

Australia China Friendship Society  
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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## Bulletin

2021/3 February 2021

### Coming events

**Lantern Festival**

**27 February**

**Annual General Meeting**

**22 March**

**Memberships are now due. See the back page for details.**

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

## Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 22 March at the Golden King restaurant in Phillip at 7.00pm. New committee members are always welcome. Monthly meetings are followed by dinner. A nomination form appears below.

Please book by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by 17 March.



## Lantern Festival: Help Needed

At the time of writing the Lantern Festival is scheduled to go ahead from 6-8.30pm on Saturday 27 February in the Canberra Beijing Garden. We have prepared a COVID-safe event plan and have contacted all the performers including 2 new groups.

We will need some extra hands this year to help with selling lanterns and the lantern parade. Lantern sales are the major source of our funds for Project Hope and with no sales last year we are hoping for a good turnout of attendees to buy our lanterns this year.

The Festival will start at 6pm and finish at around 8.30pm. If you have any free time on Saturday 27 February and would like to come and help set up (starting at 1.30pm) or during the evening – helping with lantern sales, registering lantern competition entrants, handing out programs, helping the lantern parade participants to be socially distanced – please email [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com)

It is always a most rewarding evening so please come along and support us.



## ACFS Nomination form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Committee Member

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to the above nomination

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

- At the end of 2012, 98.99 million Chinese were classified as living in absolute poverty. They lived in 832 counties, almost 1 in 3 counties. During 2020 absolute poverty was eliminated from the last 52 counties. The measures taken ranged from providing infrastructure that enabled industrial development to reducing endemic diseases with improved public facilities.
- Coal mines in Shanxi Province are being encouraged to use robots to replace humans in dangerous jobs. In one pilot project robots have cut the accident rate by 10% while reducing staff engaged in dangerous tasks by 60%.
- Archaeologists have unearthed 10 jade processing workshops dating back about 5,000 years, providing key materials for studying the origins of Chinese civilisation. The find was in the Huangshan ruins in Nanyang, Henan Province.
- China Mobile has built over 385,000 5G base stations. By the end of 2020 there were about 200 million 5G connections, which is about 85% of the global total.

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

## ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble

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

This is what was said about recent performances: " ... when the ANUCCME plays the audience is much more engaged and interested than with other groups."

Performances will be on the third Monday of each month until June in City Walk, near the Carousel, from 12.00 to 1.20pm. (Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17 and June 21.)

## National Gallery of Australia

### XU ZHEN®: ETERNITY VS EVOLUTION until 14 March 2021, free

Xu Zhen is one of China's most significant artists and activists. His recent work centres on sculptural installations, video and performances that challenge cultural assumptions, question social taboos and comment on the idea of art as a commodity. This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Australia.



## ANU China in the World Centre

### Blogs & News



#### Why the Lunar New Year is later than the Western New Year

**Linfang Wang, School of Culture, History and Language**

Ever wondered why Lunar New Year is celebrated later than the Western New Year? It involves the moon and a monster, according to CHL PhD Scholar Linfang Wang.



#### Africa Drifters

**Miriam Driessen, *Made in China Journal***

"Driven yet restless and plagued by the lack of sense of security, many Chinese workers in Africa find themselves afloat, caught between remaining and returning". Miriam explains.

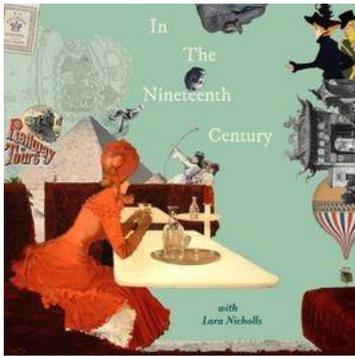


#### The China connection

**Peter Rimmer, *Griffith Asia Insights***

CHL Emeritus Professor Peter Rimmer explores relations in the context of geo-logistics and infrastructure development. Can Australia do better with its supply chain to Asia?

## Podcast



### **The Chinese diaspora in the nineteenth century: Coming to Australia**

**John Zerunge Young, In the Nineteenth Century with Lara Nicholls**

Based on John's *The History Projects*, this episode explores the lives of Lowe Kong Meng and Jong Ah Suig, and entrepreneurial women such as Alice Lim Kee and Daisy Kwok.

