

Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2018/6 June 2018

Coming events

Conversation evening

8 July

Canberra Winter Festival lantern workshops

13, 14 and 21 July

Film night: *Wolf Totem*

18 July

Talk on Chinese culture

15 August

Talk on Art Deco Department stores of Shanghai

September

ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble concert

7 October



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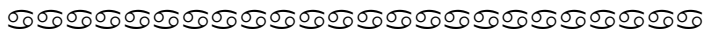
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For your diary

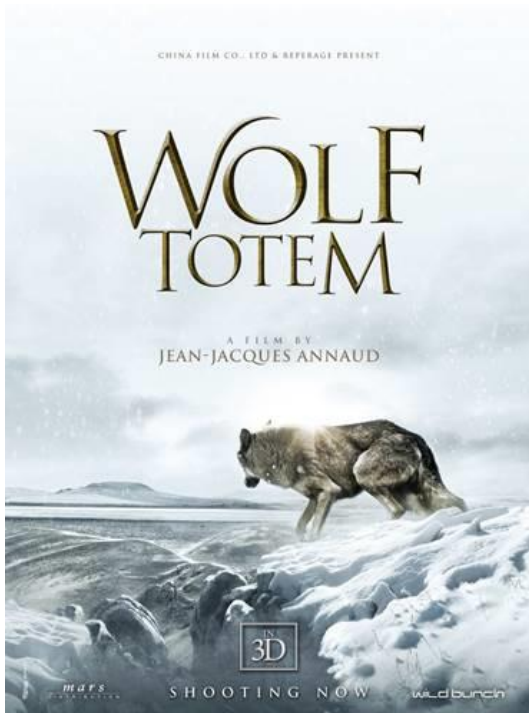
Chinese – English conversation evening: 8 July

One Sunday each month there is a Chinese-English conversation evening from 7.30-9.30pm at the home of Shirley Johns. One hour is spent speaking Chinese (for English speakers who would like to practise their Chinese) and one hour is spent speaking English (for Chinese speakers who would like to improve their English).

If you would like to attend the conversation evening, please phone Shirley on 6254 4305 (after hours).



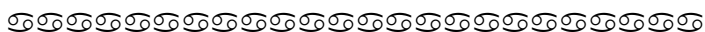
Film night: *Wolf Totem*



On Wednesday 18 a screening of the feature film *Wolf Totem* will be held at the Canberra Labor Club, Belconnen, in the Whitlam Room. The screening will begin at 7.30 pm, and those who wish to join others for dinner in the bistro will meet there at 6.00pm. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 13 July.

In 1967, a young Beijing student, Chen Zhen, is sent to live among the nomadic herdsmen of Inner Mongolia. Caught between the advance of

civilization from the south and the nomads' traditional enemies – the marauding wolves – to the north; humans and animals, residents and invaders alike, struggle to find their true place in the world.



Talk on Chinese Culture

On Wednesday 15 August Alex Olah will again talk to members and friends about his experiences in China and observations on Chinese culture. The talk will be in the Catchpole Room at the Southern Cross Club Jamison at 7.30.

Those who wish to will have dinner in the bistro at 6.00. Please book by emailing acfsevent@gmail.com by 10 August.

Fast facts from the Beijing Review, June 2018

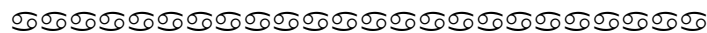
- Chinese schools have been asked to prevent students becoming addicted to the internet. Schools are to enhance students' awareness of the dangers of anti-social content and the negative impact of online gaming. Schools are to provide assistance and guidance to students who show signs of addiction to such content or games. Internet access within schools will be tightened and use of mobile phone regulated. Parents are being made aware of the issues and asked to intervene more effectively.
- The State Administration of Cultural Heritage has launched a database of stolen foreign antiques. Chinese customs officials will use the database to prevent them from entering and circulating in China. Institutions and the public are being asked to check the database from time to time to avoid the purchase or sale of such items.
- China's South to North water diversion scheme, the world's largest, takes water from the Yangtze to feed dry areas in the north through eastern, middle and western routes. The middle route begins at Danjiangkou Reservoir in Hubei Province and runs across Henan and Hebei provinces before reaching Beijing and Tianjin. Since it began working in December 2014 the middle route has delivered more than 10,800 gegalitres (10.8 teralitres) of water to China's northern provinces.
- China dealt with more than 460 cases of copyright infringement in the first 3 months of this year. More than 1.5 million illegal publications including online literature, music, videos and games were confiscated.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.

