

Australia China Friendship Society

ACT Branch Inc

澳中友好协会

PO Box 296, Belconnen, ACT 2615

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Bulletin

2024/11 December 2024

Coming events

Christmas dinner	11 Dec
Chinese New Year dinner	29 Jan
Lantern Festival	15 Feb



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 11 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 RSVP by 8 Dec to acfsevent@gmail.com.

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 dinner

Come and celebrate Chinese New Year with a special banquet meal at the China Tea Club, North Lyneham on Wednesday 29 January 2025, at 7.00pm. Cost will be \$30 for members, \$35 for non members. Please book by 19 January 2025 by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com.

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Lantern Festival

Please note the date for the Lantern Festival: 15 February. We will be needing as many hands on deck as possible on the day.

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Committee News – 2 December 2024 meeting

Your committee was down in its numbers at the December 2024 committee meeting held at the 'China Tea Club' restaurant in North Lyneham; however, we managed to steer through a full agenda.

Carol debriefed about the 50th anniversary celebration of the ACFS's ACT Branch held at the Embassy mid-November. The numerous letters acknowledging the success of the event and particularly Carol's dedication to the Society and preparation for the event were testament to the enormous behind-the-scenes efforts by our President.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, December 2024

- China Railway has successfully conducted its first large-scale trial transportation of lithium-ion car batteries, three trainloads of batteries left Chongqing on 19 November. They used specially designed shipping containers equipped with smoke and temperature detectors as well as venting devices. China is the world's largest producer of lithium-ion batteries.
- Following a recent incident involving a wild tiger that injured a villager in Heilongjiang Province, northeast China, local authorities have implemented precautions, including educating residents about precautions they should take. The Siberian tigers, aka Amur tigers, mainly inhabit Russia's far east and northeast China. Their population in China was estimated to be between 12 and 16 in 1998. Today there are about 70 in the wild.
- China has established 3,054 international friendship city relationships. Recently 8 new partnerships were announced two with the Republic of Korea and one each with Mongolia, Chile, Greece, Cambodia, Laos and Nepal. China formed its first friendship city partnership in 1973. Its friendship city/regional relationships are spread across 147 countries.
- Over 4 million applications have been received for subsidies for trade-ins on old passenger vehicles under a mass renewal program initiated earlier this year. The subsidy is 20,000 yuan for a new-energy vehicle and 15,000 for others. This has effectively stimulated the auto market; it rose 7% year on year. 3.05 million units were sold in October, 24.6 million in the first 10 months on the year.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

The amount of work that fell on Carol’s shoulders led to a discussion at the meeting of how this could be better managed in future. We realise that joining a committee is not everyone’s preference and are grateful for the help which members provide at the various events throughout the year, but we do need extra hands so if you have some time to help we would like to hear from you.

We are excited that the polo shirts celebrating the ACT Branch’s 50th anniversary have arrived and look fantastic. If you are attending the Christmas dinner – we hope you do - you’ll be able to collect your shirt there. Please see the newsletter for how to pick up your shirt if this is not the case.

Final arrangements were made for the Christmas dinner on 11 December at ‘Jimmy’s Restaurant’ in Dickson. The menu sounds delicious, and it is always a great way to round out the year.

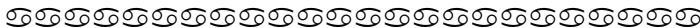
Further discussion on 2025 Lantern Festival arrangements were held – new ways of organising the lighting are still being explored, to avoid helpers from having to scale ladders on the night. Performance groups have been contacted to save the date for the festival celebrations on 15 February. It seems we will once again miss out on a grant for the event, due to timing, but the ACT government has said that the timing of the grants process will be amended for the 2026 calendar year.

Lastly, we put our minds to a Chinese New Year dinner and have booked the ‘China Tea Club’ in North Lyneham for the night of 29 January 2025. The new year will be that of the Earth Snake – associated with wisdom, charm, elegance, and transformation.

Dinner after our meeting was very tasty – my favourite dish of the night was the eggplant with ground chicken – a little tasty and morish.

