



AUSTRALIA CHINA FRIENDSHIP

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Promoting friendship between the peoples of Australia and China

May Newsletter 2019

Contents:

- * Upcoming Events
- * New Book
- * North East Trip
- * Chinese Opera
- * Bendigo Dragons
- * Shanghai Youth Camp
- * Events
- * Remembering ANZACS
- * Australia/China Events
- * In China
- * Upcoming Tours



Photo: CCAT President Brian Chung and Morine Chung, Guan Di Temple (Joss House).

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the ACFS.

Want more info: contact ian7777@bigpond.com

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS



50th Anniversary: A celebration of the Chinese Community Association in Tasmania.

Sunday 28th July 2019

1. Outdoor celebration with Lion and Dragon Dances, and 50 drums etc; in the area around CCAT Club Room, North Hobart
2. Official Launch at the CCAT Club House: Members and invitation only.

Monday 29th July

Gala Dinner to be held at Wrest Point.

Tuesday 30th July

Seminar: Chinese involvement in this state. Presented by CCAT members.

Further information on times and an update on all events will follow as they become available. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.



Exhibition of Paintings: Professor Wong Shiu Hon

When: October 25th 26th 27th 2019

Venue: Boardwalk Gallery, Wrest Point

An Exhibition of canvases by Professor Wong Shiu Hon will be officially opened at the Boardwalk Gallery on Friday 25th October 2019.

Professor Wong is formerly Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Hong Kong and was a lecturer at Murdoch University in Western Australia. He is an acclaimed artist who along with wife Nancy, now call Hobart Home.

The exhibition of over fifty pieces will showcase the journey of the artist from his earliest days (1950s) to the present day. Professor Wong's art is in the classical Chinese style and highlights his unique skills and professionalism. He is particularly renowned for his flower-and-bird paintings.

Further Details on this free event will follow as the exhibition nears.

Last Boat Out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who

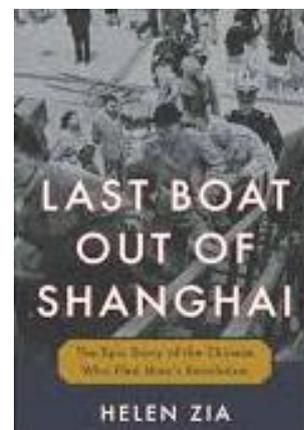
Fled Mao's Revolution: Author Helen Zia

This book tells the dramatic real life stories of four young people caught up in the mass exodus of Shanghai in the wake of China's 1949 Communist revolution. It relates how these four residents of Shanghai struggled with the huge decision to leave family friends and a way of life for an uncertain future as refugees in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the U.S.

Author Helen Zia is a product of such a story. She was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1952 to first generation immigrants from Shanghai. Zia is a graduate of Princeton University

and is an award winning journalist who has covered Asian communities and political

movements for over twenty years. She is also an spoken advocate for civil rights, women's rights and peace.



“Sharp Power – *Autocratic Nations threatening democratic nations like Australia in the 21st Century”.*

This was the topic of a talk that I attended on 19 March 2019 by Clive Hamilton.

Hamilton spoke about China engaging in *sharp power* i.e so-called China bullying democratically elected countries through direct political interference, using trade as a weapon of influence and using elites as influencers.

He tried to legitimise his talk by informing the gathering of his early anti US stances, study of Chinese history and visits to Taiwan.

The anti China diatribe continued with untruths and myths throughout the talk using scant examples perpetuated in the popular media. I was astounded at his attitude and directly challenged him on his statement that “Any organisation with *friendship* in its title is a Communist Party front”. I explained he was just plain wrong! He also questioned the loyalty of Chinese - Australians.

There was no mention of all the benefits that engaging with China and its peoples have brought to Australia and the rest of the world. I found the opinions expressed by Hamilton were xenophobic and racist and appeared to be parroting the rhetoric espoused by the United States and right wing propagandists. This was most disappointing to hear.

Hamilton also spent a lot of time discrediting Gareth Evans, former Foreign Affairs Minister over his interview with Fran Kelly ABC the previous week (14th March 2019).