Exciting opportunity: Canberra Winter Festival

We have been asked to run 2 lantern-making workshops for the Canberra Winter Festival on Saturday 14th and 21st July from 4-6pm. The venue will be in the big circus tent, which will be spacious and warm, somewhere in the CBD. This is an excellent opportunity to advertise the Society and, on past experience, the workshops are always an enjoyable experience both for the participants and those of us helping. No experience is necessary to be able to come along and help on either or both days. We will have pre-packed bags of components and laminated sheets of simple instructions on each table.

We will have an 'assembly' day at 1.30pm at Carol's on 13 July to prepare and pack the bags of components and if you would like to come and help with this task you would be very welcome as more hands make light work! Please email acfsevent@gmail.com if you can help on any of the days of 13th, 14th or 21st July.



Art Deco department stores of Shanghai

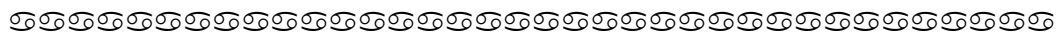
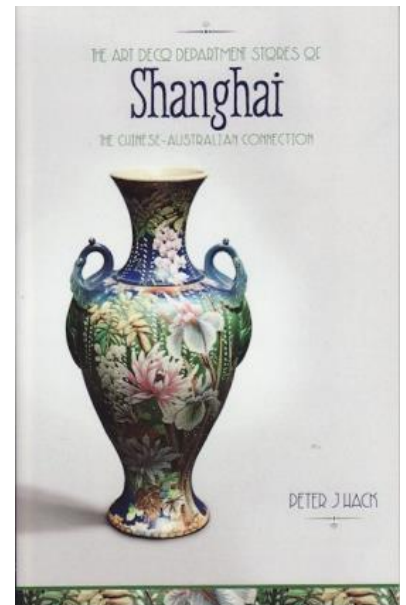
In September, date to be advised, we will be treated to a talk on the art deco department stores of Shanghai by Peter Hack, author of a book on the subject.

Shanghai's Nanjing Road is internationally famous for its iconic art deco department stores. These stores are not just about shopping. They are not just about selling modern goods from around the world. They are about entertainment and they are about pleasure!

But if you were to ask who established these stores, there would be very few people who would know the answer. Even fewer would know the names of the Chinese-Australian merchants who were key-players. It is no exaggeration to say that the department stores of China and Hong Kong were built on the back of Sydney's Haymarket banana trade.

Peter will have copies of his book with him.

The talk will be at 7.30pm at the Labor Club, Belconnen. Those who wish to may meet for dinner in the bistro at 6.00pm.

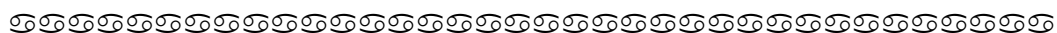


ANU China in the World events

Date	Time & location	Title & presenter
06 Jul	3:30pm-5:30pm Seminar Room A, China in the World Building (188), Fellows Lane, ANU	ANU China Seminar Series <u>Masculinizing Jianghu Spaces: Homosociality, Nationalism, and Chineseness</u> Presenter(s): Geng Song
12 Jul	3:00pm-4:30pm Seminar Room A, China in the World Building (188), Fellows Lane, ANU	CHL Seminar <u>Neutrality and Collaboration in an 'East Asian Casablanca': Sino-Portuguese Relations and Macau, 1937-1945</u> Presenter(s): Helena F. S. Lopes

ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble

The **ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble** will present a concert on 7 October in the Larry Sitsky Room, Canberra School of Music. They will also be performing at the High Court on Sunday 2 September at 1.30pm, and at Floriade.



Committee news, June meeting

Your Committee's June meeting was held on a cold, just pre winter solstice evening, at the 'Ginseng Restaurant' located in the Hellenic Club, Woden.

Time was spent on some administrative decisions and discussion – e.g. the provision of shields to schools which take part in the annual School Awards. Some of the shields have been 'lost' by at least two schools and we spent some time discussing possible replacements and whether or not to continue the practice. The decision was to continue. Also, discussed the suggestion to plant the replacement 'Friendship' tree (the one we planted at the Embassy in 1992 has died and the place is now covered by carports) at the Beijing Garden, instead of at the Embassy and we will investigate the possibility.

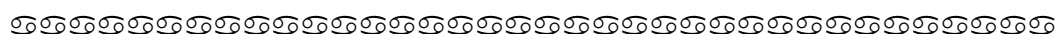
We made sure we were organized for our two July 2018 events. The society was approached by the Canberra Winter Festival organisers on the possibility of the Society presenting lantern making workshops. The Committee agreed to do so on the 14 and 21 July 2018. Also, in July is our movie night to view 'Wolf Totem'. Please see the newsletter for details on these events. We also talked about some of the upcoming events throughout the year – e.g. a talk by our very own Committee member, Alex Olah, in August and a concert by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble in October.

Before closing the meeting, we wished Carol and John, our representatives on the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) hosted trip to Beijing and Shanxi from 27 to 28 June 2018 a healthy and happy journey.

