

Australia China Friendship Society  
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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**Bulletin**

**2021/4 April 2021**

**Coming events**

**Film evening**

**13 May**

**Yum Cha lunch**

**20 June**



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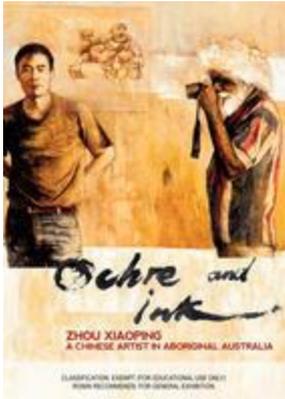
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*Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people*

## Film evening

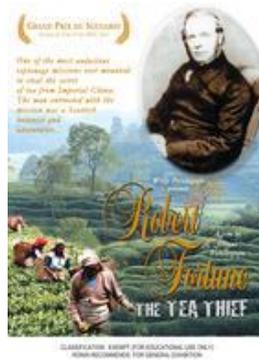
The function for May will be a screening of two films, *Ochre and Ink* and *Robert Fortune the Tea Thief*.



*OCHRE AND INK*, 2011, 27 min

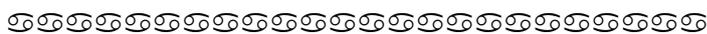
OCHRE AND INK tells the extraordinary story of artist Zhou Xiaoping and his inspiring 23 year collaboration with Indigenous artists in the Maningrida area in the heart of Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. A film by James Bradley, with co-producer Rachel Clements.

*ROBERT FORTUNE THE TEA THIEF*, 2002, 52 min



Behind the story of a simple cup of tea is a tale of espionage and intrigue captured in a documentary by Melbourne filmmaker Diane Perelsztein. The cup that cheers has a complex, often dark history. The story of tea is a tale of politics, economics and spirituality, of espionage, art and the drug trade.

The screening will be held on Thursday 13 May in the Catchpole Room at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison. The films will begin at 7.30pm and, as always, members may meet for dinner in the bistro from 6.00. Please book for the talk and the dinner by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by 10 May.



## Yum Cha lunch

In June escape winter by joining for a yum cha lunch at Yum Cha CBD, 32 West Row, Civic, on Sunday 20 June at 12.00. A menu costing approximately \$27 will be arranged. Please book by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by 17 June.



## ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble

The ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble will perform for the City Renewal Authority's Lunchbox Acoustic program.

Performances will be on the third Monday of each month until June in City Walk, near the Carousel, from 12.00 to 1.20pm. (Apr 19, May 17 and June 21)

## Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, April 2021

- The Global Innovation Index 2020, compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, ranked China 14<sup>th</sup>, in 2015 China had been ranked in 29<sup>th</sup> place. In this period China's research and development spending increased from 2.06% to 2.23% of GDP or in \$US terms from 220 billion to 342 billion. Despite this significant progress, many of China's industries are still on the low to medium end of the global value chain.
- There were 38,000 nursing home in China at the end of 2020, 37% more than 2015. They provide 8.24 million beds 22.5% more than 2015. At the end of 2019 were 254 million people aged over 60 that is 18.1% of the population.
- Beijing aims to restore another 1,000 hectares of wetlands this year. In the last 5 years, 6 wetland sanctuaries and 12 wetland parks with an area of 11,000 hectares have been added. Beijing now has 27,900 hectares of natural and 30,800 hectares of artificial wetlands. That is about 3.6% of Beijing land area.
- 4.1 billion domestic tourist trips are expected to be made on 2021 up 42% from 2020. This follows a drop of 52% in 2020 due to Covid-19.

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

## ANU China in the World Centre Events



### National Press Club – Launch of the *China Story Yearbook: Crisis*

Jane Golley, Wang Xining and Michael Smith

Wednesday 21 April, 12pm–1:30pm

This event will be moderated by the President of the National Press Club, Laura Tingle. Attendees of the address will receive a copy of *China Story Yearbook 2020: Crisis*, courtesy of the Australian Centre for China in the World and ANU Press.