This was a regretful and most disappointing talk advocating the type of attitude that was around fifty years ago.

Robin Matthews, National President, ACFS Ltd.

The opinions expressed in this article are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the ACFS.



New Ceo Meet and Greet

The President of the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania, Brian Chung, and Jan Everett ACFS Tas. attended the inaugural member meet and greet sessions arranged by the new CEO of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, Mr Ron Franks, at the *Hub* Hopkins Street, Moonah.

The Multicultural Council Board Chair, Mr Waqas Durrani, along with the CEO of TASCROSS and representatives of other organizations were also present.

Mr Franks was interested to know what our organisations expectations of the Multicultural Council were and how the organisation could be more involved in the wider community.

Mr Franks said that that they were “looking to offer this meet and greet session as an out-of-hours, quarterly service to keep in touch, explore ideas and thoughts about how the Multicultural Council of Tasmania can continue to best support other organizations and their members”.

ACFS looks forward to further contact with the Multicultural Council.

Trip to the North East Coast

On the 4th and 5th of April members of the CCAT Executive Committee visited the area of the early Chinese tin miners in the north east of Tasmania. The group consisted of CCAT President, Mr Brian Chung and Morine Chung, Vice president, Mr Daniel Chan, OAM and Past President Mrs Lily Chan, Past President and Public Officer Mr Peter Chung, OAM JP



and Mrs Aileen Chung. I acted as their guide. The visit was to investigate whether a bus trip to the area was viable to be included in the Fifty Year's Anniversary of the founding of the CCAT.



First stop was the St. Helens History Room. Kym Matthews, the Curator of the History Room showed us around the main attractions including those relating to the Chinese in the area. This also involved a short video by Helene Chung on the early arrival of that family to the mining area. Sietske and Lyn who are members of the team of dedicated volunteers at the History Room had also arranged a display of information and photos on the



early Chinese who were in the archives. Thanks to Kym and her team we had a better understanding of the work they undertake to retain the complex history of the district from its first nation peoples to modern day events.

Next stop was Weldborough. We visited the cemetery where there is an oven for burning prayer papers and a memorial to the Chinese who lived and worked in the surrounding area. Besides the Chintock plot there is a solitary grave of Gee Kit Tung whose bones were not repatriated to China. At the Weldborough Hotel is a statue of Guan Di that was presented to the people of Weldborough by a CCAT former President, Mr Gordon Henry, OAM.



We quickly stopped to see the site of the original Chinese camp where the Joss House once stood. Followed by a brief time at the Moorina Cemetery, (where the memorial to the Chinese and oven, is always kept in good condition) we arrived in Derby at the School House Museum.

The museum is staffed by volunteers and Virginia Valentino made a special effort to be there and explain some of the area's history. Last

stop was the Branxholm Bridge memorial to the first confrontation by the European miners against the Chinese on their way to the tin mines. After their way was blocked the Chinese returned to Scottsdale and with the presence of the police the incident did not amount to much and the miners were on their way again.

On the following day we met with Jon Addison the History Curator at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) Launceston. Jon updated the group on the plans for the Guan Di Temple and how they are meticulously



cataloguing the content of that collection and other significant donations from the old Chinese families of



Launceston such as Chin Kaw, and Chung Gon. Jon offered to show some of the artefacts to a CCAT group at a future date. A look at the Joss House in the Museum and our trip was over.

Photos clockwise: Curator Kym Matthews (third left) at the St Helens History Room , Guan Di statue at Weldborough Hotel, Branxholm Bridge, Derby School House

Chinese Opera in Australia

Chinese Opera in Australia made its first appearance on the Victorian goldfields in the 1850's. It would take over a decade to make its present felt in Victoria, Sydney and also briefly in Tasmania in the 1890's. Although the performance of Chinese Opera was mainly for the benefit of entertainment for Chinese it also was an attraction for Europeans who were intrigued by the mystery surrounding Oriental Culture. Here is one such incident in Launceston.

