

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2019/4 April 2019

Coming events

Film evening	17 April
Trip to Braidwood	19 May
Yum Cha lunch	22 June
Curated tour of exhibition at NMA	July
Tour to Horticultural Expo	29 August

Committee

President	Carol Keil	6247 8231 cjkeil@proforte.com.au
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	Alex Olah	0490 660 738

Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

For your diary

Film evening

There will be a film screening on Wed 17 April at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison, at 7.30. The film is *The Road Home*.

The Road Home (literally: 'My Father and Mother') is a 2000 Chinese romantic drama film directed by Zhang Yimou. It also marked the cinematic debut of the Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi. *The Road Home* was written by author

Bao Shi, who adapted the screenplay from his novel, *Remembrance*.

City businessman Luo Yusheng returns to his home village in North China for the funeral of his father, the village teacher. He finds his elderly mother insisting that all the traditional burial customs be observed, despite the fact that times have changed so much. Yusheng realizes that his mother's wishes must be respected. On the day of the funeral more than one hundred of

Changyu's former pupils turn up to carry the coffin - and none of them will accept payment. Before returning to the city, Yusheng symbolically honors his father's dearest wish: He spends one day teaching in the village school.

As always, the option of dinner in the bistro from 6.00pm is available. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 15 April.



ACFS visit to historic Braidwood

The Society is organising a trip to Braidwood on Sunday 19 May to visit the Braidwood Museum, Millpond Farm and Bedervale House. Full program follows.

May is normally quite cold, so warm clothing is recommended.

For more information, contact Alex Olah on 0490 660 738

Please register for the tour at acfsevent@gmail.com providing the following details:

Name:	Street Address
Do you need a lift Yes / No	Suburb
Can you take Passengers Yes/ No	How many passengers?

Fast facts from the Beijing Review, April 2019

- China will strengthen regulation of grain circulation and strategic reserves this year to promote the security of national grain and ability to deal with emergencies. China has improved its ability to ensure food security in recent years. It feeds 20% of the world's people with 10% of the cultivated land and 6% of the available fresh water on earth.
- Mainland China's population reached 1,395 million at the end of 2018, up 5.3 million in the year. There were 15.23 million births. The working age population is about 900 million with over 700 million employed. There are 8 million college graduates a year.
- A renovation plan for toilets in rural households in eastern and mid-western city outskirts should make them sanitary and pollution free by 2020, with toilet waste to be treated or utilised by 2022.
- Five monkeys have been cloned from a gene edited macaque with circadian rhythm disorder. This is the first time multiple monkeys have been cloned from a gene edited monkey for biomedical research. Having a population of customised gene edited monkeys with a uniform genetic background is very advantageous for biomedical research.
- In 2018 renewable energy generated 1.87 trillion kWh of electricity up by 170 billion kWh over the year.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

Itinerary / Program

9.30am	Meet at your designated carpool location – this will be advised via email.
11am	<p>Braidwood Museum, 186 Wallace Street, Braidwood. Ph 4842 2310 website: www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au</p> <p>Local historian John Stahel will conduct a tour of the Chinese Collection in the Braidwood Museum; Mr Stahel has stories of Quong Tart, the Nomchong family, and Mary Hamilton.</p> <p>The Museum is free but Mr Stahel said that a donation would be appreciated (gold coin \$2 suggested).</p>
12.30pm	Lunch – bring own food or buy in one of the many cafes in Braidwood.
1.30pm	<p>Millpond Farm, 660 Majors Creek Road (about 12 km south of Braidwood). www.millpond.com.au. This is a working farm with fine-wool alpacas, Angora and Boar goats, and some sheep. The 1859 flour mill at Millpond Farm has been restored and now houses the Wheatfield Gallery.</p> <p>Antony Davies, proprietor (0438 126 987), will show us the Mill/Gallery.</p> <p>Gold was discovered at nearby Jembaicumbene in 1851. Many Chinese were involved in gold mining and market gardening in this region.</p>
3pm	<p>Bedervale House, 1 Monkittee St, Braidwood (about 2.5km from the Museum) Ph: 4842 2421; website: www.bedervale.com</p> <p>Sonia Horan will conduct a tour of Bedervale House, a heritage-listed colonial homestead completed in 1842; Sonia will focus on the Chinese ornaments in the house.</p> <p>The tour price is \$15 per person, \$10 for National Trust members. Afternoon tea of tea/coffee and cake (\$7 pp) is optional</p>
4.30pm	Drive back to Queanbeyan / home to Canberra.

