

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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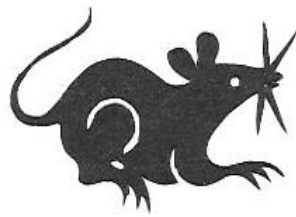
Bulletin

2022/11 November 2022

Coming events

Guest speaker: Kevin Magee
Christmas dinner

23 November
15 December



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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Guest speaker

Our November function will be a guest speaker, Kevin Magee, who is a Policy Fellow at the ANU Australian Centre for China in the World. He had a 34 year career in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade during which he was the Australian Representative in Taipei, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Deputy Head of Mission in Moscow. He also served as Consul-General in Guangzhou, First Secretary in Singapore, and Third Secretary in Beijing. At different times he was in charge of the areas of DFAT dealing with bilateral relations with Russia and with China. Kevin led the Taskforce that established the National Foundation for Australia China Relations and was the interim CEO of that organisation. He was a United Nations Disarmament Fellow based in Geneva and New York. Kevin holds B.A. (Hons) and LLB degrees from Monash University and was recognised by the university as a Monash University Distinguished Alumni in 2011. His main research interests are China-Russia Relations, Cross Taiwan Strait Relations, and the Australia-China Bilateral Relationship.

The talk will be held at the Southern Cross Club Jamison, in the Catchpole Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 November. As usual, members may join for dinner at the Cornerstone Restaurant from 6.00pm. Please book by emailing acfsact@gmail.com by 19 November, indicating whether you will attend for dinner, the talk, or both.

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## Christmas dinner

The Christmas dinner for members and friends on Thursday 15 December will be at Jimmy's Place in Dickson. A banquet has been arranged at a cost of \$30 per person. Please book by emailing [acfsact@gmail.com](mailto:acfsact@gmail.com) by 8 December.

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Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, November 2022

- Shanghai has recently opened its first 2 expressways for autonomously driven vehicles. The 21.5 km section of G1503 ring road and a 19.5 km section of the Beijing-Shanghai expressway have been designed for self-drive vehicles. Shanghai also has 926 autonomous driving test roads offering 15,000 test scenarios ranking among the top in the country.
- 2,381 km of new railway lines were put into operation in the first 9 months of 2022, including 1,198 km of high-speed tracks. This required an investment of 475 billion yuan into fixed railway assets. For all of 2022, 3,300 km of new lines are planned. By the end of last year China's high-speed railway network exceeded 40,000 km.
- 299 new expressway and national highway projects were started in the first 9 months of 2022, they had a combined length of 9,645 km. The total investment in these projects was 882.6 billion yuan.
- China's ship builders' output for the first 9 months was 27.8 million deadweight tons, 45.9% of the global total. During the same period they received 53.6% of new orders globally.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

ANU Centre on China in the World Events



Cross-Strait Relations: The Current Situation

ANU Taiwan Studies Program

28 November, CIW Auditorium

In the first session of this year's inaugural ANU Taiwan Update, join experts from Monash University, the Australia-Taiwan Business Council and the ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs to discuss Taiwan's relationship to China and unravel the complexities of this increasingly fraught cross-strait relationship.

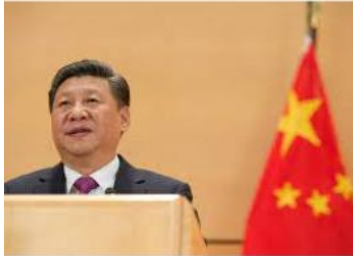


2022 JG Crawford Oration | The Return of Ideological Man: China under Xi Jinping

Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC

21 November, ONLINE

Join former Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable Dr Kevin Rudd AC for his delivery of the JG Crawford Oration 2022. This oration will assess Chinese leader Xi Jinping's worldview and his influence on China's internal and foreign policy.

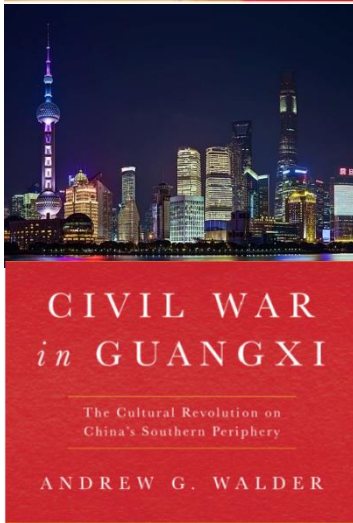


After the Party Congress: Where Next for Xi Jinping's China?

