

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

2022/4 April 2022

Coming events

Film evening

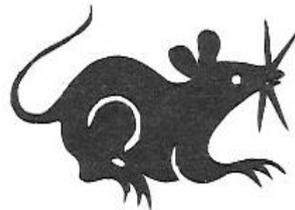
27 April

Chinese Heritage walk

5 June

Yum cha lunch

26 June



Committee

President

Carol Keil

6247 8231

cjkeil@proforte.com.au

Secretary

Tanja Naehner

6259 5539

Treasurer

Neil Birch

6287 4602

Bulletin editor

Jean Norman

0405 617 222

jjnorman46@grapevine.com.au

Committee members

John Wong

6294 0068

Alex Olah

0490 660 738

Amanda Andrews

0452 323 520

Corinne Zhang

Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Film evening

The function for April will be a film screening on Wednesday 27 April at the Southern Cross Club at Jamison in Catchpoles Room at 7.30. The film is a 2016 drama "**Someone to talk to**", Southern Cross Club Jamison. The film examines loneliness and alienation in contemporary Chinese society and our desire/need to find a soulmate. The dialogue is in Mandarin with English sub-titles. \$2 donation at the door.

The film will start at 7.30pm. As usual, members and friends can join for dinner at the bistro from 6.00pm. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 22 April.

🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠

George Morrison Lecture

The 82nd George E. Morrison Lecture in Ethnology

Living with China's Resurgence in East Asia:
International Political Ethnographies

Thursday 28 April 2022
5:30pm–7:30pm
(Drinks reception 5:30pm–6pm)

The Auditorium
China in the World Building
Fellows Lane, ANU [MAP]

RSVP by Wednesday 20 April 2022

Over the past 40 years, East Asian states have been the vanguard for learning to live with a resurgent China. There has been significant variation in their responses and strategies, and regional policy-makers have often not behaved according to what many have expected or theorized. Adopting insights from political ethnography, Goh argues for an approach that privileges East Asian points of view and local/regional socio-political contexts, to understand regional responses to a powerful China. She offers three correctives for understanding how regional actors think about China holistically, within national contexts as well as wider systemic considerations: the prevalence of non-zero-sum framing of geopolitical problems; the constant intersections between economic and security imperatives; and domestic politics as intervening – and sometimes confounding – variables.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, April 2022

- 7.64 million couples married in China in 2021 the lowest number in 3 decades. That was only 56.6% of the peak year 2013. In 1990 the mean age of first marriage among females and first time mothers was 21.6 and 23.8 respectively. In 2018 those ages had increased to 26.3 and 27.5.
- In recent years, China's comprehensive management of groundwater overexploitation at the local level has achieved gradual progress. In 2020 China used 89.25 billion cubic meters of ground water, down 24.2 billion cubic meters from 2012. As well as water saving measures some groundwater aquifers have been artificially replenished from rivers and lakes.
- China-EU trade jumped 14.8% year on year to \$US137.16 billion in the first 2 months of 2022, making the EU China's largest trading partner.
- Since 1979 March 12th has been National Tree Planting Day in China. From 1980 to 2021 Beijing's forest coverage has increased for 12.8% to 44.6% and urban green coverage has increased from 20% to 49% with the per-capita park green area now 16.6 square meters.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.



Professor Evelyn Goh is the Shedden Professor of Strategic Policy Studies and Deputy Director (Research) of the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU. Her research focuses on Asian security and International Relations theory and practice. Her books include *The Struggle for Order: Hegemony, Hierarchy and Transition in Post-Cold War East Asia* (Oxford, 2013); and *Re-thinking Sino-Japanese Alienation: History Problems and Historical*

Opportunities (Oxford, 2020, with Barry Buzan). Her current projects study the interactions between Chinese investment and influence, and domestic politics in Southeast Asia.

Associate Professor Amy King will introduce Professor Evelyn Goh. Amy King is Associate Professor in the Strategic & Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU, with particular expertise in Chinese foreign and security policy, China-Japan relations, and the economics-security nexus in the Asia-Pacific region. Her book, *China-Japan Relations after World War Two: Empire, Industry and War, 1949-1971* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), explains how and why Japan became China's most important economic partner in the aftermath of major war, and at a time when the two countries were still Cold War opponents.