On Tuesday the 8th May 1893 a debut performance of Cantonese Chinese Opera was staged at the Albert Hall in Launceston, by the Melbourne Chinese Opera Company. The title was reported to be "Kum Yip Coot". The performance organized by the Launceston Chinese Community was to help raise funds for the Launceston City and Suburbs Improvement Association. Those who attended may have done so as much out of curiosity at seeing such a novel show rather than doing their civil duty in helping to raise funds for the said association.

The plot of the story was somewhat complicated for the non Chinese audience, but an outline was given on the program in order to make it better to understand the overall concept. Mr James Ah Catt (a well known business man of the time) took the initiative by chalking the numbers of the different scenes on a board, in an effort to make it easier to follow the events in the opera. Over all, the performance was well received and it could be said that this could be the forerunner of Tasmania's multicultural activities.

The Launceston Examiner Newspaper reported on the opera. In writing on the plot it said that "there were many incidental details, some of them no doubt humorous if they could have been understood. The costumes were very rich and elaborate, and as far as the music was concerned there was an abundance of sound, the chief effort seemed to be to drown out the voices of the singers. ". Over all the group played and sang with great earnestness and their attitudes were extremely dignified.

In order to give country people an opportunity to witness this unique performance, arrangements were made to run a cheap excursion train from Deloraine on Saturday 13th May, calling at intermediate stations along the way. A return train was arranged to leave Launceston at 11:00pm that night.

Source: Examiner Newspaper

Opera Character Dolls

In the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), Launceston collections from the Joss House, there are two sets of Chinese Opera character dolls.



According to the QVMAG History Curator Jon Addison, these dolls are of particular significance. This is because in his research on the dolls so far it would appear that these and another set of dolls in the U.S. are the only surviving

sets that were manufactured in Canton (Guandong) for export in the 1880's that they know of so far. The QVMAG is still doing extensive research on some of the characters that the dolls represent.



Photos:

Dolls from the Joss House (Guan Di Temple) Collection and Guan Di seated with his attendants from behind the alter in the Temple.

Bendigo's Dragons

Dragons are an important part of Chinese culture and have been used in Chinese festivals for over a thousand years. With this entrenched in their cultural history the Chinese of Bendigo, many of whom had made their home in the region since the gold rush of 1850's, made a decision to join in the Bendigo Easter Festival. In 1892 they paraded their Imperial Dragon and thus begun the start of what now is a must see event at Easter for visitors from overseas as well as Australians.



There are now three Imperial Dragons in Bendigo. The oldest one was official name Gum Loong meaning Golden Dragon by the early Chinese community. Over time the name was abbreviated to Loong. Loong has participated in many parades notably the 1901 Federation Parade and the 2001 centenary of Federation Parade.

Loong has five claws, which denotes royalty and gives him the highest status amongst all dragons. Loong is entirely handmade. He was built from colourful silks, mirrors, bamboo and paper mache. Loong is also thought to be the oldest imperial dragon in the world.

By the late 1960's, Loong's age was showing and it was evident that he would need to be replaced. The *Loong 100 Committee* of local Bendigo businessmen took on the task of raising money for his replacement and they were instrumental in funding the purchase of a new dragon.

Loong was finally replaced in 1970, the new dragon was named Sun Loong, meaning New Dragon. Sun Loong was made in Hong Kong by Lo On Kee, a master traditional dragon maker. For almost fifty years Sun Loong has entertained thousands of children and adults, myself including. Since my first sighting of him in 1971 till my last in 2018 in Melbourne, I have always been in awe of his

magic. Over the passage of time, Sun Loong also has required extensive conservation work. In 2008 it became clear that Sun Loong would also need to be replaced as the main parade dragon, and so the work began to raise funds and find a suitable dragon maker. Now ten years later the new dragon has arrived.



At this year's Easter Parade, the sound of fire crackers and the beating drums were almost drowned out by the roar of the crowd as Bendigo's latest dragon took his place in history. His name is Dai Gum Loong, it means 'big gold dragon' in Mandarin. Dai Gum Loong is covered with more than 7000 handmade scales; he measures over 125 metres and is thought to be the longest Golden Dragon in the world at present. He also has the distinction of being their first imperial male dragon carried by men and women.



