

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

PO Box 530, Civic Sq, ACT 2608

ABN: 51 554 404 306
acfsact@gmail.com
www.acfs.org.au

Bulletin

2023/9 September 2023

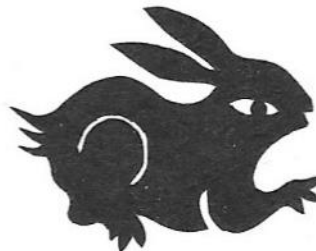
Coming events

Talk by Jocelyn Chey

27 September

ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble concert

1 October



Committee

President

Carol Keil

6247 8231

cjkeil@proforte.com.au

Secretary

Tanja Naeher

6259 5539

Treasurer

Neil Birch

6287 4602

Bulletin editor

Jean Norman

0405 617 222

jjnorman46@iinet.net.au

Committee members

John Wong

6294 0068

Alex Olah

0490 660 738

Amanda Andrews

0452 323 520

Corinne Zhang

Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

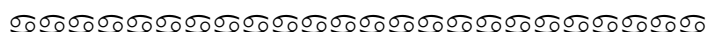
Talk by Jocelyn Chey

Professor Jocelyn Chey AM has kindly agreed to once again come and give a talk at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 September 2023 in the Catchpole Room of the Southern Cross Club, Jamison.

Humour is a universal human attribute, but is there something special or unique about humour in Chinese life or literature? The author is the co-author and co-editor of two books that have attempted to answer this question. In this illustrated talk, she will give a brief introduction to how humour has been recorded in Chinese writing over the centuries and how it is being expressed in the present digital age. The special qualities of Chinese humour relate to the written and spoken language, but there are also universal qualities that are shared with Australians and others around the world.

Jocelyn Chey AM is Visiting Professor at the University of Sydney and Adjunct Professor at Western Sydney University and UTS Sydney. She is retired from the diplomatic service. She and Jessica Milner Davis have published two books, *Humour in Chinese Life and Letters*, and *Humour in Chinese Life and Culture*, as well as several articles on the same subject.

As usual, members and friends can enjoy dinner in the bistro from 6.00pm before the talk. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 25 September. Admission to the talk is by gold coin (or more!) donation.



ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble

A concert of Traditional Chinese music 'Travelling with Clouds' will be presented by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble on Sunday 1 October from 2-4.30pm at the Cook Community Hub, Templeton St, Cook. The Society has been co-operating with the Ensemble for many years and any profits from the performance are shared between the Ensemble, for their instrument purchase fund, and the Society, to contribute towards the support of the 7 Project Hope students we sponsor to stay at school in the remote mountainous area of Beijing.

Unfortunately, the China in the World Centre was not available as a venue due to renovation work so it will be at Cook Community Hub in Templeton St on Sunday 1 October from 2 – 4.30pm. Afternoon tea will be served.

Tickets are Adult \$20, Society members and concessions \$15, Students and children 10 and over are \$10 and children under 10 are \$5.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, September 2023

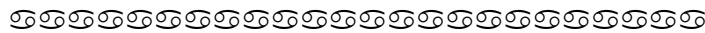
- China is the world's second largest economy and a global leader in hi-tech development, but in 2022 its per-capita GDP stood at \$US12,741, one fifth the average for developed economies and one sixth that of the United States. So, is China a developed or developing country? See the article "More Than Meets the Eye" below.
- A 50–50 joint venture by Air China and Rolls-Royce is establishing a facility adjacent to a Beijing Airport for maintenance, repair and overhaul of aero engines. It will support both companies' sustainability goals by reducing the long-distance transport of aero engines for servicing.
- Non-cash payments handled by Chinese Banks continued to increase. In the latest quarter, settlements hit 1,309 trillion yuan, up 12.3% in a year. Electronic payments accounted for 842 trillion yuan. Electronic payments using mobile devices rose 14.3% to 139 trillion yuan. Bank Card payments rose 11.4% a year, 272 trillion yuan in the latest quarter.
- The China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) claims its generation of clean energy led to a reduction of coal consumption of 262 million tons and a decrease of CO₂ emissions of 688 million tons, the equivalent of 2.26 billion trees and afforesting 1.88 million hectares. CNNC controls 25 operational nuclear power units and has 15 under construction. In 2022 it generated 186 billion kWh of electricity, 44.5% of China's total nuclear power generation.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

We have a QR code for the event or you can book via <https://trybooking.com/CKQOO>



Do come and support the Society and the Ensemble and if you have anywhere you could put the flier (at the end of this Bulletin) up it would be most helpful.