Our end of meeting meal was thoroughly enjoyed – I particularly enjoyed the dry chilli beef.

Keep rugged up!

Your Secretary, Tanja



Deep into Rural Jiaodong Peninsula

Member Shaoying Wang give a talk on Thursday 24 May at 7.30pm for some 15–20 members and friends about her experiences in Jiaodong Peninsula, Shandong Province.

Shaoying discussed with great enthusiasm the traditional arts, local food, wild food and medicine foraging, traditional buildings, traditional farming knowledge and tools and traditional food making. Her aim in running small group tours to the area is to help appreciate and preserve such traditional knowledge and simple earthy way of living.

Her website is shaoyintours.com, email shaoyingtours@gmail.com.

Culture Insider: Children's games in ancient China

Source: By Bi Nan, China Daily, 1 June 2018,

<<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201806/01/WS59bbe73ba310ded8ac18b4b0.html>>

During ancient times, children didn't have smart phones, iPads or computers to entertain them. Instead, they came up with interesting games to play in their childhood. Let's take a look.

Stone balls

During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), kicking a stone ball around was a popular sport in the northern part of China, and it was often played in the winter to keep warm. Stones were carved into small balls and kicked along with feet.

In 1999, the sport was included in the competition item in the 6th National Ethnic Group Traditional Sports Meeting held in Beijing.



The New Year painting from Qing Dynasty depicts people kicking stone balls in the yard. Collected by the Capital Museum.

Flying kites

Kites have quite a long history. The earliest kites were made of wood, instead of paper. Nowadays, the three most famous kites are the Beijing kite, Tianjin kite and Weifang kite, which each has distinctive features. The swallow-shaped kite is a well-known Beijing style.



A Yangliuqing New Year painting from the Qing Dynasty depicts children flying kites in the garden. Collected by the Capital Museum.

Hide-and-seek

Hide-and-seek is a traditional game for children, popular around the nation. There are two ways to play: covering a child's eyes while other kids run around to tease him or, more commonly, participants hide and one child must try to find them.



The New Year painting from the Qing Dynasty depicts children playing hide-and-seek. Collected by the Capital Museum.

Watching shadow plays

The closest thing to watching a film or television for entertainment during ancient times was going to see a shadow play. Folk artists manipulate puppets behind the screen, narrating stories and accompanied by music. During the Qing Dynasty, shadow play art reached its peak, and was staged for each major occasion.

Shadow play was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2006, and was added to the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list in 2011.



The painting from the Qing Dynasty depicts people watching a shadow play indoors.

Playing diabolo

Diabolo is always made of wood or bamboo and is hollow in the center. By juggling diabolo on ropes, the high-speed rotating diabolo will make a sound.

Playing diabolo is a very interesting folk game, especially popular in North China. Through many changes, it has become an item in Chinese traditional acrobatics. Playing diabolo was also included in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage in 2006.

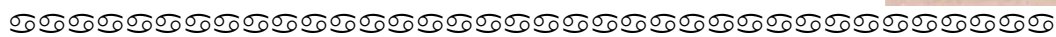


The New Year painting from Qing Dynasty depicts people playing diabolo. Collected by the Capital Museum.

Firecrackers

Firecrackers have a history of more than 2,000 years. It is said that there was a beast named *Nian* in ancient China, and to scare off the beast, people burnt bamboo joints to make it blast. After gunpowder was invented, it gradually replaced the bamboo joint cracker. Crackers are still set off during Spring Festival to symbolize auspiciousness.

The painting from Qing Dynasty depicts children playing with firecrackers. Collected by the Capital Museum.



24 Solar Terms: 7 things you may not know about 'Grain in Ear'

The Chinese lunar calendar divides the year into 24 solar terms. Grain in Ear, (Chinese: 芒种), the 9th solar term, begins on June 6 this year and ends on June 20.

The arrival of Grain in Ear signifies the ripening of crops such as barley and wheat. It is also a busy period for farmers.

The solar terms were created thousands of years ago to guide agricultural production. The culture remains useful today to guide



Grain in Ear. [Photo/VCG]

people's lives through special foods, cultural ceremonies and healthy living tips that correspond with each term.

The following are seven things you need to know about '**Grain in Ear**':

An increase in rainfall

Rainfall increases during Grain in Ear compared to the previous eight solar terms. Regions in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River are about to enter the Plum Rains season.

Plum Rains, often occurring during June and July, refer to the long period of continuous rainy or cloudy weather. This happens to be the time for plums to ripen, which explains the origin of its name. Plum Rains is a good period for growing rice, vegetables and fruits.

