

Australia China Friendship Society

ACT Branch Inc

澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2024/6 July 2024

Coming events

Film screening

15 August

Mandarin awards presentation ceremony

8 September

Members' afternoon tea

15 September



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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

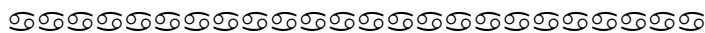
Film night



In August we will hold a screening of the 2021 film *Sister*. The screening will be at 7.30 in the Catchpoles Room of the Southern Cross Club, Jamison, on Thursday 15 August. Directed by Yin Ruoxin and starring Zhang Zifeng, Xiao Yang, Zhu Yuanyuan, Duan Bowen and Liang Jingkan, the story revolves around the sister An Ran (acted by Zhang Zifeng) whose parents prioritize sons over daughters, leading her to endure unfair treatment as she grows up. An Ran was going to start her independent life in Beijing for a master study, nevertheless her parents were unfortunately dead in a car accident and thus leaving her with a 6-year-old brother. She faces the difficult decision of whether to pursue her personal ambitions or to raise her estranged brother.

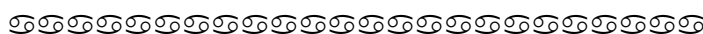
The film was shortlisted for Best Feature Film at the 34th Golden Rooster Awards, Best Actress (Zhang Zifeng) at the 36th Hundred Flowers Awards and won the 19th China Huabiao Film Awards for Outstanding Actress (Zhang Zifeng).

Members are welcome to gather in the bistro before the screening for dinner, from 6.00pm. Please book with acfsevent@gmail.com by 13 August if coming to the dinner.



School awards

The presentation of school awards for students of Mandarin will take place on Sunday 8 September at the ANU China in the World Centre at 2.00pm. Members and friends are invited to witness the ceremony which is a joyous event for the students and their families. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 1 September.



Welcome to new members

Welcome to Hiroko and Wayne Fyffe who have recently joined the Society.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, July 2024

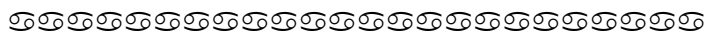
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is booming in China. China is the home of about 36% of the world's 1,328 AI large language models, only the USA has more. Of the nearly 30,000 AI enterprises worldwide the USA has 34% and China 15%.
- Over 900 million people in China shop online. 95.1% of people born in the 1990s shop online and 88.5% of those born in the 2000s do. 85.4% of woman shop online and nearly 70% of the 300 million people over 60 shop online. 76.7% of internet users in rural areas shop online. The proportion of internet users shopping on short video platforms is 1.2% higher in rural areas than urban areas.
- Federal Express Corp. (FedEx) currently operates more than 300 weekly flights in and out of the Chinese mainland, they have recently added weekly flights from Qingdao and Xiamen.
- China's museums recorded 1.29 billion visits in 2023 a new record according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
- Chinese authorities have pledged further guidance and support for college students participating in the "Go West" voluntary service program in the less-developed western regions of China. Volunteers are called upon to contribute to key areas such as technological innovation, rural revitalisation, green development, social services and border defence.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

Afternoon Tea for members

A complimentary afternoon tea will be held for members on Sunday 15 September in the Catchpole Room at the Jamison Southern Cross Club. The Society will be paying for members to attend this function and guests may attend at a cost of \$21pp.

It will be a good chance for all our members to get together and enjoy a chat. Would you please let us know at acfsevent@gmail.com, by 30 August if you would like to come to the afternoon tea as we need to have a minimum number for our booking. A reminder will be sent the week before.



Australian
National
University

Australian Centre
on China in the
World



2024 CIW Annual Lecture

Calibrated Coupling: Managing the Costs and Benefits of Interdependence with China

Date: Tuesday 13 August 2024

Time: 5–7pm (Drinks reception at 5pm for 5:30pm start)

Speaker: Scott Kennedy, Center for Strategic and International Studies

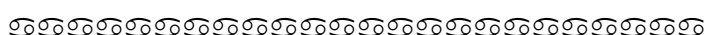
Venue: CIW Auditorium, Bldg 188, Fellows Lane, ANU

The dominant view shaping policies from Washington to Canberra to Beijing is that there is a zero-sum trade-off between economic relations and national security. From this perspective, extensive ties allow the other side to “weaponize” interdependence in ways that undermine one’s own security. In this lecture, Kennedy challenges this conclusion by analyzing the origins of this perspective, presenting an alternative framework, and providing specific examples of how to effectively move forward.