The Lambing Flat Riots on Wurundjeri Country and the lost relatives born of the marriages and unions between Chinese migrants and First Nations women in Queensland and the Northern Territory were also discussed.

## Events



### **GUIDED TOUR: *Drawing Near* 近鄉·回溯 by Chin-Jie Melodie Liu**

**2:00–2:30pm, 27 February 2021**

Join Melodie on her exhibition tour, *Drawing Near*, which offers a glimpse into contemporary Taiwanese culture and society through nostalgic photographs and objects.

**(in-person event; registration required)**

**The Gallery is open 10am - 3pm on Saturday 27 February.**

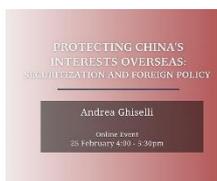


### **Film Screening + Q&A: *Echoes of the Empire: Beyond Genghis Khan***

**Robert H. Lieberman, Brian Goldbeck & Natasha Fijn  
12–1pm, 26 February 2021**

Intimate stories told by Mongolians, from nomads to city dwellers, provide a rare insight into their psyches and the challenges they face in their post-Soviet world.

**(registration required)**



### **ANU China Seminar Series — Protecting China's Interests Overseas: Securitization and Foreign Policy**

**Andrea Ghiselli, 4:00–5:30pm, 25 February 2021**

This seminar will provide new insights into the dynamics of contemporary Chinese foreign policy making and prompt new considerations into our understanding of China's rise.

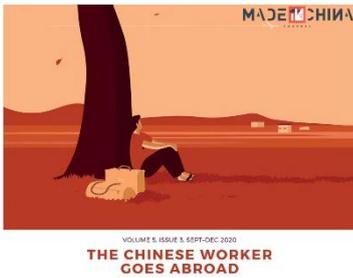


### **Markets price politicians: Evidence from China's municipal bond markets**

**Yao Yang, 2:00–3:00pm, 23 February 2021**

Markets not only allocate resources, but may also punish or reward politicians for economic performance. Yao Yang's research findings suggest market can play a role in promoting good governance.

## Latest publications



***Britain's Second Embassy to China — Lord Amherst's 'Special Mission' to the Jiaqing Emperor in 1816***  
by Caroline Stevenson

Lord Amherst's diplomatic mission to the Qing Court in 1816 was the second British embassy to China. Its failure changed opinions of China, leading some to believe that force, rather than diplomacy, was required to achieve British goals. (**free download**)

***Made in China Journal: The Chinese Worker Goes Abroad***

**Ivan Franceschini & Nicholas Loubere (chief editors)**

This issue has a double focus on the lived experiences of Chinese workers abroad and on the Shenzhen–Hong Kong borderlands as sites where cross-border policies, situations, and aspirations continue to inform and transform everyday life. (**free download**)



## Art exhibition

Member Marilyn Hutchinson is a member of the Marsden Arts Group and invites members to visit the M16 Artspace gallery.



**M16 ARTSPACE**

**Pantone 311**

**Marsden Arts Group**

**Gallery 1**

**Friday 26 February - Sunday 14 March**

Gallery hours :  
Wednesday to Sunday 12-5pm  
21 Blaxland Crescent Griffith ACT 2603  
[www.m16artspace.com.au.com](http://www.m16artspace.com.au.com)  
02 6295 9438

Image: Val Gee, *Ocean Lines 2*, 2020, acrylic on canvas,  
106 x 76.  
Courtesy of artist and Alison Gee.

Supported by



## Committee News - February 2021 meeting

February 2021 was the first committee I attended for 2021, as we were still holidaying for the January 2021 meeting. Thanks to Alex for doing such a sterling job taking the minutes and writing the committee news in my absence. Our February meeting was once again at what has become our regular meeting place over the past year, at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham.

