

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2023/12 December 2023

Coming events

Panda competition presentation	1 December
Christmas dinner	6 December
Chinese New Year celebration in Dickson	10 February
Chinese New Year lunch	11 February
Lantern making workshop	18 February
Lantern Festival	24 February



Committee

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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Christmas dinner

The final function for the year will be a Christmas dinner on Wednesday 6 December. The dinner will be at 7.00pm at Jimmy's Place in Dickson at a cost of \$35 per person (members) or \$40 per person (non-members). Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 1 December.

The menu is:

Whitebait with spicy salt
Steamed barramundi
Crisp skin chicken with ginger shallot sauce
Deep fried king prawns with spicy salt
Sizzling steak with black pepper sauce
Mandarin pork chop
Two kinds of mushrooms with vegetables
Steamed rice
Desserts
Chinese tea.

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## Chinese New Year lunch

We will start off the new year with a Chinese New Year lunch on Sunday 11 February, at a venue to be decided. Mark the date and await further details!

The dates for the Lantern making workshop and the Lantern Festival are on the front page. These are major events, so note the dates and consider helping out on the day, especially at the Festival.

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Australian Centre on China in the World Events



ANU China Seminar Series | Australian Media, PRC Migrants, and the Politics of Social Cohesion
Wanning Sun, University of Technology Sydney
4pm, 27 November 2023 | CIW Seminar Room +ONLINE

Social cohesion has been identified as a key element of Australia's national interest, underpinning Australia's prosperity and security. The media play an important role in building social cohesion. This presentation discusses how exposure to media content about the PRC and Chinese-Australian communities impacts on Australia's social cohesion objectives.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, December 2023

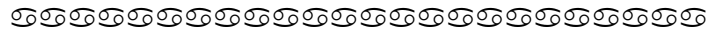
- Methane is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. The livestock industry is a large emitter of methane, and China aims to utilise at least 80% of the manure from livestock by 2025; by 2030, this is expected to increase to over 85%.
- A wild Himalayan yew tree believed to be over 1,000 years old has been found in the Fengqing area of the Lancang River nature reserve in Yunnan Province. It is about 12 metres tall with a diameter of 1.32 metres. The yew grows slowly and has a poor regeneration ability. Over 1,000 wild yews have been recorded in Fengqing, they are confined to an area of about 530 hectares between 2,500 and 3,000 metres above sea level. The Himalayan yew is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.
- China's first domestically built large cruise ship the Adora Magic City was delivered in November, its maiden voyage is due on 1 January 2024. It is 323.6 metres long with a gross weight of 135,500 tonnes. It can accommodate 5,246 passengers in 2,125 guest rooms.
- On 6 November, American biotech company Moderna commenced construction of its first pharmaceutical plant in China. The Moderna China research and development and production headquarters is in the Shanghai Xinzhuang Industrial Park and will cover about 18 hectares.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.



**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.



Committee News – October 2023 meeting

On a very rainy November evening, a small contingent of your committee met at the 'China Tea Club' restaurant in Dickson for their meeting.

Those who had attended the movie evening in early November commented that it was a shame less than 10 people were present on the night. The movie was enjoyed by those that did make it and we are aware a few people have been away.

Final arrangements for the Panda Competition award event at the Embassy on 1 December were discussed – thanks to the volunteers as always for helping on the day. More than 70 awardees and their carers, teachers and principals will be looking forward to the event, so will prove to be a busy time. Really looking forward to seeing photos of the event!

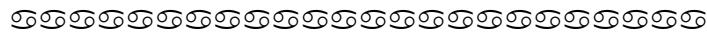
The ACT Government's Multicultural grant was released with roughly a month to apply – so the committee has had to high tail the application. We will be ready to submit by the due date – 30 November 2023. If successful, the grant will be used to subsidise the 2024 Lantern Festival celebration and associated lantern making workshop – so please all cross your fingers.

Lunar New Year celebrations were progressed a little further – we are planning a Chinese New Year's Day lunch on Sunday 11 February 2024, following what will be an extremely hectic day for those volunteering at the Chinese Lunar New Year festival in Dickson on Saturday 10 February 2024. No details of this event have been received as yet.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at 'Jimmy's' restaurant in Dickson for our Christmas dinner on 6 December 2023.

Our meal following the meeting was delicious – my favourite dish was the Nam King beef. Take care with the festivities leading up to the end of the year!

