

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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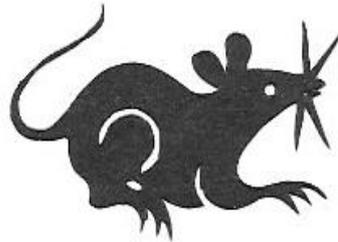
Bulletin

2020/8 August 2020

Coming events

Film evening

16 September



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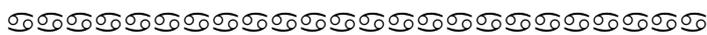
Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

From the President

We are very fortunate to have had no new cases of the virus for some time now. As restrictions have eased we have decided to hold a film evening in September but have not, as yet, made any plans for October as it will depend on whether there are new restrictions or not. The virus has seriously impacted both our school awards for Mandarin and the Panda competition presentation ceremonies. It is not possible to have gatherings of students from multiple schools and trying to do something on-line is fraught with difficulty so we will have to deliver the awards/prizes to each individual school. Students are missing out on so many events they would normally celebrate.

Keep safe and well

Carol



Film evening Wed 16 Sept

Fingers crossed, we are planning to hold a film evening at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison, on Wednesday 16 September. The film will screen at 7.30. As always, those who wish to will have dinner before the film, from 6.00pm. Because of Covid-19 regulations, bookings must be made for this, by emailing acfsevents@gmail.com by 9 Sept. We need to know if you are coming for dinner or just for the film.

The film to be screened is *China's 3 Dreams*:

"In the 1970s, we had three dreams: a watch, a wireless and a bicycle". What are the dreams of the Chinese people today?

Filed over an 11-year period, Nick Torrens' third essay film about China in the modern world is an exploration of the missing years – the years of the Cultural Revolution. This period is rarely talked about and is expurgated from the history taught in schools, and yet those years have left a traumatic imprint on every Chinese family.



In exploring this "missing history", Torrens introduces us to a young woman, Zhang Lei, from an ancient village in southwest China and follows her search for an understanding of the past and the present life around her. Many years ago, Chinese people had just three dreams: a watch, a wireless and a bicycle. But now, confused by silences and half-truths, China's young people, like Lei, have new dreams to guide them: to make China rich

Fast facts from the Beijing Review, August 2020

- China is planning for a 200 megawatt space-based solar power station by 2035. The energy will be transmitted to earth by microwaves or lasers. This concept was credited to Isaac Asimov from a science fiction piece written in 1941. China listed space-based solar power as a key research program in 2008.
- Foreign trade by rail through Manzhouli (on the China-Russia boarder) exceeded 10 mega tonnes in the first half of 2020 up 6.4% in a year. A total of 1,505 China-Europe freight trains passed through Manzhouli in the first six months of this year.
- China's National Bureau of Statistics said retail sales fell by 1.1% in July, the seventh monthly fall in a row even though Covid restrictions had eased.
- This year's national college entrance exam was sat by 10.7 million students, an increase of 400,000. There were over 7,000 exam sites with about 400,000 exam rooms and 945,000 staff to conduct the exams. It was the largest organised event since the start the pandemic. It was delayed by a month. All students under went 14-day health monitoring. Special sites were setup for students who showed symptoms of fever and cough. Most students attended graduation ceremonies on-line.

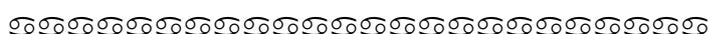
Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

and powerful, to find a better material life for themselves, and to find a meaningful existence.

Filmed without narration and free of "outside" analysis or polemic, Torrens presents an intimate collaboration with his main subjects and their families and others who were willing to talk about their time as Red Guards or Rebels during the Cultural Revolution, and to see those years in perspective.

In the words of author Xue Xinran: "Less and less people care about a real past since it has been taken away by dead memory – and dying elders. Young Chinese have been transforming into materialists with American beliefs".

For writer and academic Dr Ying Qian the film shows the conscious shaping of the Chinese landscape, but, at the same time, "edited almost as a dreamscape ... you get a glimpse of the unconsciousness in Chinese society – the nightmares and the dreams".



ANU China in the WorldEvents



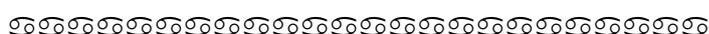
ANU Mongolia Institute Lunchtime Online Seminar with Dr Uchralt Otede

12pm – 1pm, 28 August 2020

Drawing on a case study from a remote pastoral community in Inner Mongolia, Dr Uchralt Otede will present the challenges encountered in the creation of community-based knowledge. **China and the Left. Critical Analysis & Grassroots Activism Online Series**
Clash of Capitalisms? EU-China Relations at a Crossroads

10pm, 5 September 2020

This webinar explores the current state of EU-China relations, with a focus on Chinese investments in Europe, EU member states' diverging interests and reactions related to the Belt and Road Initiative, and the impact of the US-China conflict.



Letter from a Project Hope student

Following is a letter of thanks from a student from Beijing Tanghekou High School, who has received a scholarship under Project Hope, translated by Corinne Zhang.