The George Ernest Morrison Lecture series was founded in 1932 by Chinese residents in Australia. For more details about the Lecture series, please visit the website.



Hidden treasures: The First Chinese – a Walk in Queanbeyan, Sunday 5 June 2022

The Chinese Heritage walk in Queanbeyan, scheduled for last September, will be held on Sunday 5 June. The walk will be in the morning, followed by lunch (details of lunch later).

The walk will be a roughly 2 hour mostly urban walk of about 3.5km, with some hilly parts and unpaved sections in a cemetery

If you are interested in coming on the walk and/or the lunch would you email acfsevent@gmail.com by 18 May. The cost will be a donation of approximately \$5, with lunch extra.

Tour information

The tour will cover the fascinating story of one of this area's earliest migrant populations, and visit some associated heritage sites.

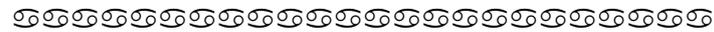
Access to skilled and reliable labour was a problem in early New South Wales, and particularly so after convict transportation ended in 1840. A plan to contract Chinese mechanics and labourers was proposed as early as 1837. Some of those from the Canberra area that backed the plan were Charles Campbell, George Thomas Palmer, and Thomas McQuoid. Later, the gold rushes attracted thousands of Chinese miners. Inevitably, some Chinese men married European women, had children and settled down. They went on to run a network of gardens, stores, eating houses and boarding rooms essential to life in towns across the colony. Henry Lawson celebrated them, and Braidwood's Quong Tart became as well regarded as the Governor. One Chinese-European family became part of the commercial, journalistic and religious fabric of Queanbeyan and Canberra. The Tankey family story will illustrate the contributions of the early Chinese to the Queanbeyan district,

one of whom became the business partner of a militant Canberran that led a national political party.



Yum Cha lunch

Before entering hibernation in July, we will join for a yum cha lunch at The Scholar restaurant in Dickson at 12.00 on Sunday 26 June. A banquet will be arranged for \$30 per person. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 30 June.



Committee News – April 2022 meeting

Your newly elected committee met for its first meeting following the AGM in March at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham. We warmly welcomed Corinne, our newest committee member.

We were very happy to be successful in 2022 ACT Government Multicultural Grant, which we would have used for the 2022 Lantern Festival. As we had to cancel the event due to the Covid situation at the time, we have been successful in our bid to use the funds for the future 2023 Lantern Festival. We are still waiting to hear about the outcome of our submission to the ACT Government's Technology Grant. Hopefully we can let you know the outcome of that submission in the next newsletter.

After the committee shared the vetting of more than ten DVDs, we decided that the movie 'Someone to talk to' would be the one to show at our movie night on 27 April – we hope to see you there and perhaps dinner beforehand.

Other events we have planned for are a Yum Cha in June (perfect for a cooler day at the start of Winter) and several talks. Hoping for one about Chinese rare books.

We tossed around ideas for the 2022 Panda competition, with the committee agreeing on 'Traditional Chinese Accessories/Jewellery'. We are confident this topic will provide enough options and allow participants to be creative either through a drawing, painting, or piece of craft.

Our meal at the end of the meeting was a mix of interesting dishes – my favourite was a signature dish for the restaurant, the beef with scallops.

Hope you enjoy the colours of Autumn and the Easter weekend coming up.

Your Secretary, Tanja



President's report for 2021

Following is the text of the President's report delivered at the Annual General Meeting in March.

2021 was another year of the corona virus and many events in Canberra were cancelled including several of our proposed activities.

The Lantern Festival was the first large scale event in Canberra for 2021 and was very successful. 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. Our

planning for the 2022 festival took longer than usual as the ACT government has become very particular about 'road safety' and our usual access to the Beijing Garden could only be approved by an ~ \$3,000 Road traffic management plan – something way beyond our budget – so an alternative less than satisfactory access had to be negotiated. Due to the rapid increase in Omicron cases we regrettably decided to cancel both the workshop and Festival for 2022.

