

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2023/3 March 2023

Coming events

Film evening

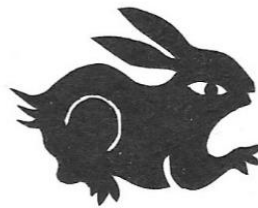
13 April

Queanbeyan Chinese Heritage walk

14 May

Memberships due

All memberships fall due on 1 January. Details of prices and bank transfer information is on the back page of this Bulletin.



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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Film evening.

The Society's function for April will be a film screening at the Southern Cross Club at Jamison on Thursday 13 April. 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)

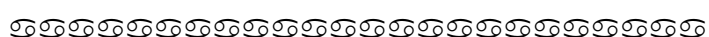
Length: 107 mins

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 by 7 April.



Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, March 2023

- Statistics released on 15 March showed that over the last 5 years Chinese Courts had about 99,000 cases concerning online purchase contracts and about 23,000 cases involving online service contracts. Last year courts settled 32,000 disputes related to online purchases, well up on the 12,000 settled in 2018.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources recently released guidelines for the development of a standard system for smart vehicle basic maps. Autonomous vehicles rely on a mixture of artificial intelligence, sensors and digital maps. The guidelines expect the smart vehicle basic maps will be developed to support autonomous driving by 2025.
- China's target of 5% GDP growth for this year also proposes a target of 12 million new urban jobs, the unemployment rate would stay around 5.5% and keep the Consumer price growth at around 3%. The GDP target is higher last year's 3%, but roughly on a par with the last 5 year's average of 5.2%.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

The Heritage Festival Guided Peace Walking Tours 2023.

Take an easy stroll through *Lennox Gardens* finishing at the *Canberra Rotary Peace Bell*.

As part of the ACT Heritage Festival we invite you to take an easy guided walking tour through *Lennox Gardens*, one of Canberra's oldest parks, finishing at the Canberra Rotary Peace Bell. During the tour you will hear stories about the *Beijing Gardens*, the *Canberra Nara Peace Park*, see photos of early Canberra and hear about activities of the early indigenous people and much more. Finish the tour with the opportunity to personally strike the *Canberra Rotary Peace Bell*.

Booking is essential and is available from 12 noon 16 March 2023.

When: Saturday 15 April 2023 and Saturday 22 April 2023 from 12.00noon. 5 tour times to select from.

Where: Lennox Gardens 14 Flynn Drive Yarralumla ACT.

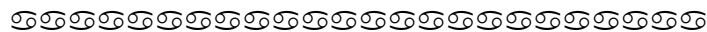
Price: \$20.00 + booking fee, bookings through Eventbrite.

Numbers are limited to 25 people per tour (children under supervision of parents are free and not counted in numbers). In the event of rain, please bring an umbrella. Please book through the link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-festival-guided-rotary-peace-walking-tour-2023-tickets-548190230737>

Funds raised from these tours support *Rotary Peace Projects*.

For more information contact: The Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin
admin@canberrarotarypeacebell.org



Hidden treasures: The First Chinese – a Walk in Queanbeyan, Sunday 14 May 2023

The Chinese Heritage walk in Queanbeyan will (at last) be held on Sunday 14 May. The walk will be in the morning, followed by lunch (details of lunch later).

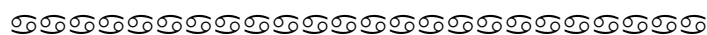
The walk will be a roughly 2 hour mostly urban walk of about 3.5km, with some hilly parts and unpaved sections in a cemetery

If you are interested in coming on the walk and/or the lunch would you email acfsevent@gmail.com by 7 May. The cost will be a donation of approximately \$10, 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.



Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 15 March at the Golden King Restaurant in Phillip at 7.00pm. The meeting was followed by dinner attended by 25 members and friends. All existing Committee Members were re-elected. The President's Report appears below.

President's report for 2022

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China. To mark this anniversary we participated in a webinar with the Beijing Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to celebrate the 20+ years we have been donating funds to support students from the Labagoumen area. A number of other commemorative events were held in Canberra during the year where I was invited and attended to represent the Society.

Our membership has remained steady. We have had several new members join but more older members are not renewing. Lynn Parry, a former committee member, sadly passed away. The memorial service for Jeff Culnane (a former president and life member) was finally held in July and I delivered one of the eulogies.

Whilst 2022 saw restrictions due to the corona virus being eased it still resulted in our main event, the Lantern Festival, being cancelled at very short notice and the deferral of some of our activities until later than usual.