Australian Centre on China in the World News & Events

Podcast



The Little Red Podcast – Cat Years in Cat Country: Sci-Fi in China Hosted by Louisa Lim and Graeme Smith

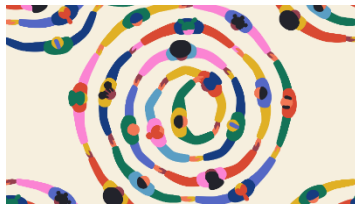
Just as satirical writers struggled in Trump's America, China's sci-fi writers are facing a challenge: how do you write in a world where reality is more like science fiction than science fiction itself? Hear more from **Emily Jin** (PhD Candidate, Yale University) and **Michael Berry** (Professor, University of California, Los Angeles).

Events



ANU China Seminar Series | Barefoot Doctors in China: Socio-politics, Epidemiologic Transition, and Community Medicine **Xiaoping Fang, Monash University** **4pm, 14 September 2023 | CIW Seminar Room**

This talk examines key factors that contributed to the development of rural health care under the Maoist era and how it has shaped the unique path of health provision in China over the past seven decades.



2023 Immersia: Engaging with Asia and the Pacific **5 – 30 September 2023**

From dance performances and music to workshops and seminars, explore the cultures of the Asia-Pacific region for a truly immersive experience!



ANU Anthropology Seminar Series | These Days, These Homes: Miao domesticity, Chinese modernity **Jenny Choi, University of Southern California** **3pm, 18 September 2023 | ONLINE**

These Days, These Homes is a work in progress film project centered on the lives and homes of two Miao women in 21st century China. The film explores domesticity, gender, and development through a portrait of their

changing homes across the rural and urban spaces of southwest Guizhou province. [Zoom Link](#) Password: 968025



2023 Immersia: Chinese Tea Tasting
1pm, 19 September 2023 | CIW Seminar Room

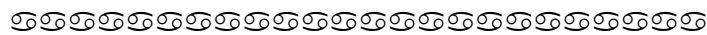
Join us at the CIW Tea House for a relaxing tea tasting experience guided by Professor Benjamin Penny, Research Fellow, School of Culture, History and Language.



Exhibition | Florilegium: Distant Memories
24 July – 15 December 2023 | CIW Gallery

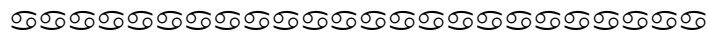
Florilegium: Distant Memories is an autobiographical, multi-component, immersive exhibition featuring an on-site installation by Taiwanese Australian artist Ruth Ju-shih Li 李如詩. Paired with porcelain pieces made in

Jingdezhen—the ceramics capital of China—*Florilegium: Distant Memories* offers a fresh exploration of the revered ceramic medium.



Talk on holistic Traditional Chinese Medicine

The Society’s function for August, a talk on ‘Holistic Chinese Traditional Medicine’ at the Jamison Southern Cross Club on Wednesday 30 August attracted a large audience. Doctor Xue Song Liu from the Song & Yang Clinic gave an interesting insight into the differences between Chinese and western medicine and the diagnostic indications used in Traditional Chinese Medicine.



Mandarin Awards 2023

The ceremony for mandarin awards was held this year at the Cook Community Hub instead of the China in the World Centre which is undergoing renovation. The committee arrived early to set up the room but had to wait until the ballet school finished some 15 minutes after we had been advised. Setting out 120 chairs – we had 23 students and 75 parents, guests, teachers and Society members – took a little while, as did setting out the afternoon tea. Special guests were Minister-Counsellor Song from the Chinese Embassy and Liling Huang from the ACT Government Education Directorate.

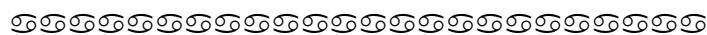
We started with a lion dance by students from Kingsford Smith School, followed by short speeches by Carol and Minister-Counsellor Song who then presented the awards to the students who came from Canberra High, Kingsford Smith School, Melrose High, Canberra College, Dickson College, Gungahlin College, Hawker College. Melba-Copland Secondary School, Merici College, Narrabundah College, Radford College and St John Paul II College.

Afternoon tea followed and we were able to meet parents of the students, who were very happy to be invited, and catch up with teachers.



Thanks to Tanja who drove the 'Chair trolley' and organised the afternoon tea, Corinne, who purchased said afternoon tea, Jean who handed the awards to Mr Song for presenting to the students, John who took photos, Neil and Amanda who checked in arrivals and directed students to their seats, Alex who dashed off to buy extra biscuits and all the committee plus Geoff Winter for packing up.