Our functions during the year included 3 talks: member Greg Baines spoke on his book 'The Nail House', Robert Macklin spoke about his book 'The Dragon and the Kangaroo' and Professor Jocelyn Chey's talk was titled 'Both Sides of the Wall: stories of a lifetimes' engagement with China'. I would like to thank Alex who suggested and made arrangements for two of our guest speakers. We also had a showing of 2 films 'Ochre and Ink' and The Fortune Thief. Our Chinese New Year and Christmas dinners and June yum cha lunch were all well attended.

Our membership continues to decline (it is now 72). We have had several new members join but as our membership ages more older members are not renewing. Two of our members sadly passed away. Frank Mines was a former committee member and treasurer and Barry Smillie was an enthusiastic letters to the editor man.

We applied for 4 grants during the year: A community Support and Infrastructure Grant and a Technology Upgrade Grant to replace our data projector both of which were unsuccessful; an OMA grant for the Lantern Festival which was only announced this month and was successful and will be used for the 2023 Festival; and a community grant from the Canberra Southern Cross Club for 4 new shields for mandarin awards which was successful.

In these times it is important that we promote a positive image of China's culture. The Panda competition is means of doing this with schools. The Chinese language teachers are strong supporters and the topic this year was 'Chinese traditional Games. As schools were in lockdown and students were learning from home for most of the latter part of the year we expected the number of entries to be down however 7 schools provided over 200 entries and we awarded 56 prizes. Thanks go to Amanda, Corinne and Jean for judging, Amanda and Cornine for allocating prizes and Roger Arnold for generously donating many of the prizes. Again we were not able to hold our usual presentation ceremony due to COVID restrictions and instead hand-delivered prizes to each school..

COVID restrictions also prevented a ceremony for winners of Awards for the best and most improved students of mandarin. New shields for the best and most improved students of mandarin were presented to Merici and John Paul II colleges. As with the Panda competition the awards were hand-delivered to 13 High Schools and Colleges.

We continue to support 10 Project Hope students: 4 girls at Labagoumen primary school and 6 students at other primary and high schools. Funds to support these students came from very generous donations from members and their families and proceeds from sales of lanterns at the Lantern Festival and our guest speaker evenings. We received letters from most of the students which were kindly translated by Corinne for publication in the newsletter.

Our friendship tree in the Beijing Garden continues to flourish and Ambassador Chen Jingye has returned to China and we welcome his successor Mr Xiao Chen.

The newsletter, continues to be an important means of communication with our members. Thanks go to Jean, who is the editor, to Neil who provides Fast Facts, to Teck who regularly sourced 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 and our face-book page is now looked after by Corinne.

We have enjoyed close contact with and received considerable support from the Chinese Embassy and in particular the Cultural Office. We greatly appreciated the prizes for the panda competition, gifts for the mandarin students and prizes for the lantern Festival. We value and appreciate the Embassy's support and extend our sincere thanks and look forward to continuing our very close relationship.

The Society could not function without its committee: Tanja Naeher – secretary and co-ordinator of performers for the Lantern Festival, Neil Birch - treasurer, Jean Norman - editor, Teck Lee (who resigned late last year) and now Alex Olah - 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.

Carol Keil



VALE Mary Flowers

Long time committee member and wonderful host Mary Flowers passed away recently, aged 100 years.

Mary was the wife of long time president John Flowers and both were instrumental in having the ACS Canberra Sub-branch turned into a full branch of the Australia-China Society as it was then. She was also the mother of NSW ACFS member Andrew Flowers.

She helped steer the ACS through the tumultuous times of recognition by Australia, and later by the USA, of the PRC.

Those of us who were present many times at her home for committee meetings remember well her marvellous hospitality, and good humour when our debates got a bit serious! She will be missed by those who knew her.

Geoff Winter



Vale Lynn Parry

Long-time member Lynn Parry died on 22 March, aged 70. Lynn was an intrepid traveller, game for anything. She joined several ACFS tours in China, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos over the years, as well as enjoying coach tours around Australia. Lynn was also a lover of the arts and attended numerous concerts and plays, including organizing group nights at Canberra Repertory Society preview nights. Our condolences to her children and grandsons.

Jean Norman



Thanks to Teck Lee for his generous donation to Project Hope.