Griffith Asia Institute

17 November, ONLINE

Following the 20th Party Congress, join a discussion on Xi Jinping's consolidation of his power and authority with a panel of distinguished experts, chaired by the Acting Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, Ian Hall.



32nd Annual Conference of Chinese Economics Society Australia (CESA)

Crawford School of Public Policy

22 November, Molonglo Theatre

With China projected to become a high-income country by 2023, many questions remain about how government and private business will influence the future of the economy. CESA aims to address these questions in its 32nd Annual Conference.

Anatomy of a Regional Civil War: Gunaxi, 1967-1968*

ANU China Seminar Series

24 November, CIW Seminar Room + ONLINE

This talk is based on a book to be published by Stanford University Press in January 2023, *Civil War in Guanxi: The Cultural Revolution in China's Southern Periphery* by Stanford Professor, Andrew G. Walder as part of the ANU China Seminar Series.

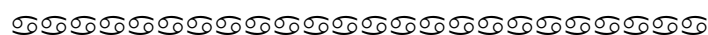


China's Foreign Policy in Xi Jinping's Third Term

ANU China Seminar Series

24 November, CIW Auditorium + ONLINE

Join our next ANU China Seminar Series with Bonnie S. Glaser discussing Xi's vision for the international order after the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.



Lu Yang's Screen Bodies

Exhibition Dates: 29 August–16 December 2022

Opening Hours: **Weekdays** 9am–5pm, **Selected Weekends:** Saturday 3 September: 11am–3pm, Saturday 29 October: 11am–3pm

Location: Gallery, China in the World Building (188), Fellows Lane, ANU

Screen Bodies is a solo exhibition by Lu Yang, one of the most highly acclaimed new media artists in China today. Part of a generation of artists who grew up with digital technologies, Lu Yang has had unprecedented access to a variety of cultures and aesthetics, both underground and popular. Working in a range of digital forms from motion capture performances to video games, 3D animation, virtual reality, and augmented reality, the artist draws on references as diverse as Japanese manga,



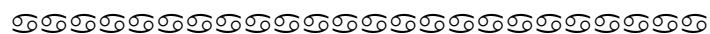
science fiction, video games, Buddhist philosophy and iconography, as well as biotechnology and the neurosciences.

Lu Yang's unique multi-media worlds—and the variety of screen bodies that inhabit them, from gender-neutral avatars to “digital grotesques”—can be simultaneously psychedelic and inviting, entertaining and confronting. The exhibition features a selection of Lu Yang's video and game artworks that spans his career so far. Put on a

pair of headphones and watch one of Lu Yang's videos in the main room, including *Cancer Baby* (2014) and *Delusional Mandala* (2015) and his more recent *Doku: Digital Alaya* (2021). Or venture into the back of the gallery to play one of Lu Yang's computer games, *The Great Adventure of Material World* (2020), for yourself.

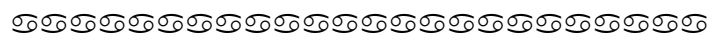
The exhibition is presented alongside the launch of a special issue of *Screen Bodies, The Journal of Embodiment, Media Arts, and Technology*, dedicated to the work of the artist. We invite you to read more about these works in a new collection of essays available in the gallery.

Lu Yang (1984-, Shanghai) has presented solo exhibitions at ARoS Aarhus Art Museum (2021); Spiral, Tokyo (2018); and M Woods Museum, Beijing (2017). And in Australia, the artist has participated in the group exhibition *Ultra Unreal* at the MCA Australia (2022) as well as a live motion capture performance at the Sydney Opera House in Oct 2022. Lu Yang's work continues to attract audiences from across the globe, whether in the art world at the 2022 Venice Biennale or in the worlds of music and fashion through videos the artist has created for the British band The 1975 and the sports label Li Ning.



Hidden treasures: Walk in Queanbeyan

The heritage walk in Queanbeyan, postponed earlier, will be rescheduled to a date next year when the autumn weather may be more predictable. Watch this space!

