

Australia China Friendship Society

ACT Branch Inc

澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2024/8 September 2024

Coming events

ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble concert

6 Oct

Panda Competition presentation

6 Nov

50th Anniversary dinner

3rd week of Nov



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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

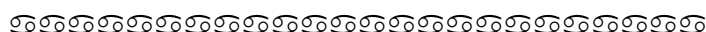
ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble concert

The ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble will present its annual fund raising concert entitled 'Mountains, Waters and Harmony', on Sunday 6 October in the auditorium of the Australian Centre on China in the World, Fellows Lane, Acton at 2.00pm. Prices are adults, \$30; students/concessions \$20 (this includes ACFS members); under 18 years free.

We have a QR code for the event or you can book via <https://trybooking.com/CUULC>. The QR code is on the flier for the concert, at the end of this *Bulletin*.

Do come and support the Society and the Ensemble and if you have anywhere you could put the flier (at the end of this Bulletin) up it would be most helpful.

We will need help to run the concert: several committee members have either left or are overseas. if you are available to help please email acfsevent@gmail.com before 31 October.

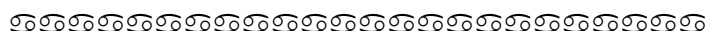


Panda Competition presentation ceremony – help needed

The annual Panda competition prize-giving ceremony will be held from 11-1.30pm on Wednesday 6 November 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 31 October.



ANU Centre on China in the World Events



Cultural Assimilation and Identity Among Chinese Migrants in Receiving and Sending Countries

AKM Ahsan Ullah, University of Brunei Darussalam

Thu 26 Sep, 4pm | CIW Seminar Room

This study explores the complex dynamics of cultural assimilation and identity formation among Chinese migrants in both receiving and sending countries. Findings

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, September 2024

- In August the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) published its Global Innovation Index 2024, of the top 100 science and technology clusters. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster was ranked second for the fifth year in a row.
- Boeing's 2024 Commercial Market outlook predicts the number of commercial aircraft in China will increase at 4.1% pa for the next 20 years. The current fleet of 4,300 will increase to 9,700 aircraft by 2043. The Chinese civil aviation market will require 8,830 new aircraft by 2043.
- For the eleventh consecutive year China has been the world's largest market for industrial robots; in the last three years it has been over half the market. In 2023 China's industrial robot production reached 430,000 sets. Over the past decade the number of robots per 10,000 workers in China's manufacturing sector has risen from 49 to 470.
- The annual carbon-sink capacity of China's forests and grasslands has exceeded 1.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, ranking first in the world. A carbon sink is anything that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it emits.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

suggest variations in identity retention based on factors such as generation, social integration, and transnational ties.



Sinocentric Imaginings: The Asian Inter-Varsity Debates in Singapore in 1986 and 1988

Chien-wen Kung, National University of Singapore

Wed 2 Oct, 4pm | CIW Seminar Room

Drawing upon local newspaper reports and PRC narratives of the AIVD, this talk explores Singapore's emergence as a major "peripheral" site for imagining "China" and "Chineseness" in the

Reform Era Sinophone world.



Explaining China's Approach to the Global Governance of Sovereign Debt Distress: A State Transformation Analysis

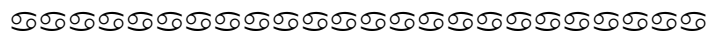
Shahar Hameiri, University of Queensland

Amy King, The Australian National University

Fri 18 Oct, 12:30pm | Boardroom 2.54, Hedley Bull Building,

ANU

This seminar will explore why China's commercial lenders have successfully safeguarded their interests during the debt crisis, at the expense of other creditors and Beijing's wider geopolitical interests.



Polo shirt Information

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations the Society will offer complimentary polo shirts for members. The Society's logo will be embroidered on the upper left-hand side of the garment. The colour of the trim will be **red**. To ensure the timely ordering and delivery, this complimentary offer is available until 5pm on 30 September 2024.

The polos will be an excellent promotion of the Society, especially at our major events.

We have samples of the sizes: a ladies size 8 and mens sizes S and M which were available for viewing at the afternoon tea on 15 September 2024. The measurements in the size charts below are exact.

As you can see from the pictures the ladies polos are shaped and shorter in length.