Rare Chinese Books

At a recent ANU Alumni event in the Menzies Library I had the opportunity to see two of the library's oldest Chinese Books. They were included in a selection of the varied collection of rare books held by the ANU Library. Friederike Schimmelpfennig, the Information Access Coordinator for China, Japan and Korea at the University Library was a font of knowledge on both the history and significance of many of the books.

Carol Keil



ANU Library's second-oldest Chinese book

現在賢劫千佛名經 *Xian zai xian jie qian fo ming jing*

(sanskr.: *Pratyutpanna-bhadrakalpa-sahasrabuddhanâma-sûtra*)

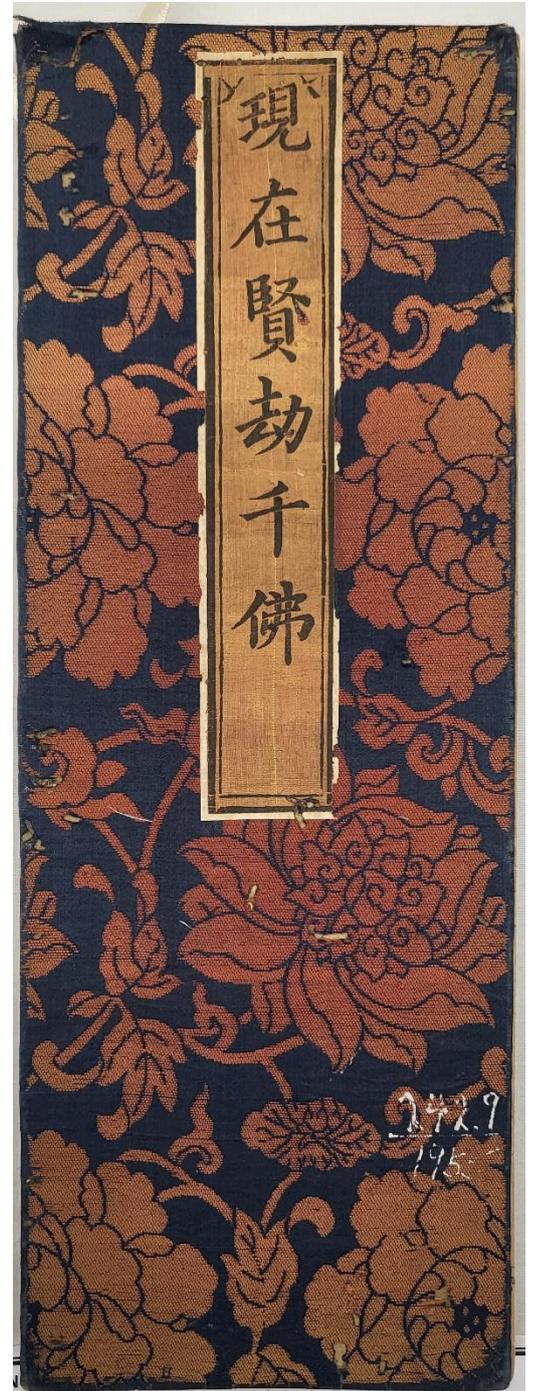
Printing date: 1621

This is a tantric Buddhist script listing the names of thousands of buddhas in the present *kalpa* (cosmic cycle). It is a part of the 三劫三千佛名經, which also contains the 過去莊嚴劫千佛 *Guo qu zhuang yan jie qian fo ming jing* (The Buddhas of the bygone *kalpa*, XuDishan 0152), and the 未來星宿劫千佛名經 *Wei lai xing su jie qian fo ming jing* (The Buddhas of the future *kalpa*, (RB) 1824.14 5463)

All the items belonging to this collection are digitised:

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/9199>

On loan from the ANU Library rare books collection, Menzies Library.



ANU Library's oldest Chinese book

The 佛頂尊勝總持經咒 *Fo ding zun sheng zong chi jing zhou* (sanskr.: *Uṣṇīṣavijayadhāraṇi*), is a tantric classic of Buddhism. It teaches how Buddha preached the dharma to ward off evil karma, leave hell (to be reborn) and increase longevity. This edition was printed in 1608, and it came to the ANU Library as part of the Xu Dishan Collection.

All the items belonging to this collection are digitised:

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/9199>

On loan from the ANU Library rare books collection, Menzies Library.

