

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

PO Box 530, Civic Sq, ACT 2608

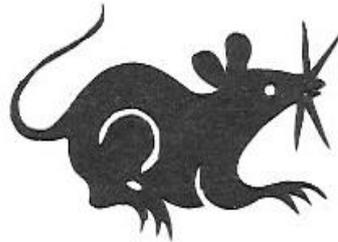
ABN: 51 554 404 306
acfsact@gmail.com
www.acfs.org.au

Bulletin

2020/7 July 2020

Coming events

Film evening: deferred until late August



Committee

President	Carol Keil	6247 8231 cjkeil@proforte.com.au
Secretary	Tanja Naeher	6259 5539
Treasurer	Neil Birch	6287 4602
Bulletin editor	Jean Norman	6254 7732 jjnorman46@grapevine.com.au

Committee members

John Wong	6294 0068
Teck Lee	6254 6814
Alex Olah	0490 660 738
Amanda Andrews	0452 323 520

Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Corona virus

We thought things were improving but with the situation in Victoria and Sydney, and now with cases in Batemans Bay, it seems it will still be a long time before we can resume our monthly activities. Rooms in clubs are still not available for bookings and we have deferred our film evening. We will have to wait and see what restrictions are still in place in late August and will let you know if a film can be shown.

In the meanwhile, as we have all been advised, be safe and keep a social distance.

Carol



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 Corrine Zhang.

Name: Peng Xian Zi
Sex: Female
DOB: 07/11/2015
School year: Junior High School Year 2
School: Tanghekou High School

Maths 85	English 97
Chemistry 80	Geography 90
Chinese 90	P.E. 93
Physic 82	History 90

Family Situation: Parents work on the farm.

Dear kind people,

My name is Peng Xian Zi. I am a boarder at Tanghekou High School, I am in Year 2 Junior High this year. My family lives in Ximaoshan Village, Labagoumen Manchu Town, Huairou District. Your financial support warms my heart in this chilly winter. On behalf of my family, I wanted to say thank you.

As a student, I have been through a lot of hardship in life, but your support has made me a lucky person. I will be a good student in school, and a good daughter for my family at home. I won't let you down. I will gratefully repay your kindness and my community with good exam results in the future, to take care of others, and become a good contributor for my country.

Fast facts from the Beijing Review, July 2020

- China plans to launch its first Mars exploration mission in July or August. The space craft will have an orbiter, landing module and Mars rover. The mission will be called Tianwen-1. Tianwen means "Questions to Heaven" and is the name of a poem written about 340-278 BC by Qu Yuan one of the greatest poets of ancient China.
- Volkswagen plans to invest 2 billion euros in China to develop its electric vehicle business. The investment will be split between its vehicle manufacturing subsidiary and acquiring a 26% share of a Chinese battery manufacturer. This will make VW the first foreign auto company to invest directly in a Chinese battery manufacture.
- In April air cargo flights out of China had increased by about 55% compared to pre Covid-19 levels. By early May they were up by 133%.
- In March China's retail sales of consumer goods was down 15.8% year on year by April this had recovered to be down by only 7.5%; early data indicates the recovery in continuing.
- The Chinese Academy of Science recently hosted its annual two-day science communication event with a series of online activities including virtual tours and audio-visual exhibitions.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

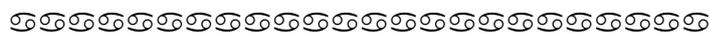
In the meantime, I will learn from your generosity, and help those who are in need around me. I will set a good moral example for my peers, in order to pass your kindness to a wider community.

Lastly, I want to thank you again from the bottom of my heart. May you be healthy, may your job easy, may you stay well forever.

Salute!

Yours sincerely,
Peng Xian Zi
17 Nov 2019

As you can see from the Committee News below, we are reconsidering how many students we can fund. The cancellation of the Lantern Festival meant the loss of the funds from lantern sales, which is an important part of our fundraising. The stall at the Fyswhick Markets is no longer available for community groups for Trash and Treasure sales. The cost of each student per year is 1000 yuan, or approximately \$200. We have decided to support 7 students.



