

Australia China Friendship Society

ACT Branch Inc

澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2025/2 February 2025

Coming events

Lantern Festival

15 Feb

Annual General Meeting

19 March

Film

Late April

Memberships due

All memberships fall due on 1 January. Details of prices and bank transfer information is on the back page of this Bulletin.

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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Annual General Meeting, 19 March

The next function, on 19 March, will be the Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Golden King restaurant in Phillip at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19 March, to be followed by a banquet for approximately \$30 per person.

It is most important that members attend and consider joining the Committee. With Alex Olah having moved to Queensland, Robert Quimby resigning and Corinne Zhang busy with baby Amy, our numbers are depleted.

In particular, we need someone to handle publicity for our events, which involves sending emails to contacts in an existing list. Someone is also needed to coordinate functions: liaise with venues such as the Canberra Southern Cross Club and monitor the acfsevent email account for bookings etc. These tasks are not onerous, and extra hands always make them easier. Meetings are once a month and are followed by dinner.

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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.

Help with setting up and lantern sales

We will be needing help with the setting up of the park for the festival. There are lanterns and lights to hang, tables to set up, lanterns to be prepared. We will begin at about 3.30pm with a view to having everything done by 5.30.

There is also a great need for help with sales of lanterns. Tasks include handing out lanterns with LED lights and sticks and taking payments. There is always a huge rush just before the lantern parade begins, so at least six people would be good. The more we have the more we can organise shifts so some volunteers can see some of the performances. Please let us know if you can help by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com.

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ANU Centre on China in the World Events

Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Early "Reform and Opening" in China (1978-1989): A Transnational History of Intellectual Exchanges

**Felix Wemheuer, University of Cologne,
Thu 6 Mar, 5pm | CIW Seminar Room**

With a focus on the transnational intellectual history through historical documents and academic journals, this talk probed why Eastern Europe's economic reforms failed to avert socialism's collapse, while China's "Reform and Opening" policies thrived.

The Political Economy of Hong Kong Development from Colonialism to the National Security Order

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, February 2025

- In December 2024 the Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year, was added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- The Spring Festival holiday in China ran from 28 January to 4 February, during this time the Box Office revenue for movies was 9.51 billion Yuan with 187 million movie goers, a new record high for China.
- China's central bank increased its gold reserves by 44.17 tons in 2024 to 2,279,57 tons making it the sixth largest in the world. In 2024 China's gold output was 377.21 tons and consumption was 985.31 tons. Additional gold production from imported raw materials was 158.86 tons.
- China has been the world's largest online retail market for 12 consecutive years, online retail sales reached 15.5 trillion yuan in 2024. The added value of China's wholesale and retail industries was 13.8 trillion yuan in 2024, 10.2% of GDP.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

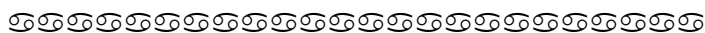
Ho-fung Hung, Johns Hopkins University, Tue 18 Mar, 5:30pm | CIW Auditorium

This talk outlines the transformation of Hong Kong’s economy from a colonial entrepôt to an export-oriented manufacturing hub and, eventually, a global financial centre.

Cold War, China, and the Future of the Dollar Hegemony

Ho-fung Hung, Johns Hopkins University, Wed 19 Mar, 4pm | CIW Seminar Room

Cold War and post-Cold War geopolitics have sustained USD hegemony from the 1970s to the 2000s. In this seminar, Professor Hung will discuss how China's RMB become the first viable alternative to the USD, with the potential to challenge dollar hegemony and help usher in multipolar monetary order.



Project Hope

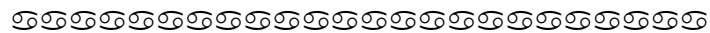
We have received information about our current Project Hope students. We currently sponsor ten students who go to several schools in the Huairou district, including Labagoumen, and 1 student in Shinin a rural district north of Beijing. Details of the five students not listed in the previous Bulletin are below.

As in past years, we invite members to contribute to this sponsorship. Costs have increased because of exchange rates, and the contributions are \$220 for primary students and \$330 for secondary students. Payments can be made by bank transfer, details on the back page.