Letters from Project Hope student

Project Hope student Bo Xu, age 17 in 3rd Grade in Senior High at Huairou No.1 High School: Her father passed away 10 years ago. Her mother is ill and works on odd jobs to support the family and repay the debts incurred for her father's illness.

Letter of Gratitude

Flowers are grateful for the nourishment from the rain; eagles are grateful for the opportunity of flying in the infinite sky; mountains are grateful for foundation of the earth that raises them up. I am grateful for your continuous support which allows me to overcome hardships and grow in the journey of seeking knowledge. Your kindness has always been in my heart.

Even though birds won't leave traces in the sky, and the fallen leaves are silent, beauty is real, and love is everywhere. I am grateful for you being here in my life. If I didn't have you, I am not sure if I could still receive such good education and I don't know if I would still be this optimistic about life; if I didn't have your support, I don't know if I could still overcome all the difficulties, gain all the achievement I have today and look forward to a brighter future.

You are a beam of sun light in the cold that warms my heart; you are the lighthouse in the dark that directs me; you are my guidance that gives me confidence.

A bee is expressing its gratitude to the followers after enjoying the pollen; whereas an arrogant butterfly believes followers should express their gratitude to it. I am the bee and not the butterfly. As a young man living in a powerful country, I am holding a stronger responsibility to help maintaining the power of the country under the leadership of the Party. I will devote myself to build a greater China outlined by the 19th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party with our traditional spirit and strengths. I am determined to turn China into a modern and powerful socialist country. Therefore, I need to always study hard, to become a competitive youngster with strong capabilities.

How should I thank you, I was only expecting a moment of spring breeze, but you have given me a whole spring. And I will pass on the spirit of this spring to children like me and bring them some comfort. Even though I am still young, I can provide them with psychological comfort, slowly bring them up from the bottom of their dark emotions. I want them to see there is real beauty and love in the world and that they can create miracles with hard work. When I have a successful career, I will then be able to help others financially to overcome difficulties like you did for me.

Your help has sowed a seed in my heart today, I will grow fruit of gratitude tomorrow. I will keep passing on your wonderful spirit around me.

The summer breeze is filled with my warm appreciation; the flowing light clouds are housing my deep thoughts of you; layers of mountains are holding my sincerity of gratitude; the flowing mountain creek is carrying my true feelings; my sense of excitement is waving through the drizzling rain. My best wishes to you through the infinite virtual space: wish you all the best with work and life.

Bo Xu



From the Editor's Desk, *Beijing Review* 7 April

The Changing Face of China's Family

From first-tier cities to rural areas, China's wedding bells aren't ringing like they used to. The nation's average age for first-marriage registration has gone up, the number of singles continues to expand and the number of births is dropping, their combination quickly becoming a matter of public concern. According to the latest figures from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, a total of 7.64 million couples registered to tie the knot in 2021, marking a record-low in three decades, and only 56.6 percent of the 2013 peak. A report on China's marriages and families issued by Beijing-based Yuwa Population Research Institute read the mean age of first marriage among females and first-time mothers in China increased respectively from 21.6 and 23.8 in 1990, to 26.3 and 27.5 in 2018.

China's economic and social development have overhauled the traditional concepts of early marriage and childbearing. As many young people move to the urban areas, they're faced with ever-mounting pressures of living costs, employment and work, leaving them less inclined to get married. Raising kids isn't cheap either, so many couples choose to have only one child or simply opt for the double income, no kids lifestyle. China has been adjusting its family planning policy to cope with the country's aging population trend. A two-child policy was partially introduced in 2013 and fully implemented in 2015. In July 2021, the country announced its decision to allow all couples to have three children. To create a fertility-friendly society, China has formulated a package of policies, such as guaranteeing longer maternity leave and adding children's education to the list of personal income tax deductibles. On March 28, the State Council also announced a tax deduction policy for parents rearing children under the age of 3.

A slowdown in population growth is inevitable as a country's industrialization and urbanization reach a certain stage. Both developed countries and some emerging economies are facing problems like population aging and falling birth rates. What type of support system should be put in place and how limited financial resources should be invested are issues for today's policymakers and researchers to consider.

Thanks to Neil Birch for 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

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