2020 China floods

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Starting on or shortly before 4 June 2020,¹ heavy and continuous rains of the East Asian rainy season resulted in widespread floods in China. During June, the floods affected primarily the southern regions impacting the lives of millions of people. For July, further heavy rains are expected to hit central and eastern parts of China According to the Ministry of Emergency Management, by the end of June flooding had displaced 744,000 people across 26 provinces with 81 people missing or dead. In early July, the *South China Morning Post* reported that about 20 million residents had been affected and at least 121 people were dead or missing. As of 13 July, floods have affected 37.89 million people in 27 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, 141 people are dead or missing, and 28,000 houses have collapsed. The Ministry of Water Resources said that a total of 443 rivers nationwide have been flooded, with 33 of them swelling to the highest levels ever recorded. The 2020 China floods have described as the worst since at least 1998.

Affected regions included Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Hubei, as well as Chongqing. The regions include the upper and middle river basin of the Yangtze and its tributaries. With more rain floods started to extend to lower regions of the Yangtze basin such as Anhui, Jiangxi, and Zhejiang. In addition, Hunan, Fujian, and Yunnan were affected.



Committee News - July 2020 meeting

Your committee met at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham again for its July meeting and have rebooked for our August meeting. It's reassuring to have something consistent in these continuously changing times.

With COVID19 cases rising again, and continued venue restrictions, we decided to postpone our earlier planned movie night in late July 2020. Hoping that we can hold the event in August, but it will be a 'watch this space' situation.

As mentioned in June, we had heard that we were not successful in the Commonwealth Government's Small volunteer grant. If the next round is a repeat of this year, whereby entries were assessed as they were received, we agreed that we would be on our front foot to apply as soon as we receive notification.

Carol will continue to follow up with the ACT Chinese Teachers Network, and the Catholic Education Office to promote the Panda competition. She will also engage with high schools and colleges to determine how best to progress the School awards later this year, to ensure they are COVID19 safe.

It is that time of year again, where we review our commitment and renew our sponsorship of students as part of Project Hope. We spent some time discussing what we are reasonably able to fund considering the very few opportunities to fund raise during the COVID19 situation. Last year we funded 12 students. The Lantern Festival usually raises enough to fund approximately 6 students but as we had to cancel this year's festival there was no income. We are exploring a few options but may have to reduce the number of students. The cause is extremely worthy and we are keen to provide as much support as possible.

Without the ability to currently plan too far ahead, we finished off the evening with another delicious meal – my personal favourite on the night was one of the 'China Tea Club' signature dishes, the steak and scallop dish.

Wishing you all continued good health.

Your Secretary, Tanja



Foreign interference and the Chinese diaspora: guilty until proven innocent?

By Yun Jiang, an editor of the China Story blog and a director of China Policy Centre
Source: Australian Centre on China in the World ciw@anu.edu.au

Media reporting and public commentary on China's foreign interference efforts in Australia have focused heavily on alleged associations and links between Australian organisations or individuals and the Chinese Communist Party's United Front system. The focus on these, rather than actual improper or illegal actions, is concerning — especially as the implications of these alleged associations and links are often misrepresented or not properly contextualised. In the absence of direct evidence of wrongdoing, allegations of guilt based only on associations and links should be treated with a high degree of caution.

Media reports about the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) foreign interference have become increasingly common in recent years. A high-profile example is the ASIO raid of NSW parliamentarian Shaoquett Moselmane as part of an investigation into possible foreign interference by Beijing. Moselmane's staffer John Zhang reportedly attended a training

course run by the United Front Work Department (UFWD). A related story noted that Moselmane met with a United Front official while in China. Another recent story focused on Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews staffer Nancy Yang who attended the same training course as Zhang and is allegedly a board member of a United Front organisation.

Other stories related to CCP foreign interference include student politics, where Chinese students' participation in campus politics have been framed by some as a part of CCP's interference effort in Australia, and Chinese companies that shipped medical equipment to Wuhan at the start of the pandemic.

Guilt by association

Most Australians have no idea about what activities actually constitute foreign interference. The *National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Act 2018* was passed two years ago. However, the Australian Government still has not released any examples of what activities constitute foreign interference, beyond its general definition: activities carried out by, or on behalf of a foreign actor; coercive, corrupting, deceptive or clandestine; and contrary to Australia's sovereignty, values and national interests.

Since what constitutes foreign interference is unclear, activities described in media reports are often taken as evidence or proof of foreign interference, even if these reports do not make any explicit accusations of illegal conduct. Thus, to many, meeting UFWD officials or speaking at an event organised by entities with "connections" to the United Front system is taken as evidence of foreign interference. Similarly, participating in student politics while being a member of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) is also linked to foreign interference.