Ladies Polos

Size Chart

PS48A - LADIES POLY/COTTON PIQUE CONTRAST SHORT SLEEVE POLO					
					18
PS48A - LADIES POLY/COTTON PIQUE CONTRAST S					58
MODERN FIT	6	8	10	12	70
HALF CHEST	42	44.5	47	49.5	
BODY LENGTH	58	60	62	64	



Mens Polos

Size Chart

PS08 Men's Contrast Pique Short Sleeve Polo

EASY FIT	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Half Chest	51.0	53.5	56.0	58.5	61.0	63.5	66.0
Body Length	69.0	71.5	74.0	76.5	79.0	81.5	84.0

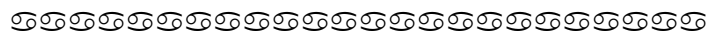


Unfortunately, the supplier has no ladies size 14 or 16 but the corresponding mens sizes for a size 14 ladies is a mens XS and a size 16 ladies is a men's M.

The order will go in on 1 October so if you would like to order - 1 for an individual or 2 per family - please send your request with the sizes to acfsevent@gmail.com. Please check the measurements carefully as there will be no exchanges if you order the wrong size.

Additional orders over the complimentary allowance and requested by 5pm 30 September 2024 will cost ~\$35. This cost is yet to be confirmed.

Carol Keil
President



Mandarin Awards 2024

This year's ceremony was once again at the China in the World auditorium. Despite much effort we could not get the microphones to work - despite having tested them earlier in the week - but the acoustics were excellent so I did not have to shout!!

The ceremony commenced a little late and Amanda filled the gap by posing a series of interesting questions and answers on the benefits of learning second (and third) languages to the audience - students, teachers and guests. Carol and Minister Sun Yong from the Chinese Embassy gave short speeches and Minister Sun then presented the awards to the students who came from Canberra High, Kingsford Smith School, Melrose High, Canberra College, Dickson College, Gungahlin College, Hawker College, Lake Tuggeranong College, Melba-Copland Secondary School, Merici College, Narrabundah College, Radford College and St John Paul II College.

Afternoon tea followed and we were able to meet parents of the students, who were very proud and happy to be invited, and catch up with teachers.



Thanks to Tanja who prepared the afternoon tea, Jean who handed the awards to Mr Sun for presenting to the students, Brian who took photos, Neil, Penny and Amanda who checked in arrivals and directed students to their seats and all the committee plus Geoff Winter for packing up.

It was again a very successful event.

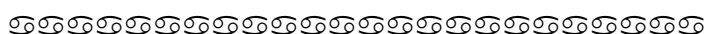


Below is a sample of a shield and a certificate. The certificates and folders have been most generously donated by members Roger and Sarah Arnold who have purchased them in China for us.



Afternoon Tea for members

Thirty nine members and friends joined in the afternoon tea at the Jamison Southern Cross Club on Sunday 15 September. It was a great opportunity to catch up and have a relaxed chat, and try on and order polo shirts (part of our 50th anniversary observances). The afternoon tea was good and plentiful and the gluten-free people were well catered for. The occasion also served as a farewell to Alex and Vera Olah just before they move to Queensland.



Mid-Autumn Concert by the Guizhou Chinese Orchestra Concert

The China Cultural Centre and Chinese Communities, supported by the Chinese Embassy presented a wonderful concert at the Albert Hall performed the Guizhou Chinese Orchestra. Several Society members attended and were treated to a very professional and enjoyable evening.

There were 12 members of the Orchestra and one soloist. The instruments played were traditional: 3 erhus, each with a different pitch, a yangqin, Guzheng, bamboo flute , Dizi, Pipa, Zhong ruan, daruan, sheng, suona, lushing and a cello. The Suona was the instrument played in the film 'Song of the Phoenix' that we saw earlier in the year.

Fifteen pieces were beautifully played with evocative titles such as 'A Moonlit River in Spring', 'A Rippling Brook', 'Fisherman's Evening Song', 'Horse Racing' and the piece 'Sounds of the Wood leaf' was played by the soloist blowing on a leaf that looked like it came from a camellia or similar. The other pieces were played by either a duet, quartet, most of the orchestra or the whole orchestra.