Wishing you all a very happy festive season and start to 2025 – unfortunately I won’t be able to make it to the Christmas dinner!

Your Secretary, Tanja



Cao Fei: My City is Yours 曹斐: 欢迎登陆

Step into a world of neon, street dance and pop music, as Beijing-based artist Cao Fei brings the energy of the contemporary metropolis to the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Presented as part of the Sydney International Art Series 2024–25, this is the largest exhibition of Cao’s work ever seen in Australia and it’s exclusive to Sydney.

Enjoy 2-for-1 tickets on Wednesday evenings during Art After Hours for visits between 5pm and 10pm. **Book family tickets** at a special price of \$66 for visits until 24 December 2024. Ages 16–25 can enjoy **\$15 exhibition tickets** with a free Explore membership until 24 December 2024.

Fiftieth Anniversary celebration



The ACT Branch of ACFS is now fifty years old! This was celebrated at a special event at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, hosted by the Ambassador Mr Xiao Qian. The following items all relate to this event.

President Carol Keil's opening remarks

We are here tonight to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the ACT Branch of the Australia

China Friendship Society. I would like to welcome Ambassador Xiao Qian, Minister Sun Yong and other Embassy staff.

I would particularly like to thank Ambassador Xiao for hosting this important celebration.

I would also like to welcome special guests Andrew Yan President of the Canberra Shanghai Friendship Association, Hao Gu President of the Federation of Canberra Chinese Community, Bing Luo Vice-President of the ACT Chinese Australia Assocn, Emie Jiang President of the Australia Guangxi Friendship Assocn, Michael Rabey from Rotary, June Cheah from the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia and last but certainly not least members both past and present of the ACT Branch of the ACFS. It is a great pleasure to see so many of you here here tonight

I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions over many years of former and current committee members Teck Lee (table 7) who was our secretary, Jean Norman (table 7) our bulletin editor, Neil Birch (table 5) our treasurer, Tanja Naeher our secretary (who is not here tonight) and Angela Wydeveld (table 1) who was bulletin editor, president and vice president.

Our only former former president with us tonight is Angela Wydeveld. I have been president for 30 of our 40 years – something I could not have imagined when I joined the Society in 1982. Geoff Winter is our earliest member and I am the next in seniority.

The face of the Society has changed over the last 50 years. We had a large membership early on and this has reduced considerably. Most of our members are of the older generation and young people today tend not to join associations – they use their phones instead! We still see a place for our Association and hope it will continue on for a long time to come. We have prepared a presentation of our history and achievements over the years which will be shown after dinner.



Account of the evening by Angela Wydeveld



Well, it was a memorable evening. The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Australia China Friendship Society ACT branch is indeed one to remember.

About 70 members and guests and representatives from the Chinese Embassy joined together at the Chinese Embassy in Canberra on the evening of 20 November 2024 for a celebration hosted by the Chinese Ambassador, Mr Xiao Qian. .

President Carol Keil as MC welcomed us all to the occasion

with some introductory remarks about the program for the evening, the Society, and making mention of some special guests such as Geoff Winter, the longest standing member of the Society in the ACT, being there almost from the beginning.

She then welcomed the Ambassador who gave a very welcoming speech congratulating the Society on its longevity and achievements and encouraging us to enjoy the evening and the best Chinese food in Canberra!

Minister Sun Yong then read out a letter from YouXie, Beijing, which congratulated the Society on its strong links with YouXie and the support for Project Hope and the school in Labagoumen in the remote mountainous district of Beijing, which the Society has supported for 20 years.

During the evening, we were entertained by magnificent and energetic performances on the guzheng and the erhu.

We certainly enjoyed the magnificent array of food prepared by the talented chefs of the Embassy.

The final part of the evening consisted of a video featuring a kaleidoscope of activities of the Society over 50 years. In fact, over this time since 1972, the ACT Branch of the ACFS has achieved much. This became obvious during the video presentation, which had been prepared by Carol which covered the different sorts of activities that we were involved in and supported, going all the way back to the start of the Society in





1972 when it was the Australia China Society and the changes over the years to become the Friendship Society that we are today.