Your Secretary, Tanja



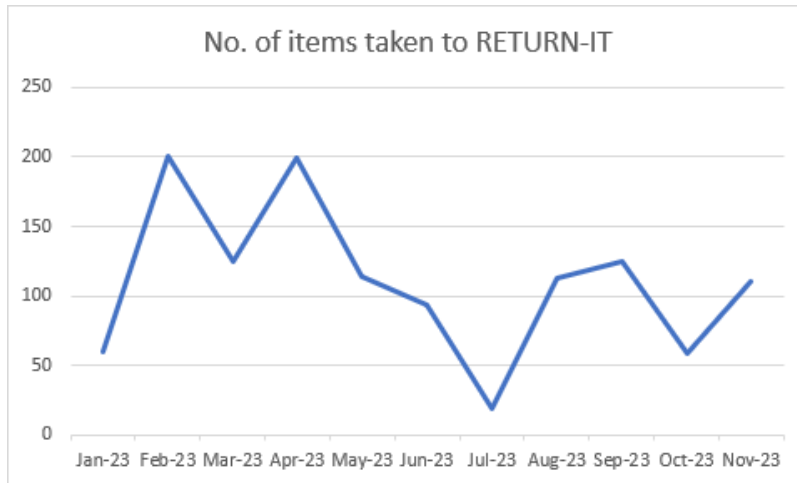
Project Hope students

We recently received the following information about the students we support through Project Hope. Some members help in this effort with private donations, the rest comes from our fund-raising. If you would like to contribute, please contact Carol Keil on 0417 041 148 or cjkeil@proforte.com.au.

	Name	Sex	School	Age	Family situation	Funding Standard 2023 (Yuan)
1	Peng Xianzi	F	3rd Grade in Beijing Arts and Design Technology Institute	18	Her mother is in poor health and has no job. Her father works as a farmer and takes some odd jobs occasionally	1500
2	Zhou Xiaowei	F	3rd Grade in the 8th high School of Yanqing District	15	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
3	Miao Xin	M	2nd Grade in Beijing Huairou District Vocational School	16	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. His stepmother has passed away. His brother studies at primary school. The family is supported by a social subsistence allowance.	1500
4	Liu Zikun	F	4th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	9	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	4th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	9	Her father works as a farmer with a 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	4th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	9	Her parents do not have permanent jobs, supporting the family with income from odd jobs. Her grandparents live with the family together with her younger siblings, all incapable of work. Their lives are in great difficulties.	1000
7	Li Xinting	F	4th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	9	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. Both her grandmas are in poor health with persistent medication and live with the family.	1000
8	Li Yunfei	M	2nd Grade in Huaibei Primary School	7	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 a subsistence allowance.	1000
9	Liu Qi	F	2nd Grade in Beijing National Day School Jiuduhe Primary School	7	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	2nd Grade in Longwantuncun Central Primary School	7	Her mother, her grandma and grandpa are all severely handicapped and incapable of working. Her father has no full time job and works on odd jobs to earn meagre income.	1000

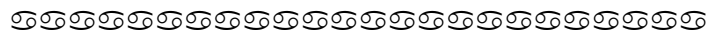
Recycling of cans and bottles

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.



To date 1218 items have been returned for refunds to the Society.

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'.



Letter from Zhanjiang – Roger Arnold

Hook, line and sinker

After I first moved to China around 18 years ago, when out early in early mornings enjoying some exercise I would often pass older retirees, almost always male, fishing in the local river and nearby canals. Mostly, they were set for extended stays having brought along stools, tea thermoses and more. Almost never did I ever see anyone catching a fish;



most of these fishermen looked contented and very happy to simply be out enjoying nature and the comradery of nearby fellow fishermen.

One morning I remember a wonderful encounter with one such fisherman who was quite jovial and had reasonable English. He commented to the effect that the days when he actually caught a fish of decent, edible size were few and far between; "I just do it for fun, it's better than playing mahjong." Clearly, a lot of the fishermen I saw during my early morning exercise routes simply enjoyed their hobby of fishing on account of it being a peaceful, enjoyable way to spend their time.

In recent years though, and particularly since the covid-19 pandemic began back in early 2020, such recreational fishing has been attracting a lot more

participants here in China. But an interesting difference to earlier times, many of these newer enthusiasts are noticeably younger. Indeed, just before the pandemic, a fishing industry survey found that 46 percent of Chinese anglers were, at that time, aged between 25 and 44 years old, and 22 percent were even younger, leaving the older, retired fishermen in the minority.



One young friend of ours, who goes by the English name of Sun, is a great example of such anglers. Sun's 'day job' is a young, resident doctor at one of the local hospitals in Beihai. But when the tides and weather are right, she loves to escape to her 'secret' fishing spots, often posting photos of her exploits on social media.

Sun certainly doesn't fit the former common stereotype of retirees who take up fishing to pass the time. She says she's drawn to fishing for a mixture of reasons, including the comradery she finds among her young fishing buddies, the escape to nature (particularly to serenity of her 'secret' fishing spots) and for the scientific interest of what marine life she can encounter. Interestingly, she rarely keeps her catches, preferring to fish on a catch and release basis. For her, as for an increasing proportion of other fishermen here, it's more about the thrill of the catch and the encounter rather than scoring edible booty to cook up back at home.

I have also come across new fishing devotees among colleagues at work, including some who have yet to actually take up rods. One day at work, I found a couple of my younger colleagues watching *luya* videos (*luya* means "lure" fishing) and instantly assumed they must be skilled recreational fishermen. But when I started chatting with them about their experiences, I was dumbfounded to learn that neither of them had actually tried such fishing – they simply found delight, and a few moments of escapism, in watching other people trying to catch fish in serene environments. Who would have thought that watching other people fish would provide relief and happiness in an often-frantic world!