About the speaker

Scott Kennedy is senior adviser and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC. His research interests include industrial policy, technology innovation, U.S.-China relations, and global governance. From 2000 to 2014, he was a professor at Indiana University, where he founded the Research Center for Chinese Politics and Business and was the founding academic director of the IU’s China office.

Registration is essential: see the China in the World website.



Committee News – 17 June 2024 meeting

For its June meeting your committee braved the cold elements and once again met at the 'China Tea Club' restaurant in North Lyneham.

We started the meeting by welcoming Robert Quimby, who has very kindly accepted the publicity officer role, once Alex and Vera move north to Queensland.

The June yum cha function at the Ginseng Restaurant in the Hellenic club was well participated and enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

We finalised organising the logistics for July's function - a talk by Alex Olah comparing the US and China in terms of economics. Hoping that you can join the evening – with dinner beforehand. This will also be the last bigger opportunity to farewell Alex, before he and Vera move to Queensland.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, in August we will be showing the film 'Sister' which we are borrowing from the China Cultural Centre in Sydney.

The committee, especially Alex – thank you! – has been exploring venue options for a Spring afternoon tea to say thanks to you, our members. Keep an eye on upcoming newsletters for arrangements.

We are still searching for a volunteer to take over the organising of the annual Lantern Making workshop and storage of the workshop paraphernalia from Jean – please contact us if you are keen to be that person – you will receive support from the committee, but we need one person take on the lead role.

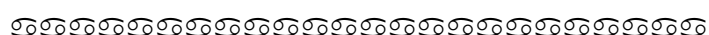
It was disappointing to finally hear the outcome of the ACT Government's Multicultural grant, as we were unsuccessful. This is the first time in a number of years and we are still confirming if there will be a chance in future years, as the timing of the announcements and impact on success does not appear to lend itself to the timing of the Lantern Festival celebrations.

The committee continues to consider possible celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the ACT Branch of the ACFS and the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Gardens.

Dinner post meeting was enjoyed by all – the sliced beef dish was a highlight for me.

Keep warm – the start of Winter certainly has been extremely cold already!

Your Secretary, Tanja



Panda competition

Members' children and grandchildren may like to enter this year's Panda Competition.

The topic for this year's competition is: ***The Chinese and the Australian Gold-rushes.***

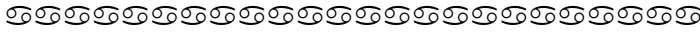
About the year 1854 it became known in China that only a few weeks' sailing away existed a continent as large as China, fertile and rich in gold and other metals. Many Chinese decided to try their luck in Australia. By the late 1850s there were 25 000 Chinese in Victoria and 13 000 in New South Wales.

These Chinese immigrants had come to participate in the Australian gold-rushes. Quite a few Chinese, unsuccessful at mining, turned to market gardening, cabinet making and other trades.

Students are asked to creatively focus on an aspect of this topic. This can be through a drawing, painting, creative works such as collage, 3-dimensional construction, essay, poetry, or other creative individual effort, appropriate to the student's age and school grade.

The entry should be the work of a single student. If a joint entry for more than 1 student is submitted only a single prize will be given. Preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 students can enter a colouring-in piece.

If the entry is in Mandarin an English translation must be provided. See the June *Bulletin* for conditions of entry.