We are very fortunate to have been able to enjoy this evening, reminisce and find out more about the Society of which we are members, and which has been in Canberra for 50 years.

Many thanks to Carol for organising this event, and Ambassador Xiao Qian for hosting us for this wonderful occasion

Letter from the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

As mentioned above, Minister Sun Yong read out a letter from YouXie, Beijing, which congratulated the Society on its strong links with YouXie and the support for Project Hope and the school in Labagoumen in the remote mountainous district of Beijing, which the Society has supported for 20 years. Here is the letter:



北京市人民对外友好协会

Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Nov 18, 2024

ACFS ACT Branch,

Warmest congratulations from Beijing China, to ACFS ACT Branch on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee of 50th anniversary of establishment!

Over the past five decades, ACFS ACT Branch has been committed to enhancing friendship between China and Australia and has been instrumental in fostering people-to-people affinity. Your signature events, such as Lantern Festival, Panda Competition and Mandarin Awards have helped promote Chinese culture in Australia and cultivate goodwill and mutual understanding between the two nations.

The two-decades-plus Project Hope donation might be the most touching and heart-warming part of your noble cause. It took unremitting efforts and enduring love and care of your members to carry through this undertaking. We know your organization has solicited the fund year on year penny by penny on different occasions and events. And BPAFFC is honored to have helped facilitate the donation through the years. It is the least we can do.

As the friendship association of the Capital of China, we have been proud to claim ourselves the close partner of the friendship society of the Capital of Australia. With the solid support from the Chinese embassy, BPAFFC looks forward to working even closer with ACFS ACT Branch to further promote China-Australia Friendship. You have accomplished remarkable achievements over the past 50 years. We hereby wish you an even brighter future. Once again, congratulations and happy birthday!

Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

中国北京南河沿大街97号 No. 97 Nanheyan Street Beijing China www.bpaffc.org.cn 100006



Slideshow from the 50th anniversary of the ACFS ACT Branch

The following are the headings from the extensive slideshow presentation put together by Carol Keil that formed the final half hour of the evening. Each of the headings was accompanied by a variety of photos and a voice-over recorded by Carol.

The Ambassador has since requested a copy of the presentation to be translated into Mandarin to assist Embassy staff to become acquainted with the Society and its activities.

Early days of the Australia China Society

Establishment of the ACT Branch

Presidents

Harvest of Endurance Scroll

Tree Planting

20th anniversary of the Society

Anniversary of diplomatic relations

Chinese Students

Lee Hiscox Award

Panda competition

School Awards

Project Hope

Lunch for president Hu Jintao

Olympics Torch Relay

Promoting the Society

Launch of the Society's logo

Exhibitions

Regional outings

Talks

Film evenings

Concerts

ANUCCME

Tours

Lantern Festival

Tree Planting

Summary

In conclusion, students and schools have always been important in our programs and have consistently helped us foster an awareness of Chinese culture amongst young people.

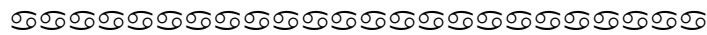
The Lantern Festival continues to be our major project and is well supported by all sectors of the Canberra Community.

Project Hope is also a very important undertaking.

We have had a very successful 50 years. Even though there are more than 20 other ethnic Chinese organisations in Canberra we have a different focus and many of these associations support the Lantern Festival.

We continue to receive strong support from the Embassy, particularly the Cultural Office and this we greatly value.

The Society couldn't function without its committee and we have several of our former committee members here with us tonight. I would like to thank both past and current committee members for their support and hard work, Brian for being on hand at most of our events to take photographs and I would also like to thank all our members for their support over the years.



Thank you email from Michael Rabey

Dear Carol,

Thank you for the invitation to your recent Anniversary Dinner for the Australian Chinese Friendship Society.

The presentation of the history of your group was very interesting and I was impressed by the achievements over the last 50 years. What was also very enlightening was to see how your personal involvement has been maintained over so many years. Congratulations to you and your committee.