Most of these reports include a reference to the United Front. Apart from very few researchers and analysts, most Australians do not know what the United Front is, nor how it operates. Instead, the United Front has become an all-encompassing word for China's interference activities in Australia.

Most people reading or watching news are unsure what these connections to United Front mean or whether all connections are problematic. For example, if John Zhang and Nancy Yang did participate in a training course run by UFWD, are they then part of the United Front? Are all members of the many hometown associations and the CSSA automatically part of the United Front? Does that mean anyone who is associating with them is also associating with the United Front?

Ultimately, the search for evidence for any "links" or "connections" to the United Front obscures crucial details about the various activities and incentives of different individuals. We are no longer asking "what did they do?" or "why are they doing it?". Rather, we tend to deliver our verdict based simply on their links to the United Front.

While it may be useful to know if an individual, especially a politician, is associated with certain groups, that should not be the focus of reporting on foreign interference. Investigating and revealing associations can be important for understanding context, but the focus should remain on acts that are coercive, corrupting, deceptive or clandestine. Links or associations

should be presented as supporting evidence only, as they can be highly circumstantial.

Political participation

These types of media reports can have real-world consequences. Even though some media organisations have become more careful in labelling reports as “CCP influence” rather than “Chinese influence”, the focus on links and associations rather than improper or illegal conduct can exacerbate the problem of prejudice towards the Chinese diaspora in Australia.

Some members of the Chinese diaspora may have joined an organisation “linked” to the United Front, such as one of the numerous hometown associations, business associations or even dance troupes, without giving it much thought. But they are now potentially seen as part of the United Front’s effort to interfere in Australia.

The general suspicion towards people with Chinese heritage about foreign interference, even those without any links to a United Front organisation, means that any political activities by Chinese-Australians are viewed with extra scrutiny. Whenever a Chinese-Australian is engaging in politics or advocating policies, questions will be raised about their association with the United Front.

As even appearing in the same photo as a “United Front figure” can be detrimental to someone’s career, organisations have incentives to be more risk-averse and cautious about hiring anyone with possible “links” to the Chinese Communist Party or the United Front, however tenuous they may be. Given that the United Front is usually associated with the Chinese diaspora, risk mitigation can mean preferring someone who is not of Chinese background. This will worsen the under-representation of Chinese-Australians in politics, as they need to overcome a higher standard of proof of innocence — by proving their “non-association” with something that is not clearly defined and little understood.

What can be done

Foreign interference is a national security issue that should be taken seriously. But first, Australians need to have a clearer understanding of what “foreign interference” actually is. The Australian Government should release and publicise clear guidelines and examples as to what actions constitute foreign interference. This will help the Australian community build resilience and watch out for incidences that fall into that category.

The Australian media should also focus less on associations and “links” as evidence for foreign interference. Instead, the focus should be on actions or behaviours that are “coercive, corrupting, deceptive or clandestine”. It is by no means a foregone conclusion that meeting with foreign officials or attending events organised by community groups (even those that have links to foreign governments) necessarily have these characteristics.

Finally, Chinese-Australians should be treated the same way as all other Australians. Commentators like to say that the CCP deliberately conflates Chinese people with the Party. While that may be true, it is not just the CCP that is doing the conflating. We should not presume guilt just because someone is associated or linked to a concept that is not clearly defined or to

organisations that are not illegal in Australia. Instead, we should judge individuals based on their actions.



中国文化中心
CHINA CULTURAL CENTRE



2,000 years ago, civilizations in Asia, Europe and Africa were connected by a maritime route, which lead to politics, trade, and culture exchanges among these three continents. World civilization once merged and developed through the "Maritime Silk Road".

Many important ports in China's coastal history, such as Quanzhou, Fuzhou, and Guangzhou, remain rich historical and cultural heritage ,and witnessed the valuable contribution of "Marine Silk Road" . Quanzhou, a coastal city in Fujian Province, is the starting point of "Maritime Silk Road" recognized by UNESCO.

This exhibition shows the charming marine culture and landscape of the coastal areas in China's "Maritime Silk Road" by 5 fantastic videos, bringing you culturally diverse scenery of Quanzhou, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan.

Source: <https://cccsydney.org/information/about-china/travel-along-maritime-silk-road-in-southeast-china/>



Humble House Art Exhibition – Small and Humble

A collaboration with Gallery of Small Things

Humble House is delighted to collaborate with Gallery of Small Things in our next exhibition, Small and Humble.

