

Australia China Friendship Society  
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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**Bulletin**

**2023/6 June 2023**

**Coming events**

**Yum cha lunch**

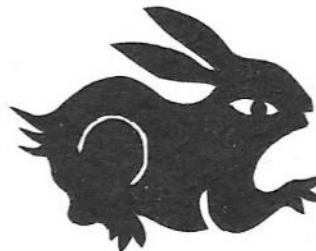
**18 June**

**Film night**

**26 July**

**Talk on holistic Traditional Chinese Medicine**

**30 August**



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

## Yum cha lunch

Our function for June will be a yum cha lunch at Ginseng at the Hellenic Club in Woden. Plan to come out of the cold to enjoy a lunch on Sunday 18 June at 12.30, to cost \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. The menu is:

Har gow (Steamed prawn dumpling)  
Siu mai (Steamed prawn and pork dumpling)  
Fried seafood dumpling (aka Lobster dumpling)  
BBQ pork bun  
Steamed vegetarian dumpling  
Radish cake

Roast duck BBQ pork plate  
soya egg noodle  
Chinese broccoli and oyster sauce

Egg tart/ red bean custard ball  
Chinese tea

Please book by Thursday 14 June by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com).

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## Film evening.

The Society's function for July will be a film screening at the Southern Cross Club at Jamison on Wednesday 26 July. The film is *The Song of the Phoenix*:

In the 1980s, Master Jiaosan headed a suona ensemble, playing at weddings and funerals. The local custom means that the masterpiece of "Song of Phoenix" could only be played to well-respected persons during their funerals. Jiaosan's apprentice You Tianming worked very hard and stood to succeed Master Jiao with the suona ensemble. Jiao and You witness a lot of ups and downs in this musical form of suona. When fellow suona players were forced to make a living in the city as unskilled laborers, the ensemble finally broke up. However, You Tianming stuck to his promise to Master Jiao and committed himself to the traditional art. When Master Jiao passed away, Tianming played "Song of the Phoenix" at his graveside to commemorate the noble and dignified life of Master Jiao.

### 29th Golden Rooster Award-Grand Jury Prize

Director: Tianming Wu (Tutor of famous director Yimou Zhang)  
Length: 107 mins  
Cast: Zeru Tao, Mincheng Li  
Genre: Drama  
Language : Mandarin with English subtitle

As usual, members and friends are invited to meet for dinner in the bistro from 6.00pm. The film will begin at 7.30pm. A gold coin (or more) donation will go towards our Project Hope students. Please book by emailing [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) by 22 July.

## Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, June 2023

- In May drilling commenced on what is expected to be Asia's deepest oil and gas well, 9,472 metres. The well is located on the edge of the Taklimakan desert in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Sinopec described it as another example of China's leading position in ultra-deep well drilling technology.
- China farm produce imports in the first quarter of 2023 rose 13.2% to \$US59.88 billion in the same period exports rose 7.4% to \$US23.5 billion.
- Gold production in China returned to pre-covid levels in the first quarter of 2023. By late March China's gold reserves had reached 2,068.38 tons.
- By the end of 2022 the number of Chinese people over 60 had surpassed 280 million, accounting for 19.8% of the population.
- In the year ending April, total power generation reached 358.4 billion kilowatt-hours. Thermal generation rose 11.5%, nuclear 5.7% and Wind power by 20.9%. Solar power dropped 3.3% and hydro output fell 25.9%.

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

## Committee News – May 2023 meeting

The May committee meeting was held at the 'China Tea Club' restaurant, North Lyneham, on a very cold late Autumn night.

Once again it was a small gathering, however we welcomed back committee members from overseas trips to Indonesia and Europe. Reports were that everywhere is packed – people are back to exploring the world following a couple of years where closed borders due to Covid prevented people to do so.

The committee debriefed on the most recent event mid-May – the extremely interesting and well participated (over twenty walkers) Queanbeyan Heritage walk which was followed by a Thai lunch. We hope you enjoy reading the article in this bulletin, about the interesting facts recounted by our fabulous guide – Tony.

