

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2018/12 December 2018

Coming events

Chinese New Year dinner/lunch

6 February 2019

Lantern making workshop

10 February 2019

Lantern Festival

23 February 2019

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

For your diary

Chinese New Year dinner

A dinner to help celebrate Chinese New Year will be held on Wednesday 6 February at the China Tea Club, North Lyneham, at 7.00pm. The China Tea Club always provides an interesting and special banquet for this occasion. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by Wed 30 January.



Lantern workshop and Lantern Festival

The lantern workshop will be held at the Cook Community Hall on Sunday 10 February, and the Lantern Festival on Saturday 23 February in the Beijing Garden on the lakefront near the Chinese Embassy.

There is always scope for extra hands on deck at both these events. Please consider coming to lighten the load.



Memberships due

Memberships are due on 1 January. Details on the last page.



Committee news, November 2018

Your committee met at the 'Golden King Restaurant' in Philip for its November meeting. We were very happy to welcome back Carol, who is recovering well from her gall bladder surgery, and Jean, who returned from her trip to China.

We debriefed on the Panda Competition Awards Ceremony, which was very well attended and talked through a few possible improvements for the 2019 event. A main point was how it might be possible to shorten the ceremony a little, without losing any of the content, as it was a long time to expect the youngest children to sit still. The committee greatly appreciated the Embassy's generosity to host the event – a real treat for all our guests.

The Charity Stand at Fyshwick markets was quite disappointing – so much effort for not a lot of gain this

Fast facts from the Beijing Review, December 2018

- China plans to optimise transport infrastructure by 2020 with the goal of significantly raising the proportion of railway and waterway freight. Railway freight volumes will increase by 1.1 billion tons pa from 2017 levels and waterway freight by 500 million tons. Highway freight will drop by 440 million tons from 2017 levels. This is part of the battle against air pollution.
- A blockchain research institute has been setup in Hainan. It was established jointly by Resort Software Community (RSC) and the University College Oxford Blockchain Research Centre of Oxford University. A blockchain institutional innovation centre will also be launched by the RSC in collaboration with Renmin University of China. They are committed to attracting blockchain professionals from around the world and exploring application of blockchain technology.
- Chinese archaeologists have found a shipwreck near Liaoning. They have confirmed it is the warship Jingyuan, which was sunk by the Japanese navy in the Sino-Japanese war of 1894-95. They also found over 500 relics made of iron, glass, porcelain, leather and other materials.
- The Ministry of Ecology and Environment has named and shamed 158 companies that discharged major pollutants at seriously excessive levels in the first quarter of 2018. Persistent polluters will be expected to rectify their wrongdoings and publicise the progress. Authorities will continue to strengthen regulations and punish those responsible for environmental offenses.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

time. Due to renovations at the market, the location of the stand has been moved, and unfortunately the new location is not conducive to enticing shoppers.

Plans for our Christmas dinner, which we hope to see a lot of you at, were firmed up. Carol and John have organised a delicious menu for us to enjoy at the 'Golden Drum Restaurant' on University Avenue in Civic on 17 December 2018.

Some further planning for the February 2019 lantern making workshop and the Lantern Festival was undertaken. In the first instance we are contacting our entertainers to put the date in their diaries.

We finished the meeting with a tasty meal – I think we all enjoyed the mushroom dish!

In case I miss you at the Christmas dinner, wishing you all a very safe and enjoyable festive season and Happy New Year for 2019.

Your Secretary, Tanja



Film screening: *Camel Collar*

A screening of the film *Camel Collar* at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison, on Wed 21 Nov was attended by some 25 members and friends. There were some difficulties with the sound, making it difficult to follow at times. This problem was not evident when the film was viewed by both Carol and Jean beforehand.



Christmas dinner

Thirty-seven members and friends enjoyed a Christmas dinner on Monday 17 December at the Golden Drum restaurant. Despite the noisy conditions and the set-up with two long tables, an enjoyable evening was had.



