

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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www.acfs.org.au

Bulletin

2024/1 January 2024

Coming events

Chinese New Year celebration in Dickson	10 February
Chinese New Year lunch	11 February
Lantern making workshop	18 February
Lantern Festival	24 February

Memberships due

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

Committee

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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

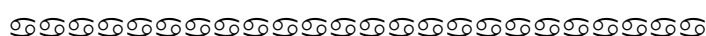
Chinese New Year lunch Welcome the Year of the Dragon

We are unable to hold our annual Chinese New Year meal at the China Tea Club this year, as they do not open on a Sunday. Instead we are trying another venue, proposing a variety of tasty dishes.

Venue: The Golden Drum, Shop 1/14 Childers Street, Canberra City
Time: 12 noon
Date: 11 February 2024
Cost: \$35 for members and \$37 for non-members
RSVP: 6 February 2024

We hope to see you there!

Tanja



Lantern Festival and Lantern-making workshop

Volunteers needed

Chinese New Year is a busy time for the Society and we have 3 events in 2 weeks for which we badly need some volunteers to help out.

10 Feb 11-5pm: Lunar New Year in Dickson

We sell lanterns and small Chinese decorations to raise funds for our Project Hope students. This was a very successful event for us last year and we hope for a repeat.

18 Feb 1.30 – 3.30pm: Lantern-making workshop at the Cook Community Hub.

Children and adults learn how to make a variety of paper lanterns. Printed instructions are provided. No experience is necessary and a quick run through for volunteers will be provided beforehand. All materials are provided, cost \$3 per person, bookings to acfsevent@gmail.com by 11 February. If you would like to attend or come and help, please do!

24 Feb 11am – 9pm: Lantern Festival

This is our major event for the year and several of our key volunteers are not available this time. We will have a preliminary setup from 11-1pm, the remaining setup from 3-5.15pm, the Festival from 6-8.30pm, packup from 8.30-9.30pm. The main help is needed during the Festival – selling lanterns, helping with the parade and a few other tasks.

We will be needing help with the setting up of the park for the festival. There are lanterns and lights to hang, tables to set up, lanterns to be prepared. We will have one session from 10.30am – 1pm to set-up the lights around the performance area and the main set-up session will be from ~2.30pm with a view to having everything done by 5.30 or so.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, January 2024

- The Spring Festival travel rush or *chunyun* is expected to see 9 billion passage trips this year; it is a 40 day period, this year from 26 January to the 5 March around the Luna New Year, 10 February. *Chunyun* is considered the world's largest annual human migration.
- The booming eastern provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangsu raised their minimum wages by 9.2% in January to attract workers and offset rising living costs. The previous adjustment was in August 2021. This increase was the 18th since the minimum wage was introduced in 1994. The minimum monthly wage for a full time worker in Zhejiang is 2,490 yuan.
- China's shipbuilding output in 2023 rose 11.8% to 42.32 million deadweight tons, estimated to be 50.2% of the world's output. New orders rose 56% year on year to 71.2 million dead weight tons.
- China's car exports rose 58% in 2023 to 4.91 million vehicles, in 2021 exports were over 2 million and over 3 million in 2022. The forecast for 2024 is 5.5 million vehicles. In 2023 exports of NEV's rose 78%, electric vehicle by 81% and hybrid vehicles by 48%.

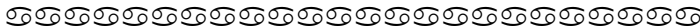
Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

There is also a great need for help with sales of lanterns. Tasks include handing out lanterns with LED lights and sticks, and taking payments. There is always a huge rush just before the lantern parade begins, so at least six people would be good. The more we have the more we can organise shifts so some volunteers can see some of the performances.

All these events are very enjoyable and we cannot run them without the help of Society members. We would greatly appreciate any time you are able to give.

If you can help please email acfsevent@gmail.com.au as soon as possible and if you want any further information contact Carol on either cjkeil@proforte.com.au or 0417 041 148.

Even if you can't volunteer do come and celebrate the Festival.



Australian Centre on China in the World

News



From Poverty Elimination to Rural Revitalisation – The Party Takes Charge
Ben Hillman, *The China Story*

Can a centralised and tightly controlled political system provide the conditions necessary for achieving advanced economic development?



China's Underground Historians

Linda Jaivins, *Asian Review of Books*
Read Linda Jaivin's review of Journalist Ian Johnson's new book, *Sparks: China's Underground Historians and Their Battle for the Future*.

On the Road — Taipei vs. Beijing 在路上



Geremie R. Barmé, *China Heritage*
"On the Road' offers a vision of normalcy. The style of the video is unpretentious, its language mild — both are in marked contrast to the stentorian thundering and visual hyperbole favoured by the Chinese Communists. Sense and sensibility on Taiwan long ago parted company — 分道揚鑣 — with the Mainland. Beijing believes a 'Chinese Taiwan' will circle back into its orbit. With each passing year, however, Taiwan continues to resist the pull free of the deadening cycle of Chinese history."

