 7.30-9.30pm at the home of Shirley Johns. One hour is spent speaking Chinese (for English speakers who would like to practise their Chinese) and one hour is spent speaking English (for Chinese speakers who would like to improve their English).

If you would like to attend the conversation evening, please phone Shirley on 6254 4305 (after hours).

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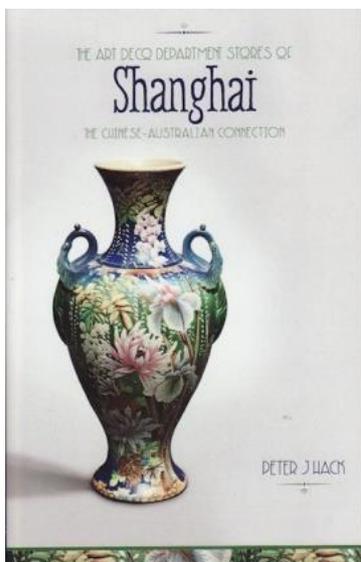
### Talk on Chinese Culture

On Wednesday 15 August Alex Olah will again talk to members and friends about his experiences in China and observations on Chinese culture. The talk will be in the Catchpole Room at the Southern Cross Club Jamison at 7.30.

Those who wish to will have dinner in the bistro at 6.00. Please book by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by 10 August.

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### Art Deco department stores of Shanghai



In September, date to be advised, we will be treated to a talk on the art deco department stores of Shanghai by Peter Hack, author of a book on the subject.

Shanghai's Nanjing Road is internationally famous for its iconic art deco department stores. These stores are not just about shopping. They are not just about selling modern goods from around the world. They are about entertainment and they are about pleasure!

But if you were to ask who established these stores, there would be very few people who would know the answer. Even

fewer would know the names of the Chinese-Australian merchants who were key-players. It is no exaggeration to say that the department stores of China and Hong Kong were built on the back of Sydney's Haymarket banana trade.

Peter will have copies of his book with him.

The talk will be at 7.30pm at the Labor Club, Belconnen. Those who wish to may meet for dinner in the bistro at 6.00pm.

### Fast facts from the Beijing Review, July 2018

- An increasing number of Chinese airports are now using facial recognition systems. The system has proved accurate and efficient, taking less than a second to match a passenger's face with their ID photo and do validity checks. It is being used in 80% of China's airports where passenger throughput exceeds 30 million per year. An upgrade was due for limited release in June before being released for nationwide use.
- China will reinforce its crack down on pyramid schemes. Work to eliminate these schemes will combine online monitoring with solid offline evidence. Guidelines call for improved communication among the departments involved in the government led crackdown. Despite progress in recent years, pyramid schemes remain an issue, causing massive financial losses, skewing the values of participants and harming the social credit system.
- Drones are being used in some orchards in Hebei province to pollinate pear trees in place of conventional artificial methods; their use is more efficient and cuts down on the labour force.
- China's economic transition continues, in 2017 consumption contributed 58.8% of economic growth, up from 45.3% in 2007.
- Beijing (city) plans to clean all polluted rivers and ponds by the end of the year, there were about 140 polluted rivers about 60 have been cleaned so far. Beijing city uses over 1,000 gegalitres of recycled water a year.

**Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.**



On the 14<sup>th</sup> the Curry Festival was also on which brought many into Civic. We were allocated 'the dining tent' which was a good size and had a marvellous heater. It was a bit of a rush to set up but all was ready in time and with Lynn and Alex outside spruiking we had a steady stream of customers of all ages all of whom were extremely happy with their lanterns.

Our venue for the 21<sup>st</sup> was the Circus Tent. We were concerned that there might not be many customers as we had seen no evidence of any promotion of the 'Wintervention' event. We had 15 minutes to set up which we managed with help from one of the organisers and had customers lining up by 4pm. As the tent had tiered seating the space available was somewhat limited but we managed to fit in 9 tables albeit somewhat cosily. Moving around to help those making lanterns was a bit of a challenge but we managed and all who attended left very happy with their efforts. Parents were very pleased with the activity and we even received a \$5 donation. It was a great success from our point of view and the organisers were also extremely happy.



