

Since its inception, the Australia China Society organised film evenings and talks both to increase people’s knowledge of China and to raise funds. From the 1970s films obtained from China were of great interest to the public and screenings were always well attended.



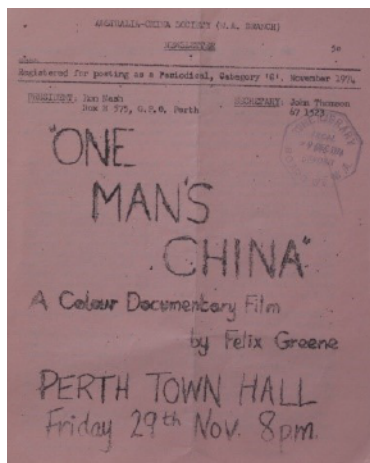
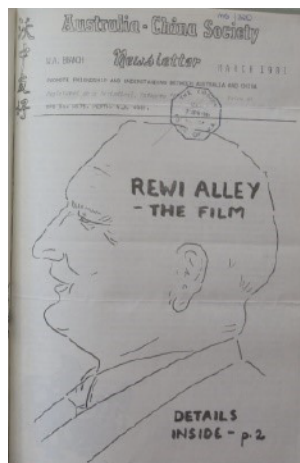
Sun Shines over Lhasa



One Man's China



The East is Red



Films that were negative towards The People's Republic of China were not appreciated by ACFS and the Society wrote to the ABC objecting to its screening of Antonioni’s film ‘Chung Kuo’ being shown in 1974.



Scene from Chung Kuo



Red Detachment of Women

In 1976 it criticized the ABC screening the film 'Time of Jade and Bronze'. However, later in that year the Society congratulated the ABC for the Chinese revolutionary ballet ‘The Red Detachment Women’.

Talks have been organised in conjunction with other organisations. Speakers have ranged from major celebrities (requiring large venues), to local experts and returning teaching staff, reflecting on their stay in China.

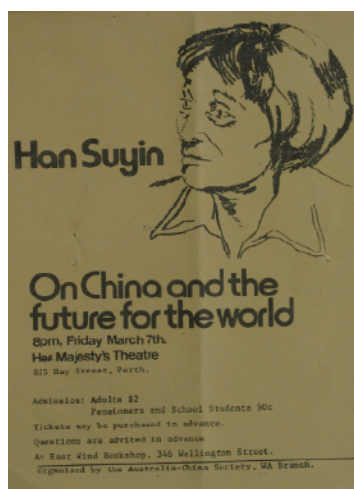
In 1973 Rewi Alley a New Zealand born writer, educator, political activist, potter, and member of the Communist Party of China visited Perth and gave a talk based on his extensive knowledge of China. He was internationally recognised for his work in Industrial Relations, poetry and he is the author of over 30 books.



Rewi Alley

Later in that year, there were talks by:

- Ken Winder, member of a nine person Aboriginal delegation to China.
- Nora Watts, member of a Teacher student study tour, gave a talk on Acupuncture.
- Mr M.J.Cross, Chairman of Wesfarmers, talked about a Wesfarmers sponsored study tour of China.



In 1975 the Society sponsored Han Suyin's second lecture tour to Perth.

This event, attended by over 800 people, triggered a renewed interest in China and its social system. Her many books reflecting the echoes of revolution in China were the explosive mixture that made her reputation. One book 'Love is a many Splendid Thing' made into a successful movie ensured that crowds would come to hear her. Three of her autobiographical works 'The Crippled Tree', 'A Mortal Flower' and 'Birdless Summer' were very popular These talks allowed people to see her as a person.



Professor Colin MacKerras AO

In 1990 the Society hosted a lecture by Professor Colin Mackerras of the Griffiths University whose expertise includes: China's ethnic minorities, contemporary and past; Chinese theatre, traditional and modern; Australia-China relations; Western images of China; Chinese history, especially of the eighth, ninth, and eighteenth to twentieth centuries; and China's international relations.

“Compare and Contrast’, Looking Back at Mao’s China, 1971”. Talk by writer and Chinese Studies graduate, Ilsa Sharp in 2008.

Ilsa was a member of the privileged party of Western journalists who were first allowed to break through the ‘bamboo curtain’ in early 1971 at the tail end of the Cultural Revolution, invited into China by the Chinese government well before US President Nixon visited, then confirming a ‘thaw’ in diplomatic relations. Her observations and photos from that time throw the changes in today’s China into fascinating focus.



Ilsa Sharp addressing the Society

Over the past several years, ACFSWA members have been kept updated with the research of its Secretary, Lynda Nutter through the Society's newsletter and a special presentation to members in 2016 following her attendance at the International Beijing Symposium for Social Sciences. Lynda's research with Jill Thompson-White, provides evidence that Chinese astronomers visited Australia (WA) at the dawn of the Yuan Dynasty; as part of the Nanhai Four Seas Meridian Survey to witness the transit of Venus in A.D. 1275.



*Lynda Nutter delivering her presentation with Jill Thompson-White at the International Beijing Symposium for Social Sciences, May 2016. A special report and afternoon tea event was given to ACFSWA members upon their return to Perth.*

Professor Glen Phillips, Western Australian and a long-time observer and participant in all things Chinese gave a novel presentation at the Society's March 2017 Annual General Meeting. His offering was a selection from poetry that he has written over 30 years on Chinese themes. Professor Phillips was aided by Ms Huifen Jin (Jennifer) who presented the same readings in Chinese.