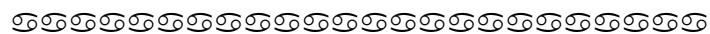


Fund-raising for Project Hope and the Society

As you may be aware finding avenues for fund-raising for our Project Hope students is proving very difficult. We have received generous donations from members in the past and offers for additional donations for this year which has been and will be a great help and we are very grateful for such generosity. The cost per student is \$200 and members and friends can contribute by transferring funds to the bank account as shown on the last page of this newsletter.

An on-going source is available from recycling of cans and bottles at ReCollect which is located at 20 Barrier St, Fyshwick ACT 2609. The Society is still in the process of

being registered and details of how to have your donation sent to the Society will be in the next newsletter. Meanwhile save your cans and bottles!



Awards for Mandarin Students

Each year the Society presents awards to the best and most improved students of Mandarin at most of the high schools and colleges teaching Mandarin in Canberra. COVID prevented us having formal ceremonies in 2020 and 2021 but this year, for the first time, the ceremony was at the China in the World Centre at ANU. This was an excellent venue with the presentation being in the auditorium followed by afternoon tea in the foyer.



The ceremony commenced with a lion dance by students from Kingsford-Smith High. The team is fairly new and are aged between 11 and 14 years and this was their first public performance. Carol then welcomed Minister-Counsellor Song from the Chinese Embassy, Principal Paul Branson from Kingsford-Smith School, teachers, students and their guests. Her short speech, which included descriptions of aspects of the CIW buildings, was followed by a speech from Minister-Counsellor Song who then presented the awards to students from the 12 schools who attended.

The awards consisted of a certificate in a red velvet folder, a notebook, a book, a CD and a backpack from the Beijing winter Olympics from the Chinese Embassy.

Afternoon tea in the foyer completed the ceremony and gave us an opportunity to chat with parents, students and teachers. Parents were very supportive and pleased to be able to attend.



Many thanks to Minister-Counsellor Song for attending and presenting the awards and for providing some of the gifts the students received. Thanks also to Neil, Jean, Corinne, Alex and Vera who all helped out on the day.

Carol Keil

Panda Competition

The topic for this year's Panda Competition was 'Chinese traditional Personal Accessories'. The number of schools participating was less than in previous years but we still had hundreds of entries from children aged between 4 and 17 years of age to judge. Our judges this year were Jean, Corinne and Carol and we had a difficult task deciding on the winners as there were many entries that had taken a lot of time to make and were very inventive. The range of hats from different dynasties was most impressive. We ended up awarding 63 prizes. The next step was allocating the items we had received from the Embassy plus the things I had purchased from a stall in Paddy's Market in Sydney that we have been visiting for many years. Tanja, Corinne and I spent 2 hours organizing the prizes and each child received a certificate and letter, in addition to a set of pens and one item from the Embassy and 1 item from the Society. One child said that the prizes were much better than other competitions they had entered which only gave them a certificate!



Amanda, and I loaded all the entries and prizes into our cars and took them to the Embassy the day before the ceremony. Jean met us there and we then arranged entries on 3 tables and prizes on 2 making sure that everything was in order.

The ceremony was in the main hall at the Embassy. A very large banner had been ordered celebrating the 28th anniversary of the competition and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

We started with a short performance by the Kingsford-Smith School's lion dance team, followed by speeches by me and Ambassador Xiao.

Anna Zhang, a member of the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble, gave a lovely performance on the guzheng and then the prizes for 4 to 8 year olds were presented by Minister-Counsellor Song and the remaining prizes by the Ambassador. As each prize was presented the student's entry was held up and there were collective sighs of approval for many of them especially the hats and the beautiful hair pins.





The final prize was the Lee Hiscox award for the best entry which was won by 3 students from St John Paul College.

After a group photo on the steps of the Embassy we all enjoyed a very pleasant lunch.

It was a wonderful day. Many parents commented on what a great event it had been and really enjoyed seeing inside the Embassy. The success was helped by Society members Neil, Jean, Amanda, Abel, Geoff, Kate, Gerd and Brian who all did a sterling job on the day.

Our thanks to the Embassy for allowing us to have the ceremony (especially after 2 years of COVID prevented any ceremony at all) and for providing many of the gifts for the students.

The competition is a significant amount of work but it is most rewarding and is a very important way of fostering an awareness of Chinese culture.

My sincere thanks to everyone involved.