Our Exhibition Manager, Kylie Fogarty introduced us to Anne Masters, Director of Gallery of Small Things (GOST) in 2019. We connected well with a mutual goal to support Australian artists in their professional arts practices.

If you haven't yet visited, GOST is Canberra's tiniest walk-in gallery showcasing emerging through to established artists. This exhibition is an opportunity for GOST artists to bring their larger works to a more spacious venue.

Nine of GOST's artists were selected to create works for this exhibition. We are pleased to welcome Ellen Rosalie Gunner, Amy Hick, Pia Larsen, Jacqueline Lewis, Nic Mason, Phil Page, Isobel Rayson, David Suckling and Amanda Westley.



Exhibition opening: because of continuing concerns about COVID-19 we will be holding an online launch of the Exhibition Opening on 9 July.

Viewing: The exhibition will be open for personal viewing at the gallery from Friday 10 July so if you would like to visit, we would love to see you. Opening hours are Wednesday to Sunday 10am - 4pm.

Humble House gallery has enjoyed the return of increasing numbers of patrons over the past couple of months. With such a large area, it provides a relaxed space in which visitors can enjoy the stunning artworks on show in the exhibition. Hand sanitiser is available and social distancing is easy to maintain.



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.



1. 九头鸟 (Jiūtóuniǎo) The nine-headed bird

The nine-headed bird is also called “姑获鸟 (gū huò niǎo).” The bird brings “灾难 (zāinàn) disaster,” and it only comes out at night. When it puts on plumage, it becomes a bird, and when it takes it off, it becomes a beautiful woman.

The nine-headed bird does not give birth to any bird of its own; it takes only the nestlings of other birds. It is

said that it used to have 10 heads. But one is missing and the headless neck constantly drips blood.

There are two versions of the story on how the bird lost one of its head. One version holds that it was bitten off by a fierce mythical dog, while a more widely spread version suggests the Emperor of the Zhou Dynasty (1152-1056 BC) ordered a hunter to shoot its head off. But that didn't stop the evil bird. It sneaks into villages at night, hurting children and spreading misfortune. *(The picture source: www.duitang.com)*

2. 九尾狐 (Jiǔwěihú) The nine-tail fox



According to legend, the fox's tail is used to store auras. When the fox absorbs enough auras, the tail splits into two, eventually dividing into nine tails. When a fox has nine tails, it has an immortal body and the ability to spit fire.

During the Zhou dynasty, Da Ji, the incarnation of nine-tail fox, did many bad things and made the king lose his kingdom and his people's support. The folklore of nine-tailed fox incarnates all kinds of characters, flatters, and deceives innocent people, therefore the fox gradually becomes a byword of cunning. *(The picture source: www.tanmizhi.com)*

3. 麒麟 (Qílín) Qilin; Chinese unicorn



“麒麟 (Qílín) Qilin,” a legendary animal in ancient China, was called a “benevolent beast” in ancient times. It was a symbol of good “运气 (yùnqì) fortune.”

According to Chinese folklore, once upon a time, there was a couple that had been trying to have a baby for a long time. One night, a Qilin ran to their house with his elegant demeanor, hurriedly spat a piece of silk from his mouth, with the words, “he had the character and ability of a monarch, but unfortunately, he was not born in the royal family” written upon the fabric.

This message foretold the future greatness of their unborn child. The next day, when Qilin disappeared, Confucius was born. Hence, Qilin is thought to be a symbol of luck, good omens, protection, and fertility, which is why they are often used as decorations when bringing a baby to a family. *(The picture source: www.16pic.com)*

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

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 January and are current until 31 December of the same year. The monthly Bulletin is included in the subscription and is distributed by email.

Subscription rates, payable to **the Treasurer, PO Box 530, Civic Square ACT 2608** are:
Single \$20 Family \$35 Centrelink Concession Holder: Individual \$15 and Family \$25

Name(s).....

Address.....

..... Postcode

Email.....

Phone (home) (work) Mobile

Renewal New Member

Direct Credit Details:

Beyond Bank

BSB: 325-185

A/C No. 03411481

A/C Name: ACFS ACT

Branch Inc

Ref: Your name



Australia China Friendship Society
PO Box 530
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608 AUSTRALIA

ACT Branch Bulletin