

Australia China Friendship Society

ACT Branch Inc

澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2024/10 November 2024

Coming events

50th Anniversary dinner

20 Nov

Christmas dinner

11 Dec

Lantern Festival

15 Feb



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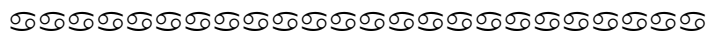
Corinne Zhang

Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

50th Anniversary reception

On the occasion of the Society's 50th anniversary celebration the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China has very generously invited members of the Society and their families to a reception to be held at the Embassy from 6.30-8.30pm on Wednesday 20 November. There will be a presentation of the Society's many achievements during the last 50 years.

Dinner will be served. Dress code is smart casual.

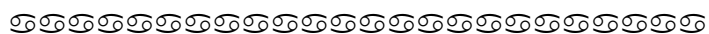


Christmas dinner

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 book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 4 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.



ANU Centre on China in the World Events



ANU China Update 2024: The Great Energy Transformation in China

Crawford School of Public
Policy

Mon 25 Nov, 8:30am |

Tue 26 Nov, 12:30pm

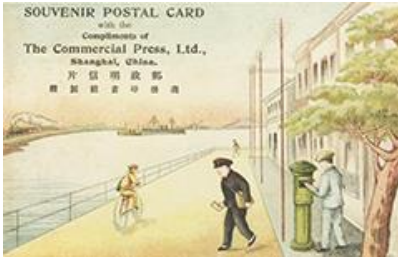
Molonglo Theatre

This year's China Update will be the 24th in the series and will focus on the theme of "The Great Energy Transformation in China." ANU China Update will discuss some of the challenges and policy issues that are being watched with keen interest by decision-makers and markets alike.

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, November 2024

- Over 3.41 million applicants for China's 2025 civil service recruitment have passed the initial qualification exam, this is about 86 applicants for each job. Applicants need to confirm the registration and pay application fees by early November before taking a national written exam on 1 December. Some candidates will also need to do professional skills tests. There are 39,700 positions available in central government agencies in the 2025 intake.
- More than 60% of China's population have at least primary-level digital literacy skills. There is a positive correlation between digital literacy and higher educational attainment, it is also higher among school students, than adults.
- Chinese researchers have uncovered evidence that technology for distilling alcohol in China dates back to the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC–25 AD), much earlier than the previously believed Yuan Dynasty (1271–1368). Experiments used replicas of equipment unearthed from the tomb of the Marquis of Haihun (92–59 BC). The experiments achieved a distillation efficiency of over 70% while also preserving the flavour of the spirit.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.



George Ernest Morrison symposium

State Library New South Wales

Thu 21 Nov, 9am | Metcalfe Auditorium, Macquarie St Building, Sydney

Explore the George Morrison Collection with the State Library of NSW! Join them for a full-day symposium, where international and Australian scholars will dive into this fascinating archive.



The Embodied Political Ecology of Global Solar PV Supply Chains

Susan Park, The University of Sydney

Fri 29 Nov, 12:30pm | Boardroom 2.54, Level 2, Hedley Bull Building

In this seminar, Susan Park will explain the 'embodied political ecology' of solar PV as a commodity that contributes to a range of socio-ecological harms along its life cycle, from toxic waste to forced labour.

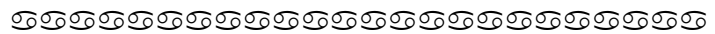


Upstart: How China Became a Great Power

Oriana Skylar Mastro, Stanford University

Mon 2 Dec, 1.30pm | CIW Seminar Room & Online

Oriana explains the unique nature of China's rise in her book *Upstart: How China Became a Great Power* and also provides policy guidance on how the U.S. can maintain a competitive edge in this new era of great power competition.



Panda Competition presentation, 6 November 2024

The Panda competition was started in 1995 with the purpose of encouraging school students to increase their knowledge of the culture and history of China. This year is the competition's 30th anniversary. We were delighted to have the ceremony at the Embassy again and thank the Ambassador for making it possible.

