

Australia China Friendship Society  
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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**Bulletin**

**2022/7 July 2022**

**Coming events**

**Film night**

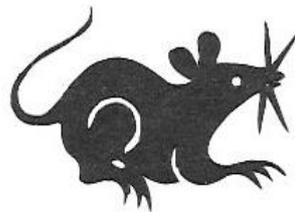
**10 August**

**Chinese film week**

**7–12 September**

**ANU Chinese Classical Music concert**

**9 October**



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

## Film evening

A film evening will be held on Wednesday 10 August at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison. The film will be in the Catchpole Room at 7.30pm but members and friends will be meeting from 6.00pm for dinner in the bistro. Please book by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by Sunday 7 August and indicate whether you are coming for dinner, the film or both.

The film is *True (Genuine) Love*. The movie is based in Xinjiang and is centred on Anipa, who, despite her own harsh life in the Xinjiang mountains, welcomes orphans into the house where she lives with her husband and son.



## Chinese Film Festival, 7–12 September

The Society joins the ANU Film Group as a sponsor of this Festival.

Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with six recent films from China, which has become the world's largest film industry over the past two years.

Screenings are held at the Cultural Centre within the Kambri Precinct of the ANU in Canberra. It can be found as Building 153 on any ANU Campus maps.

Selections include an animated coming-of-age story about lion dancers (*I Am What I Am*), a look at the early days of COVID-19 in Wuhan (*Ode to the Spring*), a legendary historical war epic (*The Eight Hundred*) and a heartfelt tale of sisterly love (*Sister*).

All screenings are FREE to attend and open to the public – no membership or registration is required. All sessions commence at 7:30 PM, with the exception of Sunday's screening, which starts at 3 PM.

Films will be presented in their original language with English subtitles. Proudly presented by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

The program is

**1. WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER @ 7:30 PM – I AM WHAT I AM (雄獅少年)**  
Director: Sun Haipeng. (*PG, 104 mins, 2021*)

Three bullied teenagers set out to learn traditional lion dancing under the tutelage of an eccentric teacher, discovering their courage in the process.

**2. THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER @ 7:30 PM – ODE TO THE SPRING (你是我的春天)**  
Directors: Zhou Nan, Zhang Chi, Tian Yusheng, Dong Yue, Rao Xiaozhi. (*M, 122 mins, 2022*)

## Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, July 2022

- China has 6,183 registered museums, of which 5,605 are free to visitors. In 2021, 779 million visits were made to museums in China. The National Museum of China celebrated its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 9 July. It houses 1.42 million objects.
- Average life expectancy in China reached 78.2 in 2021, up from 77.9 in 2020. The mortality rates for pregnant women, infants and children under 5 dropped to their lowest rates ever in 2021.
- China's urbanisation rate reached 64.7% in 2021 while the urban–rural income ratio narrowed to 2.5:1.
- The number of valid registered trademarks in China exceeded 40 million at the end of June, up nearly 21% in a year. Market entities from over 200 countries and regions had resisted trade marks in China. Those from US, Japan, Germany, UK and Republic of Korea topped the list. China had approved 2,493 geographical indication products by the end of June.

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

Five intertwined tales exploring ordinary heroes – doctors, patients, volunteers – as they face the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in Wuhan.

**3. FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER @ 7:30 PM – SISTER (我的姐姐)**

Director: Yin Ruoxi. (*M*, 127 mins, 2021)

When her parents are killed in an accident, a young woman must choose between independence or raising her 6-year-old half brother.

**4. SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER @ 7:30 PM – NICE VIEW (奇迹·笨小孩)**

Director: Wen Muye. (*PG*, 106 mins, 2022)

A tech-savvy 20-year-old orphan sets out to do whatever it takes to earn enough money to pay for his 6-year-old sister's heart surgery.

**5. SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER @ 3 PM – MOZART FROM SPACE (外太空的莫扎特)**

Director: Chen Sicheng. (*PG*, 136 mins, 2022)

The lives of a father and his rebellious 14-year-old son are changed forever by the mysterious arrival of a musical alien named Mozart.

**6. MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER @ 7:30 PM – THE EIGHT HUNDRED (八百)**

Director: Guan Hu. (*MA*, 149 mins, 2020)

In 1937, during the Battle of Shanghai, a group of Chinese soldiers are ordered to defend a warehouse from invading Japanese forces.



## **ANU Centre on China in the World Events**

### **Book Talk & Panel Discussion—The Boundless Radiance of Mao Zedong Thought Shines Throughout the Whole World..**

Speakers: Matthew Galway, Ruth Barraclough, Delia Lin and Greg Raymond.  
Tuesday, 16 August 2022, 5.30pm - 7.00pm, Auditorium, China in the World Building (188), Fellows Lane, ANU

The word "Maoism" is often a popular term that one uses to describe radicalism, iconoclasm, and even one's blind obedience to a charismatic autocratic leader. Though nearly fifty years removed from Mao Zedong's death, "Maoism" is still important today. It often re-emerges as a convenient label to describe Chinese politics, even under the current leadership of Xi Jinping. As the People's Republic of China extends its transnational infrastructural development project, the Belt and Road Initiative, to the far reaches of the globe, it is worth revisiting how Beijing's export of an alternative development system, although not new, has its roots in these initial efforts to sow the seeds of Maoism beyond its bounds. What is Maoism and how did it become such a global phenomenon? What form did Maoism take outside China?