These three are not the only dragons at the Bendigo Museum. It also houses other dragons which still perform at events. Sadly the Bendigo Chinese section of the town was bulldozed to make way for a car park, but as well as this excellent museum there is still a large cemetery and joss house making a visit a must if you are interested in the Chinese History of the area. **Source: Bendigo Museum**

Photos clockwise: Sun Loong 2018, Dai Gum Loong 2019 & Loong 1901

Celebrating Birthdays



Chinese Day Centre birthdays.
Long time members Vince who turned 90
and Susan whose birthday is in May.

15th Shanghai International Youth Camp

The 15th Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp 2019, co-organized by Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC) and Shanghai Youth Federation, will be held from July 16 to July 25, 2019 (10 days) in Shanghai with teenagers from all over the world attending.

ACFS has been successfully involved with this camp for many years. We have again been invited to send five students and a chaperone to this year's camp. The feedback we have had from those who have attended in previous years has been that they have had "an amazing time and met so many like minded students from countries around the world".

ACFS has chosen five students from Hobart's Elizabeth Collage to attend this year's camp. ACFS is grateful for the help from Chinese Language Teachers Association President, Bing Xu who recommended these students and was instruments in their recruitment.

Shanghai as a city is an amazing place. While at the camp students will have the opportunity to participate in cultural events, try Shanghainese style food and practise their language skills.

Seeking Volunteers

Please find the below content from an email from Dr Sophie from Museums Victoria which comes to ACFS via the *The Chung Wah Association Inc.*

I'm working with the Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria (CAFHOV) and we need help with a crowd-sourced digitization project related to the history of Chinese in Victoria! We're looking for people to help do transcribing and also spread the word!

The project is to digitise and transcribe the Victorian Registers of Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDT) held by the National Archives of Australia (Series B6003). These records are highly valuable sources for family historians searching for their ancestors who travelled overseas, from 1904 to 1959. There is no index to them so researchers need to spend hours looking at the physical books to find what they want.

The project aims to make publicly available a searchable database of records of family names and shipping records but we need help with transcription.

If you have any way of doing so it would be terrific if you could share this information with any who might be interested. It would be greatly appreciated. You can join us and transcribe at home via our online system!

To register simply email info@cafhov.com Further information can be found online at www.cafhov.com

Thanks, Sophie

Dr Sophie Couchman

Historian and Curator, Honorary Research Fellow, La Trobe University

Curator, Invisible Farmer Project, Museums Victoria

Exhibition Reviews Editor, *Australian Historical Studies*

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Tasmanian Chinese Artists in Sydney



An exhibition by Tasmanian artists that we had the privilege to be able to view over the Lunar New Year Festival will now debut in Sydney in May.

Western artists encountering Chinese culture today, do so under very different circumstances than their seventeenth and eighteenth century counterparts. Less a country shrouded in mystery, Westerners now have a greater understanding of China's long and varied cultural traditions and systems of belief.

This exhibition focuses on the work of a number of Tasmanian artists such as Chen Ping, Tracey Cockburn, Greg Leong, Stephen Woodbury, Xingming Wu and others who have engaged with aspects of Chinese culture, and who, through such an encounter, have created works productive of new insights into their own culture as well as into contemporary issues more broadly.

Curator: Dr. Llewellyn Negrin

Chinese Contemporary Art Tasmania Inc.

Opening: 16 May 2019, 6 PM

Venue: China Cultural Centre in Sydney, Level 1, 151 Castlereagh St. Sydney NSW 2000

Remembering Anzacs

In the not too distant past the number of people attending Anzac Services had begun to wane. Fast forward to 2019 and that situation has certainly changed. At services all over the country young faces can be seen alongside their parents and grandparents observing the parades and gathering around the Memorials. I chose to call it a Memorial not a war but to the men and women who gave up their lives not only on the battle field but also when they returned many with their bodies and minds broken. For a countless number of those who returned from any of these conflicts living was the hardest part not only for them, but also for families who endured these difficult years of understanding and also not understanding. So to me on Anzac Day it is important to remember those who were lost but more importantly those who returned as many of them are the forgotten ones.



