

Australia China Friendship Society  
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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**Bulletin**

**2021/6 June 2021**

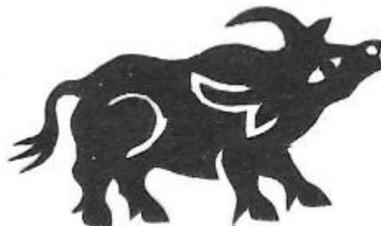
**Coming events**

**Yum Cha lunch**

**Talk by Robert Macklin**

**20 June**

**early August**



**Committee**

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

## Yum Cha lunch

In June, escape winter by joining members and friends for a yum cha lunch at Yum Cha CBD, 32 West Row, Civic, on Sunday 20 June at 12.00. A menu costing \$30 has been arranged. Minister Counsellor Song Yanqun and his staff will be able to join us so members can welcome him to Canberra.

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.

The last in this series of performances will be on 21 June in City Walk, near the Carousel, from 12.00 to 1.20pm.



## Talk by author Robert Macklin

Our function for August will be a talk by Robert Macklin about his book *Dragon and Kangaroo*.

Chinese 'presence' in Australia extends from well before the time of Captain Cook - trading with northern Australia long before Europeans came here - right through to the present day, with Chinese activities ranging from being the main customer for our iron ore, to their very extensive intelligence operations here.

Robert Macklin, bestselling and critically acclaimed author, has traced a history of the China and Australia reaching from pre-colonial times to John Macarthur's 'coolie' shepherds. It covers the only Chinese bushranger, Sam Pu, and the multiple atrocities committed against the Chinese in the gold rush; through to the 20th century, where the two Australians – 'Morrison of Peking' and William Donald – played a significant role in the downfall of the last Chinese emperor and the creation of the first republic, before World War II and decades of Cold War brinkmanship; to our current economic bonds and Australia's role in the dangerous geopolitics of the South China Sea.

The date and venue for the talk remain to be confirmed but it will be in early August.



## Vale Thelma Jones

Long time supporter of ACFS ACT and mother of President Carol Keil passed away after a long illness on 23 May. Our condolences to Carol, Brian and the family.

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

- Interim rules for China's national emissions trading system are now in force. China expects it will reach peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and neutrality by 2060.
- Sale of China's first 9 public real estate investment trusts (REITs) kicked off on 31 May. They aim to raise 30 billion yuan and channel investment into infrastructure projects such as highways, industrial parks, warehousing and logistics, and sewage treatment.
- China has enhanced supervision over virtual currencies to fend off financial risks and forestall speculation in virtual currency businesses. Regulations have been expanded from bitcoin trading to bitcoin mining. Financial and payment institutions shall not use virtual currency to price goods and services.
- The 3 major telecom operators had 310 million mobile phones connected to their 5G networks at the end of April. That is about 19% of total mobile connections. China claims the world's largest 5G network. The 5G technology has enabled thousands of new applications.

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

## ANU China in the World Centre Events

### **[Zoom] Women in Asia-Pacific Security Research Seminar Series—A Tale in Two Books: China and the United Nations**

**6pm - 7:30pm, Wednesday 16 June**  
**Rosemary Foot and Courtney Fung**

Join us for an interactive discussion with the authors of two important recent books: Rosemary Foot's *China, the UN, and Human Protection: Beliefs, Power, Image* (OUP, 2020) and Courtney Fung's *China and Intervention at the UN Security Council: Reconciling Status* (OUP, 2019)

### **[Zoom] Mongolia Update 2021—Health and Wellbeing**

**9am-5pm, Thursday 17 June**

In these pandemic times, it is easy to forget the wide range of other health and wellbeing issues that confront us, so this Updates will provide a scholarly but non-technical view of a variety of such issues and responses to them in the Mongolia context.

This Update includes a special screening of *Transitions: Journey with Khongoroo* and a Q&A session with the filmmaker Sas Carey.

### **[In-person] Book Launch & Panel Discussion—China Panic**

**5:30pm-7pm, Wednesday 23 June**

**David Brophy, Iain Henry, Yun Jiang and Richard Rigby**

Few will dispute that Canberra's relationship with Beijing is at an "all-time low", but there is little consensus as to what has brought us to this point. How and why did Australia-China relations fall apart, and where is this leading? Is Australia's choice, as some would have it, a simple one of confrontation or capitulation? Or are there better ways forward?

### **Unearthed Exhibition**

**14-26 June, China in the World Gallery**

*Unearthed* is an exhibition exploring the intersection between art, archaeology and anthropology. It examines the role that imagery in its myriad forms plays in archaeology and anthropology.

For more information on these events visit Australian Centre on China in the World [ciw@anu.edu.au](mailto:ciw@anu.edu.au).