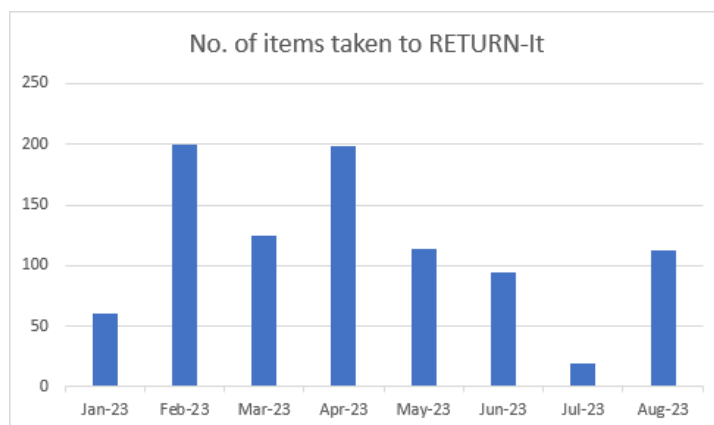
It was a very successful event.



Recycling of cans and bottles

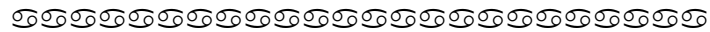
Many thanks to those members who have taken their cans and bottles to the RETURN-IT recycling centres and chosen to donate the refund to ACFS.

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



Total this year: 924 items.

Instructions on how to credit deposits to our account are now on our website www.acfs.org.au under the tab 'Contribute to the Society'.



More Than Meets the Eye

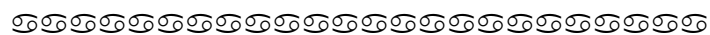
Source: *Beijing Review* of 14 September 2023

China, a developed or still developing country? That is the question. Some claim that China, the world's second largest economy and a global leader in hi-tech development, should be considered a developed country; others argue that China cannot be considered a developed country because its per-capita economic indicators rank low globally. Neither international law nor international organizations offer official definitions of developed or developing countries. But, in practice, one of the most common metrics used to determine if an economy is developed or developing is per-capita GDP. In 2022, China's per-capita GDP stood at \$12,741, one fifth the average for developed economies and one sixth that of the United States.

Another commonly used metric is the UN's human development index, which goes beyond the economic realm to look at indicators such as literacy and access to healthcare. China ranked 79th in 2021, far behind the 30-plus countries that are deemed developed. Despite the remarkable achievements China has made in recent decades, it still faces developmental imbalances and shortcomings and has yet to develop a strong capacity to innovate in science and technology. China has booming cities, like the megalopolises of Beijing and Shanghai. But it is also a country with many places, especially in the rural areas, where infrastructure is in dire need of improvement and where many people struggle to secure a well-off life.

China has eradicated absolute poverty, achieving the poverty reduction goal of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. Based on this, the country now focuses on pursuing its rural revitalization strategy—one closely intertwined with absolute poverty elimination and a core component of the Central Government's goals to promote more balanced economic and social development. As it develops itself, China is playing an increasingly important role on the international stage. For instance, it has become the second largest contributor to both the UN's regular budget and the international body's peacekeeping operations spending. But the responsibilities China is expected to shoulder must be in line with its own development level.

Thanks to Neil Birch for this item.



Moon Festival

Source: <https://www.timeout.com/hong-kong/things-to-do/the-ultimate-guide-to-mid-autumn-festival-in-hong>

Although the true origin of Mid-Autumn Festival is not known for certain, history records show that moon-worshipping practices began over 3,000 years ago in the Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-1046 BC). But, the festival only became an official celebration in China during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) when ancient emperors of China would host a feast to make offerings to deities and the moon in celebration of the year's harvest. After the Tang Dynasty, Mid-Autumn Festival also became a time of the year for the emperor to reward his officials for their hard work and contributions. Over time, it evolved into a festival of many traditions: to give thanks to the moon,

pray for better luck, fortune and fertility, and reunite with the family to celebrate and admire the moon in its full glory.

Legends of the moon

There are many versions of the myth and story behind Mid-Autumn Festival, but the most well-known revolves around an archer hero named Hou Yi and his wife Chang'e.

As the legend goes, Hou Yi was rewarded with an elixir of immortality after shooting down nine out of the ten suns that ravaged the land with drought and disaster. However, when Hou Yi's apprentice, Feng Meng, attempted to steal the elixir, Chang'e stopped him by drinking the elixir herself. After doing so, she became immortal and floated to the moon, never to be seen by her beloved husband again. After learning what had happened to Chang'e, Hou Yi would prepare a feast on this day every year when the moon is believed to be the fullest, in hopes of catching a glimpse of his wife's shadow.