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## New member

A warm welcome to new member Amanda Andrews.

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Project Hope Donation

Many thanks to member Peter Wagner for his generous donation.

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## Yum cha lunch

The function for June will be a yum cha lunch at 12 noon at the Scholar restaurant in Dickson. A fixed price of \$27 has been arranged. Please book by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by 14 June.

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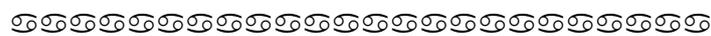
Beyond the Great Wall: China Secures for Buffers

ANU China Seminar Series, Wednesday, 01 May 2019, 16:00 to 17:30

State behaviour will change according to variances of polarity in the international system. This assumption that state behaviour and the change

of the polarity is responsive appeared in many seminal works in the field of international relations. However, China's long-held policy goals toward Taiwan, North Korea, and Mongolia present an obvious abnormality for this theoretic logic. Annexing Taiwan, maintaining the existence of North Korea, and neutralizing Mongolia are policy goals China has been pursuing for decades, although the power distribution of Northeast Asia has changed many times in the past sixty years. How to explain this puzzling behavioural consistency of China? This talk will provide a geopolitical answer to this question. It demonstrates that China's behaviour toward the three states have been driven by "buffer thinking," which appears when Chinese leaders are conceiving of ways to fend off potential military threats from a specific neighbouring territory. Chinese leaders' historical memory of how a foreign rival invaded China via the buffer territory further strengthened this mentality. Therefore, this talk argues, buffer thinking is an intervening variable that mediates the effect of variation of the power distribution in the system. This also explains why China's behaviour toward the three states is less responsive to the changes of polarity as what it is expected from IR theories.

All attendees are invited to join us in the CIW Tea House from 3.30pm for an informal discussion with the guest speaker before the seminar



President's report for 2018

This is the text of the President's Report delivered at the Annual General Meeting on 20 March.

We have had a good year in terms of activities for members and promoting Chinese culture to Canberrans however our membership continues to decline (it is now 81) and as I have said before we need to attract more younger members.

We had a good range of functions during the year: 2 film evenings :Camel Collar' at the Jamison Southern Cross Club and 'Wolf Totem' at the Canberra Labor Club in Belconnen; four interesting talks: Alex Olah on 'Chinese Culture'; Fred Chow on 'Impressions of Fascinating Northern Xinjiang', Shaoying Wang on 'Rural China – Jiaodong Peninsular, Shandong Province' and Peter Hack on 'The Art Deco Stores of Shanghai'. We helped with arrangements for the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble's concert 'Spring Thoughts' which was not as well attended as we'd hoped. We held dinners at Chinese New Year and Christmas and a June yum cha lunch.

Our major event for the year was the Lantern Festival – the last activity for the celebration of Chinese New Year. The lantern-making workshop at the Cook Community Hub had 34 attendees and a record-making 1000+ attended the Festival. We had 9 performance groups of both adults and children and a ringing of the Peace Bell which was installed in Lennox Gardens exactly one year ago. The Beijing Garden is the ideal venue and it well and truly fulfilled our aim of promoting Chinese Festivals to the Canberra community.

An important aspect of the Society's work is the promotion of Chinese culture in schools. The Panda competition was again held for primary schools with the topic this year being 'Chinese Musical Instruments'. We had entries from 9 schools and awarded 73 prizes and certificates plus 27 special effort certificates for those students who put in extra effort but did not win one of the prizes. The ANU Chinese Classical Musical Ensemble

and students from the Chinese Embassy gave performances and the prizes and certificates were presented by Minister Cai, Minister-Counsellor Yang and quite a number of other Embassy representatives at a ceremony at the Chinese Embassy which was attended by Principals from every school, teachers, students, parents and Society members who helped with the organisation of the day. This was the third time the presentation was held at the Embassy and it was a most rewarding and memorable day for all who attended.