Amanda has gone to great efforts to organise the June Yum Cha menu and we hope that you will be able to partake in this winter event, to be held at the 'Ginseng Restaurant' in Woden's Hellenic Club.

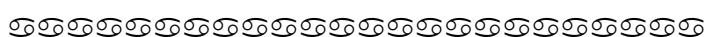
After our original plans to show the movie 'Song of the Phoenix' in April, our intent now is to show the movie in July – apologies for any inconvenience on the night in April. Alex will be booking the Southern Cross Club in Jamison for later in July - you will see details in the bulletin. Hope you can make it!

We still have a few administrative tasks to complete for both the ACT Government's Technology Grant and the Multicultural Grant. In addition, Carol will be drafting an application for the Southern Cross Club's Community Grant – if successful, we would use the grant to purchase prizes for the Panda Competition.

Our evening finished with a delicious dinner, with the steamed duck a highlight.

Chatting, post meeting in the carpark was cut short due to the icy conditions – everyone quickly disappeared into the warmth of their cars! Wishing you warm and cosy nights.

Your Secretary, Tanja



## Historical Walk of Queanbeyan

On a lovely Sunday morning 14 May 2023, 22 ACFS members and friends participated in a historical walk of Queanbeyan. We had a wonderful guide, Tony Maple, who was very knowledgeable on the Chinese presence in this region.

Tony explained that when the transportation of convicts to the East Coast ceased in 1840, there was a demand for cheap labour, some of which was sourced from China.

Gold was discovered in Australia in 1851, and a 'gold rush' followed. Tony said that in the 30 years from 1856 about 62,000 Chinese came to Australia seeking to make their fortunes in the "New Gold Mountain". It is estimated that about half the Chinese made it back to China; the



**SHAMROCK LANE WHERE THE QUEANBEYAN LEADER NEWSPAPER OFFICES WERE LOCATED**



others stayed in Australia. A few married local women; most just saw out their time and died here.

While most Chinese miners worked the Victorian goldfields, a few thousand came to this region to mine gold in the Braidwood/Majors Creek/Araluen area. Tony said that there were around 20 Chinese in Queanbeyan at that time.

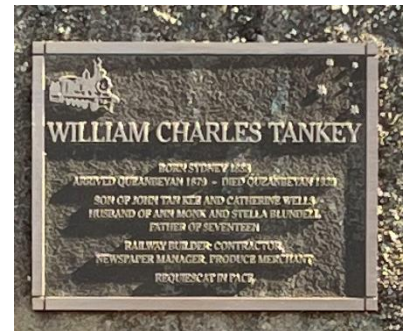
Tony focussed his talk on a long-term Queanbeyan resident, William (Bill) Charles Tankey. Bill's father, John Tan Kee, was born in Xiamen, Fujian Province in 1828. His arrival date in Australia is unknown but in 1854 John married Catherine Wells in Sydney. They had 6 children, 4 sons and 2 daughters. John died in Carcoar NSW (a small rural town between Bathurst and Orange) in 1902.

Bill Tankey was born in Sydney in 1858, the second child of John and Catherine. In about 1888 Bill moved to Queanbeyan and lived there until his death in 1939.



Bill married twice, first to Anne Monk from an old Queanbeyan family; they had 7 children (2 boys, 5 girls). Anne died in 1902 and two years later Bill married Stella Blundell (of the Blundell Cottage family). They had ten children (6 boys and 4 girls).

Bill had several jobs. He had a contracting business which built part of the railway line to Cooma. For a while he was manager of The Queanbeyan Leader newspaper (founded by Harry Holland who later moved to New Zealand and was leader of the NZ Labour Party). He also had a produce-distribution business.



Bill was a devout Catholic (followed his mother) and was active in the church. He died in 1939 aged 81. We inspected his grave in the Catholic Section of the Queanbeyan Cemetery.

We also heard of the sophisticated gardening methods which the Chinese settlers introduced. The methods were quite different to those used by the European settlers. The Chinese gardens were tiered and a sophisticated watering system was used – which would start at the top of the tiers and then run into a small pond from where water could be ladled to pour on other plants. The gardeners were also very organised in their planting, so could quickly calculate the number of, for example, cabbages growing.



