



Australia China Friendship Society

ACT Branch Inc

澳中友好协会

PO Box 296, Belconnen, ACT 2615

ABN: 51 554 404 306

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www.acfs.org.au

Bulletin

2025/1 January 2025

Coming events

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Chinese New Year dinner | 29 Jan |
| Lunar New Year in Dicksonstall | 1 Feb |
| Lantern Festival | 15 Feb |
| Annual General Meeting | mid March |

Memberships due

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

Committee

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| President | Carol Keil | 6247 8231 cjkeil@proforte.com.au |
| Secretary | Tanja Naeher | 6259 5539 |
| Treasurer | Neil Birch | 0478 417 994 neilandwei@gmail.com |
| Bulletin editor | Jean Norman | 0405 617 222 jjnorman46@inet.net.au |
| Committee members | John Wong | 6294 0068 |
| | Robert Quimby | 0410 475 163 |
| | Amanda Andrews | 0452 323 520 |
| | Corinne Zhang | |

Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

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 \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. Please book by 25 January 2025 by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com. The menu is:

Sang Choi Bow

King Island Steak with Peppery Sauce
Crispy Skin Shan-Tung Chicken
Deboned Pork Shanks with Chinese Black Moss Sauce
Budda Hot Pot
Ling with snowpeas
King Prawns with Garlic & Vegetables

Boiled Rice

Traditional Chinese red bean soup with black sesame dumplings

Chinese Tea

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Lunar New Year at Dickson

The Society will again have a stall at the ACT Lunar New Year celebrations in Dickson on Saturday 1 Feb from 10.00am to 5.00pm. We will be selling lanterns and a wide variety of Chinese decorations at prices ranging from \$3 to \$15, as well as a variety of papercuts. It is also an excellent opportunity to advertise the Lantern Festival and memberships. Last year this stall made a major contribution to our fundraising and attracted a lot of attendees to the Lantern Festival.

We need volunteers to run the stall during the day. With fewer committee members and the holidays, more help is needed in three shifts: 10.00 to 12.30, 12.30 to 3.00, 3.00 to 5.30. If you are able to assist, please email acfsevent@gmail.com or contact Carol Keil on 6247 8231.

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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 1.00pm with a view to having everything done by 5.30 or so.

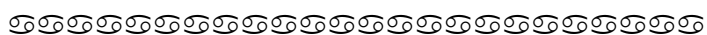
There is also a great need for help with sales of lanterns. Tasks include handing out lanterns with LED lights and sticks and taking payments. There is always a huge rush just before the lantern parade begins, so at least six people would be good. The more we have the more we

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, January 2025

- An epidemiological survey by an authoritative institution has shown that the actual incidence of depression among Chinese adolescents is about 2%. There have been Internet rumours that the rate was between 15% and 20%. It has been shown that psychological counselling and guidance can help reduce the risk of illness in individuals exhibiting symptoms that do not yet meet the diagnostic criteria for a mental disorder.
- Around 313 million people have engaged in ice and snow sports in China since the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Surveys show that enthusiasm for winter sports continues to grow. In November and December, the number of bookings at China's northwestern ski resorts had increase over 50% from a year earlier and bookings at hotels within 5 km from ski resorted had increased over 27%.
- On 22nd of December the Shanghai Port became the first in the world to see annual container through put to exceed 50 million 20-foot equivalent units. The port has ranked first globally for 14 consecutive years in terms of container throughput. Shanghai Port's container throughput topped 1 million for the first time in 1994. It now has nearly 350 shipping routes reaching more than 700 ports worldwide.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

can organise shifts so some volunteers can see some of the performances. Please let us know if you are coming by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com.



A letter of congratulation on our 50th Anniversary from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the ACT Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS), on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries(CPAFFC), I would like to extend warm congratulations to the ACT Branch! I would also like to extend my sincere greetings to President Carol Keil and all the members of the Society, as well as people from all walks of life in Australia who have long cared for and supported China-Australia friendship!

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the China-Australia relationship has withstood the test of half a century, and has become more mature, stable and resilient over the past 50 plus years. Last November, Prime Minister Albanese paid a successful visit to China. President Xi Jinping and PM Albanese offered important strategic guidance on improving and developing China-Australia relations. Over the past year and more, China-Australia relations demonstrated a momentum of continuous improvement and development. The two countries have maintained close communication and exchanges at all levels, actively promoted the implementation of the important consensus reached between the two heads of state, and achieved positive progress. Past progress shows that a healthy and stable China-Australia relationship serves the common interests of the people of both countries, and also meets the shared expectations of countries in the region. Both sides should adhere to mutual respect, treat each other as equals and seek common ground while shelving differences, and work together to build a more mature, stable and fruitful China-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership to inject more stability and certainty into the region and the world.

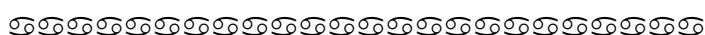
Friendship between the peoples holds the key to sound state-to-state relations, and heart-to-heart communication contributes to deeper friendship. The development of China-Australia relations would not have been possible without the support and participation of the people of both countries, including members of the ACT Branch of the ACFS. As an important force in promoting China-Australia people-to-people friendship your society has been at the forefront of fostering friendly exchanges between China and Australia for half a century, actively building platforms to deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the peoples of the two countries, making significant contributions to the mutual understanding and connection between our people.