Awards for the best and most improved students of mandarin were presented to students from 12 High Schools and Colleges, at a ceremony hosted by Minister Counsellor Yang Zhi at the Cultural Office attended by ~80 students, parents teachers and members.

We continue to support Project Hope students: 1 girl and 2 boys at Labagoumen primary schools, 1 girl at a Yanqing primary School, 3 girls at a Huairou middle school, 3 girls and 1 boy at a Miyun primary school and 1 boy at the Best middle school in Labagoumen.

Funds to support these students came from a variety of sources: profits from lantern sales at the Lantern Festival; takings from Fyshwick markets stalls; fees for running 2 lantern making workshops at the 'Wintervention' event in July; a portion of the profits from the ANNUCCME concert in October; 2 fundraising lunches held in Adelaide by Siew-Gim's sister. The latter funds support four students for 3 years.

Special thanks to Angela Wydeveld who has taken on the role of organizing the Fyshwick Markets stalls most ably assisted by John Corcoran, Siew-Gim McGregor, Eliza Ngan and Mark Fraser.

The Society was invited to participate in two delegations. Carol, Brian and John attended the China International Poverty - Alleviation Conference in Shanxi Province which was organized by the CPAFFC in July. After the conference we met with CPAFFC, Beijing and this resulted in arranging a tour to the International Horticultural Expo in Yanqing later this year. Jean was our representative to the 8th Friendship Forum of the CPAFFC in Hainan in November. This was the first time for many years that the ACT and NSW Branches had been invited to participate.

We obtained a grant from the ACT Government for the Lantern Festival but were unsuccessful in our bid for a grant for the Panda Competition .

After more than 25 years the monthly Chinese conversation evenings hosted and conducted by Shirley Johns came to an end in November due to family circumstances. Shirley was presented with a beautiful quilt made by Suzie Michaelis in recognition of her long commitment and untiring contribution.

The newsletter, which continues to report on our activities and provide items of interest, plays an important role for the Society as for many members this is the only contact they have. Thanks go to Jean, who is the editor, and to Roger Arnold for his regular and most interesting contributions on living in China and also to Teck who regularly sources items of interest.

Our website which helps us to maintain our profile is most capably managed by Siew-Gim McGregor and we have started using facebook to promote our events..

We have enjoyed close contact with and received considerable support from the Chinese Embassy and in particular the Cultural Office. We received literature, prizes and gifts for the Lantern Festival, Panda competition and School Awards; the Embassy hosted the Panda competition presentation; the Cultural Office hosted the school awards and

their representatives attended all these events. We greatly value and appreciate the Embassy's support and extend our sincere thanks and look forward to continuing our very close relationship.

The Society places great reliance on the committee: Tanja Naehner – secretary and co-ordinator of performers for the Lantern Festival, Neil Birch - treasurer, Jean Norman - editor and lantern-workshop co-ordinator, Teck Lee - functions co-ordinator, Alex Olah – publicity, John Wong PA co-ordinator. Our committee worked together very harmoniously and I would like to thank all the members for their support and hard work. I would also like to thank the Society members who have helped at our events during the year. And as a final note it would be heartening to see more members attend and help out at our various events.

Carol Keil



Committee news, April 2019 meeting

Your newly elected committee held its first meeting since the AGM at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham on the first day of April.

Carol updated the committee on her meeting with Mr Yang of the Cultural Office, during which Mr Yang kindly offered to host the school awards at the Cultural Office later in the year again. They also talked through a few logistic points regarding the Panda Competition, which will also very generously be hosted at the Chinese Embassy again. Carol and Mr Yang organised a date to meet in the Beijing Gardens where we will be planting a tree to signify the friendship between the two countries later in the year – Carol and Mr Yang were keen to choose the right spot for the tree.

Acquittal of the grant for the Lantern Festival was discussed with a draft to be available shortly.