Our functions during the year included a talk by Kevin Magee from the Centre on China in the World, two films at the Jamison Southern Cross Club: 'Someone to Talk To' and 'True Love' which was set in Xinjiang. The Embassy very generously paid for our dinner before viewing True Love. Members were invited to the Opening night of the Chinese film Festival in September and entry to all the films during the following week was free. The concert by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble was again held, after an absence of 2 years, with the Society selling tickets, providing afternoon tea and helping with publicity. We share the profits with the Ensemble and they are used to help fund our Project Hope students. The attendance was disappointing and we hope to advertise more widely this year.

Our Chinese New Year and Christmas dinners and June yum cha lunch were all well attended. Our planned heritage walk in Queanbeyan was deferred again due to inclement weather.

We were successful in our application for a Technology Upgrade Grant and have purchased a new projector plus 2 microphones and are hoping to obtain a variation to the grant to use the remaining funds to replace our PA system.

We have finally moved to electronic signatures for payment of bills and have dispensed with writing cheques. The Civic Square post office, which we had used for over 40 years, closed with very little notice and we are yet to decide on our new mailing address.

The Panda competition is a very successful means of promoting Chinese culture. The Chinese language teachers are strong supporters and the topic this year was 'Chinese Personal Accessories'. 6 schools provided hundreds of entries and we awarded 63 prizes. Thanks go to Roger Arnold for generously donating many of the prizes. At very short notice we were able to hold the presentation ceremony at the Embassy with Ambassador Xiao attending and presenting prizes. It was a most heart-warming event and the parents, teachers and students were all impressed and happy.

This year, for the first time the venue for the ceremony for winners of Awards for the best and most improved students of mandarin was the China in the World Centre. The ceremony was preceded by a short lion dance performance and Minister Song presented the awards. Most of the parents and students had not been to the CIW before and it was an excellent opportunity to promote the Centre and an awareness of China.

We continue to support 10 Project Hope students: 8 girls and 2 boys with 3 girls and 1 boy at Labagoumen primary school and 6 students at other primary and

high schools. The majority of the funds to support these students again came from very generous donations from members and their families.

After a long-drawn out process we now have the ability to donate funds to the Society via recycling bottles and cans at RETURN-IT depots. Instructions were in the last newsletter and I hope members take advantage of the opportunity.

Our friendship tree in the Beijing Garden continues to flourish.

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 and to Roger Arnold for his most interesting contributions on living in China.

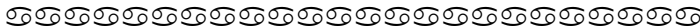
Our website which helps us to maintain our profile is now managed by Corinne with help, when needed, from Siew-Gim McGregor and our face-book page is also looked after by Corinne.

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, prizes for the lantern Festival and the polo shirts at our Christmas dinner. 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 each of whom has a role to play. We all 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.

For a small association I think our aims of promoting friendship between our two countries were well fulfilled.

**Carol Keil
President
16 March 2022**



2023 promises to be a busy year...

Our new look gallery and showroom has been a big hit with visitors old and new saying the rooms highlight how well antique furniture and contemporary art go together. Artists love the new spaces with exhibitions throughout this year and bookings already being made for 2024.

Read about our first upcoming exhibition and Artist Talk below.

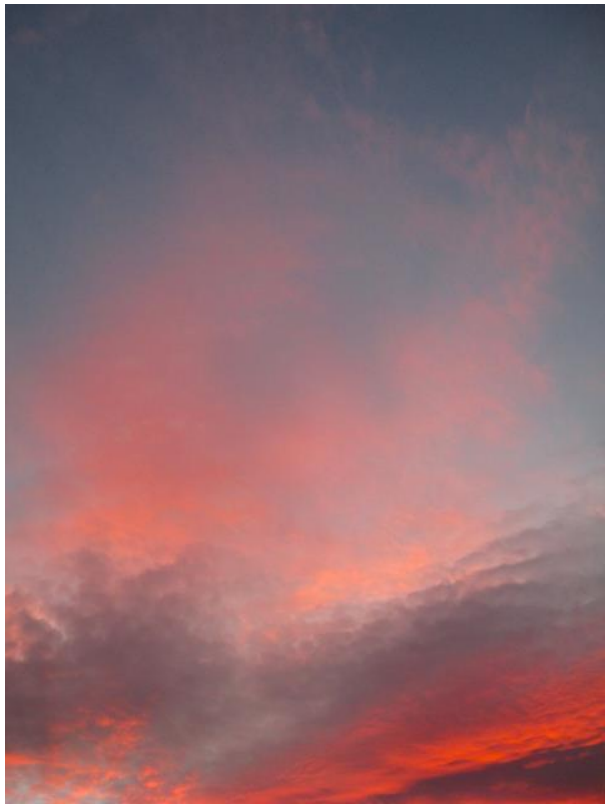


Image credit: Ethereal Sunset by Marilyn Hutchinson

Heaven and Earth – solo exhibition by Marilyn Hutchinson

11 March - 9 April

Opening: 2pm Saturday

11 March

Main gallery upstairs

All welcome!