Name: Lang Jin Yuan
Sex: Female
DOB: 24/12/2004
School year: Junior High School Year 3
School: Tanghekou High School

Maths	86	English	50	Chemistry	96	Geography	76
Chinese	85	P.E.	50	Physic	89	History	87

Family situation: Her grandmother is very old. Her older sister is in high school.

Dear uncles and aunties,

Please allow me to call you this way since I have never met you. Thank you so much for your long-term financial support. You have helped me enormously in study and in life. I grow up in a single-parent family. I feel very bad for my mum who works extremely hard for my family. All I can help is doing some housework for her. But your support has made my life much easier and has motivated me to study harder. Thank you for your support, may you stay well forever. Your charitable support has brought warmth to my family. I must study harder. I will take action to repay all kind people like you as well as this loving community around me.

Thank you again!

Salute!

Yours sincerely,
Lang Jin Yuan
14 Nov 2019



Committee News - August 2020 meeting

The 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham has become the meeting place of preference so far during COVID19 times for your committee's meetings, and as such we met there again mid-August 2020.

We were happy that we could more confidently plan for the movie event, with some clubs now open again, allowing for a COVID19 suitable venue. The committee had taken a vote on a number of proposed movies, with 'Chinese 3 dreams' coming in first, followed by 'Ochre and Ink' and 'Robert Fortune and the Tea Thief'. 'Chinese 3 dreams' will be the first to be shown on 16 September 2020 at the Jamison Southern Cross Club, with dinner beforehand. Numbers will be restricted to comply with COVID19 requirements and to help all to remain safe. We really hope that you can attend and enjoy the outing.

Carol has been working hard with schools to determine logistics for Panda Competition and School Awards presentations. Again, with the current restraints these presentations will be different to previous years, as large gatherings are not permitted. Carol is continuing to explore options with the schools.

Project Hope were notified that we could sponsor eleven students in total this time, with two of the eleven sponsored by friends of the society in Adelaide, who in previous years, have generously held an annual Hope Project fund raising event. Four other students will be sponsored by Society members and their families.

Our meal was enjoyed by all following the meeting – I thought the dry fried chilli beef was worth returning for.

Wishing you all good health, with snippets of your regular life returning.

Your Secretary, Tanja





中国文化中心
CHINA CULTURAL CENTRE



Impressions of Jiangnan

Attracting tens of millions of Chinese and international tourists each year, Jiangnan (Area south of the Yangtze Delta) continues to enchant, much as it did in when Tang dynasty poet Bai Juyi wrote in "Dreaming of the Southern Shore [Jiangnan]" : "At sunrise riverside flowers redder than fire; In spring green waves grew as blue as sapphire."

Today, the Yangtze River Delta region, where the four provinces and cities of Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Anhui are located, is one of the most developed regions in China's cultural and tourism industries. Enjoying an extensive networks of river and waterways, Jiangnan is one of the most fertile plains in China, as well as one of its earliest commercial hubs. The ancient towns including Zhouzhuang, Tongli, Xitang and Wuzhen, though, are considered the most representative Jiangnan burgs to both Chinese and foreign visitors. This region owes its beauty and prestige in Chinese history and was also renowned for its educated residents and literary culture.

Source: www.cccsydney/whats-new-impressions-of-jiangnan?e=e8f11978d3



Geriatricians play a key role in increasingly aging society

By Li Xiaoyu, *Beijing Review* No.35 August 27, 2020

People aged 60 and older now make up more than a sixth of China's total population and there are no signs of this figure slowing down in growth.

China had 249 million people on the plus side of 60 in 2018, according to a report by the Chinese Aging Well Association in May 2019. Of them, 40 million were dependent or semi-dependent on specialist care. However, there are only 300,000 professionals catering to this emerging market and the gap continues to widen.



A caregiver helps a senior citizen perform cognitive tasks at a retirement home in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, north China, on June 2 (XINHUA)

It is therefore not surprising that geriatricians—primary care medical doctors specializing in the assessment and treatment of elderly people—appeared in the list of new occupation categories released by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MHRSS) this July. Services catering to the needs of the elderly are clearly in great demand in China, both right now and in the foreseeable future.

Question time

In a nursing home in Huairou District, northeast Beijing, Liu Qin, a geriatrician, is working in a small, well-equipped assessment room. Pensioner Wang Lihe is getting ready for her assessment. "Can you brush your teeth on your own?" asks Liu. "Yes of course," says Wang, as she squeezes out the toothpaste, turns on the tap, grabs a glass of water, and gently puts the toothbrush in her mouth before moving it up and down. Despite moving slowly due to her age, she seems to do a good job. Liu awards her 10 points for her efforts.

"Wang, I will now say three words that you will repeat after me, and then again in a little while, ok? Let's start: apple, watch and flag." Wang repeats the words easily. The geriatrician then hands her a sheet of paper and a pen, and asks her to draw a clock showing the hands at 10:45 a.m. While the clock face is not perfectly round, the hands show the correct time. "Fantastic!" says Liu, before asking if she can repeat the three words mentioned earlier. Wang thinks briefly and then answers correctly. The geriatrician awards her 10 additional points on her assessment form for her good cognitive performance.