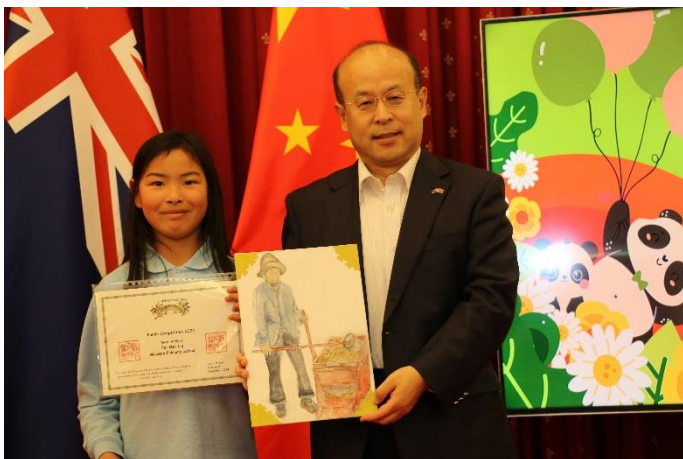
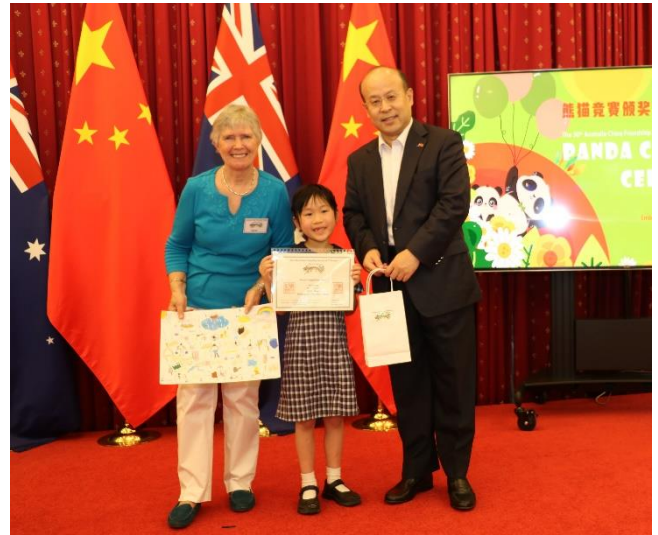
Initially the competition was only drawings and paintings but as time went on we started receiving more and more models so we split the entries into 2 streams and we award prizes for both paintings and 'sculptures' as we term the models.

The subject for this year's competition was 'the Chinese and the Australian gold rushes'. We had many artworks to judge and we were most impressed with the research that had gone into many of the entries with detailed explanations of the activity in the drawings or models. We were particularly impressed with the details in many of the models and it must have taken a lot of hard work and time to make them.

Congratulations to all the students who participated and, in particular the teachers and principals who have been so supportive of the competition over the years.

Six schools participated this year and 55 certificates and prizes awarded. Thanks to Brian Keil for the photos.

Many thanks to the Ambassador and Embassy staff for making the ceremony, including lunch, so special for the students, parents and teachers. Thank you to those who helped with the judging and allocation of prizes for the Panda competition. Thank you to the Embassy for providing some of the prizes. Other prizes were bought in Sydney and donated by China Cultural Centre in Sydney.





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Yao needlework crafts a revival

China Daily | Updated: 2024-11-07 07:44

Pan Haiyan demonstrates needlework technique to an apprentice, talks with embroiderers and carries a bundle of fabrics (below left) at her embroidery workshop in Tianlin county, Baise city, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. The embroidery art of the Yao ethnic group in Tianlin has a long history, with exquisite designs inspired by the lives of the people. In 2018, the Yao embroidery was classified as a Guangxi's regional-level intangible cultural heritage.

Born in 1970 in a village in Badu Yao township, Tianlin county, Pan is a representative inheritor of the Tianlin Yao embroidery art. Pan began learning embroidery at a young age. After years of study and practice, she mastered dozens of needlework techniques and applied her skills to the fashion industry to promote and pass on the art. She established an embroidery workshop, training many people and boosting their income, as well as bringing new vitality to the craft.



Pan Haiyan (left) demonstrates needlework technique to an apprentice.
[Photo/Xinhua]

Walking the path Confucius first laid

By Biju Dwarakanath | China Daily | Updated: 2024-11-14 07:31

Last month, I completed my Level 2 Chinese lessons. As the class wound up and we bid fond farewells to our teacher, there was little confusion in my mind on what to do next.

The third level course would only begin next spring but before that, I decided I must visit a shrine dedicated to a man widely revered for building the foundation of the modern educational system in China a couple of millennia ago.

So, the following Sunday, I set out to spend some quality time visiting the Confucius Temple in the heart of Beijing, a stone's throw away from another of the city's better-known landmarks — the Yonghegong Lama Temple.

It was a bright afternoon, the streets were busy as usual with tourists taking selfies and pictures of their significant others on the way leading up to the spot. The trees along the roadside and in the adjacent compounds were sporting autumn hues as I leisurely made my way in.

Once inside the formidable complex of buildings and museums, I quickly realized that this was actually my second visit. The first in late 2009 had been a rushed affair as I had unfortunately included it in a trip to the Yonghegong Lama Temple, which takes much longer to explore.

Since I did not remember much in the way of details from back then, this second visit, thankfully, felt as good as new.

What stood out vividly as soon as I entered the courtyard was a statue of the great man right before the doors leading up to the inner sanctum. Visitors were busy taking photographs and a middle-aged man was prodding a young boy, possibly his grandson, to pose and pray before it while another family member took pictures.

It must seem awe-inspiring for the little one, I mused. As he grows up, the schoolboy will no doubt come to appreciate what a seminal change this man from Qufu in Shandong province wrought on basic literacy by giving everyone an equal opportunity to attend school, an unheard-of thing in those days.