8th Friendship Forum in Hainan, 22–26 November 2018

In November I attended the 8th Friendship Forum of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPPAFFC) in Hainan in the south of China as part of the Australian delegation lead by Robin Matthews. This is the first time for some years that the ACT and NSW were included in the delegation to a Friendship Forum.

Other delegations were from the Bahamas, Canada, Jamaica, New Caledonia, New Zealand (three separate organisations), Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti Nui, Tonga, USA and Vanuatu as well as the CPPAFFC.

The forum began in Haikou City with an opening banquet hosted by the People's Government of Hainan Province. Meetings the next day included opening addresses followed by keynote speeches on the theme of 'Building Maritime Silkroad, Promoting Common Development'. Emphasis was on cooperation, globalisation and free trade.



The Australian delegation: Roz Hanley (WA), Ovidio Orellana (QLD), Martin Wu (NT), Jean Norman (ACT), Liz O'Connor (VIC), Jan Everett (TAS), David Matters (QLD), Robin Matthews (National President), Margaret Kelly (NSW), William Chi (WA), John Breheny (VIC) and Gian Wong (WA). (Photo: Robin Matthews)

There followed three panel discussions on the topics

- Build a bridge of culture to promote people-to-people connectivity',
- Strengthen tourism cooperation to promote economic growth and
- Enhance youth exchanges to lay a solid foundation for friendship.

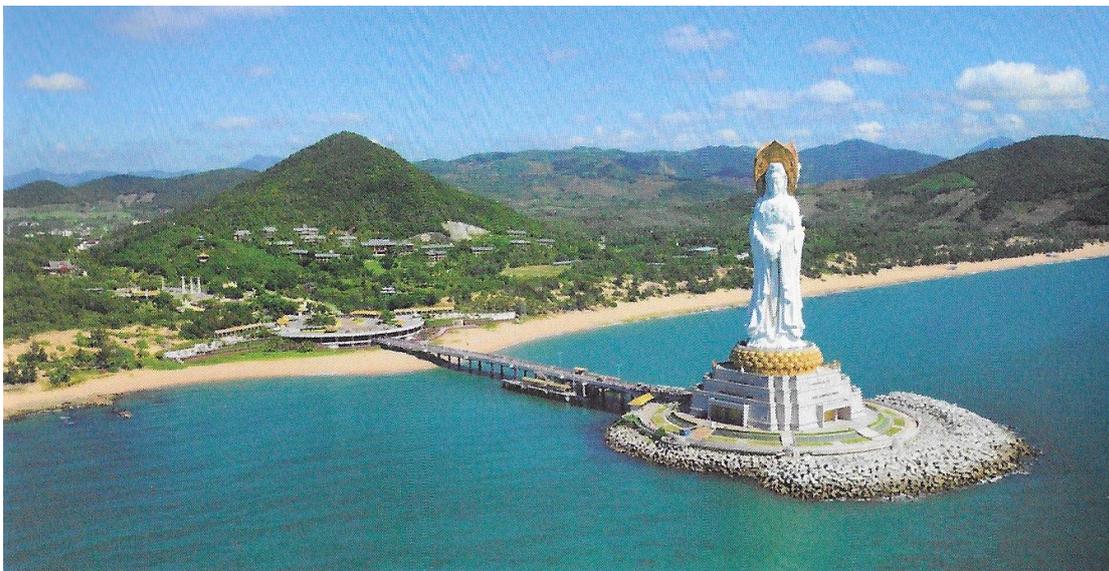
Pacific nations in particular, ably lead by Her Royal Highness Princess Pololevu Tuita of Tonga, expressed great desire for cooperation to develop all aspects of tourism, urging the development of a 'Pearl Road' east from Indonesia. Infrastructure, visas and air links were viewed as crucial. Examples of the two-way benefits of youth exchange programs were provided and it was stressed that long-term and international vision is needed.