## **EAST MEETS WEST Orchestral Evening: 26 June at Llewellyn Hall**

A rare opportunity to hear the Canberra Symphony Orchestra present traditional and contemporary music from the east and the west. These include two Chinese classics rarely performed live in Australia, Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto and Yellow River Piano Concerto. Book through Ticketek.

## Committee News – 31 May 2021 meeting

The late May 2021 committee meeting was held at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham – this was effectively our June meeting.

Our mid-May movie evening showing the two short movies - 'Ochre and Ink' and 'Robert Fortune: the tea thief' was enjoyed by those who were able to attend.

Our upcoming June event is a Yum Cha meal in at the 'CBD Restaurant' in Civic. We hope as many of you will be able to partake in a delicious meal over some good conversation. This will be our last event till August – to allow all to hunker down during the mid of Winter. In August Robert Macklin will be provide us with a talk about his book 'the Dragon and the Kangaroo' on the 3 August 2021.

Exciting news was our success in winning a Canberra Southern Cross Club (CSCC) community grant. We will use this grant to fund extra School awards shields. There are a few schools no longer teaching Mandarin, however other schools in place to do so.

The committee also took the opportunity to remember Thelma – Carol's mum who passed away after several months of illness. A loving mum and wife and we heard an adept seamstress. Vale Thelma.

Your Secretary, Tanja



## Grant received from the Southern Cross Club

Each year the Society presents award to the best and most improved students at most of Canberra's high schools and colleges that teach mandarin. Each school has been given 2 large wooden shields and the winners' names are engraved on smaller shields. We applied for a community grant from the Southern Cross Club to purchase 2 new shields for 2 schools which are not currently part of our Awards program. We were successful applicants and have been allocated \$500 to purchase the shields. We are in the process of deciding which 2 schools to select.

As part of the acceptance conditions we have been asked to provide a list of our members who belong to the Southern Cross Club, so that the Club can get an idea of how often our members use the Club. The list will not be used to allocate Club points.

I have provided an interim list of those on the committee who are members and would be most grateful if you could let me know your membership number at [cjkeil@proforte.com.au](mailto:cjkeil@proforte.com.au) if you are a member of the Southern Cross club.



## Thanks

Thanks to the generous anonymous donor to Project Hope at the recent film evening.

## New findings at Sanxingdui Ruins shed light on ancient Chinese culture

By Xia Yuanyuan *Beijing Review* 2021-05-21 · Source: ChinAfrica

In late March, Chinese archaeologists announced major new discoveries at the legendary Sanxingdui Ruins site located on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, helping shed light on the cultural origins of the Chinese nation. After sleeping for 3,000 years, the "awakening" of these relics has shocked the world



A broken gold mask unearthed from a sacrificial pit at the Sanxingdui Ruins site is on display on March 17 (XINHUA)

Archaeologists have found six new sacrificial pits and unearthed more than 500 items dating back about 3,000 years at the Sanxingdui Ruins, the National Cultural Heritage Administration announced in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in southwest China.

The cultural items, unearthed from four pits, include pieces of gold masks, gold foil, bronze masks, bronze trees, jade, textiles and a large number of ivories. Pieces of miniature ivory sculptures, carbonized rice and seeds of trees were also excavated.

The site of Sanxingdui, located in the city of Guanghan, 40 km from Chengdu, is recognized as one of the most important archaeological sites in the world for its vast size and rich cultural contents.

The site was first discovered in 1929 by Yan Daocheng, a villager who accidentally uncovered jade and stone artworks when digging a ditch, and archaeological excavation has continued ever since. During this period, generations of archaeologists have worked on the discovery and research of the Sanxingdui culture. The remnants are believed to belong to Shu Kingdom, dating back at least 4,800 years and lasting over 2,000 years.



In 1986, two major pits - No. 1 and No. 2 pits - were found accidentally, and they aroused widespread academic interest around the world. The pits are widely believed to have been sites of sacrificial ceremonies. Over 1,000 artifacts featuring abundant bronze ware with exotic appearance and gold artifacts indicating royal power were found at that time.

Lei Yu, a researcher at the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute, said the recent discoveries further confirm the theory that the pits were used for sacrificial purposes, as many of the items found had been smashed and burned before being buried.

Archaeologists also say the new discoveries show the Shu civilization was part of the ancient Chinese civilization. For example, the excavation found a large number of bronze wine cups and the carving design on the ivory looks like Chinese carved patterns. Some of the bronze items have been decorated with dragon and ox patterns. Besides, in the No. 3 pit, archaeologists found two square zun jars, a typical ancient Chinese bronze ritual vessel for holding water or wine.

An archaeologist cleans and excavates ivory at the Sanxingdui site in Guanghan, Sichuan Province, on March 17 (XINHUA)

"The relics unearthed at Sanxingdui shed light on the diverse, unified origin of the Chinese civilization. The ancient Shu culture and the culture along the Yangtze River made great contributions to the ancient Chinese culture," said Song Xinchao, Deputy Director of the National Cultural Heritage Administration.