As a national people's organization dedicated to people-to-people diplomacy, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has traversed a glorious journey of 70 years, unswervingly fulfilling its noble mission of enhancing people's friendship, promoting international cooperation, maintaining world peace, and fostering common development. In terms of promoting the mutual understanding between the Chinese and Australian people, our association shares the same vision as yours. We have always placed great importance on China-Australia people-to-people friendship, and have been committed to promoting exchanges and cooperation in various fields at the people-to-people and local levels between China and Australia, and have maintained close ties with friendly organisations and individuals in Australia, including your society. Looking ahead, we sincerely welcome more Australian friends to visit China to witness the achievements of Chinese modernization and to learn

about the results and broad prospects of cooperation in various fields between our two countries.

Standing at a new historical starting point, our association is willing to work together with the ACT Branch of the ACFS and friends from all sectors in Australia to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, to build more bridges for exchanges and cooperation at the people-to-people, sub-national, cultural, youth and various levels between China and Australia, continuously enhancing mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between people of the two countries. We stand ready to make our contributions to the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Australia, and to jointly write a new chapter of bilateral friendship!

YANG Wanming
President
The Chinese People's Association for
Friendship with Foreign Countries
December 4, 2024



Committee news, 13 January 2025 meeting

The Committee (those who were available) met for the first time this year at the Ginseng Restaurant at the Hellenic Club on 13 Jan 2025. The main items for discussion were the stall at Dickson, including pricing of lanterns, decorations and papercuts for sale and a roster of volunteer help on the day.

The Lantern Festival is also a major event and requires extensive planning, including a review of alternative methods of lighting and suspending lanterns with a view to minimising the need to climb ladders. Carol has prepared a flier and will have them printed in time for the stall at Dickson.

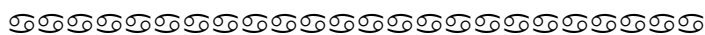
Publicity is proving difficult since Alex Olah left the Committee and his replacement, Robert Quimby's involvement in many other activities. John Wong agreed to send emails.

We have received information about the students sponsored through Project Hope and ask that members consider contributing to the cost of that: details below.

After the meeting we enjoyed a meal that included a dish of baby spinach with mushrooms that was delicious.

Hope to see you at the Chinese New Year dinner, the stall at Dickson or the Lantern Festival – or at all three!

Jean Norman, filling in for Tanya who is in Adelaide.



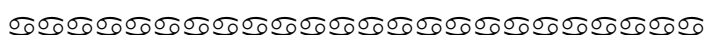
Project Hope

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 first 5 students 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. (Thanks to Teck Lee for his recent donation.) Payments can be made by bank transfer, details on the back page.

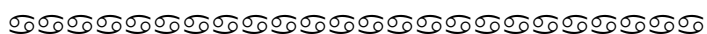
Project Hope students 2024-25

| Name | Sex | School | Age | Home Situation | Fees |
|--------------|-----|---|-----|---|------|
| Zhou Xiaowei | F | 1st Grade in the 5th high School of Yanqing District | 16 | She is a "model student" of the school and is gifted in painting. Her father is ill and can't work. Her family's income only relies on her mother's farming and working as a forest guardian. | 1500 |
| Li Yiran | F | 5th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School | 10 | Her parents do not have permanent jobs, supporting the family with income from odd jobs. Her grandma lives with the family together with her younger siblings, all incapable of work. Their lives are in great difficulties. | 1000 |
| Miao Xin | M | 3rd Grade in Beijing Huairou District Vocational School | 17 | He has a very out-going personality. He talks and laughs a lot. He studies well but is not the top student yet. His father is unemployed. His step mother has passed away. His brother studies at primary school. The family is supported by social subsistence allowance. | 1500 |
| Liu Zikun | F | 5th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School | 10 | Her parents work on odd jobs. Her brother is studying at high school. Her grandma is retarded and incapable of supporting herself. | 1000 |
| Liu Jing | F | 5th Grade in Labagoumen Central Primary School | 10 | Her father works as a farmer with meagre income. Her mother is a casual worker at the village's nursing home. Her grandparents live with the family and are in poor health with high medical expenses. Her elder sister is in junior high school. The family is under great financial pressure. | 1000 |