Name	Sex	School	Age	Home Situation	Cost
Li Xinting	F	5th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School	10	Her father had heart surgery and works as the gate keeper of the village. Her mother works on odd jobs. Her elder sister is in the 4th year of the college. Both her grandmas are in poor health with persistent medication and live with the family.	1000
Li Yunfei	M	3rd Grade in Huaibei Primary School Huairou District, Huaibei town	8	His father is handicapped and incapable of heavy work. Both his parents have no regular jobs. His brother is in school. The family applies for subsistence allowance.	1000
Liu Qi	F	3rd Grade in Beijing National Day School Jiuduhe Primary School, Huairou District	8	She has an older sister and a younger brother. Her grandpa lives with the family. Her mother is a housewife. The whole family relies on her father's income.	1000
Li Tianxi	F	3rd Grade in Longwantuncun Central Primary School, Shunyi District which borders Huairou District	8	Her mother, her grandma and grandpa are all severely handicapped and incapable of working. Her father has no full time job and works on odd jobs to earn meagre income.	1000
Zhang Aohan	F	1st Grade of Wuyi Primary School in Huairou District	6	Both her grandparents are severely ill. Her father has to stay at home to take care of herself and her grandparents. Her mother works as a waitress and her salary can barely support the family.	1000

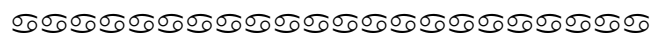
Chinese New Year dinner

The Chinese New Year dinner at the China Tea Club at North Lyneham was a successful function attended by 30 members and friends. Good food and good company was enjoyed by all.



Lunar New Year at Dickson

The stall at Dickson on Saturday 1 February was not a great success. The location was not ideal in terms of passing traffic and we sold considerably less of both decorations and lanterns. With the amount of work involved both beforehand and on the day we will have to reconsider holding it next year.



Committee News – 10 February 2025 meeting

Your committee held its February committee meeting at the 'China Tea Club' restaurant in North Lyneham on what ended as a stormy evening.

We moved through most agenda items briskly, as needed the time to finalise the Lantern Festival arrangements for Saturday 15th February.

The society's Chinese New Year dinner held at the 'China Tea Club' in North Lyneham to celebrate the year of the Earth Snake was well participated and the meal and service provided by Stephen, Geraldine and their team was enjoyed and appreciated by all who were there.

We made plans for the annual general meeting to be on 19 March at the 'Golden King' restaurant in Philip.

The committee is also planning a movie night as the April event – we will let you know of the details, once we have confirmed the booking and movie to show.

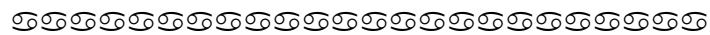
Another decision made at the meeting was the topic for the Panda Competition 2025 – it will be 'Chinese Architecture'. – We had this topic quite some years ago and the students' entries were very creative.

We are hoping that the stormy weather subsides in time for the Lantern Festival, as a lot of planning and effort is undertaken to ensure a fun and successful event. If you can attend on the night, that would be great. We also thank those of you volunteering your assistance on the evening.

Our meal at the end of the meeting was tasty as always – a hit on the night were the prawn and ginger dumplings – delicious!

Stay safe during this stormy time of the year.

Your Secretary, Tanja



Chinese Horoscope 2025 – Year of the Snake

Source: [Chinese Horoscope 2025 – Year of the Snake](#)

The Chinese zodiac is a system of twelve animal signs that represent different personality traits and fortunes. Among them, the Snake is the sixth sign, following the Dragon and preceding the Horse.



People born in the year of the Snake are said to be wise, charming, and mysterious. They have a keen intuition and a deep understanding of themselves and others. Snakes are also ambitious and determined, but they can be secretive and jealous at times. Snakes enjoy learning new things and exploring different cultures and philosophies.

The Snake is the animal that comes after the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac, and it has a very different personality and vibe. The Dragon is flashy and energetic, but the Snake is mysterious and subtle. The Snake brings a new influence that is more refined and elegant. The Year of the Snake will start on January 29, 2025 and end on February 16, 2026.

In 2025, the Chinese zodiac will enter the year of the Wood Snake, which is the 32nd cycle of the 60-year lunar calendar. The Snake is the sixth animal in the zodiac, and it has a complex and mysterious nature. The Snake years are: 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 and **2025**.