Carol Keil





Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Xiao Qian at the Award Ceremony of the 2022 Panda Competition

President Carol Keil of the Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear students,

Good morning!

It is a pleasure to meet you all at Embassy, and jointly witness the fruitful results of this year's Panda Competition. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Australia, I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to all of you. I pay my tribute to the Australia China Friendship Society for organizing this competition, and express my thanks to all the participating schools, teachers, students and their parents.

The Panda Competition has been running for more than 20 years. It has great influence in pre-schools, primary schools and high schools in the ACT. Each year, a different theme of traditional Chinese culture is chosen to inspire the students. The theme this year is "Chinese Traditional Personal Accessories". Accessories are essential elements and cultural products close to Chinese people's daily life. The drawings, paintings and handicrafts created by the students are full of imagination and kids fun, giving us a whole new perspective on "Traditional Chinese Personal Accessories".

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia. Over the past 50 years, our two countries and peoples have had close exchanges and fruitful cooperation in areas such as culture, education, economy and trade, science and technology. Currently, China is working with Australia to advance bilateral relations along the right track, based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit. In this process, culture plays an important role in strengthening understanding and friendship between the two peoples. And the Panda

Competition is an excellent example, using culture as a bridge to promote mutual understanding and strengthen friendship between our two countries.

I sincerely hope the Panda Competition will continue to be a success, and contribute more to the mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Australian people. I also hope that all students here today will continue to learn the Chinese culture and language, deepen your understanding of China, and become ambassadors of cultural exchange between China and Australia when you grow up.

To conclude, I wish today's ceremony a complete success, and hope you have a good time at the embassy.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Chinese Embassy for the text of the Ambassador's speech

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## Photographic and Cultural Exhibition

I received an invitation for Brian and I to attend the launch of a Photographic and Cultural Exhibition being staged at the Ainslie Football Club for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic Relations between Australia and the Peoples Republic of China. The Australia-China Economic & Cultural Promotions Association in Conjunction with the Australian Guangxi Friendship Association staged the event.

The evening commenced with national anthems, followed by welcome speeches, cutting of a ribbon by all the important guests, each of whom had their own pair of scissors and 2 group photos of 'important' and 'noted' guests – I was one of the 'noted' guests. The important guests included Ambassador Xiao, Various local MLAs, Andrew Leigh and Nic Mannikis.

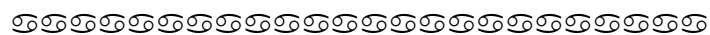
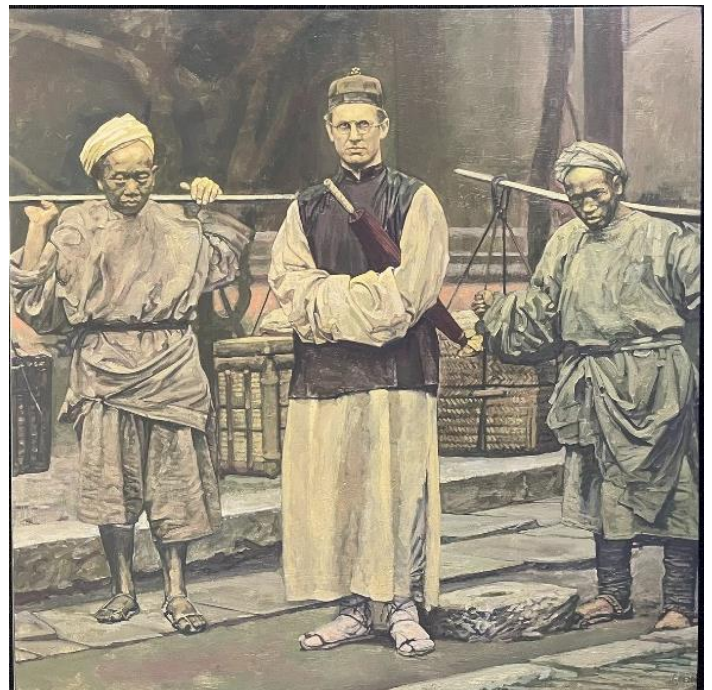


A 2 course dinner was enjoyed by the 180 guests, interspersed with speeches by each of the MLAs and Andrew Leigh and 10 performances by a wide variety of Chinese and western groups. There was also a large celebration cake, which we had for dessert and lucky number prizes which were donated by the Chinese Embassy. At our table was artist An Pan, who currently has an exhibition at Belconnen Arts Centre, and Yafen, wife of the previous Cultural Counsellor Yang Zhi.