The committee took time to plan events for a large part of the year – commencing with the showing of the film 'Road Home' on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at the Southern Cross Jamison Club. We hope you can make it to either both dinner beforehand and the film, or otherwise for the film. The Horticultural tour now has 7 confirmed bookings with another 3 potentials

We are particularly excited about the bus trip to Braidwood on Sunday 19 May 2019 and thank Alex Olah for exploring activities for the day trip resulting in a very interesting and enjoyable day out to learn about the influence of the Chinese settlers on Braidwood and its environs. This is a trip which has been years in the making, but never fully got off the ground till now and thanks to Alex!

Following the meeting we enjoyed a very fulfilling meal, with one of my personal favourites, the beef and scallop dish.

Enjoy the Autumn leaves and still slightly warmer days.

Your Secretary, Tanja



Launch of Chinese Art and Calligraphy Exhibition

This wonderful exhibition was launched on Thursday 4 April at 6pm at the National Museum of Australia. As well as the items from the China National Museum the exhibition also displays five metres of the scroll 'The Harvest of Endurance' which was commissioned by the ACFS National body as a bi-centennial project. Jeff Culnane, the National Vice-President at the time and the ACT Branch President, was instrumental in both getting the project off the ground and managing it. The artist Mo Xiangyi and his wife Wang Jingwen painted the 18 sections of the 50 metre artwork in a small flat in Lyneham. The completed sections were then sent to China to be mounted on silk and returned in December 1989. The scroll toured to various capital cities, including Canberra in 1990, before it was subsequently sold to the National Museum of Australia in 1992.



Display of the Harvest of Endurance at the High Court in 1990

Jeff Culnane and I received invitations to the launch of the exhibition followed by an official dinner and at both functions the Society was generously mentioned. A large number of people attended and the launch included a welcome to country by Paul House, speeches by Matthew Trinca, the Director of the NMA, the Deputy Director of the National Museum of China, Mr Shan Wei and Australia's ambassador designate to China. The ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble played beautifully throughout the entire evening even though at times they were seriously challenged by the background noise.



Cultural Counsellor Zhang Minghua, Ross Garnaut, Carol Keil and Jeff Culnane at the High Court in 1990

A curated tour will be arranged for a time in July.

Carol Keil



Tour to visit the International Horticultural Expo in Yanqing, Beijing, 29 August – 13 September 2019

The ACT Branch of ACFS is organising a tour, using China Travel Service (Aust) Pty Ltd in Sydney, to visit the International Horticultural Expo being held in Yanqing County, Beijing.

The tour will also visit Chengde, the former imperial summer residence, one of our Project Hope Schools, and other historic, culturally significant places in the area around Beijing that are not on the usual tourist trail. The group will be limited to 16 persons.



The cost of the tour will depend on the number of participants. If we have 16 it will be \$3666 and if we only have 12 it will be \$3961 per person on a twin share basis.

Single room supplement:\$1090pp

A deposit of \$500 is required to secure a place on the tour.

The tour leader will be Carol Keil.

If you are interested in coming would you please let me know so we can get an idea of numbers and to make a booking please contact Carol on cjkeil@proforte.com.au ph 62478231 or 0417 041148

Inclusions:

- * Hotel Accommodation
- * Breakfast, lunch and dinner except Day 13
- * Transfers, tours, including admission fees
- * Airfares including taxes and fuel surcharges
- * Local guide
- * Tipping

Exclusions

- * Visa fee
- * Travel insurance
- * Travel to/from Sydney
- * Personal expenses

Extension of time: It will be possible to vary your return date but you must indicate this on the booking form and you will be contacted with a quote.

The complete itinerary is sent with this Bulletin as a separate document.



Tastes of the Spring Festival

Rituals have become imprinted on people's minds and help connect generations

By Tong Xuan · 2019-02-18 · Source: *Beijing Review* NO. 8 FEBRUARY 14, 2019

When the first sun rose over Tuozhi Bai Village in southwest China's Yunnan Province on the morning of the first day in the Lunar calendar, the candles in central room of Li Zhongwu's family were lit. Surrounding the candles were memorials to remember the family's ancestors. Li, dressed smartly, then burn incense to show his respect. The village where Li lives is also the home of various ethnic groups. They all follow their own unique customs to celebrate the New Year which have developed through family foods, traditions and cultural practices.