This is an exhibition of photography and soft pastels.

In the context of challenges to our environment with extreme weather events, there is growing awareness of the interdependency of nature and humankind.

The exhibition theme is to show interconnections between sky, land and water.

Marilyn is an established artist with an extensive record of exhibitions and awards including a medal for photography in the Florence Biennale in 2015. She has also been a finalist in the Sir John Sulman Art Prize. Her recent solo exhibition in September 2022 was listed in Art Guide as one of the top 5 must-see exhibitions in Australia. She is also a long-standing member of ACFS ACT.

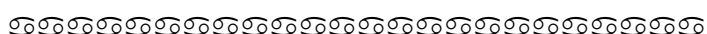


Image credit: Hurtle by Marilyn Hutchinson

Save the date: 2pm Saturday 25 March

Marilyn will give an Artist Talk discussing her art background, as well as the thoughts and concepts behind this exhibition.

Humble House gallery
93 Wollongong St Fyshwick
6228 1988
Wednesday to Sunday 10am –4pm



Recycling your cans and bottles to help the Society

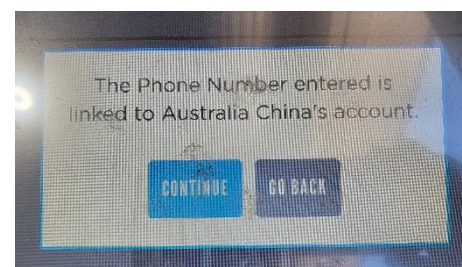
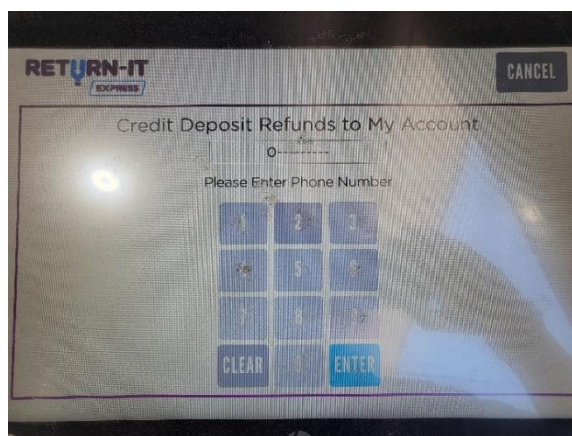
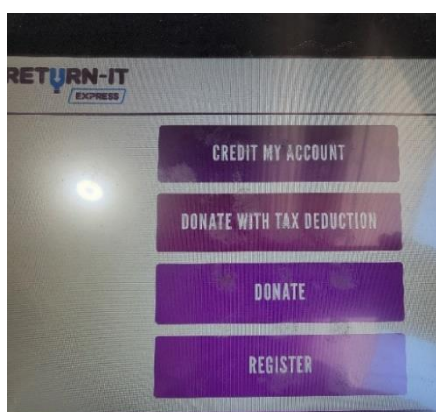
You can return your cans and bottles to either a RETURN-IT 'Depot' or an 'Express' site.

Depots are located at Fyshwick and Mitchell and process on the spot. You do not have to pre-sort your items but must take lids off.



The process at 20 Barrier St, Fyshwick is as follows:

The building has 2 sections. Go to the lefthand side and just inside on the right is a screen:



Click **Credit my account** Enter the number **417041148** and press **Enter**.

Press '**Continue**' and the next screen will ask how many bags you have. Put in the number and press **Enter** and labels will print.

Take your labels to the right hand building and join the queue.



When you get to the front press the 'Start' button and wait for the attendant to come and scan the label. When your label has been scanned start feeding your items through.

When you have finished press '**End**' or '**Finish**' and a receipt will print showing how many items and the amount to be credited to the Society account.

Express

There are a number of express sites and the list is on the website www.returnit.com.au

What do I need to do to be set up to receive a digital refund?

Firstly, you need to pre-register at www.returnit.com.au/ on the sign-up page and provide both a login profile and a personal account profile including address and bank details .

The Society's Bank Account details are:

Name: Beyond Bank
 A/c Name: ACFS ACT Branch Inc
 A/c BSB.: 325-185
 A/c No.: 03411481

Once you have registered you simply need your mobile phone as an account identifier to initiate the recycling drop off process each time you go to a Return-It Express Stand

What type of bag do I need for Express "Bag, Drop and Go"?