That day ended with another banquet which culminated in the various national delegations performing traditional and not so traditional songs and dances. (The Australian delegation sang 'The Drover's Dream', led by Gian Wong from Western Australia.)

The following day we attended the opening ceremony of the Hainan Island International Tourism Festival, followed by time to wander among the stalls showcasing local products including weaving, teas of all descriptions, other foodstuffs, textiles and other crafts. In the afternoon, the schedule called for a visit to the Haikou Arcaded Old Street. This was changed to a visit to modern sports and entertainment complex including golf courses, a basketball museum, restaurants including Macdonalds, etc. Eight of us opted to take taxis to the Arcaded Old Street where we spent a very pleasant afternoon looking around and sampling coconut drinks, before joining the others for dinner.

The next morning we travelled to Sanya City in the south of Hainan, stopping at the Beireng Village to admire local crafts and have a delicious lunch. This was followed by a visit to the Boao Le Cheng International Medical Tourism Pioneer Zone, a sprawling forty-five square kilometre precinct which aims to be a leading medical and wellness destination in the next t. After seeing a video in the reception centre, where all the signage was solely in Chinese, we were shown buildings that resembled luxury hotels rather than hospitals.

The next morning we drove to the Nanshan Buddhist Tourism Zone southwest of Sanya which features an enormous statue of Guanyin.



(Photo from the conference handbook)

After a vegetarian lunch in the Nanshan tourism zone we were given a tour of the Hainan Lu Qiao Nono Juice Processing Plant, a state-of-the-art plant for processing the tropical noni fruit into a variety of products including tea, juice, and soaps, some of which we were provided with samples of.

The day and the conference finished off with a performance of the Romantic Show of Sanya, a spectacular depiction in song, dance, costume, theatrical effects of lighting, sound and smoke, gymnastics and water, of aspects of the history and culture of Sanya.

Hainan is being developed and promoted as a tourism destination for both Chinese and international tourists, and our local guide was keen to inform us of how eager people from the cold northern regions of China are to come to Hainan to take the pure air, clean water, and good food of the island. We saw no blue sky and only a few glimpses of the Li and Miao cultures that are promoted as attractions. There are hot springs, surfing on the western coast of the island, and the tropical scenery is lovely. The stares that we attracted suggest that there are not many international tourists yet. The food was good and varied, the buffets in the hotels providing many choices and the restaurant meals interesting.

It was a most enjoyable visit to a part of China totally unknown to me. The company of the Australian delegation was most congenial and it was a privilege to be part of it. There was limited scope for meeting other delegates but it was always interesting.

Jean Norman



Perseverance spanning one hundred years: a story of the last chopsticks master

By Kou Jie, He Zhuoyan, Morag Hobbs (People's Daily Online) 16:19, December 18, 2018

Huddled in a quiet corner of Tiancheng Road in Guangzhou, Xian Lianguang's dimly-lit shop seems to be incompatible with its modern, brightly lit neighbors. The cramped shop, which can only hold two customers at a time, has been producing and selling handmade chopsticks for over a century.

Occasionally, a passerby will stop at the shop for a minute or two, while Xian proudly introduces his beloved handiwork. 69-year-old Xian is not



only a craftsman with a love of making chopsticks, but he is also one of the few remaining guardians of traditional Chinese culture. Locals have awarded Xian and his family the title of "chopsticks masters" for three generations, while his shop is the last place in Guangzhou where the ancient art of designing chopsticks still thrives. "Chopsticks have a life of their own," Xian explains with a soft Cantonese accent. "It's simply a matter of waking up their soul, and then passing on the cultural connotations to our customers."

Sitting on a wooden stool, the same one on which Xian's mother had sat and sewn clothes for the family during the shop's early days, and where his daughter had first learned the art of chopsticks design, Xian told us that the crushing weight of the past reminds him how important it is to continue traditions, adding that the art of designing chopsticks would reveal the passage of time.