Time-honoured traditions

The Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance is one of the most spectacular traditions during the Mid-Autumn Festival in Hong Kong. Legend has it that in the 1880s, the villagers in Tai Hang successfully chased off plague and evil spirits by parading the village with a straw dragon covered with incense. To commemorate the victory, the villagers would perform a fire dragon dance through the alleys and streets of Tai Hang every year since. The Tai Hang dragon is a massive structure is covered in thousands of incense sticks burning on its body, made out of hemp rope, pearl straw, and rattan and requires hundreds of performers to prop it up. Today, this public event has become one of the most famous annual rituals in Hong Kong and shines as a testament to the city's rich cultural traditions.



Lanterns

Lanterns are no doubt one of the oldest traditions of the Mid-Autumn



Festival. For thousands of years, communities would come together during the holiday to write wishes on sky lanterns (the type that floats up into the sky) and light them in honour of the legendary goddess of the moon, Chang'e, hoping that she would bless her worshippers with luck.

Moon gazing

Each year, there are three important days to gaze at the moon among the Chinese community: on the eve of Mid-Autumn Festival when we welcome the moon; on the day of the festival to admire the moon; and on the following day to send off the moon. This annual affair is a popular tradition that still remains in our modern city and every year, families, friends, and couples flock to the best spots in town to admire the beautiful moon.



Mooncakes

Mooncakes are said to have originated from Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 AD) revolutionaries as a means to pass covert messages hidden in them. Nowadays, mooncakes symbolise togetherness and harmony, and every year we see shops and restaurants touting mooncakes of all kinds. In fact, there's an overwhelming variety of flavours to choose from these days. The most traditional ones, however, are made with a lotus seed paste with a salted egg yolk centre. Mooncakes are usually eaten in small wedges with families or friends during the night of Mid-Autumn, often served with tea or wine.



Water caltrops ('ling kok')

Known as water caltrops, and sometimes water chestnuts, this lesser-known customary food is only harvested once a year, usually a few weeks before the



festival. They are probably one of the weirdest-looking nuts you'll ever see, but don't judge a nut by its shell as underneath its devilish appearance, is white nutty flesh with a slight crunch that tastes like a mildly sweet combination of roasted chestnuts and potato. While some consider the chestnut to resemble a bat, an auspicious symbol of prosperity because its Chinese character is homophonous with the word 'fok' (which means luck and prosperity in Chinese); others believe that this dish is eaten during the festival because of the word 'ling' in its

Chinese name, which sounds like the same 'ling' in the Chinese idiom 'chung ming ling lei', meaning smart or clever.

Sweet glutinous rice dumplings

No Mid-Autumn meal would be complete without serving up some sweet glutinous rice dumplings ('tong yuen'). Not only do they taste delicious and make a great post-feast dessert, but it is also symbolic in reflecting the tradition of families being together during the festival as the character 'yuen', is the same letter used in the Chinese word 'tuen yuen', which means togetherness.

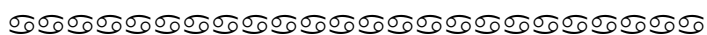
Osmanthus wine

We pair mooncakes with all different kinds of beverages nowadays, but the most traditional during Mid-Autumn Festival is probably osmanthus wine. It is a Chinese alcoholic drink that uses baijiu and osmanthus flowers to create a sweet wine with a subtle floral aroma. Osmanthus is traditionally believed to be the key to longevity and is often offered during toasts to encourage a long and healthy life. Some historical records also suggest that osmanthus flowers were exchanged between countries during the Warring States period as a symbol of peace and goodwill. The Chinese

character for osmanthus 'gwai' also sounds similar to the word for wealth, so drinking osmanthus wine on the night of the full moon also represents the celebration of prosperity, health, and harmony. We'll cheers to that.

Tea

In addition to wine, tea and mooncakes are also an inseparable pair. Apart from cutting through the grease, tea also aids digestion, which definitely comes in handy after a full feast and sticky mooncakes!



On Parks and QR Codes

By Igor Tasic. *Beijing Review*: NO.30 JULY 27, 2023

I am sure you have read before all about the grandness of China. But in these few lines, I would like to talk about two of the things that impressed me most on my first-ever visit to China: parks and QR codes.

Forget for a while anything you know about parks and using QR codes in your country. In China, they are totally different concepts. For me, they served as a great metaphor for how a society can evolve toward modernity without losing the traditional values that stitch it together harmoniously.

