

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

2023/11 November 2023

Coming events

Film screening

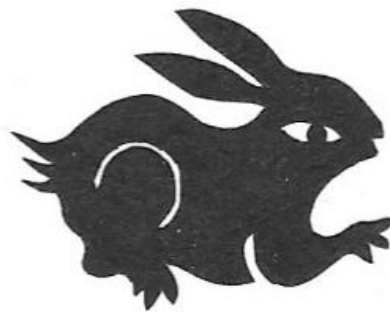
8 November

Panda competition presentation

1 December

Christmas dinner

6 December



Committee

President

Carol Keil

6247 8231

cjkeil@proforte.com.au

Secretary

Tanja Naeher

6259 5539

Treasurer

Neil Birch

0478 417 994

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

Film screening

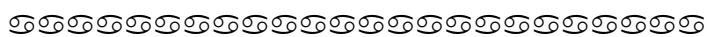
Our function for November will be a film screening on Wednesday 8 November at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison. The screening will begin at 7.30 and, as usual, members and friends can meet for dinner beforehand, from 6.00. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 3 November, indicating whether you are coming for dinner, the film or both. Admission to the film is by gold coin (or more!) donation.

The film is ***American Dreams in China*** ([Chinese](#): 中国合伙人) and is a 2013 Chinese comedy drama film co-produced and directed by Peter Chan and starring Huang Xiaoming, Deng Chao, and Tong Dawei. It was shown at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. It is based on the story of New Oriental.

Three young Chinese men from poor backgrounds achieve success by establishing a reputable English teaching school. The film begins in 1985, during China's national study-abroad craze, a time when undergraduates became infatuated with America and believed that studying abroad was their only hope for a prosperous future.

Cheng Dongqing (Huang Xiaoming), Wang Yang (Tong Dawei), and Meng Xiaojun (Deng Chao) are three friends studying at Beijing's prestigious [Yenching Academy](#). and simultaneously prepping for American visa interviews. Wang is the first to be granted one but forfeits it to stay with his Western girlfriend, while Cheng is repeatedly denied one. Only Meng actually gets a study visa, and as he's leaving, he tells his friends he has no intention of returning to China.

The film won Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor awards at the 29th Golden Rooster Awards and was nominated in three other categories.

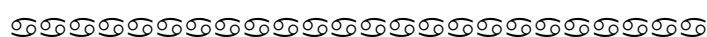


Panda Competition presentation– help needed

The annual Panda competition prize-giving ceremony will be held from 11-1.30pm on Friday 1 December at the Chinese Embassy.

Helpers are needed on the day to do a variety of tasks – show attendees to seating, hand prizes and certificates to the presenter, check guests off the list, hold entries up for all to see, etc. Arrival time will be 10.30am and lunch is provided. An email will be sent a couple of days beforehand with task allocations.

It is always a most heart-warming day and if you are available to help please email acfsevent@gmail.com before 22 November.



Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, November 2023

- Premiums paid to China's basic medical insurance fund increased 9.3% in the year to August. Premiums paid by urban workers rose 13% from a year earlier. Spending by the basic medical insurance fund in the first 8 months of the year were 18.3% higher than the same period in 2022.
- The Tibet Autonomous Region has achieved 5G network coverage for all its towns after a 5G base station was set up in Gogmo Township of Ngari Prefecture. Tibet now has 8,710 5G base stations. In China there are an average of 23 5G base stations per 10,000 users.
- In 2022 there were 9.56 million births, down from 10.62 million in 2021, the first time the number dipped below 10 million since the late 1940s. 39% of babies born were a couple's second child (41% in 2021) and 15% were a couple's third child, down ½%. There were 3.62 million childcare places for children under 3, that is 2.57 per 1,000 people. There were 9.75 million hospital beds last year, 6.92 per 1,000 people.
- The 81st World Science Fiction Convention opened in Chengdu on 18 October. This is the first time the convention has been held in China. Modern science fiction was born in the UK in 1818 and is considered a product of the industrial revolution, (also a sci-tech revolution). This genre of literature was introduced to China early in the 20th century.

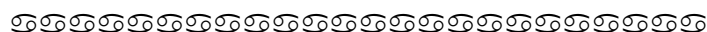
Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

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.