Xian's chopsticks are longer than ordinary ones, with a length of 26.8 centimeters, as the spelling of the number in Cantonese sounds like "wealthy all the way." Even the way that Xian displays his chopsticks contains an exquisite cultural connotation: they must be piled-up in the form of "品," a Chinese character meaning "quality," as the old saying goes - "people have morality, wood has quality."

Xian is extremely picky when it comes to choosing the right materials for his chopsticks. He only uses five kinds of wood, including ebony and padauk. Ebony has greater density compared with other wood, giving the chopsticks a hefty touch, while padauk is a rich purple colour, delivering a sense of grace and prudence.

According to Xian, chopsticks are not only tableware, but also a carrier of Chinese culture. He believes that chopsticks play an essential role throughout the lives of Chinese people, serving as an inseparable heritage of Chinese culture. "Learning how to use chopsticks establishes our identity as a Chinese citizen; a pair of chopsticks is usually given as a gift to newly-married couples to represent unswerving and loyal love; and even when worshiping ancestors, Chinese people would use chopsticks as an offering. Needless to say, chopsticks are connected to the soul of Chinese people," Xian added.

Though he has been making chopsticks for his whole life, Xian has noticed the impact of modern society on his career, especially in Guangzhou, a city that is famous for its international community and culture. Many investors reached out to him for cooperation, urging him to put his chopsticks into mass production, while others offered lucrative deals for his skills. Xian refused all business proposals, noting that making chopsticks is an art, rather than merely a business. "Mass production will not yield high-quality chopsticks. Many craftsmen want to make their business bigger and stronger, while I want to make mine smaller and more unique," said Xian.

"Tradition may die out eventually, but not at this moment, not in my family," said Xian while looking affectionately at his daughter, the family's fourth generation of "chopsticks master."



Xinjiang oilfield closed to protect endangered animals

An oil production operation in a nature reserve in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has been closed despite the loss of annual output worth more than 300 million yuan (\$43.5 million) in order to better protect desert wildlife.

Zhundong Oil Production Plant, located in the Junggar Basin, closed 284 oil wells with annual production of 70,000 metric tons of oil in the Kalamayli Nature Reserve, home to endangered animals including the Przewalski's horse, which has first-class national protection. The Przewalski's horse is the last surviving subspecies of wild horse. There are currently 2,000 remaining worldwide.

"Xinjiang Oilfield has completely stopped production in the reserve, and has finished sealing and dismantling the oil wells and restored the environment," said Ling Lisu, deputy director of the company's safety production department. According to Xie Jianyong, deputy director of the Zhundong Oil Production Plant, the company invested over 800 million yuan in exploration and facilities construction in the reserve over the past few decades, and found proven oil reserves of 12 million tons. It has cost another 200 million yuan to close the wells. Xie said the company produced a detailed plan to make sure that no pollution would affect the nature reserve during its exit. The company sent all the pumping equipment and other such materials to local recycling centres to ensure they would not damage the environment. It also repurposed some parts of the pumping facilities' foundations to serve as basins where water can collect for the animals.

Sun Quanhui, a scientist with the international NGO World Animal Protection, applauded the move. "With the closing of oil wells and restoration of the environment in the reserve, human production activities have greatly decreased and the habitats of wild animals have begun to recover, which is of great help to their survival and reproduction".

Native to China and Mongolia, the Przewalski's horse was on the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature from the 1960s to 1996. Its status was then reassessed as critically endangered following successful reintroductions. China imported 18 of the horses in 1985 from several countries and built a breeding centre for their preservation. The Wild Horse Breeding Centre in Xinjiang now has 411 horses. In recent years, scientists have been releasing young wild horses into the reserve, a move critical to the animal's protection. Scientists say the presence of the wild horse in natural habitats helps enlarge the gene pool and improves its ability to survive.

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

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