### Book Launch & Panel Discussion – What is Chinese history good for?

Linda Jaivin, Esther Klein, Benjamin Penny and Yayun Zhu

Tuesday 4 May, 5:30pm–7pm



Join us for "What is Chinese history good for?" panel discussion to celebrate Linda Jaivin's new book *The Shortest History of China* and commemorate the May Fourth Movement (1919), which is also known as the Chinese renaissance. ([registration essential](#))

To book for these events visit the Australian Centre on China in the World at [ciw@anu.edu.au](mailto:ciw@anu.edu.au).



## Committee News - April 2021 meeting

Our first committee meeting following the Annual General Meeting and voting in of the 2021 committee was again at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham – as I've mentioned in previous committee news over the past year, this has become our regular restaurant for our monthly meetings since Covid hit.

We debriefed about the Lantern Festival in February 2021 and thank those of you who provided constructive comments and ideas which we will take on board so that we can continue to make this an annual successful event for the society.

It was good to see those of you could make it to the 2021 AGM on 22 March 2021 at the 'Golden King' Restaurant in Philip and always good to catch up over dinner following the formalities.

We made final arrangements for the April 2021 event – a talk by Greg Baines about his novella. We hope that you are able to come along to Greg's talk and possibly join for dinner beforehand – all at the Southern Cross club in Jamison.

Your committee planned out events till June 2021 – including a movie evening in May, where you will be able to view 'Ochre and Ink' and 'Robert Fortune the tea thief' and a Yum Cha meal in June – look out for more about these events over the next few months.

More thought was given to the Panda Competition 2021 theme and it was agreed that 'Traditional Chinese Games' would be the one. We hope this inspires the children who will participate and already look forward to seeing the entries later in the year.

This also seems to be a time for when grants are opened for applications. We talked through a number on offer and decided to apply for a few, with the hope that we can fund extra shields to display the students who are successful in the annual School Awards, and also to fund a new projector, microphone and stand. Please wish us luck!

We finished the evening with a delicious meal – with the signature pepper beef and scallop dish a stand out for the night.

Hope you are enjoying watching the many beautifully coloured Autumn leaves appearing.

Your Secretary, Tanja



## **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22 March at the Golden King restaurant in Phillip. Business was swiftly dealt with and a lovely meal was enjoyed by all. All existing Committee members were re-elected.

### **President's report for 2020**

2020 was a year like no other which saw the appearance of the corona virus and the deadly effects which have been experienced across the world. Fortunately we have been spared the worst here in Canberra but our activities were certainly restricted for quite some time.

We did not have any functions until September when we had a showing of the film China's 3 dreams and in October there was a presentation of the Society's tour to the horticultural Expo in 2019. In November Carol and Ambassador Cheng JIngYe finally planted a friendship tree in the Canberra Beijing Garden. It was a replacement for the tree that had been planted at the Embassy in 1992. It was a very positive event at a time when relations between China and Australia were at a very low ebb. It had been a long time in the planning and was well-attended but the report in the Canberra Times misrepresented the purpose. They did however print my clarifying letter to the editor. Our Christmas dinner and Chinese New Year were both very successful.

Our membership continues to decline (it is now 75). We have had several new members join but some of our older members resigned as a result of COVID. It is very difficult to attract new members as social media rather than gatherings is the way people seem to interact these days.

An important aspect of the Society's work is the promotion of Chinese culture in schools. The Panda competition was again held for primary and high schools with the topic this year being 'Chinese Mythical Creatures'. We had entries from 10 schools and awarded 62 prizes. We were not able to hold our usual presentation ceremony due to COVID restrictions and instead hand-delivered prizes to each school for the school to present.