Many thanks to Tanja, Jean, John, Teck, Sue, Lynn, Vera, Alex, Neil and Peter who came along on one or both days.



## Committee news, July meeting

The July Committee meeting was held at the 'Beijing House Restaurant' in Hawker on another very chilly Winter night. We debriefed on the last few events – the Film evening and the Lantern Making Workshop over two of the Winter Fest weekends in Civic. The film had good reviews (except for comment that the subtitles could have been better). The Lantern Making Workshops were a success, with at least 115 lanterns made by very happy children over the two weekends. It was a good way to promote an aspect of Chinese culture – and to keep some active children entertained for a moment. Even with very little advertising the event was very well patronised.

Carol and John provided an interesting and detailed review of their trip to Beijing and Shanxi late June 2018, hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). Both were humbled by the generosity of the CPAFFC and were quite taken aback when a police escort led their mini bus cavalcade in Shanxi.

A Youxie sponsored trip to Haikou City was made available to one Committee member for November 2018. Jean, our hardworking newsletter editor, has been chosen as the very worthy candidate for this.

Melba-Copland College has finally located the 2 shields we provided for students of mandarin after having lost them for over 12 months.

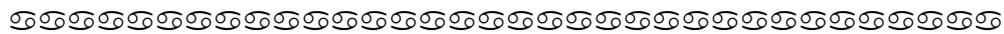
We made final plans for our August event - a talk by Committee member, Alex Olah. Hope you are able to join us!

I had to leave following the meeting, so couldn't stay for the meal. Am certain that it was delicious though!

Stay snug, your Secretary, Tanja

## Film night: *Wolf Totem*

Approximately 26 members and friends attended the screening of *Wolf Totem* at the Labor Club in Belconnen on 18 August. Spectacular photography told a tale of balance in nature between herders and wolves, agricultural development and nomadic life, tradition and modernity.



## My Ride to Work

Pamela Tobey's adventure with her electric bike in Beijing

By Pamela Tobey | *Beijing Review* No.29 JULY 19, 2018



The author rides to work on her scooter in Beijing on July 13 (SHI GANG)

Arriving in China several years ago, I was struck by the sheer number of bicycles and electric motor scooters that zipped around the bike lanes of Beijing's streets. At first, it was intimidating to cross at intersections, but in time I grew accustomed to the hectic activity. I began by riding an old bicycle around the campus neighborhood where I live, getting a feel for being amid the riding masses.

A year later, I took the plunge and bought my first electric-powered bike with the assistance of a Chinese friend and learned how to ride safely in the busy bike lanes. I appreciated the ability to get everywhere more easily and could carry home heavy grocery bags on my trusty vehicle. Then I began to commute to work on it since the route is pretty simple, leaving campus to head south along a large road with wide bike lanes on each side, and one left turn onto the street where my office is located. I recently upgraded my ride to a new brand replete with lots of safety features and a sleek design, and since it is electric, I named it Sparky.

I love the views along my commute south: the BeiDa (Peking University) campus, the thriving Zhongguancun area known as China's Silicon Valley, the traditional architecture of the elegant Friendship Hotel and the big National Library. When I leave for work early, I often see the same elderly men slowly pedalling along on their old bicycles, a bird cage hanging from each handlebar as their little birds get some outdoor time and fresh air. I see the same traffic

guards, either in blue uniforms or bright yellow jackets, each morning and evening at many intersections, trying to impress safety on the riding masses and guide the cars on right turns into traffic while letting pedestrians safely cross. My favourite traffic guard is an older gentleman who uses a small microphone and amplifier to make sure his voice is heard. He is fierce in his determination to have riders and pedestrians obey the traffic lights at the busy intersection, and he doesn't hesitate to yell at those who try to run the light. The riders and pedestrians usually back down and listen to him.