There are more than 20 such assessment tests. In addition to basic information (education level, marital status and sources of income), the geriatrician must be as precise and thorough as possible in order to write a report summarizing the patient's daily routine, psychological state, perceptions, as well as communication and social skills.

Improved assessment

Whatever the care level, either at home or in a specialized institution, the first step is to go through a geriatric test to assess the patient's dependency level and to determine a coordinated plan of medical support.

For example, totally care-dependent seniors cannot perform basic daily activities without the help of a caregiver, while mildly dependent individuals need only specific help, such as in washing and bathing.

This geriatric assessment process is extremely important both for the seniors and for their children, who are often concerned about the financial aspect of care provision. "Costs are relative to the level of care and children prefer a lower level of dependency. Sometimes they argue with the medical team about this," geriatrician Wei Xiaotong said.

She recalled a recent case of an octogenarian couple in the nursing home where she works. Following the assessment, she found that the wife was more dependent on care than her husband, who was in better health. Wei therefore recommended first-level care for the wife, a decision that the children opposed. "Our mother is still independent, and no matter what, our father is here and can still take care of her," they argued.

The geriatrician complied with the children's request. Two weeks later, however, their mother fell and fractured her leg. This incident made her children understand the importance of the geriatric assessment process, after which they asked that her level of care be upgraded.

Sought-after profession

Being a geriatrician requires multidisciplinary skills and a specific approach to medical care. Liu has been working in the elderly care sector for many years and she manages a retirement home, while Wei majored in geriatrics in university. According to Liu, recognition of this new profession by the government will raise public awareness and encourage more qualified professionals to apply for positions in this expanding sector. Wei is convinced



A resident exercises at a community senior care station in Beijing on August 8 (XINHUA)

that the government's decision will increase social recognition and that her profession will gain more credibility.

However, higher education is not keeping pace with these new developments. Only a handful of universities have included geriatrics in their curriculum. Private institutions and associations provide training and certificates, but no professional certification endorsed by MHRSS is available at the moment. In the future, job creation, adequate training provision and good professional practices will depend on this recognition.



Chinese Mythical Creatures

There are many magical creatures with supernatural powers in Chinese mythology. They can be either merciful or malignant, beautiful or repugnant, gargantuan or minuscule. The variety of these creatures are numerable and fascinating.

They are all very interesting parts of Chinese culture and have amazing folklore stories to accompany each creature. Let's look at some noteworthy creatures that you may have never heard of.

Chinese mythical creatures are the topic of this year's Panda Competition, details of which were in the last two *Bulletins* and on the website. Members' children and grandchildren are welcome to enter.

尚扬 (Shàng yáng) Shang Yang



It is a large, menacing bird which dances upon one leg to signify a prediction of rain. So it is also called the "rain bird". "尚扬 (Shàng yáng) Shang Yang" are either drawn to locations where rain will soon arrive, or they are drawn to locations that are in desperate need of rain.

It is said that Chinese farmers in ancient time, often have invoked "尚扬 (Shàng yáng) Shang Yang" to irrigate their fields since this bird, in particular, absorbs water from the river through its long, thin beak and symbolizes water reserves. (The picture source: www.kuaibao.qq.com)

年 (Nián) Year

This fantastic creature has a huge head, sharp claws, is shaped like a lion, and lives in the depths of the sea. It appears once a year to attack humans. It is said that during the times it appears, people have always hidden in the shelter; however, one day when a stranger faced the attack of the beast, he unexpectedly scared it away with a red cloak and "烟花 (yānhuā) fireworks."



Since then, every year people have decorated villages with red and set off fireworks to keep monsters away. The custom is spread all over China, just because it was called “年 (nián) year,” and appears once a year. So during the time it appears, we call it “the New Year.” (The picture source: www.sohu.com)

Source: www.echineselearning.com/blog/introduction-to-5-mythical-chinese-creatures

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Ancient Chinese Fables

1 The Pot Calling the Kettle Black

“I have spent a lot of time and effort,” stated King Hui of the state of Liang, “on governing my country. When there is a bad harvest in Henei, north of the Yellow River, I evacuate the people to Hedong, east of the Yellow River and move the grain of Hedong to Henei. When the harvest is bad in Hedong I would do the same for them. As far as I could see, none of the rulers of the neighbouring states are as diligent as I. But the number of people in neighbouring states does not decrease and the number of my subjects does not increase. Why is this so?”

“My lord likes fighting battles,” replied Mencius, “so I will use an analogy from war: imagine battledrums thundering and weapons clashing. At this time some soldiers abandon their armour and run away, dragging their weapons behind them. Some stop after going one hundred paces. Others halt after fifty paces. Those who ran only fifty paces laughed at those who ran a hundred. What do you think?”

“That’s not right. It’s just that they didn’t go a hundred paces, but they did run away all the same.”

“My lord, if you understand this, then you should not cherish hopes of having more subjects than your neighbours.”

Mencius

From K.L. Kiu, *100 Ancient Chinese Fables*, 1985

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

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