CAROL AND ALEX WITH DONNA'S SNACKS

Tony also spoke about well-known Chinese businessmen in Braidwood: Quong Tart and the Nomchong brothers.

Donna Zhao, who usually conducts the walk with Tony, was unable to participate as she was making desserts for a mother's day function, but she very kindly sent along a container of gold coated rice-bubble snacks which were enjoyed by all.

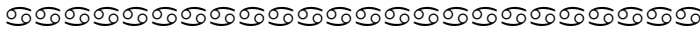
Carol presented Tony with a small gift and thanks go to him for a most interesting tour.

The walk was followed by a slightly disorganised but enjoyable lunch in the Lime Leaves Thai restaurant. Carol had organised a menu before going on her overseas trip but the restaurant seemed to have mislaid the reference resulting in somewhat unsatisfactory negotiations by Tanja on Friday which we managed to resolve when we arrived at the restaurant. All in all, a most enjoyable and interesting few hours.



**CAROL AND TONY WITH THE ACFS GIFT**

**Alex Olah**

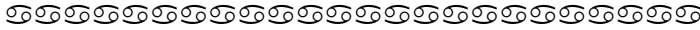
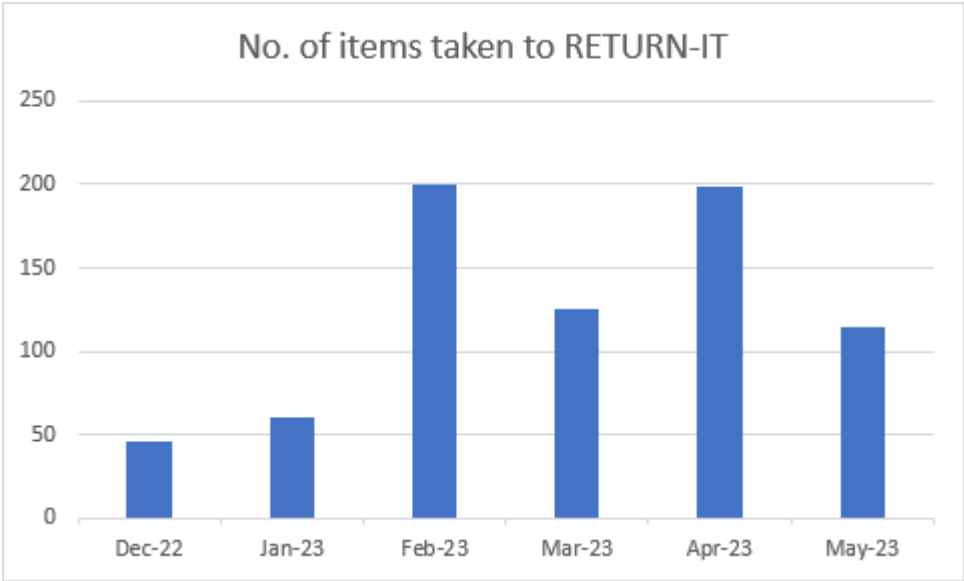


**Recycling of cans and bottles**

Many thanks to those members who have taken their cans and bottles to the RETURN-IT recycling centres and chosen to donate the refund to ACFS.

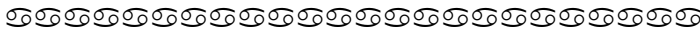
Individual donations have varied from 12 to 200 and every \$ counts when our fund-raising activities are so limited.

To date the total number of items returned is 744 for refunds to the Society of \$74.40



**Book to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Australia**

The Chinese government has issued a book celebrating the anniversary of diplomatic relations by collection stories of 50 contributors to China–Australian friendship, including an interview with our President, Carol Keil. Carol’s interview, recorded some time ago, outlines our Society’s involvement with Project Hope and our support for students at the Labagoumen Central Primary School north of Beijing. Project Hope funds the students, from difficult family backgrounds, to be able to remain in the education system.





# Letter from Zhanjiang – Roger Arnold

## Back to the Fair

Following from the lifting of China's covid-19 restrictions and easing of international travel restrictions worldwide over the past 6 months or so, it was with great excitement and anticipation that my wife and I accepted an invitation to meet up with a good friend at the latest session of the famous Canton Fair (officially known as 'China Import and Export Fair').