Year of the Dragon

Sophie Song, Last updated on Jan 8, 2024

Source: Year of the Dragon: Chinese Zodiac, Personality, Horoscope (2024)
(chinesenewyear.net)



2024 is the Year of the Wood Dragon. Dragon is the **5th animal** in the 12-year cycle of the [Chinese zodiac signs](#), coming after the [Rabbit](#) and before the [Snake](#). Recent years of the Dragon include 2024 (this year), 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, and 1952, with the **next Dragon year in 2036** (Year of the Fire Dragon). It is associated with the [earthly branch symbol](#) *chen*.

Dragon is powerful, endlessly energetic and full of vitality, goal-oriented yet idealistic and romantic, and a visionary leader. They know exactly who they are and possess the keenest sense of self among the 12 zodiacs of Chinese astrology.

Personality Traits of Dragon Signs

Dragons present themselves as magnificent yet benevolent rulers who're confident, generous, idealistic, and ambitious. In Chinese culture, these mythical creatures are in a class of their own, regarded as the givers of abundance and longevity.

Dragon's confidence is neither false nor empty, as they hold lofty ideals they're striving toward— usually for the benefit of their community instead of themselves. They are independent thinkers who'll never yield their highest conviction.

Dragons are strong and independent figures, but they yearn for support and love.

Dragons are wise and adventurous and, at times, temperamental and impulsive. They'll be loved and admired by many but find it difficult to return such affection. This will be one of Dragon's most important lessons.

Even though they may not care to invest in relationships, Dragons cannot stay alone for too long without feeling desolate. Once they find that special someone, Dragons will guard that person as their treasure horde.

Dragon Strengths

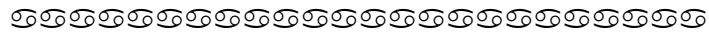
Dragons are upright characters themselves and scorn any hypocritical or dishonourable behaviour, and have a self-respecting pride that's matched by Dragons' wisdom, generosity, vigour, and talent. They're full of energy and can attract followers with their charisma.

Dragon people are usually courageous and fearless leaders who'll never back down from any challenge. This enterprising spirit, coupled with their innate talent, will, without a doubt, make Dragons the movers and shakers of this world.

Dragon Weaknesses

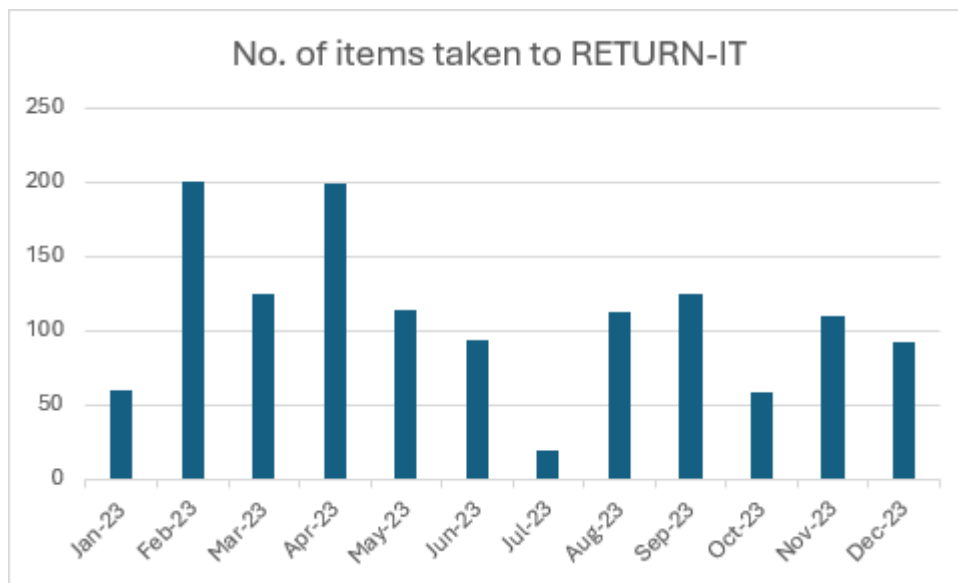
On the flip side of Dragons' confidence and courage, they can also become domineering, temperamental, self-centered, and gullible. This last possibility seems difficult to understand until you realize Dragons believe themselves to always know best.

On the social side, Dragons can be prone to desperation in their younger years because they hate being alone, especially in love. They can come off as overbearing when they're only showing that they care.



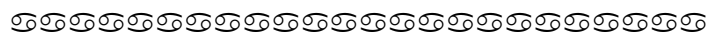
Recycling of cans and bottles

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.



Total returns for December were 93 and the total money earned for 2023 was \$131.10 which is enough to pay for half the funding for 1 Project Hope student.

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'.



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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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