Much of the meeting was spent on final arrangements for the Lantern Festival on 27 February 2021. It is always a big event to plan and has been even more involved due to a few extra COVID related administrative requirements. We are very excited to have the opportunity to host the event this year, after needing to cancel at short notice in 2020, due to COVID fears and also bad weather. We welcome a few new performance groups this plus our regular fantastic entertainers. There is still time to volunteer a little of your time in helping with setting up and / or selling lanterns on the night.

Apart from the Lantern Festival arrangements, we have flagged a date for the 2021 AGM – 22 March 2021 at the 'Golden King' Restaurant in Philip. We hope that you can make it to the evening – the meeting is always very brief before we enjoy dinner together.

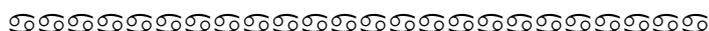
We are hoping to have a guest speaker for our April 2021 event, so keep your eyes peeled for more on this in the coming month – through the newsletter and through emails.

Also, wish us luck in seeking funding for a new film projector through a recent Grant on offer.

Dinner at the end of the meeting was delicious – I particularly enjoyed the soft shell crab dish.

Enjoy the last part of summer and hope to see you at our upcoming functions.

Your Secretary, Tanja

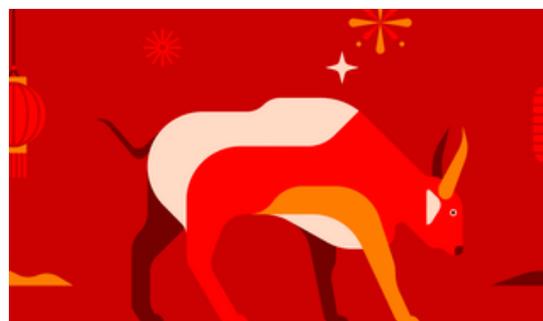


## Welcome to the Year of the Ox

Chinese Zodiac

By Fefe Ho & Chloe Chiao

The Ox is the second of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Ox was about to be the first to arrive, but Rat tricked Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox. Thus, Ox became the second animal.



The Ox is also associated with the Earthly Branch (地支 / dì zhī) Chǒu (丑) and the hours 1–3 in the morning. In the terms of yin and yang (阴阳 / yīn yáng), the Ox is Yang.

Oxen are the hard workers in the background, intelligent and reliable, but never demanding praise.

In Chinese culture, the Ox is a valued animal. Because of its role in agriculture, positive characteristics, such as being hardworking and honest, are attributed to it.

Paired with the Celestial Stems (天干 / Tiān gān), there is a 60-year calendrical cycle. Although chǒu is associated with earth, the years also cycle through the five elements of nature (五行 / wǔ xíng).

## Personality and Characteristics

Oxen are honest and earnest. They are low key and never look for praise or to be the centre of attention. This often hides their talent, but they'll gain recognition through their hard work.

They believe that everyone should do what's asked for them and stay within their bounds. Though they are kind, it's difficult for them to understand persuasion using pathos. Rarely losing your temper, they think logically and make great leaders.

## Compatibility

Most compatible with Ox: [Rat](#), [Snake](#), [Rooster](#)

Rat's fixed Earthly Branch is water, while Ox is earth. They have complementing personalities and hold the same goals in life.

Snake and Rooster fit Ox nicely as well. Not only will Snakes give warmth and romance, they offer help and support in work too. Honest and loyal, they can also be attracted to the Rooster's soft and loving heart.

Least compatible with Ox: [Goat](#), [Horse](#), [Dog](#)

The Earthly Branches of Goat and Ox clash strongly. They can tolerate each other's differences, but there will always be tension.

Horses have a free and wild spirit, and may not have a serious attitude toward life. This is the opposite of an Ox's personality. With Dogs, it's hard to find common ground.

## Lucky things for Oxen

- **Colours:** blue, yellow, green
- **Numbers:** 1, 4
- **Flowers:** lily of the valley and lucky bamboo
- **Directions of auspiciousness:** East, Southeast
- **Directions of wealth:** Northwest
- **Directions of love:** South

## Unlucky things

- **Colours:** red, brown
- **Numbers:** 3, 6

## Careers Fit for Oxen

Oxen often group family and work together. They look for long-term and steady work. Because of this, they are studious in school and perform well in every subject. This helps build a strong support for any future career path.