I don't recall seeing one of the instruments, a lusheng, before, so some information follows: the lusheng can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty with a history of 3000 years in China. It originated from the Central Plains Region of China. After spreading to the rural regions of southwestern China, the lusheng became one of the favourite traditional instruments in several Chinese minority ethnic groups (in particular, the Miao, Yao, Dong, and Yi).

In the Miao region, there is a folk legend about the origin of the lusheng. According to the legend, the world had nine suns in ancient times that caused heavy drought. People struggled to survive and built huge bows and arrows, shooting down eight of the nine suns. This scared the last sun, which kept itself hidden in the clouds. Without the sunshine, there was always night and crops failed to grow. To induce the last sun to come out, people produced the lusheng and played music. The beautiful melody from the lusheng successfully attracted the sun to come out again. After that, playing lusheng became a tradition and cultural expression of the Miao people.



Carol Keil

Committee News – 23 Sept 2024 meeting

We had another smaller group for our September committee meeting at the 'China Tea Club' restaurant in North Lyneham.

There were several recent events which were debriefed on – not all organised by the Society. The annual School Awards held at the ANU's 'China in the World' location was well participated and thanks to non-committee Society members who also helped on the day – this is always greatly appreciated.

We felt that the Spring Member's afternoon tea at the Jamison Southern Cross Club in mid-September, was enjoyed by the 39 friends who attended – and heard that the non-dairy and gluten free offerings were particularly good!

Non Society events included the Chinese movie week at Belconnen Hoyts cinema and a concert by Chinese musicians – anecdotally the musician playing on a leaf sounded very entertaining!

We used the meeting to prepare for the annual Society supported ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble's concert on 6 October which will be held at the ANU's 'China in the World' building. Hoping to see you there – afternoon tea will be served during the interval and the musicians promise to impress as in previous years.

It was wonderful to hear that the Panda competition awards ceremony will once again be hosted at the Chinese Embassy – on 6 November, which coincidentally is also the 10th anniversary of the Canberra Beijing Garden at Lake Burley Griffin.

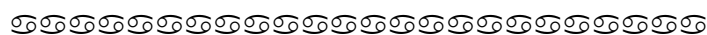
The closing date for entries to the Panda competition is 29 September, and the committee organised dates for the judging and award allocation leading up to the awards ceremony – again a very busy time for the committee.

We made the decision to not host the lantern making workshop in 2025 and will rethink for the future. Don't worry though - the Lantern Festival 2025 is still going ahead! We also discussed investigating alternative methods for stringing illuminated lanterns through the trees at the Festival.

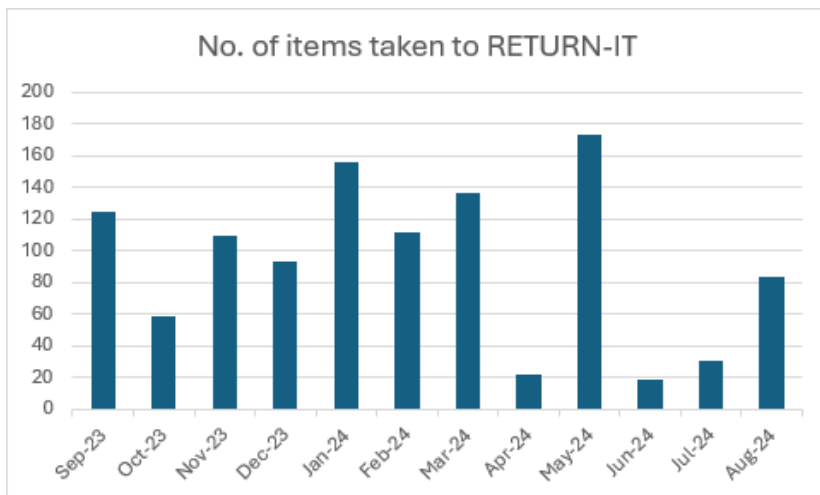
Dinner after the meeting was good as always – the new dish we tried out sounded unusual, however was very tasty – fish on duck with enoki mushroom sauce.

Hoping for less windy days for the remainder 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.

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'.