The exhibition comprised 100 photos and paintings of significant events and persons in recent Chinese/Australian history. There was one image of George Morrison, whose son Alastair was a long-time member of the Society and another of our tree planting ceremony in the Canberra Beijing Garden.

It was an excellent evening and thanks go to Derek Jiang from DR Print for organizing the event.

**Carol Keil**



## Key takeaways from China's crucial political gathering

A crucial political event gathering Chinese national lawmakers and political advisors has showcased the country's "genuine and effective" democratic model, and stressed a slew of policy priorities including ethnic unity, food security and economic stability.

The annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), dubbed the "two sessions," are convened this year against the backdrop of a protracted COVID-19 pandemic and international uncertainties.

The fifth session of the 13th NPC has seen lawmakers consider a law amendment honing the people's congress system. It is also reviewing a government work report promising measures to stabilize the economy.

President Xi Jinping joined lawmakers and political advisors in deliberations and discussions, delivering important speeches that mapped out plans for strengthening ethnic unity, promoting the country's rural revitalization, and enhancing the rule of law in national defence and military building.

### Ethnic unity, food security

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined a deliberation with fellow lawmakers from north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Saturday. He hailed ethnic unity as the "lifeline" of Chinese people of all ethnic groups and stressed efforts to forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation. Any work that can help forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation should be done in a thorough, meticulous and solid manner, he said.

Joining national political advisors in a joint group meeting on Sunday, Xi said that in promoting rural revitalization, the supply of major agricultural products, grain in particular, must be secured as the top priority.

"Despite China's industrialization, food supply should never be considered an insignificant issue, and we cannot rely solely on the international market to solve it," Xi said, warning against slacking off on the food security issue.

China should be well-prepared, remain vigilant on food security, and adhere to the principle of self-sufficiency based on domestic grain production, guaranteed production capacity, moderate food imports and technological support, he said.

### **Genuine, effective democracy**

China practices a "whole-process people's democracy," which is "the broadest, most genuine, and most effective" democracy. The notion, first raised by Xi during an inspection tour in Shanghai in 2019, has become a buzzword during this year's "two sessions."

Lawmakers are deliberating a draft amendment to the Organic Law of the Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments, which will make "upholding whole-process people's democracy" a guiding principle.

Lawmakers are also mulling giving more seats in the next-term national legislature to people from the grassroots level and women, with a draft decision on the quota and election of deputies to the 14th NPC submitted for deliberation.

According to a work report of the NPC Standing Committee, all 473 proposals deputies put forward during the fourth session of the 13th NPC were reviewed by NPC special committees, and all 8,993 suggestions submitted by deputies during that session were forwarded to 194 organizations for examination and handling, which has now been completed. The proposals and suggestions covered various areas including measures to improve people's wellbeing, ecological protection and green development.

Responding to a question about whether China and the United States are vying for a greater say in democracy, Guo Weimin, spokesperson for the CPPCC session, said the United States convenes the so-called "Summit for Democracy" to suppress others and divide the world while maintaining its hegemony.

Guo said the United States uses democracy as a pretext to serve its own interests. "Democracy is diverse in its forms, and is not a patent held by a few countries," he said. "The democratic systems of countries should be chosen independently by their own people based on national conditions."

### **Stable growth top priority**

Economic stability must be a top priority in the government's work in 2022, and progress must be pursued while ensuring stability, noted this year's government work report. "In the face of new downward pressure, the task of ensuring stable growth needs to occupy an even more prominent position," the report said.

China has set its economic growth target for this year at around 5.5 percent, representing a medium-high rate of growth given the country's massive economic aggregate. Along with the GDP target, China aims to create over 11 million new urban jobs, keep a surveyed urban unemployment rate of no more than 5.5 percent, keep grain output at over 650 million tonnes and lower the ratio of its deficit to GDP to stand at around 2.8 percent in 2022.

China will ramp up efforts to pursue prudent and effective macro policies, continuously energize market entities, and expand reform and opening-up, said the report.

**Source: Xinhua News Agency, 2022-03-11**

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