But a recent commute added another dimension to my daily trek.

It was a lovely, clear summer day on my way to work. I was enjoying the cool morning breeze, but a sobering sight greeted me a few kilometers from my apartment. A white baseball cap lay in the middle of the bicycle lane in Zhongguancun. Just beyond it, a large electric motorcycle lay on its side. I usually drive slowly in this area due to the busy traffic, but this time I slowed down even more. Then I noticed a foot under it. A woman was still astride the motorcycle but unconscious, and a pool of red lay on the road under her head. Nearby pedestrians and workers seemed to be taking charge of the situation and with my limited Chinese, I would have been of no help, so I kept going.

After this, I drove Sparky like an elderly grandmother and let all the others in a hurry pass me by as I thought about what I had just seen. Few electric motor scooter and motorcycle riders wear helmets, and if this woman had been wearing one, it would have protected her head from hitting the road directly. It also made me appreciate the recent move by the Beijing authorities to introduce new safety regulations and lower speed limits for electric-powered scooters and bicycles. Observing lower speed limits can lessen injuries in an accident and possibly prevent many of them.

My commute now takes longer, but I am reminded to slow down and notice my surroundings, keep an eye on my fellow travelers and arrive at my destination safely. I think of this woman every time I get on my little motor scooter.

The author is an American living in Beijing.

**Thanks to Teck Lee for the link to this article.**



## **Chinese welcome *sanfu*, hottest time of year**

Chinese people embraced the first day of *sanfu*, the hottest and dampest period of the year, on Tuesday in unique ways across the country.

*Sanfu*, also called China's "dog days of summer", refers to three 10-day periods that are predicted to have the hottest days of the year. As a millennium-old tradition, Chinese people are spending *sanfu* like their ancestors. In traditional Chinese medicine, *sanfu* is considered a particularly suitable time for treating illnesses. *Sanfutie*, a special treatment, has been used by Chinese people for hundreds of years,

In Wuhan, Hubei province, tens of thousands of people have come to the Hubei Provincial TCM Hospital for treatment—a bandage made of traditional Chinese herbal medicine placed at various acupuncture points on the body.



A child gets *sanfutie*—therapeutic bandages filled with herbal medicine placed at acupuncture points—at Handan Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital in Handan, Hebei province, on Tuesday. It was the first day of *sanfu*, the dog days of the summer. In TCM practice it is *considered* a particularly suitable time for treating illnesses. HAO QUNYING/FOR CHINA DAILY

"This is the 11th year I have received this treatment," said a woman in her 40s who was waiting in line to get the *sanfutie*. "I was diagnosed with chronic sore throat several years ago, but after I used *sanfutie*, my condition was gradually resolved." Amazed by the effects of *sanfutie*, she recommended the therapy to her family and friends. "Sanfutie represents a typical offseason TCM treatment, which during the hot summer treats illnesses related to cold weather," said Deng Kebin, director of the hospital's otolaryngology department.

"Because of the summer heat, the meridians of the human body are clear and smooth, providing a great opportunity to balance the body's energy and heal diseases," Deng said.

In Tai'an, Shandong province, people flocked to barbecue shops to eat mutton on *sanfu*. "Our business is the best during *sanfu*," said Wang Yan, the owner of one of the biggest mutton shops in town. "Customers eat a total of more than 40 sheep every day." Wang said the custom of eating mutton during *sanfu* can be traced back to the Yao period, about 4,200 years ago.

According to Chinese medical theory, drinking hot mutton soup can disperse the cold in the stomach caused by drinking cold beverages. Besides eating mutton, Shandong also organizes other cultural events during *sanfu*, such as sheep fights.

In Shanghai, people practice *sanfu* traditions by eating dumplings and drinking tea. Wu Zude, a local culture expert, said such traditional foods can replenish a person's energy and prevent health problems.