Place your eligible containers into durable slightly see-through bags, like the regular kitchen tidy bags you can buy from the shops. Make sure your bag securely tied and will not break or fall apart. Your containers need to remain in your labelled bag with your personal barcode in order for the depot to do the container count and provide your electronic refund. Plastic bags are necessary so that when the containers are sent to the recycling depot, they can be identified as belonging to you, which ensure you receive the correct refund.

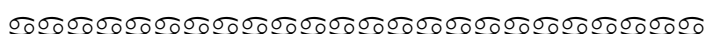
If you prefer to avoid plastic bags you can take containers directly to the depots at Mitchell and Fyshwick where they can be processed on the spot. You can also receive the refund in cash at Mitchell and Fyshwick.

Return-It will recycle ALL bags that come in through the scheme.

Kitchen tidy bags that you can buy at any grocery store are fine, staff just need to be able to see what's in them.

Further Information is available on the RETURN-IT website www.returnit.com.au/

Carol Keil



Project Hope students

We have received following information about the ten students we currently support in the Beijing district school system. As you can see, their family situations are far from ideal and they truly value our help to remain at school.

	Name	Sex	School	Age	Family situation	Funding (Yuan)
1	Peng Xianzi	F	2nd Grade in Beijing Arts and Design Technology Institute	17	Her mother is in poor health and has no job. Her father works as a farmer and take some odd jobs occasionally	1500
2	Zhou Xiaowei	F	2nd Grade in the 8th high School of Yanqing District	14	She is "model student" of the school and is gifted in painting. Her father is ill and can't work. Her family's income only relies on her mother's farming and working as a forest guardian.	1000

	Name	Sex	School	Age	Family situation	Funding (Yuan)
3	Miao Xin	M	1st Grade in Beijing Huairou District Vocational School	15	He has a very out-going personality. He talks and laughs a lot. He studies well but is not the top student yet. His father is unemployed and stays at home to take care of his mother. His mother is blind and suffers kidney failure and is unemployed. His brother studies at primary school. The family is supported by social subsistence allowance.	1500
4	Liu Zikun	F	3rd Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	8	Her parents work on odd jobs, her brother is studying at high school. Her grandma is incapable of supporting herself.	1000
5	Liu Jing	F	3rd Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	8	Her father works as a farmer with meagre income. Her mother is a casual worker at the village's nursing home. Her grandparents live with the family and are in poor health with high medical expenses. Her elder sister is in junior high school. The family is under great financial pressure.	1000
6	Li Yiran	F	3rd Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	8	Her parents do not have permanent jobs, support the family with income from odd jobs. Her grandparents live with the family together with her younger sister and brother, all incapable of work. Their lives are in great difficulties.	1000
7	Li Xinting	F	3rd Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	8	Her father had heart surgery and works as the gate keeper of the village. Her mother works on odd jobs. Her elder sister is in college. Her grandma is handicapped and in poor health with persistent medication and lives with the family.	1000
8	Li Yunfei	M	1st Grade in Huaibei Primary School	6	His father is handicapped and incapable of heavy work. Both his parents have no regular jobs. His brother is in his sixth year of primary school. The family applies for subsistence allowance.	1000
9	Liu Qi	F	1st Grade in Beijing National Day School Jiuduhe Primary School	6	She has a sister in high school and a brother in kindergarten. Her mother is a housewife. The whole family relies on her father's income.	1000
10	Li Tianxi	F	1st Grade in Longwantuncun Central Primary School	6	Her mother, her grandma and grandpa are all severely handicapped and incapable of working.	1000

Capturing the creations and inspirations of a Chinese painter

The colorful career of one female Chinese painter

By Tao Xing, *Beijing Review* No.11 March 16, 2023



A photo of Wu Xi, a Chinese painter (COURTESY PHOTO)

It was a day like so many others in Maqu County of Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province in 1979. A Tibetan woman was guiding her cow through the alpine wetland landscape when Wu Xi, in active search of inspiration, spotted the pair and pencilled a quick sketch. Decades on, 79-year-old Wu's eyes still light up with excitement when talking about this particular painting. "Look how I captured the expression on her facial profile—and I did so in just a few minutes," Wu, a professional painter at Beijing Fine Art Academy, told *Beijing Review*.