[Register](#) through the Centre's website.



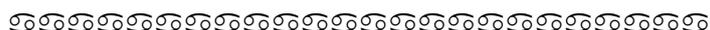
## **Hidden treasures: Walk in Queanbeyan**

Unfortunately the heritage walk in Queanbeyan was postponed until Spring because the weather was forecast to be terrible on the day. Watch this space!



## ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble concert

The ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble will present its annual concert at the ANU Centre on China in the World on Sunday 9 October. Again, watch this space for more details but note the date.



## Committee News – July 2022 meeting

For its mid-year July meeting your committee gathered at the 'Beijing House' Restaurant in Hawker.

Movies seemed to be a theme. There is technical hitch to the movie which was planned for showing as our August event and possible alternatives were discussed.

We then also talked through logistics for staffing a promo stand at the upcoming Chinese Film Festival in early September – see the newsletter for more details on the festival. The festival organisers have kindly allowed the Society to promote the Society at each movie.

Plans are well underway for an October concert by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble.

Thought is being given to venue options for hosting our schools events as the COVID situation may still prevent gatherings of students from different schools– we need to remind ourselves that it's still a time of being agile and pivoting!

I was unable to stay for dinner, however, am certain that the rest of the committee enjoyed a most tasty meal – certainly the dishes which passed by during the meeting for other guests were most delicious in their aromas and stirred up an appetite!

Stay rugged up!

Your Secretary, Tanja



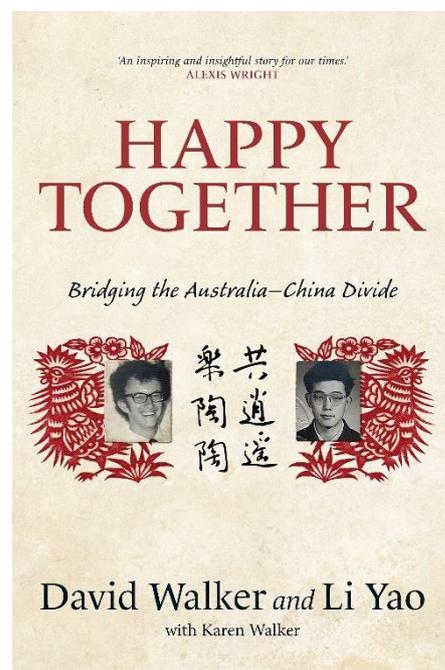
## Happy Together: Bridging the Australia-China Divide

Paperback – 15 June 2022

by David Walker (Author), Li Yao (Author), Karen Walker (Author)

A fresh perspective on the Australia-China relationship told through the lens of memoir, culture and friendship

In the late nineteenth century, as crippling famine devastated northern China, the Li family had no choice but to leave Shanxi province. Heading north, they began a new life, farming the remote grasslands of Inner Mongolia. They prospered as landowners and teachers, but could not escape the ravages of warlords, soldiers and revolutionaries. Born into this pioneering family, Li Yao grew up in



Mao's China. He dreamt of becoming a writer, but his dreams were torn apart by the Cultural Revolution. When the storm finally subsided, the young man turned to translation. In Australian writing, he found colourful tales set in new landscapes, a literature quite unfamiliar to him.

Li Yao's story is interwoven with that of his friend, Australian historian David Walker. David's family had also settled in an unfamiliar and difficult land, a world away in distant South Australia. The two men became friends as Li Yao translated one of David's books into Chinese, and their personal histories provide a fascinating, illuminating window into life in China, an experience inevitably shaped by China's relations with the wider world.



## One of the largest Chinese libraries in the Southern Hemisphere opens in Ballarat

The newly opened Xin Jin Shan Library, which started from a garage, has now become not only one of the largest Chinese libraries south of the equator but also an invaluable bastion of Chinese culture and history in Australia.



The Xin Jin Shan Library has become the largest Chinese library in the Southern Hemisphere. Source: Supplied (Charles Zhang)

The Xin Jin Shan Chinese library houses over 200,000 Chinese books, rendering it as one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The library will become a multifunctional centre for Chinese history, culture and art. It is recognised as a new opportunity for the Chinese community to re-visit history and give back to society.

With the opening of Xin Jin Shan Chinese Library in Ballarat, Victoria now hosts one of the largest Chinese libraries in the Southern Hemisphere.

Located in the heart of Ballarat, the library covers an area of 700 square metres with 16 rooms. Housing over 200,000 Chinese books, the Xin Jin Shan Library now has the largest collection of Chinese-language books in Australia.

**Thanks to Len Waugh for this item.**



## Letter from Zhanjiang – Roger Arnold

### Glamping it up ...

When last I wrote about camping in China (***A camping we will go*** – ACFS Newsletter, April 2016) my wife and I had just experienced our first ever Chinese campout and found the experience both fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. In concluding that article, I proffered that “such outdoor adventures and camping in general are destined to become increasingly common sights all over China.