Memorial to Chinese Aust. Armed Forces, Dixon St, Sydney

As remembrances on Anzac Day have changed, so has the acceptance that those of other ethnicity also answered the call to arms in Australia. Our diggers from Aboriginal and Chinese heritage along with many other nations' sons and daughters are at last being recognised for their service to this country. Up until approximately ten years ago their service was mainly something only acknowledged by their family and friends. Their existence was denied by many as being untrue. These attitudes have begun to change and their stories are now being told along with others who were once only in the shadows.

Jan Everett

If you wish to read more click on the lincs below:

<https://apple.news/Az3tBc04fSu2FV41SfaK9Jg>

<https://apple.news/AzDvSJO3RQ8etHlPhUVdVIA>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-25/century-old-photo-sparks-recognition-of-anzac-pow-unmarked-grave/1102902>

On Remembrance Day, 11 November 2002, the above site was dedicated by the NSW Government as a monument to Australians of Chinese heritage who served with pride, courage and distinction in the Australian Defence Forces and Merchant Navy during the Boer War, WWI, WWII, in Malaya, Korea and Vietnam, and those serving today.

Australia-China

New Australia- China National Foundation

The Australian Government has announced that it will invest \$44 million in a new National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. The Foundation will be an evolution of the Australia-China Council which has promoted ties between Canberra and Beijing for the last 40 years.

The Chair of the Australia-China Council, fellow Tasmanian, the Hon Warwick Smith AO will be the inaugural Chair of the new National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. Focus will be expanded from education, culture and the arts to include economic interests such as agriculture, infrastructure, health and the ageing, the environment and energy.

The Foundation will provide practical support and expertise to Australian stakeholders developing links and exchanges with counterparts in China.

Work on the establishment of the Foundation has commenced and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will consult state governments, business and community organizations.

Source: dfat.gov.au

New Ambassador to China

In a DFAT media release on March 29th 2019 the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon. Marise Payne announced Mr Graham Fletcher as the new Ambassador to Beijing.

Mr Fletcher is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and was most recently First Assistant Secretary, North Asia Division. He has previously served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy, Washington; Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy, Beijing; and Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Beijing. He is a China specialist who has served three postings as an Australian diplomat in China and is fluent in Mandarin.

Mr Fletcher holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Sydney.

The outgoing Ambassador to China since 2016 was Jan Adams AO PSM.

Source: [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

China Tas. strongest trading partner

A new article in *The Conversation* on research by KPMG and the University of Sydney Business School shows a fall in investment by 36% despite Chinese investors still generally regarding Australia as safer and more attractive than most other countries.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has released a report for 2017-2018 on Australia's trade in each State and Territory.

The report showed that China was Tasmania's largest two-way merchandise trading partner in the 2017-18 period, accounting for 25.1% (\$1.2 billion) of total trade. Malaysia (\$443 million) was the second largest, followed by Japan, Taiwan and the United States.

The value of exports from Tasmania increased 24.8% to \$5.1 billion and export volumes rose 17.7% with exports to China up 54.6% to \$1 billion.

<https://www.rdatasmania.org.au/news/tasmanian-exports>

"Festival of Australia" in China

A "Festival of Australia" in China this year will be held in 10 Chinese cities, Simon Birmingham, the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment announced. The festival, which will run from May 20th till June 2nd, will showcase Australia's food, wine, aged care, innovation, education, sport, investment, culture and tourism.

Major events will be held in Kunming, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Hangzhou & Shanghai.

The Port Adelaide Football Club and the Commonwealth Government announced that the festival will culminate in Shanghai with the annual AFL football match on Sunday 2nd June between Port Adelaide Football Club and St Kilda Football Club.

"This support will ensure our game becomes a yearly event in the Australia-China business calendar," said AFL CEO Gill McLachlan.

Source: [Simon Birmingham/ AFL](#)

In China

China's Arctic Policy

The Interaction Council meeting of Arctic experts in Rovaniemi, Finland, in Oct. 2018 discussed climate change and how to prevent its increase, and adapt to its impact.