In the scorching heat, the jasmine flowers are blooming in Fuzhou, Fujian province. "*Sanfu* is the busiest time for the jasmine tea industry," said Du Luwen, an inheritor of traditional jasmine tea processing techniques. "During

the *sanfu* period, jasmine flowers contain the highest level of essential oils, which is indispensable for first-class jasmine tea.”

For locals, a cup of jasmine tea, a cattail leaf fan and a Fuzhou Opera performance are all they need for a peaceful and cozy summer.

Source: ‘Chinese welcome snafu, hottest time of the year’, Xinhua, through China Daily, 18 July 2018,  
<<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201807/18/WS5b4e7b1ea310796df4df70f0.html> >



## Journey to the West – A documentary aims to increase understanding of Xinjiang by Ji Jing | *Beijing Review* No. 27 JULY 5, 2018



A promotional poster for the documentary *I Am Going to Xinjiang* (COURTESY PHOTO)

*I'm Going to Xinjiang*, an eight-episode documentary following the lives of 24 people, Chinese and foreign, who have moved to northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to live and work, aired concurrently on China Central Television (CCTV) and video streaming websites V.qq.com and Bilibili in May.

*I'm Going to Xinjiang* is the follow-up to a previous documentary by Kurbanjan Samat, a young Uygur photographer and director.

### Putting down roots

Zhou Lina, the head of a kindergarten in a town near Atushi, a city in southwest Xinjiang, was chosen as one of the central characters in the show.

In 1994 Zhou met her husband, a kebab vendor from Xinjiang, in her hometown of Shenyang in northeast China's Liaoning Province. She soon fell in love and they got married against her parents' will. Zhou later moved to her husband's home village in Atushi. In the years since she has learned how to do farm work and cook local dishes, becoming accustomed to indigenous customs and culture. In 2006 she became a Chinese language teacher at a local primary school.



Zhou Lina teaches a class in July 2017 (COURTESY PHOTO)

"I came to Xinjiang because of love but I also unexpectedly realized my childhood dream of being a teacher," Zhou said in the documentary. "The love of my husband, children, and colleagues has empowered me to stay here," she added.

The documentary's 24 protagonists come from all walks of life and include luminaries such as architect Wang Xiaodong, who is a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Seventy-nine-year-old Wang has dedicated his life to preserving the historical residential buildings of Kashgar in Xinjiang's far west. As an idealistic young man, Wang chose to work in Xinjiang after graduating from university in 1963, having been enthralled by the vast and mysterious region since childhood. "Kashgar has been hit by several large earthquakes over the past 100 years. It is the responsibility of an architect to protect historical and cultural cities," Wang said. Through the efforts of Wang and his colleagues, the residential buildings of Kashgar have been transformed into strong, earthquake-resistant structures which retain the outward appearance of the original buildings.

"Many people ask me whether I regret having devoted most of my time to the preservation of an historic city rather than designing large and famous buildings. I tell them no because my job is more meaningful than building skyscrapers as it concerns the lives of tens of thousands of people," said Wang. In the 1970s some of Wang's colleagues returned to school to continue their studies, but when Wang's university offered him the opportunity to go back, he refused. "Having lived in Xinjiang for so many years, I have fallen in love with this place, and gotten used to life here. I like Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, a lot: not too hot in summer, nor too cold in winter, with just enough sunshine," he said.

### **Better understanding**

"Normally when people come to Xinjiang, they don't consider what they can do for the region but whether they can realize their potential and dreams there," said Kurbanjan Samat, the show's director. "However, in the process, many people have managed to do just that as well as creating value for Xinjiang. This is the message I want to deliver most through the



The production team traverses Bogda Peak in the Tianshan Mountain range in Xinjiang during work on the documentary in August 2017 (COURTESY PHOTO)

film." Born in Hotan, a city in the south of Xinjiang, in 1982, Kurbanjan Samat studied photography at the Communication University of China in 2006 and worked for the CCTV documentary channel after graduation. Upon discovering that many people's understanding of Xinjiang was limited to a simplistic impression of an exotic land where people like to sing and dance, he assumed the responsibility of presenting the real Xinjiang to outsiders.