Younger, city dwelling Chinese are discovering the joys of the great outdoors and outdoor adventuring with truly impressive fervour.”

Over the years since, my prediction has very much turned into reality. Camping and associated outdoor pursuits have become steadily more popular – particularly with young at heart adventurers and others. And, over the 2 years or so since the Covid-19 pandemic started, this trend has become turbo-charged.

Various covid-19 related restrictions on domestic travel, including uncertainties about imposition of sudden lockdowns, have forced many people to give up or defer long-distance travel plans. This has resulted in surging interest in local recreation, with a good number of people turning to camping and outdoor recreation. In many people’s eyes, a key drawcard of such outdoor recreation is that risks of exposure to covid-19 are much lower when camping outdoors with friends and family than when staying in guesthouses and hotels with associated meals in busy restaurants.

Nowadays, on any sunny weekend in Zhanjiang and Beihai, evidence of this surging interest is provided by numerous tents of different colours and shapes that appear in many of these cities’ big parks. In Zhanjiang, one such park lies just across the road from the apartment complex where we live; taking a late afternoon stroll through there on a fine weekend we often witness this remarkable phenomenon. Families with their children, and often in groups with their friends, will have set up their tents, camp chairs, picnic mats and more, all in the quest to kick back, have some picnic food, chat, enjoy some outdoor games, and even enjoy an afternoon snooze.

Meanwhile in Beihai, with numerous seaside settings, we now often encounter day or evening campers on our afterwork bayside walks. Here, parties of people come to enjoy the tropical sunsets, twilight airs, picnic food or even BBQ, comradery of friends and perhaps also nonchalantly try their luck fishing. And for some of these groups, their equipment and organisation is truly impressive, placing them clearly into the category of glampers. We have seen some with fancy little gas-fired grills, coffee makers, wine glasses, food nicely laid out on delicate plates, battery packs to power multiple phones, laptops, cameras, fans, decorative lights, and even movie projectors (with associated screens).

But something that fascinated us about these trends was, how did so many Chinese people with no previous exposure to camping equipment or outdoor culture, suddenly all gear up and take to this pastime like they’re old-hands at the game? And, how did they progress way beyond the basics so quickly, upping their camping

game to the whole new level that is glamping? To my wife and I it seemed as if they had been taking crash courses on camping and outdoor living.

As it turns out, many have in fact taken crash courses, courtesy of social media. Apparently, one of the most common resources for learning camping skills here in China, and glamping inspiration, has been the website and app called *Xiao Hong Shu* (小红书 <https://www.xiaohongshu.com>), which translates as 'Little Red Book' – a picture-sharing Instagram-like social media platform. A quick search for camping on *Xiao Hong Shu* shows posts from all over China of people of all ages enjoying camping and the great outdoors, almost always with modern, visually appealing and sometimes very upmarket gear.

One of our local friends who is among those who have recently become camping and outdoor recreation devotees recalls how *Xiao Hong Shu* posts about camping and glamping really seemed to explode in early 2020. Back then it seemed that the app cum website was actively promoting hashtags such as “#weekend escape plans” and “#first time camping”. Then, just last year, some commercial accounts started offering rewards and prize money for some of the best camping and glamping posts that promoted certain themes. These campaigns must've met some success; prizes and rewards especially in the form of shopping vouchers have proliferated this year in connection with online events and posts under various camping themes.

But returning to our own neighbourhood, despite the often-elaborate paraphernalia that our local park campers display, including elaborate tents, very few if any actually stay out overnight. Most often the city campouts seemed to simply be a 1-day stand; come late afternoon or evening, these campers retreat to the safety and comfort of their own apartments.

Taking a different approach to such city day campers, a local wine club we belong to recently organised a weekend campout, or perhaps 'glampout' would be more accurate. Having heard that this club had a reputation for organising its' outings with a certain panache, my wife and I eagerly joined them to make a short pilgrimage to a beautiful lake just 1 hours' drive from Beihai. Whilst enjoying some of southern China's best mild, spring airs, we set up our tents at a private camping cum fishing patch of land set lakeside among plantation forests of eucalypts, pines and acacias (*naturally, the vegetation was a source absolutely joy to an Australian far from home*). Of course, a key part of our setting up camp there by the lake was stringing up decorative LED lights and organising various other paraphernalia to prepare for the evenings' activities. And, our dinner was no simple campfire cooking

– the club had organised a catered BBQ featuring a spit roast whole lamb, local oysters and various other delights served out on tablecloth-covered camp tables



accompanied by a superb range of wines enjoyed from quality wine glasses – no plastic tumblers to be seen.

In the aftermath of our wine club glamping experience, my wife and I hesitated somewhat about sharing photos of our experience on social media; did we really want to contribute to the flood of postings about such pursuits? But then, having long been a lover of the great outdoors and getting outside to enjoy nature, we came to realise that anything we can do that might encourage a few others to do the same here and enjoy China’s wonderful outdoors would surely be a good thing.



# 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:  
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**Australia China Friendship Society**  
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ACT Branch Bulletin