Each Snake year has a different element, which gives it a different flavor and meaning. The Wood Snake is a charming, intelligent and creative sign, but also secretive, cunning and sometimes ruthless. **What will the Year of the Wood Snake bring for us?**

What does the snake symbolise?

On the positive side, the Snake represents wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, intuition, and creativity. Snakes are also associated with good luck, prosperity, fertility, and longevity. In some legends, snakes are considered to be divine messengers or guardians of sacred places. Snakes are also revered for their ability to shed their skin and renew themselves, symbolizing transformation and rebirth.

On the negative side, the Snake represents cunning, deception, jealousy, and temptation. Snakes are often portrayed as enemies or rivals of other animals, such as the Dragon or the Tiger. Snakes are also feared for their venomous bite, which can cause death or illness. In some stories, snakes are depicted as evil or demonic creatures that can harm or seduce humans.

Characteristics of the snake

If you were born in the Year of the Snake, you are a charming, elegant and sophisticated person who knows how to impress others with your wit and charisma. You are also intelligent, creative and ambitious, with a strong sense of self-worth and a keen eye for detail. You have a natural talent for leadership and can inspire others to follow your vision.

However, you also have some weaknesses that you need to be aware of. You can be secretive, manipulative and jealous, especially when it comes to your personal relationships. You tend to hold grudges and have difficulty forgiving and forgetting. You can also be stubborn, prideful and arrogant, refusing to admit your mistakes or listen to other opinions.

As a Snake, you need to learn how to be more open, honest and flexible in your interactions with others. You should also try to be more humble, compassionate and forgiving, and appreciate the value of different perspectives and experiences. By doing so, you will be able to improve your relationships and achieve greater happiness and success in life.

Predictions for the year of the wooden snake 2025

According to the **Chinese horoscope 2025**, the Year of the Wood Snake in will be a time of tremendous opportunity, renewal and potential. Using the Snake's wisdom and intuition, coupled with the inspirational and flexible nature of the Wood element, we can anticipate a year full of both challenges and opportunities.

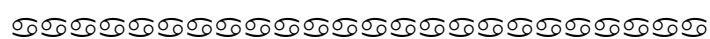
As stated above, first of all the Chinese zodiac 2025 indicates that the year of the Wood Snake will be a time of renewal and transformation.

Like a snake sheds its skin and emerges with a new appearance, we too are advised to let go of our old habits and fixed ideas. Surely the year of the Snake 2025 can be an excellent time to start new projects, explore new opportunities or even make significant changes in your life.

Another key **Chinese zodiac prediction for 2025 is that the Year of the Wood Snake** will be a time to think strategically and plan carefully.

Armed with the Snake's calmness and intellect, coupled with the adaptability and flexibility in the face of change given by the Wood element, we will be capable of tackling the goals we set for ourselves in 2025 with determination and objectivity. The Year of the Snake 2025 will be about setting realistic goals, devising plans and working towards our dreams.

On the other hand, according to Chinese astrology, in 2025, we will also face some challenges. During the year of the Snake, people may be negatively influenced by the manipulative tendencies of this Chinese zodiac animal; the number of people trying to take advantage or cheat you will probably increase.



Across China: Intangible heritages add ethnic culture charm to holiday atmosphere

Source: Xinhua, Editor: huaxia, 2025-02-08 15:58:45

Wan Yuan, 45, dips a knife into melted wax and makes a few strokes with it, resulting in a vivid butterfly pattern appearing on a piece of cloth. This Miao ethnic craftsman from Qiaohai Village, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Guizhou Province, watched his mother make batik when he was a child. Wan practiced and gradually mastered this craft. Via his skilled hands, an ordinary piece of cloth is transformed into a unique blue-and-white batik work, following multiple processes including wax painting, dyeing, dewaxing, washing and drying.



Miao ethnic craftsman Wan Yuan makes batik at an intangible heritage market in the city of Kaili in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Guizhou Province, Jan. 9, 2025. (Xinhua/Wu Si)

Wan used to earn a living by working on construction sites and in factories far away from home. However, thanks to his strong interest and excellent skills, he was later able to focus on the batik industry and has now been involved in this field for more than 20 years.