Letter from Zhanjiang – Roger Arnold

A great time to come visit

It was with much excitement that my wife and I, along with Australian family, read the news back in late June that "citizens holding ordinary passports of Australia traveling to China for business, tourism, family visit or transit purposes with the duration not exceeding 15 days, are eligible for visa-free entry from open sea, land, air ports of China."¹² It is said that this policy will continue to December 31st 2025, possibly longer.

Since that announcement, various friends and contacts have asked for advice and suggestions on visiting China, many of who had cancelled or delayed plans to do so a few years back due to the covid pandemic. And to these friends and others my advice has been: now is a great time visit China, and more than ever before it's not only so easy to get here but also super easy to get around and travel independently inside China, even for non-Chinese speakers.

The ease of getting around is due to both massive improvements in the country's transport and communication infrastructure and improvements in technology and services.

For me, I really enjoy arriving first at Hong Kong; this is now a wonderful gateway for anyone heading to places in southern China. If one's initial destination in mainland China is one of the cities in the Pearl River Delta, such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen or Zhuhai, there are multiple means of transit from Hong Kong airport that do not involve first going through Hong Kong immigration and then Chinese immigration. Rather, ferry and even some bus services operate direct from the airport somewhat like connecting flights, one only need to clear immigration and customs at one's port of arrival in mainland China.

Early this year, my wife and I did exactly this heading to Zhuhai, which lies across the other side of the mouth of the mighty Pearl River from Hong Kong. We flew into Hong Kong late morning, and within an hour we on board a bus heading across the impressive Hong Kong – Zhuhai bridge – an amazing feat of engineering that connects the two sides of the Pearl River. This connection was simply arranged on arrival at Hong Kong airport by heading to the ferry and bus transfer desks located before immigration (they even managed to retrieve luggage checked just to Hong Kong and load it on the bus for us). On arrival in Zhuhai we presented ourselves at an uncrowded and friendly China Immigration check point, and were soon on our way in taxi to meet some friends living there.



Wuhan railway station

But even for people heading to places further afield beyond the Pearl River Delta, Hong Kong also works exceedingly well as a gateway. On a separate occasion last year, we flew into Hong Kong from Australia, arriving early morning. From the airport,

¹ One essential requirement for such visa free access to China is having proof of either an onward or return booking departing from China within the 15-day period of the allowable stay.

² For more details about the policy for visa free travel to China:

http://sydney.china-consulate.gov.cn/eng/laszj_122929/Notice/202406/t20240626_11441733.htm

after clearing immigration and customs, we headed into Kowloon on Hong Kong's impressive Airport Express train. From the Kowloon Airport Express station, one then only need to stroll through a large shopping mall that is directly above that station (several floors up, accessed by escalator or lifts), following reassuring signage, to reach West Kowloon Highspeed Rail Station – a massive underground rail station. From there, after passing through Hong Kong and mainland China immigration clearance, we boarded a high-speed train bound for Zhanjiang; a journey of around 4 hours (but that will be reduced to 2½ hrs when a new, higher speed line to Zhanjiang opens sometime next year).



The West Kowloon Highspeed Rail Station, Hong Kong, is a fantastic asset for travellers using Hong Kong as a gateway to points in southern China or even further afield. From there, direct high-speed train services head direct to numerous cities in southern China, such as Guangzhou, Nanjing, Xiamen, Wuhan and many more. One can even get a direct train from there to Shanghai, Beijing and some other cities in central and north China.

Not so long ago (up till a year or so before the Covid pandemic), a desire to embark on any train journey in China could be greatly impeded by the difficulty of procuring a train ticket. One had to front up at a railway station ticket office within 30 days of departure (tickets used to only go on sale 30 days in advance of travel), and try one's luck. Buying tickets at stations was often challenging for non-Chinese speakers unless accompanied by a Chinese friend or associate, or you lucked on a ticket agent who had some command of English.

Fortunately, railway ticketing in China has changed markedly for the better for both high-speed trains and the somewhat slow, more relaxed train services. One can now book online, and physical tickets have gone by the wayside having been superseded by electronic ticketing linked to one's ID number – passport number for foreigners, Chinese ID number for locals. This makes train travel ever so easy. Train tickets can supposedly be bought through the English version of the China Railways official website:

<https://www.12306.cn/en/index.html>

However, I much prefer using an excellent Chinese based travel website (it's all in English):

<https://www.trip.com/trains/>

This latter website is more user-friendly and whilst organising one's train ticket does invoke a small additional service fee. I find this to be great value given their well-designed website and their provision of helpful English-speaking agents to help with any problems one encounters.