After graduating from college, Li went back to work in his hometown, where worshipping ancestors and preparing a vegan banquet are two traditional activities to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Today, only few families, including the Li's, have preserved both of these customs. "My grandmother is Buddhist and imposed a lasting influence on me; hence a vegan banquet will be served on the first day of the Spring Festival." Before starting cooking, all the crockery and tableware should be washed in a pond. According to his parents, this was the cleanest water source. "The washing always evokes memories of my childhood." Five different dishes are served on the table, which is the traditional number of different food eaten at the Chinese New Year in his family. "You might think that making a vegan feast is easy but it isn't." Li usually takes a prominent role in the ceremony, despite being one of the younger members of the family normally taking a passive role in such rituals. During this year's



Ethnic groups display produce from the harvest during a parade to celebrate the Spring Festival at Lancang Lahu Autonomous County in Pu'er City, Yunnan Province on February 7 (XINHUA)

festival, the family planned a special vigil for Li's deceased great grandfather. "For me, the Spring Festival is all about preserving a close family bond."

In Zhang Pan's yard, preserved pork was hung which gives off an inviting miasma. Zhang and his wife, both born in the 1990s in the village where their parents and daughter still live, have been working in east China's Zhejiang Province. Thus, the Spring Festival is an important time for the family to reunite.

Each Spring Festival, Zhang's parents always insisted on making preserved pork, regardless of the hard work it

took to prepare it. "It is difficult to make because the procedures are so complicated, the storage of preserved meats is also difficult as modern houses are not well ventilated," he said, "Many residents do not make preserved meats at home nowadays." In addition, before preserved meat is not fully dried, it attracts many flies so the father has to keep them away with a self-made tool, he explained. After the holiday, Zhang would pack the best of the preserved pork and take it home in Zhejiang. He said, "For me, preserved pork is the taste of the Spring Festival."

Zhu, a Zhuang native woman, has been living in her village for 25 years since she married a local Han Chinese man. Unlike many other Zhuang women who relinquish their traditional culture when marrying outside of their ethnic group, Zhu has brought her culture to her husband's family. During the Spring Festival, Zhuang people dine on rice dumplings wrapped in leaves. They also wear traditional costumes to greet the coming Lunar New Year.

With her traditional costume, Zhu was regarded as one of the most beautiful women in her village. "My outfit for the Lunar New Year was designed two years ago. I've got four new outfits for the Spring Festival since I got married." Her appreciation for colour changed with age, now, she preferred more subtle colours such as brown and black rather than bright red.

"I learned how to cook from my mother and each Spring Festival I make these foods myself, except the year that I got injured in a car accident." On the eve of the Lunar New Year, Zhu cooks rice dumplings while staying up late to welcome in the New Year. She also gave the food to relatives and friends as gifts.

Zhu's has maintained memories of her youth and also respected her husband's Han culture. "Everywhere I go can be my hometown as long as I keep the traditional culture of my ethnic group."

Although it is often said that traditions have diminished in recent times but numerous people still insist on practising customs. These rituals have become imprinted on people's minds and help connect generations and people from different ethnic groups in China.

Thanks to Teck Lee for the link to this item.



Zhu in the traditional costume of the Zhuang ethnic group (COURTESY PHOTO)

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

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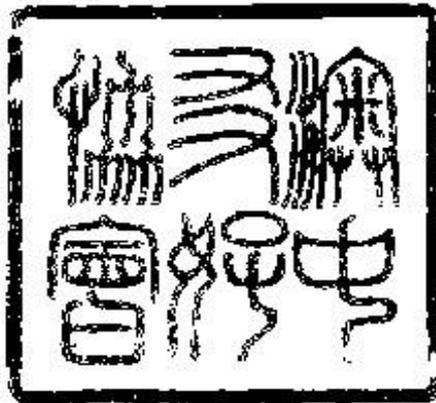
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