Australian Centre on China in the World Events



Film Screening | *Untold Herstory* 流麻溝十五號

Directed by Zero Chou 周美玲 | 2022 | PG

6pm, 31 October 2023 | CIW Auditorium

Untold Herstory tells a story of three female political prisoners at the concentration camps on Green Island—an islet off the east coast of Taiwan—in the 1950s. Light refreshments at 6pm for 6:30pm start. The film screening will be followed by Q&A with film producer Pasuya Yao.



Yuri Pines | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

5:30pm, 9 November 2023 | ONLINE

One of the most notable features of Warring States-period (Zhanguo 戰國, 453-221 BCE) political discourse is the extraordinary self-confidence of intellectually active men-of-service (*shi* 士). In this lecture, Professor Pines will explore the counter-discourse aimed at undermining intellectuals' authority. **Registration essential.**



2023 CIW Annual Lecture | A Perfect Storm: COVID, Collapse of the Property Sector, and Local Government Debt in China

Jean Oi, Stanford University

5:30pm, 23 November 2023 | CIW Auditorium

Local government debt skyrocketed during the last years of China's zero COVID policies and has continued to rise unabated, troubling Beijing and rattling international financial markets. Professor Jean Oi will discuss the causes of this dilemma and reflect on solutions that Beijing is proposing to handle the problem.



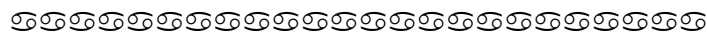
Chinese Investments in Southeast Asia
Evelyn Goh, ANU Strategic and Defence Studies Centre | CIW Seminar Room

Southeast Asia’s growing economic linkages with China have generated political opportunities and strategic concerns in equal measure. This book seminar provides a fuller picture of Chinese investments in Southeast Asia for those seeking to understand its significance and impacts.

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

Your committee met at ‘Ruby’ restaurant in Dickson for the October meeting.

Those from the committee who attended the talk about Chinese Humour by Jocelyn Chey reported it was a shame that the audience was small, although a few new faces were present, which pointed to the communications efforts successfully amplifying the event to a broader group.

The annual ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble concert on 1 October at the Cook Hub was very well attended and the program full of variety. The event was not without some unexpected interruptions – a power outage, which impacted the suburb in general and the alarm sounding. We were grateful that one of the audience members was familiar with the hall and able to switch off the alarm. We thank the very talented musicians for indulging us on a blustery afternoon.

Arrangements were made for the movie night on 8 November – details in this bulletin – we hope that you can make it!

Much discussion was also centred around the next steps for the Panda Competition – firstly organising prizes – choosing and bagging them, printing certificates and letters and further contact with the participating schools. From end to end it really is a big process each year, however fulfilling to see the excited students and their grown-ups. A few performances will also be organised for the presentation day at the Embassy first thing in December 2023.

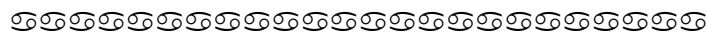
We are grateful to Carol and Brian for making the journey to Sydney to source lanterns for upcoming 2024 Lunar New Year events and gifts for awards. Shipments have been slow in arriving, so more than one trip as been required.

Good news arrived that we were successful in the Southern Cross Club’s Community Grant. The extra funds will assist in the purchase of prizes and the printing of certificates for the Panda Competition.

A venue and menu have been organized for the Christmas dinner on 6 December 2023. ‘Jimmy’s’ in Dickson was able to meet our request and we hope that you will be able to come and celebrate with us.

Dinner at the end of our meeting was very tasty and included some new dishes, at least for me! - the pearl mushrooms with chilli, salt, and pepper and taichi king prawns. The year is flying by too fast – enjoy the last month of Spring!