Christmas dinner

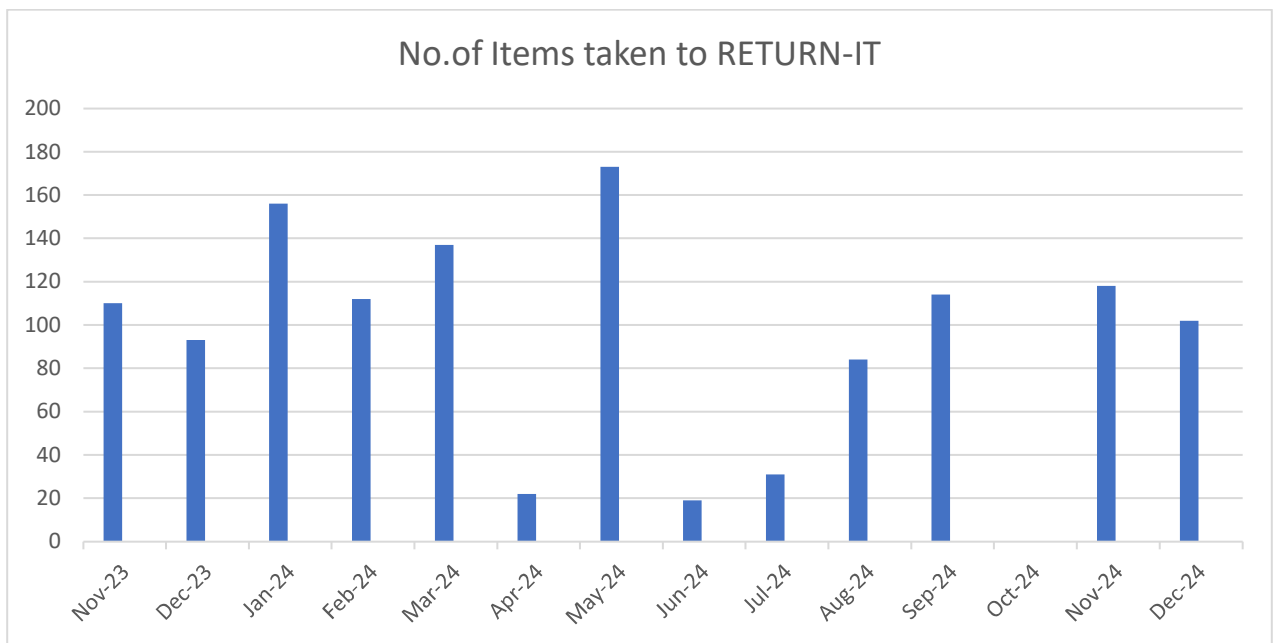
The Christmas dinner at Jimmy's Place was not as successful as previous ones. 32 members had booked but 4 omitted to come. The restaurant was extremely crowded and noisy which made conversations a little difficult and the food was not as plentiful as it should have been. Parking was also difficult so we decided it was not a good option for our dinners.



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.

102 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'.



Distilled wine from more than 3,000 years ago found in east China

Source: Xinhua Editor: huaxia 2025-01-14 16:42:45

A remarkable discovery in Shandong Province, east China, has revealed liquid in an ancient piece of bronzeware to be distilled liquor, pushing the origins of China's distilled alcohol production back to more than 3,000 years ago.

The liquid was in a bronze utensil unearthed in 2010 at the Daxinzhuang Ruins in Jinan City, the capital of Shandong, dating back to the late Shang Dynasty (1600 BC-1046 BC). It took archaeologists years to open the utensil, which was sealed by rust.

A sample of the liquid was sent to the Joint International Research Laboratory of Environmental and Social Archaeology at Shandong University for testing, which confirmed that it contained ethanol.



According to Wu Meng, associate researcher with the lab who led the research, fruit wine and rice wine made through fermentation without distillation contain sugar and protein in addition to ethanol. But sugar and protein were not found in the sample this time, meaning that the newly found liquid was distilled wine.

"The origin of China's distilled wine has always been an important topic in the study of the country's science and technology history and wine culture," said Wu.

Archaeologists have already discovered distilling paraphernalia from the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD) at multiple sites, as well as distilled liquor from the same period. The new findings suggested that the history of China's distilled liquor production could date back 1,000 years earlier than previously thought

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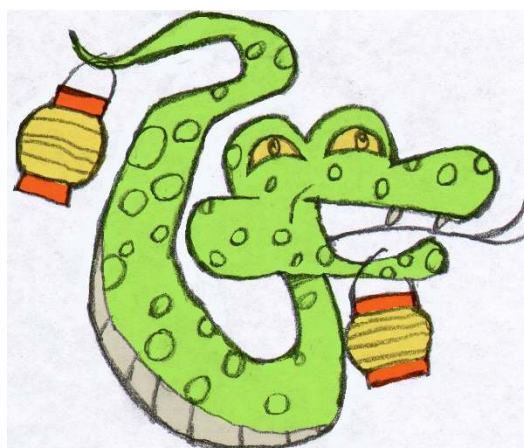
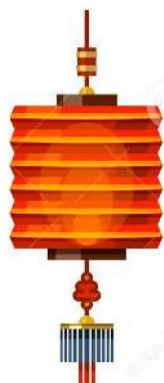
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Lantern Festival



Saturday 15 February 2025



6.15 pm to 8.30pm

Canberra Beijing Garden, Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla

Bring your own picnic (only bottled water for sale) and
enjoy the colour and ambience

Entry is Free

Bring your own lantern or buy one there.

Performances include Chinese classical music, dances, martial arts,
dragon and lion dances and the finale includes a lantern parade
along the edge of the lake and through the Canberra Beijing Garden

For further information please email acfsevent@gmail.com or ring Carol on 6247 8231

Promoting Friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese People

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

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Renewal New Member

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