"For many Chinese, Xinjiang remains a remote and mysterious place. However, I want to help people from outside the region to see beyond this perception," said Kurbanjan Samat.

In 2015, Kurbanjan Samat published a book of stories and pictures focusing on over 100 Xinjiang people living and working in other parts of China. *I Am From Xinjiang on the Silk Road* was translated into nine languages including Russian, English and French and distributed globally, with Kurbanjan Samat producing a six-episode documentary under the same name in 2016.

The book and documentary have seemingly achieved their desired effect, with many readers and viewers leaving comments on *I Am From Xinjiang on the Silk Road's* account on social media app WeChat expressing their willingness to experience the region for themselves.

While *I'm Going to Xinjiang* takes a different angle from the previous documentary, they share the same fundamental purpose: to increase understanding and communication between the people of Xinjiang and those in other parts of China. "The documentary reflects the coexistence of multiple ethnic groups and the common prosperity of different cultures in Xinjiang," said Kurbanjan Samat. "I want to represent the diverse cultures of my hometown to everyone using my skill of cinematography. A cinematographer should not lie because he shoulders the social responsibility of recording the truth through his camera," he added.

Kurbanjan Samat's next project is a book and documentary about those born and living in Xinjiang with a focus on local delicacies. He wants to show the ethnic diversity of the region which, in addition to commonly known ethnic groups like the Han, Uygur and Kazak, is home to others such as the Kirgiz and Tajik people.

**Thanks to Teck Lee for the link to this item.**

## 24 Solar Terms: 6 things you may not know about Minor Heat

**Minor Heat, by Lin Dihuan.** [Photo provided to China Daily]



The traditional Chinese lunar calendar divides the year into 24 solar terms. Minor Heat, (Chinese: 小暑), the 11th solar term of the year, begins on July 7 this year and ends on July 22.

Minor Heat signifies the hottest period is coming but the extreme hot point has yet to arrive.

In China, the 24 solar terms were created thousands of years ago to guide agricultural production. But the solar term culture is still useful today to guide people's lives through special foods, cultural ceremonies and even healthy living tips that correspond with each term.

The following are 6 things you need to know about Minor Heat.

**A season of storms, thunder and hail.** Storms, thunder and hail often happen during Minor Heat, though in some years there might be droughts. One of the prevailing farming activities during Minor Heat is staying on top of flood control and drought relief.

**A season for the lotus flower.** In Minor Heat, high temperatures are good for the growth of the lotus flower. From Minor Heat to the Double Ninth Festival, the lotus flower is in full bloom, and always simple but elegant.

**Firefly season.** Minor Heat is the season when fireflies become lively. Zhu Shuzhen, a woman of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), once described in her famous poem *Summer Fireflies* a happy scene of children playing with fireflies in the woods at night.

**Eating small melons.** Minor Heat comes when all kinds of melons are being harvested. One custom in Nanjing, Jiangsu province has to do with enjoying small melons on the day of Minor Heat and having big melons on the day of Major Heat. Small and big melons normally refer to cantaloupes and watermelons.

**Eating dumplings.** Dumplings are the traditional and household food among Chinese. When the "dog day" comes, people tend to lose their appetites, and dumplings can refresh people's feelings toward food.

**Sunning clothes.** During the Minor Heat period, with the longest amount of sunlight and the strongest sunlight radiation, many families hang their clothes out in the sun to prevent mildew.

**Source:** '24 Solar Terms: 6 things you may not know about Minor Heat', China Daily, 7 July 2018, <  
[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201807/07/WS5b3fe663a3103349141e1483\\_7.html](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201807/07/WS5b3fe663a3103349141e1483_7.html) >

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