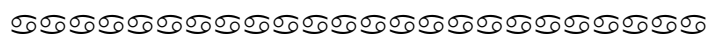
In these troubled times it is more important than ever to maintain friendly relations between countries so that there is better understanding of the culture and activities. As we conduct school tours through Lennox Gardens, including the Beijing Gardens, we can see the interest shown by students observing the key monuments within the park. This particularly is seen through the history provided through the various monuments displayed within the Beijing Gardens that we show to the students.

Again thank you for the invitation and good luck going forward with the society.

Best wishes

Michael Rabey
Founding Coordinator
Canberra Rotary Peace Bell for the
Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin

Thanks to the Embassy for the gifts of papercuts, and thanks to Chu Chen for all the photographs.

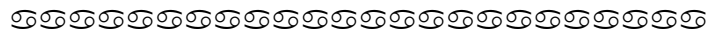


Polo shirts

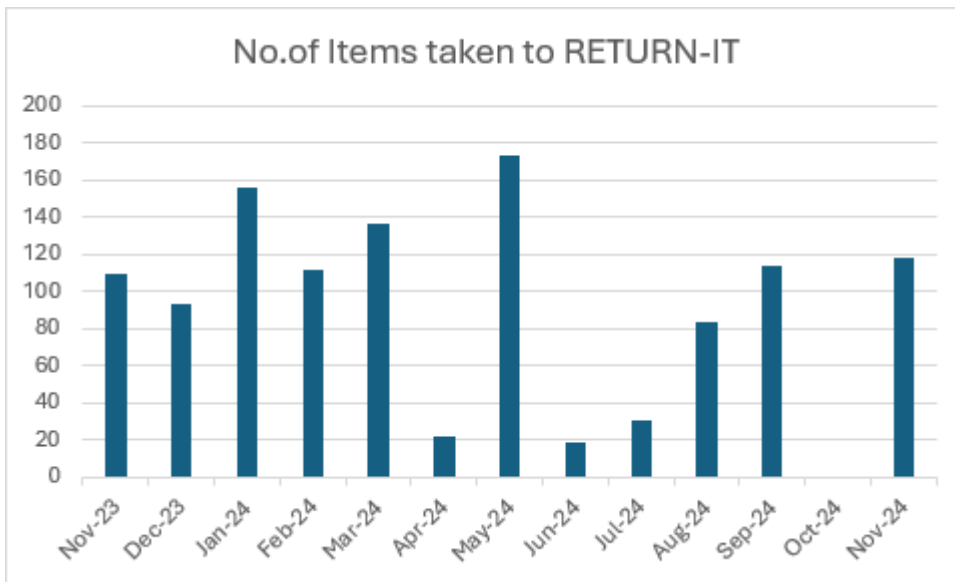
The polo shirts ordered for the fiftieth anniversary have arrived and will be distributed at the Christmas dinner. The photos show the men's shirt, left and the women's shirt, right. There are some extra shirts available at a cost of \$40 each.



If you have ordered a shirt but are not attending the Christmas dinner, Neil will have the orders for southsiders, Jean for the Belconnen area, and Carol for the central area. Their telephone and email details are on the front page of this newsletter.



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.

118 items went to Return-It in November.

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'.

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

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

Send to: the ACFS Treasurer, PO Box 296 Belconnen ACT 2615

Name(s).....

Address.....

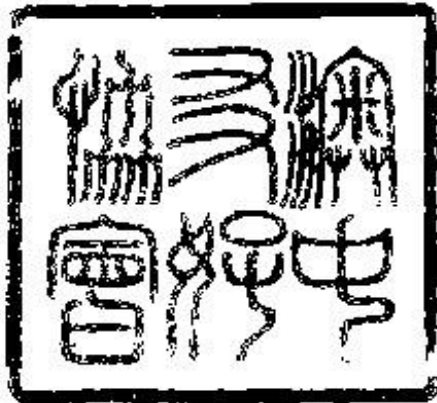
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Renewal New Member

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