In a stall measuring over 10 square meters at the intangible heritage market in the city of Kaili in Qiandongnan, his batik works are turned into products like clothes, bags and tea mats -- which are welcomed by customers. In 2024, his creations generated sales worth 150,000 yuan (about 20,923 U.S. dollars). The market in Kaili opened to the public in September 2023, featuring hundreds of stalls run by local craftspeople. Items on sale there cover nearly 10 categories, involving more than 6,000 kinds of handicrafts such as embroidery, batik and silver ornaments.

During the recent Spring Festival holiday, which ran from Jan. 28 to Feb. 4, many craftspeople at the market welcomed an increased number of customers. According to Meituan Travel, a major online platform focused on tourism consumption in China, the search volume of "Spring Festival travel" has since January surged by 328 percent year on year, while that of "intangible cultural heritage" has increased by 174 percent compared with the same period in 2024.

The Spring Festival itself, a social practice of the Chinese people in celebration of the traditional new year, was added to its intangible cultural heritage list by UNESCO in December last year.

Pan Yuzhen, a 79-year-old embroiderer from Taijiang County, also part of Qiandongnan, opened her stall on the first day of the Chinese New Year. The highest daily sales value achieved by her stall during the holiday was 1,600 yuan. Pan started learning embroidery from her mother at the age of five and has since been engaged in the industry. Thanks to her exquisite skills, Pan has been invited to five countries -- including France, Britain and the United States. She has on many occasions worn her own embroidery costumes for catwalk shows on international stages, while her works have graced the stages of major global fashion weeks.

At her stall, Pan always patiently introduces the cultural implications of her chosen patterns. She hopes that what tourists take away is not only commodities, but also insights into such profound ethnic culture. "The recognition and love of our handicrafts by domestic and foreign tourists has brought me great confidence," said Pan.

For both craftspeople and tourists, this market is not merely a space for commodity trading. Instead, it serves as a stage for cultural exchanges -- thereby allowing traditional crafts to be inherited and ethnic culture to shine brightly. A 36-year-old fashion designer from the bustling southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, surnamed Fu, learned about this market online and without any hesitation decided to visit Kaili. She ended up strolling around the market for two days before the eve of the Spring Festival. Fu shuttled among the stalls and bought handicrafts such as skirts and trousers featuring batik. "Here I can relax myself and learn traditional crafts, while I have gained a lot of design inspiration. It's really a worthwhile trip," she said. ■

A visitor selects artworks at an intangible heritage market in the city of Kaili in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Guizhou Province, Jan. 9, 2025. (Xinhua/Wu Si)

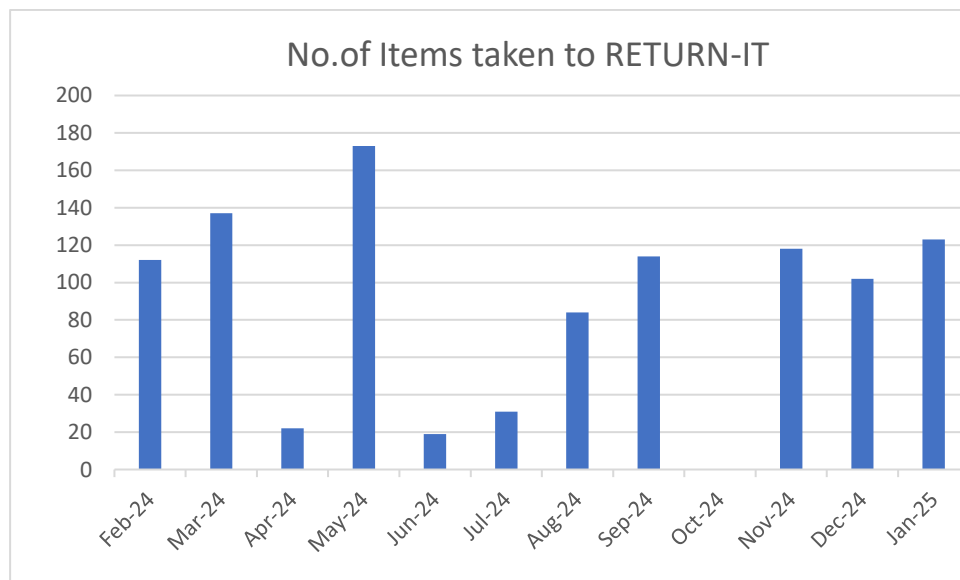


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Recycling of cans and bottles

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.

122 items went to Return-It in December. 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'.



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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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