Farewell to Alex and Vera Olah

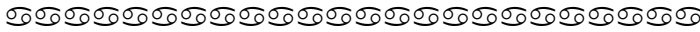
Alex and Vera joined the Society in 2011. Alex has a deep and abiding interest in China and always raised interesting topics over dinner after our committee meetings. They both spent some years teaching English in Qingdao. and after returning to Canberra Alex joined the committee in 2017. He has been an enthusiastic committee member and has been our publicity officer and functions co-ordinator for all this time. As well as giving 2 talks - one on Chinese Culture and the other just recently on US and China comparisons - he has also sourced guest speakers including Jocelyn Chey (twice) and Kevin Magee and arranged and co-ordinated a day visit to Braidwood to visit the Chinese Museum and other sights in the area.



Both he and Vera have attended most of our functions and have been stalwarts at the Lantern Festival and the Panda competition ceremony.

We will miss Alex’s enthusiasm and cheerfulness and wish them both a very happy time in their new home in Caloundra.

Carol



Upcoming exhibition - Chinoiserie inspired art by Jenny Manning and her Thursday group

20 July - 18 August



Jenny Manning is a multimedia artist, who paints, prints, draws, knits and makes baskets. She returned to her art practice after 25 years teaching at the National Gallery of Australia and has had numerous solo and joint exhibitions in Canberra and interstate.

After retiring from the National Gallery of Australia Jenny started teaching drawing and other mediums to a selection of friends, who have faithfully returned every Thursday for the last 10 years. Fifteen of these students have been exploring Chinese decoration and their colourful works are also on display.

In this exhibition, Chinoiserie, Jenny and the group explore Chinese decorative patterns in still life compositions.

Image credit: Poppies and Two Vases by Jennifer Manning

Exhibition opening: 2pm Saturday 20 July, Showroom gallery.

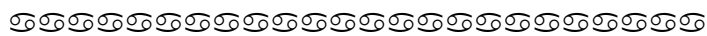
You are very warmly invited to attend the opening and meet Jenny and her students. Refreshments will be served. You're also welcome to come in now for a preview of the exhibition. It will be available online from 10am Friday 19 July. The exhibition runs until Sunday 18 August.

Preview catalogue

An exhibition catalogue is available. If you would like a copy please contact roger@humblehouse.com.au

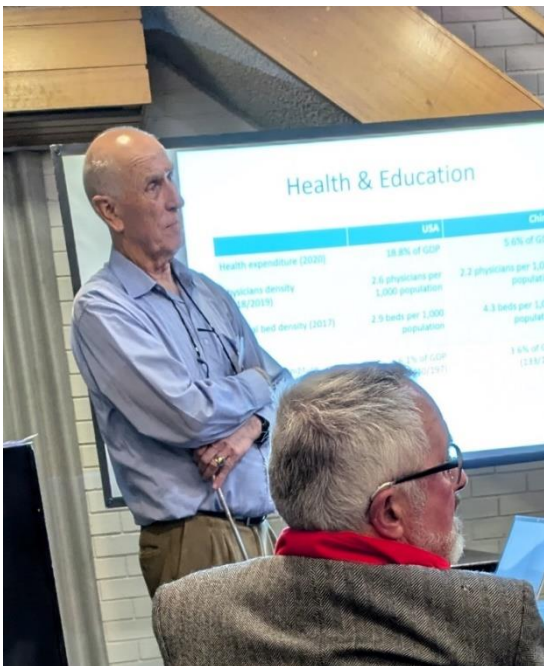
Artist Talk - Jenny Manning 12 noon Sunday 28 July. Come along and hear Jenny talk about the background to this exhibition.

Jenny will also talk about her career as an art teacher. If you are thinking about taking up art this could be just the opportunity to talk to an experienced teacher about the challenges and benefits taking up art holds.

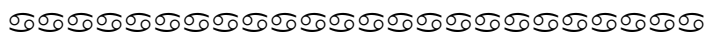


Talk on China-US comparisons

The function for July, was a talk by member Alex Olah on statistical comparisons between China and the US, was attended by 28 members and friends. Alex's presentation provided key geographical, societal, and economic indicators to show how the two Super Powers compare today.



Far from a dull recital of percentages and other numbers, there was lively discussion from the floor covering the sources, definitions and interpretation, of the wide variety of statistics compiled by Alex. Some had come prepared with their own sets of statistics.



Does China matter any more?