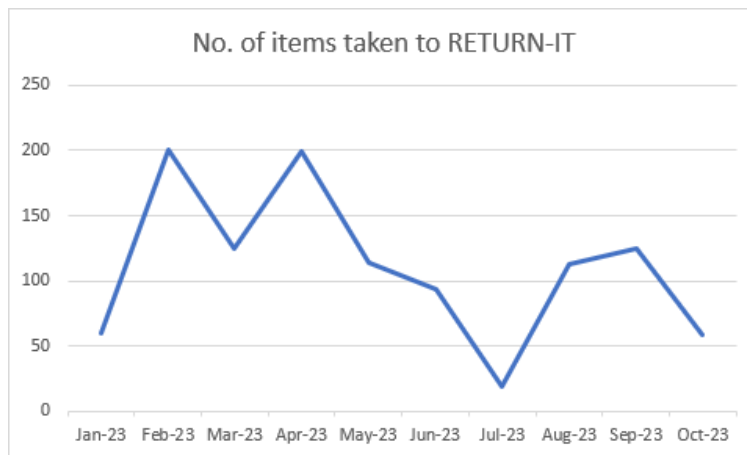
Your Secretary, Tanja



Recycling of cans and bottles

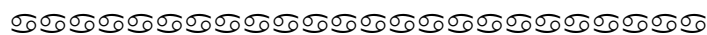
Many thanks to those members who have taken their cans and bottles to the RETURN-IT recycling centres and chosen to donate the refund to ACFS.

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



To date 1108 items have been returned for refunds to the Society of \$96.30.

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'.



Ten years of the Belt and Road

Chinese President Xi has outlined eight new priorities for a next decade of infrastructure-building influence in the Global South

By [Lauren Johnston](#), October 28, 2023

Source: <https://asiatimes.com/2023/10/ten-years-of-the-belt-and-road>

China's Belt and Road Initiative, which now includes [44 African countries](#), got under way 10 years ago. President Xi Jinping launched it in 2013 with a [first speech](#) in Kazakhstan and a [second one](#) in Indonesia. The initiative is something of a trial-by-doing development policy enigma: it keeps China watchers chasing Xi's next move to help define just what it is.

The two speeches, however, give some lasting guidance. The Kazakhstan speech [outlined](#) five elements of the "Belt":

- strengthening policy communication,
- road connectivity,
- currency circulation,
- people-to-people ties,
- promoting unimpeded trade.

In Indonesia, the five points were more abstract and diplomacy-oriented. They were framed as pursuing win-win cooperation, mutual assistance and affinity and remaining open and inclusive.

So, what's happened since then? As an economist with a keen interest in the political economy of China-Africa relations, I have studied the Belt and Road Initiative since its inception.

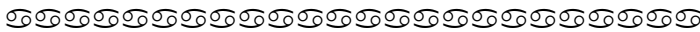
Among the more tangible achievements so far is fostering "road connectivity." China has helped to finance and construct highways, rail and energy projects in various countries. People, goods and commodities flow more smoothly in many places than before, within and between countries.

But at a cost. Most of these projects have been funded by loans from Chinese banks, including the China Export-Import Bank and China Development Bank. Marking the 10th anniversary at a forum in October, Xi outlined the progress of the initiative. He also made a commitment to raise the quality of development cooperation, and provided more details on people-to-people ties and on areas of policy dialogue especially.

Much is made of a fall in spending on the Belt and Road Initiative. But if these promises take shape, the early big spending years may come to reflect a down payment. That down payment was made in times of low interest rates and kick-started some important and highly visible infrastructural projects.

Xi's announcement at this year's forum offered old and new news for the Belt and Road Initiative and its signatories. For African signatories (and their regional organizations and development banks) to make the most of what China is now offering, they need to understand the origins of the Belt and Road Initiative and also what has and has not changed since.

In addition, Xi's announcement comes at a time when China's relationship with the African continent is changing, as I outlined in a recent article.



Ten years of Belt and Road shows secret behind initiative's success

China Daily | Updated: 2023-10-13 07:55

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, and over the past 10 years the initiative has not only laid a solid foundation for win-win cooperation among Belt and Road countries and regions, but also injected new momentum into economic growth and made contributions to improving people's well-being across the world.

From 2013 to 2022, the total volume of imports and exports between China and Belt and Road countries and regions reached \$19.1 trillion, growing at an average annual rate of 6.4 percent, and two-way investment exceeded \$380 billion. In 2022 alone, China's import and export of goods to Belt and Road countries and regions amounted to \$2.07 trillion, double that of 2013. The flourishing development of trade between them and ever-improving trade liberalization and facilitation have also injected a new impetus into global openness and cooperation.

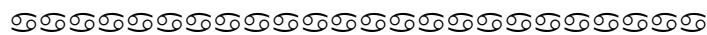
At a time when the world is facing increasing instability, trade protectionism is on the rise, and globalization is encountering headwinds, China and Belt and Road countries

and regions have achieved flourishing trade relations thanks to joint efforts to increase interconnectivity in infrastructure and rules, and people-to-people exchanges.