The last time I visited this Fair was back in 2011 when its 110<sup>th</sup> session was being held. This April's incarnation was its 133<sup>rd</sup> session: the Fair was first held way back in 1957 and for many years it has held both Spring and Autumn sessions. However, over the past 3 years due to difficulties of international travel, the Fair was held primarily online. So, not surprisingly, this year's Spring session which was back as a full-scale physical exhibition was greeted with enormous enthusiasm by buyers and vendors alike.

Following on from experiences of the past few years during the era of covid-19, some in corporate and tech circles now extol the virtue of online exhibitions and meetings – *think of all the money and time saved on international travel*. But for my time and money, online and virtual exhibitions and meetings really are poor substitutes for physical meetings, real life exhibitions and genuine face to face interactions. And, based on the large numbers of exhibitors and visitors to this April's session of Canton Fair, there are plenty of companies and individuals who endorse my view. In fact, both these categories reached record levels of participation in this 133<sup>rd</sup> Session, with 34,933 exhibitors and more than 300,000 visitors cum buyers for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of this Spring's Fair. Indeed, it seems the 3-year absence of the Canton Fair in its physical form only helped make both exhibitors and buyers/visitors more fully appreciative of the value of 'off-line' participation in such an event.





But whilst this session of the Fair was bustling and crowded, it is likely that total attendance was constrained by the current challenges of international travel to China. For the 1<sup>st</sup> half of April 2023 international passenger travel into and out of China stood at only around 30% of what it was back pre-covid in 2019, due largely to limited availability of scheduled flights. But with airlines currently working hard to rebuild their capacities and ramp up flight schedules, it could well be that Canton Fair's next few Sessions will see more record-breaking levels of attendance.

One of the reasons I love visiting the Canton Fair is that it represents the intersection of China's manufacturing might and the world's consumers in one physical space. And, through the new products on exhibit, and being promoted in elaborate displays, one can garner wonderful insights into product innovation, upcoming new products and consumer trends. From our brief visit, the standouts seem to be: electric vehicle charging stations for both domestic and commercial/large scale use; electric scooters of both the vespa type and of the menacing stand-up type; electrically assisted bicycles that can actually pass off as standard pedal bicycles; and, mobile power banks cum electric storage batteries of all sizes. Whilst none of these things are actually new, it was the proliferation of manufacturers who had them on display, the cutting-edge product designs and the diversity of offerings in each of these categories that really impressed us. Had we actually been looking to do some deals, we would have been overwhelmed trying to choose which manufacturer and products to go with in the product line of interest.

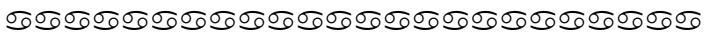
Thinking back to my previous visit to Canton Fair, I remember how a big trend at the time was the proliferation of coffee machines designed around making coffee from little pre-packaged coffee-pods, based on the same concept as *Nespresso* coffee makers. I have always thought that concept to be rather unsustainable and wasteful – *what does one do with all the used coffee pods?* And, also frustratingly lacking in flexibility. With any coffee pod machine, one is locked into the coffee varieties available in your machine's type of capsules, leaving one unable to enjoy some exotic beans procured at a local market. So, I was really pleased to see relative few coffee-pod machines being offered up this year, whilst there was a phenomenal proliferation of automatic and semi-automatic coffee machines of the type that, at the push of a button, grind coffee beans and then dispense anything from a standard espresso to a *double shot, soymilk caramel macchiato* .... or some beverage of this ilk.

On the day of our visit, even though we arrived just on opening time, by the end of the day we'd barely scratched the surface of the exhibition spaces – hardly surprising



given that they extend over a total area of over 1 million m<sup>2</sup> (or around 100 ha), across two to three floors in 4 separate, rather commodious pavilions. But for us, with no fixed agenda or lists of must find products and suppliers, during the course of our visit we were able to relax with our friend over lunch and coffee at a small café perched high on a mezzanine floor overlooking the main thoroughfare connecting the Fair's pavilions. There, we reflected how wonderful it was to be back in this space and absorb the palpable enthusiasm of exhibitors and buyers who surrounded us. If taken as a bellwether of China's and also the world's economic activity, the Canton Fair's 133<sup>rd</sup> Session surely suggests that, despite all the pessimistic news about in global media, there is actually a wonderful level of business optimism out there among disparate consumers of the world.