By Jocelyn Chey

johnmenadue.com July 4, 2024

China Matters has gone, and that is a tragedy. Australia lost a valuable think tank that could provide policy advice at a critical juncture of Australia-China relations. The implementation of the government hatchet job is set out in detail in Margaret Simon's

extended article, *Red Flags*, in the latest *Monthly*, and in Hamish McDonald's article in *Inside Story* on 22 April.

For those of us who care about relations with China, and who have been engaged in China Studies, it has felt like a knife turning in a wound. What is lacking in these two accounts is an exposure of the viciousness and vindictiveness of the episode.

How did this country turn from one that valued relations with China to one where the very topic, the word, the concept of China was practically banned from public discourse? *China Matters* is a prominent casualty. There are others: the ANU's China In the World Centre, founded by Kevin Rudd in 2010 with great fanfare, is now a shadow of its former glory; the BHP-Billiton Chair in Australian Studies at Peking University is no more; the fate of several centres of Chinese Studies at Australian universities is hanging by a thread. Companies, university vice-chancellors and government agencies, all try to avoid involvement with China. Where now can we look for China expertise?

Margaret Simons makes it clear in her article that *China Matters* was not at fault. The Board of Directors included the late Allan Gyngell, Heather Smith and Michael Wesley, and was chaired by Kevin McCann, former chair of Macquarie Bank. The Deputy Chair, Linda Jakobson, founded *China Matters* in 2014 after more than 20 years in China including work for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and several years as East Asia program director for the Lowy Institute. Financial support for the new body came from the government and from businesses with interests in China including Rio Tinto and PwC. Linda Jakobson's general approach can be gauged from a paper that she wrote for Lowy in 2012 where she argued that relations with China demanded engagement, understanding, nuance and complexity. The [policy briefs](#) commissioned by the think tank are still available from their website. As promised in Linda's paper, they reflect a diversity of views, from experts including Michael Wesley, Peter Varghese and James Curran.

Why then were these voices silenced? Margaret Simons quotes Justin Bassi, head of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), claiming that *China Matters* papers were "not consistently high quality" and "rarely at the standard to be provided... to senior decision-makers." She says that versions of this criticism come from both sides of politics. Surely such an accusation could hardly be levelled at Allan Gyngell, generally regarded as Australia's pre-eminent strategic thinker. He was a consistent supporter of *China Matters*, and scathing in his comments on the anti-China Wolverines of the Morrison government. In one email sent to Linda Jakobson he described them as having "so trivialised one of the most important issues in Australian foreign policy by self-describing themselves as if they were a gang and this was a video game or movie". This hardly fits with the suggestion made to Margaret Simons from some of those "in the know" in Canberra that he had become a *China Matters* sceptic. It is a low blow to insinuate that he radically changed his position when he is no longer around to defend himself.

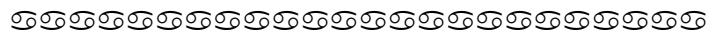
Other reasons for closing down *China Matters* asserted to Margaret Simons are summarised as "security concerns" raised by "various agencies". No details are provided, but their "business model" is cited. Since no funds were accepted from outside Australia, this is hard to accept. *China Matters* had arranged some study tours to China, and these are described as problematic, because they involved meetings with Chinese Communist Party representatives, raising the "possibility of cultivation and longer-term inappropriate influence". If *Pearls and Irritations* style guide accepted emojis, here I would insert the one for hysterical laughter – how could anyone get to understand China without interfacing with Party representatives? Finally, Margaret Simons is told that there were security concerns about *China Matters* Inaugural Fellow Yun Jiang, who took up that position after a career in the public service and whose status cannot have had any impact on the decision to defund the think tank since the appointment came after that decision. To me, this is simply another example of

attempts by Liberal Party parliamentarians such as Eric Abetz to insinuate that Chinese Australians are innately disloyal to this country.