Born into a notable and art-loving family in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, in 1943, Wu was imperceptibly influenced by her surroundings. One of her forefathers, Wu Dacheng (1835-1902), was a renowned calligrapher and painter. Her father, Wu Hewang, had studied painting under Wu Hufan (1894-1968), a leading Chinese painter known as a collector and art connoisseur as well as for his landscape works. Zha Fuxi (1895-1976), an acclaimed master of the *guqin*, a plucked seven-string Chinese musical instrument, was a regular visitor to the Wu family home. When Wu Xi was 8, the Wu and Zha households jointly moved to Beijing, where the young girl took her first tentative steps into the world of painting.

At the very beginning, Wu was learning how to draw and paint by herself. "I've liked painting since childhood," she said. Her father noticed her gift for the arts and got her a host of related books through which Wu began building and stretching her own professional canvas, including both Chinese and Western styles such as the works of Ilya Yefimovich Repin, a remarkable figure of Russian Realism during the 19th century.

"The artistic and literary inspirations aside, there was this Soviet Union documentary novel called *The Early Sunrise*, which told the story of a young

painter who died at the age of 15," Wu said, adding the book inspired many children immersed in the fine arts at the time.

She later enrolled at the Beijing Industrial Art School, known today as the College of Art and Design at the Beijing University of Technology, to study sculpture and painting. After graduation, Wu worked at an institute designing product packaging for several years and following her stint there, finally entered the Beijing Fine Art Academy in 1978 with a recommendation letter from Zhou Sicong (1939-96), a famous Chinese female painter.



A collection of Wu Xi's quick sketches over the decades (TAO XING)

A creative explorer

"When studying at the Beijing Industrial Art School, we got quick sketch homework every week," Wu said, adding this would always get her creative juices (over)flowing. If the teacher told them to do 10 drawings, she would hand in 20.

And her proclivity for quick sketching persists to this day. "Compared to, for example, an object sketch, it better trains you as you need to wholly capture the subject and finish it in minutes," she said.

When designing packaging at the institute, Wu would hone her painting skills during the weekend. She would even show up on the doorsteps of Li Kuchan (1899-1983), a famous painter known for combining Western techniques with traditional Chinese styles, and Ye Qianyu (1907-95), an influential painter and cartoonist best known for his *manhua* (caricatures), to show them her works and get some constructive feedback. The masters were both moved by her imaginative spirit and talent and agreed to guide her through her artistic exploration. "Wu is an outstanding painter," Li once said.

Her unswerving pursuit of the fine arts over the years ensured Wu built a solid foundation in painting. More specifically, her training in Western styles allowed her to enhance her traditional Chinese creations. For example, mastering the art of the quick sketch helped her seize the most fleeting moments of daily life or a

person, in turn enriching her endeavours in the realm of Chinese painting—which traditionally focuses on the opposite, namely, classic, fixed subjects or static gestures. Also of note here has been Wu's enduring and adamant opposition to the inflexible pursuit of the classical and the blind copying of foreign artists.

"In Chinese ink painting, for example, I will use more colour, a kind of 'breakthrough' compared with its traditional black and white palette," Wu said. But blindly injecting the old with something new is not the way to revolutionize art. "First, I need to improve my basic skills, for example, the sculpting ability, day by day, year by year," she added.

A cultural carrier

Wu's works have been exhibited both at home and abroad, meeting with widespread acclaim.

One of her most representative work to date, *The Dim Light of the Night*, was displayed at the 1989 Monte Carlo International Exhibition of Modern Art in Monaco. It was branded one of the exhibit's 200 masterpieces, chosen from over 8,000 paintings by 2,000 artists from 68 countries.

"In *Night*, a crescent moon hangs in the boundless night sky in which floats a few thin clouds; inverted reflections are seen in the limpid, quiet river water, and a tall tree stands tall on the bank. What a moving picture this is!" Zhao Mingzhen, a Chinese art critic, described the creation.

Then Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, during a visit to Beijing, met with Wu and her artist husband He Yang at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on May 18, 1992, and gladly accepted the paintings they presented to him.

Late German collector Peter Ludwig bought eight of Wu's paintings in 1996. That same year, Ludwig and his wife Irene also donated 89 artworks from their collection to the National Art Museum of China, as a demonstration of the Sino-German friendship.

In 1995, Wu and He founded the first private modern painting museum in China—the Heyang Wuxi Modern Painting Museum in Beijing. Today, the museum not only displays the couple's works, but also organizes different types of international art communication and public training events to promote Chinese paintings.

Even on the verge of becoming an octogenarian, Wu's passion for painting remains strong as ever. "Painting is not a part of my life; it is my life," she concluded. Theirs truly is an affair to remember.



A vibrantly coloured Chinese ink painting by Wu (WEI YAO)



The Dim Light of the Night, one of Wu's most revered works to date (WEI YAO)

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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Renewal New Member

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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