The meeting coincided with the release of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which warned that there are only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius, beyond which the risk of severe sea level rise, flooding, and extreme heat increases exponentially for hundreds of millions of people.

China's State Council published a white paper in January 2018 titled China's Arctic Policy.

The white paper is an indication of China's intent to have a voice on all major issues of global governance.

The Arctic Ocean occupies an area of more than 12 million square kilometres.

The paper begins with the declaration that "global warming in recent years has accelerated the melting of ice and snow in the Arctic region." This change in the environment poses a great security threat to China. Water levels on coasts have been rising due to melting ice and only a few inches added to the sea levels could cause devastating floods in coastal cities like Hong Kong and Shanghai. It is for this reason that China has long participated in Arctic research.

China's white paper concludes that "the future of the Arctic concerns the interests of the Arctic states, the well-being of non-Arctic states, and that of humanity as a whole." The Arctic is the epicentre of the fight to preserve the planet from the effects of climate change. **Source:**

Secretary General Inter Action Council, Thomas Axworthy.

New energy Vehicles

China experienced negative growth in auto sales in 2018 and sales are set to remain stagnant in 2019. The upside of the negative growth in traditional cars is that new energy vehicles (NEV) will continue to grow. It is estimated that 2 Million NEV will be sold by 2020, according to the China Assoc. of Auto Manufacturers.

Source: NEV (New Energy Vehicles)

Winter Olympic Headquarters

A state-owned steel production complex which was established in 1919 and owned by Shougang Group has become the Olympic centre and headquarters for the Organizing Committee of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in China.

The old factory occupied 8 square km in Shijingshan District, 18 km west of Tiananmen Square and was once one of the largest steel mills in China.

The plant was also one of the major pollution sources in Beijing and so from 2005, this giant complex began the five year process of relocation to Hebei Province.

The original site in Beijing remained idle for years. The Shougang Group still controlled the site and instead of demolishing it they made plans to reinvent the site. Ideas included building it into a science park or renovating it into an art centre similar to the 798 Art Zone, Beijing's modern art centre in an abandoned factories complex.

After evaluating the feasibility of transforming the site into an Olympic centre, the Olympic Organizing Committee of the Winter Games 2022 decided to move their headquarters to the complex.

Since June 2018, it has become the training centre for speed skating, figure skating and curling. The Snowboard Big Air venue, one of two new competition venues in the Beijing competition zone, has been completed at the site and opened in January 2019.

In 2022, the world's best will gather on this site and China's innovation will again be on show.

Source: China.org.cn

Chemical Plant Explosion

The death toll from an explosion at a chemical plant in March in Yancheng, China run by Tianjiayi Chemical is over seventy. Xinhua reported that a total of 640 people were sent to hospital. Many are still in a critical condition with severe injuries with a number still missing. This is one of the country's worst industrial accidents in recent times. **Xinhua news**



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For a full itinerary contact: China Bestours Holidays (Sydney) 1300 886678

Or jan7777@bigpond.com



**Australia China
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VISIT CHINA ON THE SECOND AUSTRALIA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR TO SHANGHAI AND THE FUJIAN PROVINCE.

STOP PRESS!!! At the date of publication there is one space available on our ACFS Photography Tour

13 day tour to Shanghai, Lishui, Xiapu, Xiamen, Nan Jing (Fujian),

The Australia China Friendship Society invites you to join Susan Moss on a photographic tour to the beautiful area of

China departing 9th October – 23rd October 2019, costs \$4610 for members

Visit Shanghai, enjoy rural life in the Chinese Autumn, visit old villages, including Hakka Earth buildings & the sea.

Tour leader: Mrs Susan Moss would be happy to answer any questions on 0409 086 694

Susan has been visiting China since 1978 and looks forward to accompanying this group. The Australian

Photographer of the Year 2018 first shortlist has been announced and Susan's portfolio 'Inspiring China' four images

from the recent tour are included on the list.

View the images: www.susanmossartandphotography.com