In addition to all the above, a range of other recent developments now also greatly facilitate enjoying travel inside China:

1. High-speed rail network – the spread and coverage of the country's high-speed rail has expanded at a rapid rate over recent years and now exceeds over 45,000 km of track. This network now covers most places of interest culturally and scenically for visitors (plus many more cities and towns), including places such as Beijing, Shanghai, Xian, Guilin & Yangshuo in Guangxi province, Lijiang and Dali in Yunnan province, Suzhou, Hangzhou and many more.

2. City subway systems – all major cities in China now have great sub-way systems. These are clean, efficient, very safe, cheap to ride and have signage and often announcements in English as well as Chinese. In most cities, the subway system will cover key places, including the airport(s), long distance railway station(s), long distance bus stations and key business districts. To me, this has been a real game changer; nowadays I rarely use taxis or ride-hailing apps/taxis to get around within major cities.

3. WeChat pay and Alipay – almost no-one in China uses cash nowadays, people just pay for everything using one of these apps on their mobile phones (both have English language versions available). Even street-side vendors and stalls in fresh-markets are generally setup to accept digital payments, via their own QR codes. And, the good news for visitors is that these apps can link to foreign bank cards for making payments.

4. DiDi ride-hailing app – this is the leading ride hailing app in China (akin to Uber for China). It is available with an English interface along with 24/7 in-app English customer service, and it covers over 400 cities across China. One of the things I love about using this is that one can type in destinations in English, overcoming the difficulty of trying to communicate one's desired destination to a taxi driver (very few of whom speak English, no matter what city).



Guilin scenery

5. Great hotels – over the past 10 years or so, there has been a steady and overall marked improvement in the range and quality of hotels of all levels (and most price points) in China. Nowadays one can choose from a wonderful range of hotels within one's price bracket (within reason) in all cities. For booking hotels, I once turn again to Trip.com: <https://www.trip.com/hotels/>

Sure, many other international hotel booking websites also list many Chinese hotels, but I find the hotel listings on Trip.com are generally far more extensive, and often available at more competitive prices.

6. Modern Chinese restaurants – Chinese people love to eat and eat well (as do most people world-wide). As the country has continued to develop over recent years, the abundance of really good quality, interesting and even innovative restaurants has



exploded. My wife and I really enjoy this aspect of life in China; nowadays eating out rarely fails to delight and every month we seem to discover some new, interesting and really enjoyable places to eat. And, the cost of eating out in good quality restaurants in China is generally much, much cheaper than what an equivalent restaurant meal would cost in Australia.

Great cafés and coffee – whilst China is the original 'nation of tea drinkers', younger generations have also taken to coffee with gusto over the past 5 years or so. Not surprisingly, an abundance of great cafés can now be found in all major cities, and increasingly even in small little out of the way towns. And whilst there are now plenty of major chain cafés to be found in bigger cities, including Starbucks, Costa Coffee,

7. Luckin Coffee, McCafé and many others, the number of independent, interesting little cafés has also exploded. It is really worth seeking out some of these during any travels within China; the small, independent cafés usually have wonderful atmosphere, and provide great insights to the creativity and energy of discerning younger entrepreneurs.



Should anyone need advice or suggestions about traveling to visit China, drop me an email and we'll do our best to answer: travellingroger@yahoo.com.au

天下山河清影在
人間風雨此宵同
李景怡于壬午中秋夜在
悉尼風雨軒書

山
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澳大利亞國立大學民樂團
年度募捐演奏會



MOUNTAINS,
WATERS
&
HARMONY

**2024 Annual
Fundraising Concert**

**by The ANU Chinese Classical
Music Ensemble**

Date: Sunday 06/10/2024

Time: 14:00 - 16:30

Venue: Australian Centre on China in the
World

The Australian National University,
Building 188, Fellows La, Acton ACT 2601

Price:	Adult	\$30
	Student/concession	\$20
	Under 18 years old	Free

Scan QR code for tickets, or visit:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CUULC>



For more information, please contact: anu.ccme@gmail.com

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc.



In association with the Australia China Friendship Society, ACT Branch

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.

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