Over the past decade, China has been actively building foreign-related rules, standards and institutions, and promoting the application of Chinese standards and regulations in overseas projects. In order to meet the challenges of the digital financial era, China's central bank has also accelerated joint research and innovation, information sharing and regulatory cooperation in the field of fintech with Belt and Road countries and regions, ensuring the smooth development of the "Digital Silk Road".

China has given full play to its advantages in strengthening cooperation with Belt and Road countries and regions in digital economy education, besides training digital economy talents, which has helped their farmers increase income. China has also been deepening medical and health cooperation with Belt and Road countries and regions. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it provided a large number of vaccines, effectively promoting the resumption of their economic recovery.

To promote the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative, China should build an international circulation model that is more dependent on Belt and Road and Global South countries. As the world's factory, China will continue to provide the world with more "made in China" and "created in China" brands to form mutually complementary economic and trade ties with Belt and Road countries and regions and beyond.



Wisdom of the sages

By Ehsan Doostmohammadi. Source: *Beijing Review* NO.42 October 19, 2023

In 2009, I came to Shanghai from Iran. My fate in China began with a car accident in which my friend injured his hand. Although it could not be cured by Western medicine, it was cured through acupuncture. The effectiveness of the treatment led me to develop a strong interest in Chinese medicine and I became determined to study it in China.

In 2011, I began studying at the Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. While living and studying in Shandong, I learned that the province—home to the famous philosopher Confucius (551-479 B.C.)—has a profound cultural heritage.

Shandong is one of the birthplaces of Chinese culture. At the same time, as the birthplace of Confucianism, Shandong is uniquely endowed with outstanding talents, sages, and great philosophers.

The land of Qilu, a nickname of Shandong taken from the ancient states of Qi and Lu that once existed there, is truly the cradle of sages. Gao Yao, a philosopher who is believed to have lived more than 4,000 years ago, is one of the Four Ancient Sages, whom later generations revered as the Forefather of the Chinese Judiciary. He insisted on fairness and justice throughout his life, and emphasized the combination of "rule of law" and "moral governance" to promote social harmony.

Emperor Shun, another legendary sage, is known for being filial and kind. After he came to the throne, he accepted advice with an open mind, appointed the talented and virtuous, and all businesses prospered. Records of the Grand Historian, China's first general history book written by esteemed historian Sima

Qian of the Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-A.D. 25) says: "Men of illustrious virtue in the empire began from the days of Emperor Shun."

Jiang Ziya, an ancient ruler of Shandong, was a strategist and writer. He was the military commander of the state of Zhou, who contributed greatly to Zhou's overthrow of the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.). After the founding of the Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 B.C.), Jiang was crowned as ruler of the vassal state of Qi, now part of Shandong. He held that a country could become powerful only when the people prospered. A ruler would last only a short time if the officials enriched themselves while the people remained poor. Under his rule, Qi became one of the most prosperous Chinese states at that time.

Confucius established the first private school in China in the state of Lu in the sixth century B.C., and, according to historical records, he had 3,000 disciples, of whom 72 became highly accomplished. Confucius considered himself a transmitter of the values of earlier periods, which he claimed had been abandoned in his time. He traveled around the country for over 10 years, promoting his political ideas of "benevolent governance" and "ritual rule." His thought on ethics and society has spanned several millennia, and is still shining brightly today, being well-known in China and abroad.

Mozi, who was born in the fifth century B.C., was another prominent essayist and philosopher. Both Confucius and Mozi lived at a time when multiple schools of thought flourished and contended for dominance. Mozi regarded universal love as the core of his social and ethical thought and believed that the cause of social turmoil at that time was that people could not love universally. He therefore emphasized love and peace and advocated the "non-aggression" principle.

Chinese cultural classics are vast, diverse in form, and rich in content. Through reading, we can find that concepts such as "benevolent governance," "moral governance" and "harmony without uniformity" contain rich philosophical thoughts and a humanistic spirit. Their value transcends time and space. These ideas provide helpful inspiration for people to understand and transform the world and provide an essential reference for solving the problems and challenges faced by humankind in the current era.

The author is an Iranian researcher with Southwest University in Chongqing Municipality.

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