There is much to thank Confucius for; his remarkable contribution to the country's moral compass, his ability to almost single-handedly instill in its future generations the values of honesty, hard work, filial piety, and respect for fellow beings — in short, the Confucian ethos — that are in essence what we find in abundance in Chinese society, even today.

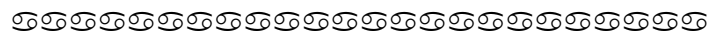
Modern-day China's egalitarianism, its pursuit of harmony and respect for tradition, had been codified into its national character by this man, whose unrelenting focus on virtuous living during a chaotic period might seem anachronistic for the time.

But, as is so often the case with nationalities or civilizations, societies do not always evolve organically, but through the sheer perseverance of some visionary individuals. In fact, much of China's rise today as a great power can be viewed through the prism of its ethical foundations wrought by a number of people who followed the Confucian ethic and, in turn, moulded the national character.

In fact, an article on Confucius in this very paper had this to say: "Since roughly the 5th century BC, the school of thought that Confucius founded and the philosophy of

Confucianism that developed from it have inspired and guided individuals across multiple generations."

As I explored every nook and corner of the temple with a multitude of well-behaved citizens, the fruits of a seed sown long ago became quite apparent to me.



Bridging the action-awareness gap: Trip.com Group's 2024 Sustainable Travel Consumer Report Insights

Beijing Review 2024-10-18 · Source: en.prnasia.com

Trip.com Group, a leading global travel service provider, reveals that while sustainability awareness is rising among travellers, there remains a gap between awareness and action. This is one of the key insights from the Sustainable Travel Consumer Report 2024 that the Group released on October 14.

The report draws from 9,867 survey samples from 109 countries and territories, including the Asia-Pacific (APAC), Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), North America (NORAM) and Latin America (LATAM). It also looks at Gen Z's travel preferences and regional variations in motivations and perceptions.

Gap between Awareness and Action

An overwhelming 92% of travellers may consider sustainable travel, yet only 56.9% say they have actually practised it. Of those who did not consider this option, some cited confusion around what sustainable travel entails. Others doubt the authenticity of sustainable products or initiatives. This highlights the need for better consumer education and more straightforward communication from travel providers.

A series of other factors also contribute to the gap between awareness and action. Primary barriers include the perception of sustainable travel as a collective endeavour or the view that it does not bring added benefits to trips.

These considerations diminish travellers' appetite for usually more expensive sustainable options. The report reveals a divide when it comes to paying extra for sustainable travel options. While some travellers are open to paying a premium, many have clear limits on how much more they are willing to spend. Findings show that 38.8% of travellers are unwilling to pay more, while 42.5% are open to paying a premium, but only within certain limits. For example:

- 1 in 5 travellers (21%) are willing to pay up to 5% more for sustainable travel.
- Willingness drops as costs rise: only 4.7% will pay 10-20% more, and 1.7% will exceed 20%.

The report also underscores contrasting attitudes toward cost: APAC travellers are generally more likely to pay a premium for sustainable travel. About a third of them (32.3%) opt out of paying any additional cost at all.

Price sensitivity is noticeably higher among travellers in NORAM, EMEA, and LATAM, where 53.0%, 49.4%, and 47.3%, respectively, are unwilling to pay extra for sustainable options.

Diverse Motivations for Sustainable Travel

While sustainable travel is gaining momentum worldwide, the report shows that priorities differ across regions, with travellers focusing on distinct motivations depending on their location:

- Globally, environmental and cultural concerns lead the way, with 47.3% of travellers prioritising environmental protection.
- APAC and LATAM travellers are driven primarily by environmental factors.
- EMEA and NORAM travellers adopt a broader perspective, considering wildlife protection, cultural heritage, and economic impact.

As sustainability awareness grows, environmental concerns are no longer the sole driver of sustainable travel. Travellers are now motivated by a broader range of factors, signalling a shift toward viewing sustainability more holistically.

Opinions differ on who should lead efforts to reduce tourism's carbon footprint. APAC travellers see it more as an individual responsibility than a shared commitment. In contrast, their counterparts in EMEA, LATAM, and NORAM place a bigger emphasis on collective action from governments, communities, and the travel industry.

Engaging Gen Z in Shared Responsibility

The travel industry can strategically engage Gen Z travellers by understanding and addressing their views on sustainable travel.

Despite greater exposure to sustainability-related information, Gen Z is just as hesitant as other age groups to pay extra for sustainable options. Gen Z exhibits several distinct characteristics:

- Three in four (73.0%) Gen Zs consider buying from OTAs with sustainable offerings
- More than half (53.6%) say the environment is a key motivator for travelling sustainably
- 48.3% are unsure of what qualifies as a sustainable trip
- 31.5% fail to see any added benefit from sustainable travel

These insights indicate that stronger understanding or motivation is needed to get Gen Z onboard in the quest to advance sustainable travel.

To align themselves with this goal, travel advisors can guide this generation with clear labelling and incentives for sustainable choices. By closing the gap between awareness and action, they support travellers in making sustainable decisions.

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

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