Because of their low-key personality, a stable job is the best for Oxen. Their strong sense of responsibility also makes them the perfect candidate for

professional and stressful jobs. These include doctors, lawyers, businessmen and teachers. With their technical skills and effort, they can receive society's recognition and reach their own standards.

No matter what career they choose, it must something they are really interested in. Though they may be okay with any job that fits their skills, they should take the time to find something they love. Only in a stable environment that matches their passions, are they able to find their true calling.

## Health and Lifestyle

Like the wild oxen that run freely in the fields, people of the Ox year are healthy and fit. Hospital visits are rare, but this sometimes leads to overconfidence. Neglect during youth will result in problems in the later years.

As workaholics, Oxen will sometimes go days with minimal food and rest, then binge on both. Irregular diets will lead to indigestion and problems with the digestive system. Irregular exercise is what causes you to fall ill with "random" ailments.

Once they reach the middle ages, there is high risk of heart disease. Strokes are another risk. In addition, they commonly suffer from joint pain.

Most of these issues stem from irregular exercise. For a healthy life, they need to remember to take breaks from work, stretch and relax.

Source: <https://chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/ox/>



## Welcome to new member

Paul Nicoll recently joined the Society. Welcome!



## Celebrating the holidays in the year of the pandemic

By Erik Nilsson | China Daily | Updated: 2021-01-08 10:12

For the first time ever, our family in Beijing made Mrs Claus' potato dumplings this Christmas.

That's not only because it was a childhood favourite of mine, but also to commemorate my grandmother, whom we often likened to Kris Kringle's wife because of her appearance and jolly character.

Grandma passed away last year, having lived cheerfully until age 91. Our only regret is that we couldn't make our annual visit to see her in the United States this summer because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And even if we'd made it to the country, visitors have for some time been forbidden from the nursing home where she lived with Grandpa.

Indeed, COVID changed—if not transformed—the way many of us around the world have celebrated the holidays since its onset. Many people in Beijing, for instance, are opting against traveling outside the municipality during the upcoming Spring Festival holiday, including our family.

Many people in my home country and much of the world spent holidays apart from relatives or, at worst, alone, like Grandpa.

I called him on Dec 25 and told him: "Hey Gramps! Just wanted to tell you ..."  
And the whole family burst into song, crooning the seminal carol: "We wish you a merry Christmas! ..."

He'd forgotten it was Christmas.

We've rarely celebrated Thanksgiving as a family since coming to Beijing, aside from attending potlucks organized by friends. In 2020, we felt more grateful than ever and ordered a full traditional feast with such festival foods as turkey, pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce. We usually wouldn't splurge on such a pricey meal but decided to this year, and invited over a dozen friends to our home to celebrate.

Gratitude is one of the best lessons from tough times.

That is, whether they hit you full force personally, as has happened to many people I know back home, or whether you're largely spared as tragedy rages around you, as we were since China essentially brought the epidemic under control.

The hardest part for us since the lockdowns ended has been that we haven't been able to visit family in the US. We've decided to celebrate Christmas during the first summer we can go back.

Our Christmas in Beijing, however, was the most magical I've had since childhood. We did the standard stuff. We decorated the tree, left a note with milk and cookies for Santa, cut out paper snowflakes and watched traditional holiday movies.

And we baked pepparkakor, spice cookies, and kroppkakor, pork-stuffed potato-dough dumplings, recipes my Swedish great-grandmother brought to the US, meaning they've spanned three continents in roughly as many generations. We don't know how long they go back in our family. We've always made the cookies since coming to China but added the kroppkakor this year in memory of Grandma, and of Mrs Claus, of home.

And Dec 31 marked the first year in many years we've celebrated. I typically give New Year's Eve a miss, since my experiences have mostly been hangovers and unfulfilled resolutions. But this year, we spent the night recalling 2020 and expressing hopes for the new year with a bottle of sparkling wine.

Indeed, 2021 will bring new holidays.

How we'll spend them remains to be seen. I hope it's a year of overdue reunions.

# 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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