COVID restrictions also prevented a ceremony for winners of Awards for the best and most improved students of mandarin. As with the Panda competition the awards were hand-delivered to 11 High Schools and Colleges and I presented the awards to the students at Melba-Copland College.

We continue to support 10 Project Hope students: 4 girls at Labagoumen primary school, 5 students at other primary and high schools. As there was no fund-raising possible during the year funds to support these students came from donations from members and their families, proceeds from a lunch arranged in Adelaide by Siew-Gim's sister and friends in 2019 and a draw-down of Society funds.

We obtained a grant from the ACT Government for the Lantern Festival in 2020 which was cancelled at very short notice due to COVID and were able to carryover the funds for the 2021 festival which was a great success. We had 3 new performance groups, perfect weather, used our own PA system for the first time and sold a good number of paper lanterns.

We applied for a Small Volunteer Grant to replace our data projector but were unsuccessful.

Two of our long-term members sadly passed away. Jeff Culnane was vice-president from 1982-84, president from 1985-1988 and was made a life-member in 1988. Jeff was instrumental in organising the painting of the Harvest of Endurance Scroll. He was also National Secretary for 2 years. Brian O'Keeffe was treasurer in 1984.

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, to Neil who provides Fast Facts, to Teck who regularly sources items of interest and to Roger Arnold for his most interesting contributions on living in China.

Our website which helps us to maintain our profile is managed by Siew-Gim McGregor and we also use face-book 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. Mr Yang's term as Cultural Counsellor has finished and I would particularly like to thank him for his very strong support for the Society. He was instrumental in arranging for the panda competition presentations to be held at the Embassy and also hosted the school awards presentations and a number of other events at the Cultural Office in O'Malley. The Office is now located near the Embassy. Mr Song Yanqun, the new Cultural Counsellor, has just recently arrived. 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 Naeher – secretary and co-ordinator of performers for the Lantern Festival, Neil Birch - treasurer, Jean Norman - editor, Teck Lee - functions co-ordinator, Amanda Andrews – schools, Alex Olah –publicity officer and 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  
President  
22 March 2021



中国文化中心  
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The Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (Beijing 2022 Games), will be held in Beijing, and Zhangjiakou, Hebei, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2022. Although the raging pandemic last year challenged the preparations for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics, China still managed to complete all 12 competition venues and released Olympic symbols for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

China Cultural Centre in Sydney and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics Organization Committee will jointly launch "Winter Olympics on the Clouds". The online exhibition features the development of the winter Olympics and highlights work on sustainable development and cultural exchanges.

Click

[https://cccsydney.org/beijing-winter-olympic/?mc\\_cid=b05f2b496e&mc\\_eid=e8f11978d3](https://cccsydney.org/beijing-winter-olympic/?mc_cid=b05f2b496e&mc_eid=e8f11978d3)

to view the complete exhibition.



## An Iraqi resident's tribute to Wuhan

By Ghamgeen Izat Rashed · *Beijing Review* 2021-03-01 · Source: NO.9  
MARCH 4, 2021



Ghamgeen Izat Rashed, his wife Hu Changli, and their daughter Hu Yang Abu (COURTESY PHOTO)

I am from the city of Sulaymaniyah in Iraq but for the last 17 years, Wuhan has been my home. That's more than the age of my daughter, Hu Yang Abu, 8, who was born in the city in Hubei Province, central China.

I came to Wuhan as a PhD student on a scholarship. After getting my degree in electrical engineering at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, I stayed on and today, I teach graduate, postgraduate and PhD students at Wuhan University. My wife Hu Changli is a Wuhan girl, so you see the city has given me love, happiness as well as my livelihood.

That is why when COVID-19 hit the city and many foreigners started leaving, we decided to stay on. "We are not alone here," I told my family. "There are 11 million people like us and if they can ride it out, so can we." I was not worried because I had faith in the government. They are strong and incredible at management and I knew they would be able to take care of the problem.

Look at how they worked it out. Two special hospitals were built in less than a fortnight, thousands of medical workers were brought in from different parts of the country, and the communities took care of their residents.