It really was wonderful to be back at the Fair enjoying this optimism and surveying the countless opportunities the Fair presents. And, as our exhibitor friend from Zhanjiang suggested, this April's Session provided a wonderful opportunity to create a brilliant future and write a new chapter of cooperation!



### Stories, not language, resonate

By Chen Xue | *China Daily* | Updated: 2023-06-07 06:24

You don't get a second chance to make a first impression — this was the theme of this year's International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC), held in London from May 11 to 12. Thirty-three young speakers aged 16 to 20 from around the world gathered at The English Speaking Union to tell their stories, including Wu Dongxu from China. To him, the event wasn't just about giving a speech on first impressions. It also made a strong impression on him.

"Rather than a competition, the experience was more like an enlightening research trip to me, a trip that allowed me to see firsthand the differences and similarities between Chinese and foreign cultures," said Wu, 19, a student at Hangzhou Foreign Languages School, Zhejiang province.



Wu Dongxu (first from left, first row) is among the 33 students from across the world to participate in the 2023 International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC), held in London from May 11 to 12. [Photo provided to China Daily]

Apart from the obvious differences in food, transportation and climate, what impressed Wu the most was the distinct styles of Chinese and foreign public speaking. Although still a teen, Wu is no stranger to the public speaking podium — having participated in domestic competitions regularly since 2017. But on the stage of the IPSC, speakers had no podium to stand behind. They just had to face the audience.

"This was the first time that I gave a speech without a podium, which made me realize how important eye contact and body language are," said Wu. He found it quite freeing,



in fact, as you're not left stranded by the podium. Speakers have the freedom to convey more information with their gestures instead of just with what they say.

Another difference that caught Wu's attention was the evaluation criteria. According to him, in every single speaking competition he had participated in in China, things like pronunciation, intonation, flow and quality of language have always been a component of — if not a crucial part of — the evaluation criteria. But to his surprise, the IPSC organizing committee informed all the contestants before the event that accents and grammatical errors would not be considered in the evaluation process, meaning that delivery and your conveyed story are what matter most. "Audiences are eager to hear powerful stories, especially those that still resonate with people regardless of where they are from," said Wu.

He gave some examples: a Mexican contestant who told of how she managed to change people's stereotypes toward Mexico, a Sri Lankan girl who proudly introduced the customs of her country and the traditional wooden handicrafts that she brought on stage, as well as a Japanese girl who told how she, triggered by an incident at school, began to reflect on the Nanjing Massacre.

"These are the emotions shared by all human beings. We share these similarities despite our differences," said Wu. "Diversity, respect, tolerance and understanding — these are what the IPSC organizing committee, and what all the contestants including me, are hoping to see in international events like this."

### **An extract of Wu's speech**

"Last year, I had the great opportunity to attend a lecture by a retired United Nations translator, and his words conveyed that in the international arena, "the first impressions" created by translators may also exert a vital influence on major-country negotiations.

For instance, in 2015, Cuba and the US historically resumed diplomatic relations after more than 50 years of tension, and the translation of the announcement was very accurate and clear, helping usher in a new era of relations between the two countries. In 1972, Premier Zhou Enlai met then-US President Richard Nixon in China, and as the interpreters translated articulately, the two leaders' fruitful talk laid the essential foundation for re-establishing our diplomatic relations. In his lecture, the UN translator also talked about the same thing in his work for the United Nations, where differences and disputes prevail, and languages and cultures collide.

It is UN translators who ensure the extreme linguistic accuracy of assorted documents, and these interpreters who concentrate all their attention on conveying information simultaneously to all representatives. Across linguistic and cultural barriers, they create the first impressions for different countries that can make or break international relations, and they are given no second chance."



Wu delivers his speech at the IPSC. [Photo provided to China Daily]

# Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

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