Another type of fishing, and one that does involve active participation, has also been rapidly gaining in popularity in China over recent years involves recreational fishing ponds. At these places, often located close to major population centres, individuals and groups can fish in well stocked fish ponds for a modest cost. The price varies markedly between venues in relation to the types of fish in their ponds and the facilities provided (and perhaps how well stocked their ponds are, and the likelihood of a bountiful catch). Some such ponds charge a flat time-based fee, whilst others charge per rod, maybe including a catch of several kg but then with an additional charge for excess catch weight. For example, at one recreational fishing pond setup near Zhanjiang that we visited recently, the charges were: "50 yuan/person/two fishing rods (no extra fee if less

than 5 kg of fish are taken, caught by yourself); any excess fish over 5 kg will incur a charge of 10 yuan/kg”

Of course, weight-based charges apply only for fish one catches to take home or consume on the spot (such as on BBQs provided, or cooked in the fishing pond’s restaurant). But some pond anglers also enjoy the pursuit or hunt involved in fishing for the sake of it and, like our friend Sun, happily fish on a catch and release basis.

With the rising interest (and growing business opportunities) in such fishing ponds, there has been a trend for these to get more elaborate and appealing, with some even offering appealing landscaping, restaurants and/or BBQ facilities, fishing cabins and even kids playgrounds so people can make it a great family outing.

With this proliferation of active participation in recreational fishing, there has been a small tsunami of new opportunities for businesses catering to such anglers in China. Supposedly, this burgeoning hobby generated equipment sales of close to 100 billion yuan (around US\$15 billion) in 2019, double what it was just five years earlier. Since then, especially during the covid-19 pandemic, there has been a further surge in the number of enthusiastic, active adherents with sales of fishing gear increasing by a further 50% over 2019 levels.

So, what does the future hold for such recreational fishing in China? Should the fish themselves be worried?

My answer to such questions would be that perhaps fish should be optimistic about the future. With more people fishing I am sure there will be a much greater appreciation for nature and all things piscatorial, especially fish habitats. In due course, I am sure this will lead to greater appreciation of natural aquatic environments that fish need to thrive, be it lakes, coastal waters, inlets, streams and rivers; this can only be good for both, fish, people and indeed the whole environment.



How ancient Chinese clothes helped beat the summer heat

chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2023-07-18 16:56

As the scorching days of summer descend upon China, modern people tend to embrace clothing characterized by lightness and thinness. But this is not as new a trend as one might think. Unlike the elaborate attire often depicted in TV series, ancient Chinese wore clothing that was lighter and thinner than modern imaginations can fathom.

Ancient stories vividly portray the lightweight clothing worn during summer. One tale recounts an encounter in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) where an Arabian merchant came across an official donning a gauzy garment. Astonishingly, the merchant could discern a mole on the official's chest through five layers of clothing.



The sha gown unearthed from Han Tomb No.1 at Mawangdui in Changsha, Hunan province in 1972. [Photo/Hunan Provincial Museum]

If imagination is too taxing, let us explore some examples of summer clothing from ancient China.

Sha Gown

A sha (plain gauze) gown was unearthed from Han Tomb No.1 at Mawangdui in Changsha, Hunan province, in 1972. It is the earliest, most well-preserved, most exquisite and thinnest dress in the world. The plain gown, "thin as a cicada wing" and "light as smoke", weighs 49 grams. It is only 25g with the sleeve openings and collar removed and can be folded into a matchbox. This piece represents the highest level of early Han in silk reeling and fabric manufacture.



A dark blue luo robe from the Tang Dynasty. [Photo/China Silk Museum]

Luo Robe

Well-suited for the humid southern regions of China, luo (gauze) has larger holes in the fabric compared with sha, making it more lightweight and breathable. From the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220) to the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) Dynasties, luo was predominantly used for the clothing of the nobility, and only officials of fifth rank or higher were permitted to wear garments made of the material.



A natural-colored ge robe from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).
[Photo/Confucius Museum]

Ge Clothes

Silk fabrics such as sha and luo were highly valued and deemed luxurious for common people. However, resourceful individuals discovered a method to utilize plant fibers for clothing production, significantly reducing the cost of summer garments. Ge, also known as kudzu or Chinese arrowroot, represents the earliest utilization of natural fiber as fabric in China. Once the lunar month of June arrived, people would typically transition to ge clothing.



A painting depicts scenes of ancient women producing and weaving ma in the Tang Dynasty. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

Ma Clothes

Among the fabrics used for summer clothing in ancient times, ge cloth was known for its quality and affordability. However, fabric made from the herbaceous plant "ma" offered an even better combination of quality and cost-effectiveness. Hemp, flax, ramie and jute are collectively called "ma", and the word is also used to refer to these materials when the exact species is unknown.

Since the Han Dynasty, ma has been cultivated on a large scale, making the cloth inexpensive. The advancement of textile technology allowed ma cloth to be woven finely. It is breathable and easy to dye, making it a commonly used fabric for summer clothing.

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

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

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