Pray for good harvest

"An Miao" (meaning seedling protection) is a traditional farming activity of southern Anhui province that has been practiced since the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Every year when Grain in Ear comes, they hold the sacrificial ceremony to pray for good harvests in the fall. People make different types of bread from wheat flour and color them with vegetable juice. The bread is used as a sacrificial offering to pray for a good harvest and people's safety.

Say farewell to the flora

In ancient China, on the second day of the second lunar month, people welcome the arrival of the Flower Goddess. During Grain in Ear people hold sacrificial ceremonies to bid farewell to the flora and show their gratitude.

Today, this custom does not exist in many areas of China. The liveliness and excitement of the ceremony can still be seen in the 27th chapter of the Chinese classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* by Cao Xueqin.

Mud wrestling

Youngsters of the Dong people in southeastern Guizhou province hold mud wrestling matches during Grain in Ear. On this day newlyweds, accompanied by their good friends, plant rice together. While planting, they throw mud at each other. At the end of this activity, whoever has the most mud on them proves they are the most popular person.

Boil green plums

In South China, May and June are the season when plums become ripe. There was an allusion that Cao Cao and Liu Bei, two central figures in the Three Kingdoms period (AD220-280), talked about heroes while boiling green plums.

Green plums contain a variety of natural and high-quality organic acids and are rich in minerals. They can help clean blood, lower blood lipids, eliminate tiredness and improve one's looks. However, fresh plums are acerbic and need to be boiled before serving.

Have light food

Do not eat greasy or strongly flavored food during Grain in Ear, that's the healthcare advice given more than a thousand years ago by Chinese pharmaceutical expert Sun Simiao of the Tang Dynasty (AD618-907).

Generally, vegetables and coarse grains that work in lowering blood pressure and blood fat should be the first choice. During this season, people are encouraged to consume less lamb, pork, hot peppers, onions and ginger if they are frequently feeling thirsty and tired.

Eat fruits and vegetables with cool nature

The weather is hot during the Grain in Ear period, therefore vegetables and fruits of a cool nature are recommended.

The balsam pear is a classic choice. It contains a lot of natural and nourishing water. It's also said to have healing properties which are good for patients suffering from high blood pressure or high blood sugar.

Other recommendations include tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, celery, asparagus, water melon and strawberry. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine theories, they are all cool-natured and can help eliminate heat in the body and promote digestion.

Source: China Daily, 7 June 2018,
<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201806/07/WS5b1896afa31001b82571ea98_8.html>

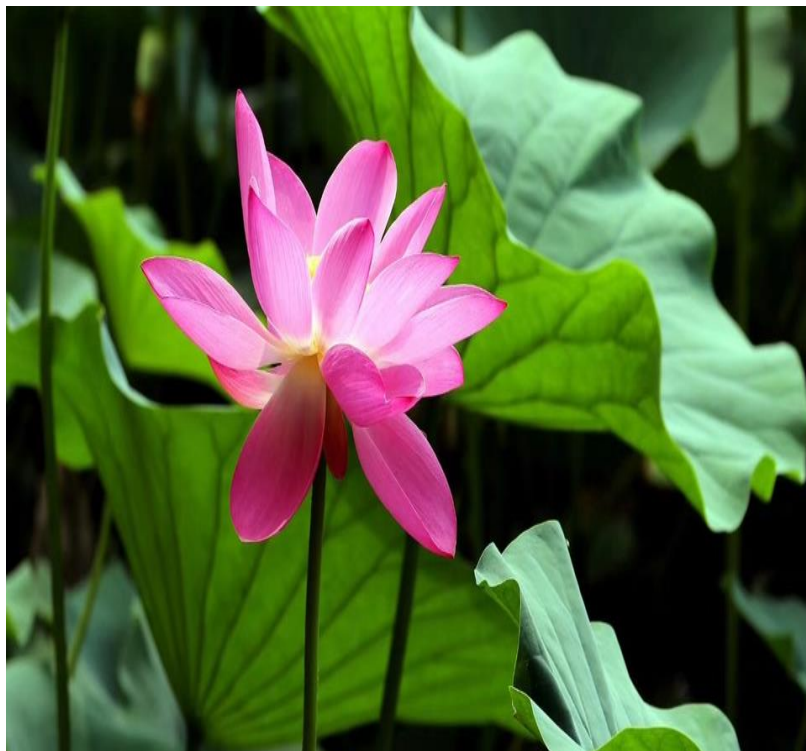
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**Lotus flowers set a lovely summer scene around China**

Source: China Daily, 19 June 2018,  
<<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201806/19/WS5b2876fea310010f8f59d968.html>>

A beautiful pink lotus flower blossoms in Beijing's Summer Palace, an imperial garden in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The flowers are lush and softly brilliant, serving as a bright accent to this tranquil summer scene. [Photo by Gao Anming/China Daily]

For more pictures of lotus flowers in bloom, see the China Daily article.



# 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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ACT Branch Bulletin