Archaeologists widely used cutting-edge technologies in the excavation and research. At the excavation site, a protective climate-controlled building, nearly 2,000 square meters in size, covers the entire excavation area for the sacrificial pits. Different types of hi-tech equipment are also being utilized during the excavation of the Sanxingdui Ruins, including hyperspectral remote sensors and 3D scanning, for the better conservation of the relics.



## Domestic service: A waste of talent for prestigious university grads?

(LI SHIGONG) *Beijing Review* 2021-06-07 · Source: NO.23 JUNE 10, 2021



Recently, a piece of information posted by a Shanghai-based domestic service agency on a social media platform has garnered much attention. It reads that a Tsinghua University graduate applied for the position of domestic housekeeper with a monthly salary of 35,000 yuan (\$5,400). The agency also reveals that it is not a small number of graduates from prestigious universities who have taken on domestic service jobs.

Traditionally, any occupation within the domestic service field is not considered a decent job, so some people believe that the marriage between prestigious university graduates and domestic service positions is a mismatch and even a waste of talent. However, for the most part, popular opinion holds that domestic service jobs also deserve respect, and, more importantly, some of the jobs in the sector nowadays are much more high-flying than most people assume.

Yang Chaoqing (*Beijing Youth Daily*): There is a rigid traditional view that graduates from prestigious universities should always take on high-level jobs, so the public can't understand why a Tsinghua graduate would take on a domestic service position. Their attitude towards the job market may be a bit outdated.

Meanwhile, some graduates from prestigious universities choose to work in domestic services not because they can't find a widely recognized well-reputed job, but because they don't like doing monotonous office work. Domestic services, however, will offer them more flexibility both in the job and in their overall career development.

Some clients, who are rich enough not to care about how much they have to pay, hope to find well-educated, superior housekeepers. In this case, those who possess diplomas of prestigious universities can make full use of their educational advantage to acquire a high-paying job.

A vibrant society must allow for all kinds of social mobility, and college graduates should be allowed different ways to live an excellent life. No matter which university they graduate from, their choices deserve respect.

Piao Xueyin ([www.rednet.cn](http://www.rednet.cn)): Most people believe this Tsinghua graduate should take a more significant job. Then, what is a more significant job?

In recent years, a growing number of families have started to hire nannies for the sake of a higher quality of life and child care. In this regard, graduates from good universities will easily make families more satisfied and comfortable. Of course, higher job requirements and standards bring along higher paychecks.

This Shanghai-based domestic service agency has 20 percent of its employees coming in from prestigious universities or having a bachelor's degree or above. Tsinghua graduates are not rare cases, but most of them are governesses, not ordinary domestic service workers.

For a Tsinghua graduate, doing domestic service work is not a shame or a waste of talent. It's stirring up heated discussion online mainly because the public's misunderstanding of this sector.

Wang Shichuan ([www.gmw.cn](http://www.gmw.cn)): As a matter of fact, this Tsinghua graduate is not doing ordinary housework, but she acts more like a governess. To match the high paychecks, such "nannies" or "housekeepers" are required to teach English and tell stories in English to their employers' children. Some job postings explicitly require the housekeeper to be a full-time student enrolled in a prestigious university before graduation, and an overseas educational background will add some points, too, as employers want housekeepers to be fluent in English, for the good of the children's education. Such requirements usually naturally screen off applicants who are not high achievers in the academic realm.

With deepening labour division, demand of common industries and sectors for high-level talents can only increase. The domestic service sector is just one such typical example. The Chinese population's education level keeps rising, which attributes to an increasingly higher overall quality of the population. As a result, every sector is likely to see an influx of graduates from prestigious universities.





冬  
Winter / dōng

Oracle bone script  
甲骨文

Small seal script  
小篆

Regular script  
楷书

“冬”字，甲骨文字形像丝线，两头都打了结，表示“终结”的意思。金文将字形线条化，中间又加了“日”形，“日”包在绳线中，表示太阳光不太温暖了。

中国先秦散文《荀子》中讲：“春耕、夏耘、秋收、冬藏，四者不失时，故五谷不绝。”

The oracle bone script for 冬 depicts a silk yarn with two knotted ends. The bronze character has the sun wrapped in the strings, indicating that the sunlight is no longer warm.

According to the classical text Xun Zi, if we plow in spring, weed in summer, harvest in autumn and store in winter, we will have enough supply of food.

Getting to Know China  
Appreciation of 100 Chinese  
Characters

291

EVOLUTION 冬

# 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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**A/C No.** 03411481

**A/C Name:** ACFS ACT  
Branch Inc

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ACT Branch Bulletin