It all started with the tiny park in front of my hotel in Shenzhen. It was a small yet beautiful park, so one day, I decided to buy some dumplings and sit on a bench there to eat them for lunch. That's when the magic first struck me. An immediate sense of peace, harmony and tranquility enveloped me, even though I was in the middle of a tech metropolis. In silence, I thanked the park designers for creating such an oasis, where no matter how stressed one might be, in that park, one can't feel anything but at peace among the lovely grass, trees and birds chirping. Was I getting in touch deeply with fengshui? No matter what, after 10 or 15 minutes, I was renewed, energized to take the futuristic subway to reach another part of town.

Arriving at the subway station, I found QR codes everywhere and people using them in place of tickets. It being my very first day in China, I still didn't have my SIM card and Weixin Pay on my phone. So after reading every sign I could, I approached a very kind worker who taught me how to buy a ticket and scan it to enter. So, Day One in China: dumplings, a peaceful park, QR codes, and an ultramodern subway system. All coexisting perfectly and peacefully with one another.

After arriving in Beijing, I decided to experience another park, Yuyuantan. Wow. As dusk fell, couples started to get ready to dance, parents played with their kids, and enthusiasts were flying some of the most impressive kites I have ever seen. Then I realized that parks were not just a place to relax but a place for one to express oneself. In the parks, people were honing their talents, building social bonds, and experiencing the pure joy of being alive. It was inspiring. I wanted to find the source code of harmony and balance while living in this society.

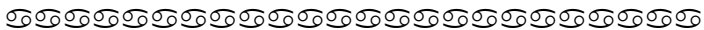


Igor Tasic takes a photo with a statue of the ancient sage Confucius (551-479 B.C.) at the Temple of Confucius, Beijing, on June 17 (COURTESY PHOTO)

My mobile phone had been converted into a super tool to access everything, from buying food to entering a high-speed train. Now the QR codes made more sense, and I started to understand how Chinese society uses them to make life simpler. Unlike what I see in other countries, in China, the mobile phone is primarily a tool to manage all tasks of day-to-day life. It is integrated into people's lifestyles, creating free time to invest in other areas to improve oneself. That is precisely what I thought smartphones should do when I first saw one in 2007. In China, that digital life I always hoped to see was an objective fact. A digital society was up and running. And there I was, inspired again.

And then that confluence of tradition and technology appeared in front of my eyes everywhere, every day. From my walks around hills by the famed West Lake in Hangzhou to my WiFi connection on the high-speed train to Shanghai. A harmonious coexistence between the past and the future, creating a present that inspired me and could inspire the world. A present that I wish my sons can experience.

The author is the founder and CEO of Meta Ventures, a Spain-based metaverse and technology research and development advisory



Savouring a sea of flowers

Source: *China Today*, 2023-05-18



Visitors are enjoying views of rhododendrons in full bloom at the Jinpo scenic area in Qianxi City of southwest China's Guizhou Province.

云
游

Yun You Travelling with Clouds

澳
洲
国
立
大
学
华
乐
团

An annual fundraising performance
by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble



Sunday 1 October 2023
2-4.30pm
Cook Community Hub
Templeton St, Cook

Child under 10 - \$5

Child/student - \$10

Concession/ACFS - \$15

Adult - \$20

For tickets please visit:

<https://trybooking.com/CKQ00>

Proudly presented by

the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble In association
with the Australia China Friendship Society , ACT Branch



Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 January and are current until 31 December of the same year. The monthly Bulletin is included in the subscription and is distributed by email.

Subscription rates, payable to **the Treasurer, PO Box 530, Civic Square ACT 2608** are:

Single \$20 Family \$35 Centrelink Concession Holder: Individual \$15 and Family \$25

Name(s).....

Address.....

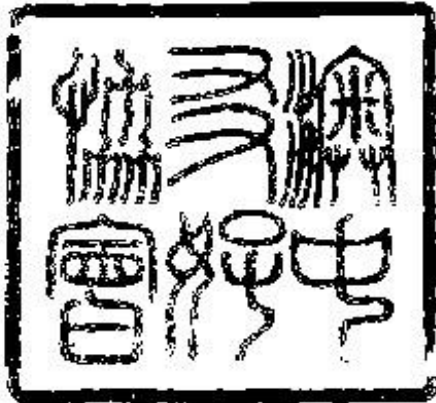
..... Postcode

Email.....

Phone (home) (work) Mobile

Renewal New Member

Direct Credit Details:
Beyond Bank
BSB: 325-185
A/C No. 03411481
A/C Name: ACFS ACT
Branch Inc
Ref: Your name



Australia China Friendship Society
PO Box 530
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608 AUSTRALIA

ACT Branch Bulletin