This is a sorry tale of slander and innuendo. Its impact in recent years has been sharpened by a continuing press campaign to highlight negative aspects of China and suggest that it has aggressive ambitions towards Australia. Here are some markers laid down over the last eight years: ABC Four Corners *Power and Influence* (2017); Clive Hamilton's book *Silent Invasion* (2018); Nine Network 60 Minutes *What the Five Eyes See* (2023); Nine Newspapers *Red Alert* (2023). There have been some strident voices warning of war and worse. Few of them have language, in-country experience, or deep understanding of China, the land or its people, even relying on highly suspect sources such as the Falun Gong-linked *Vision Times*. I know who I would rather rely on.

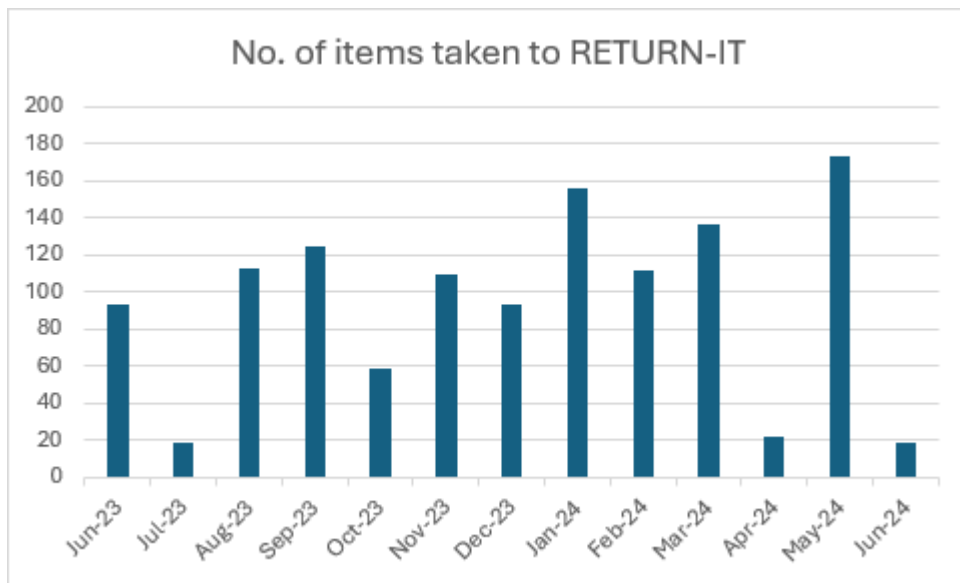
(Jocelyn Chey is a former Associate of *China Matters*.)

Thanks to member Len Waugh for the link to this item.

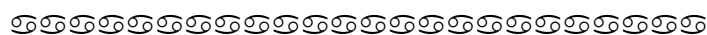


Recycling of cans and bottles

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.



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'.



Art creation strikes when the iron is hot

Source: China Daily | Updated: 2024-07-06 09:32

In his studio, Tang Chuansong is modifying a draft for a piece of *tiehua*, or iron painting.

Originating from Wuhu, Anhui province, Wuhu iron painting is crafted from iron sheets and wires, heated using a furnace or spot welder. Artisans shape these materials through forging, drilling, welding, filing, chiselling and other techniques, placing the intricate patterns on a white base before framing them into a painting.

Dating back over 300 years to the late Ming (1368-1644) and early Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, Wuhu iron painting was recognized in 2006 as a national intangible cultural heritage. This art form portrays landscapes, figures, flowers, insects, birds and animals, blending traditional Chinese painting and ink wash techniques with 3D modeling to create a distinctive style.



Some of Tang's works of Wuhu iron paintings on display at his studio, in Wuhu, Anhui province. [Photo/Xinhua]

At 80 years old, Tang serves as the technical director of the Wuhu arts and crafts factory and is the provincial-level inheritor of the craft.

Beginning as an apprentice at 15 years old, Tang's passion for the art form led to becoming a prominent figure in the field. In the 1970s, he revolutionized iron painting techniques by introducing modified spot-welding machines, replacing traditional furnaces and enhancing both the craft's process and working conditions for craftsmen.

Today, Tang is committed to preserving and passing on the legacy of Wuhu iron painting craftsmanship to the next generation of artists, ensuring that his knowledge and expertise continue to inspire and guide aspiring learners.

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 are

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