We stayed entirely at home for the 76 days that Wuhan was locked down but we never lacked any daily necessities. The community workers brought us food and essentials and I would go down from our apartment on the 11th floor to receive them, that was the only time I ventured out in the beginning.

Then they set up a no-direct-contact supermarket inside the community to make things easier. You can't imagine how the government and the people

worked and we appreciate that. Plus there was the special development of the Internet and the ways you could use it, helping you to cope with everything, from medical consultations to communication and work.

My university moved fast. Within two weeks they had set up an Internet platform to hold online classes, contacted all students, and paid for their Internet connection. So during daytime from February 17 onward, we were busy as usual, the only difference was that I was teaching from home and not in the classroom.

The Immigration Department also set up a health platform. We checked our temperature daily and kept them informed through it as well as received information.

My wife works for a personnel training company and she too worked from home while our daughter had online classes. When the lockdown ended, my first trip outside the community was to the university in late April, and I drove there slowly.

We followed the news every day and now, it's time again to do so with the Two Sessions, annual meetings of China's national legislature and top advisory body, kicking off. These meetings are extremely important as they set out detailed, long-time plans for the development of each sector, and open up the country further.

That is one big difference from the parliamentary meetings in Iraq. When the Council of Representatives meets in Baghdad, they discuss plans and budgets for about a year, it's very short term, and they meet whenever they have an agenda to discuss.

In China, we have seen the plans announced at the Two Sessions implemented within the deadline and the development of the country becoming more pronounced, especially in the last five years. Last year, the government met the deadline for the eradication of absolute poverty despite a global pandemic.

As for Wuhan, I have witnessed the changes in the city with my own eyes—what it was in 2004 and what it is today. I am delighted that in spite of the epidemic, Wuhan was among the cities with the top 10 GDPs in China in 2020.

My New Year wish is that all Chinese, and especially the people of Wuhan, enjoy health and success, and that everything gets better. I am hoping the Two Sessions this year will announce more investment for projects in Wuhan so that Wuhan will grow more and more. BR

The author is an Iraqi associate professor at Wuhan University

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

## How do you see the minimalist lifestyle?

**Lu Hongping, A-26-year-old middle school teacher in Guangdong Province, *Beijing Review*· 2021-03-08 ·**



### **Less is more**

The minimalist lifestyle needs to be considered only after we own more than we need. Nowadays, the rapid development of the society has brought a lot of wealth and material possessions, which has become a burden for many. In addition, the fast-paced life we have today makes us busier than ever and we have less time to do something relatively unimportant. Therefore, I think a minimalist lifestyle is necessary to help people ease their burden and focus on the best part of life.

Although I'm not a strict practitioner of minimalism, I do benefit a lot from a simpler life. When I got employed in 2018, I squandered my salaries on lots of clothes, shoes, cosmetics, books and food to enrich my life. However, piles of things made my room messy and a lot of stuff had to be thrown away unused.

About one year ago, I laid my hands on a book named *Danshari*, which encourages people to cut out unnecessary stuff, throw away junk and step away from their obsessions. Following the instructions, I started to change my lifestyle and surprisingly found out that my life is much better with less.

Another bad habit I have worked hard to change is spending too much time on my phone and iPad as a means to release myself from the work stress. A lot of my valuable time was wasted on various time-killing apps which didn't do much good to my self-improvement.

Adopting a simple life can be a bit challenging and needs constant effort. Here are some tips I find helpful. First, concentrate on things that are really important and meaningful. Second, access to information should be simple and well-targeted; reading books is a good alternative to meaningless social interaction and time-killing apps. Third, purchase fewer goods with better quality and tidy up your room regularly.

A minimalist lifestyle isn't equal to austerity. It's a habit we can form to simplify our life. With less desire both materially and mentally, there will be more room for self-improvement, happiness and inner fulfillment.

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

# 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

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