



June 2011

# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## NEWSLETTER

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since our April 2011 newsletter our committee has been busy finalising arrangements for the ACFS (Vic) Yum Cha for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 12.30pm. Please see further details in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing as many members and supporters as possible. If you do plan to come, please telephone our mobile number to give details of numbers. I also look forward to again meeting with our long-term member, the Honourable Ken Smith, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, who will present a speech at the Yum Cha.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, with other committee members I attended the opening ceremony of the 2011 Australia China Hebei Culture Week at the Melbourne Town Hall as guests of the Chinese Consulate. A full report of this wonderful night is set out in this newsletter.

We will be honoured with a visit from a 6 member delegation to Melbourne from Beijing Xouxie (our counterpart in Beijing). The delegation is only in Melbourne for 1 day (13<sup>th</sup> June 2011) and our committee will host a reception dinner for them.

Lastly, plans are well under way to organise our Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in July. Further details to follow.

Yours in Friendship

John D. Breheny  
President ACFS (Vic)

To pay your member fee online or at the Commonwealth bank:

ACFS Victoria Branch at: BSB 063019 Account Number: 10040625

Then notify the ACFS secretary by e-mail or just make a phone call.

### YUM CHA

ACFS VICTORIA PRESENTS

A YUM CHA WITH GUEST SPEAKER

**THE HON. KEN SMITH**

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**WHEN:** 12.30PM ON SATURDAY JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

**WHERE:** DRAGON BOAT YARRA, CROWNE PLAZA,  
1-5 SPENCER STREET, MELBOURNE

**COST:** \$25 PER HEAD

**RSVP:** BY TUESDAY JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> TO [ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM)  
OR 0431 155 139



### MAKE A DATE



Yum Cha 12.30pm on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Dragon Boat Yarra, Crowne Plaza, 1-5 Spencer Street, Melbourne.



Xin Hai Revolution Photography Exhibition-2.00 PM Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Chinese Museum, Cohen Place, China Town.



International Chinese Arts Festival in Melbourne from 5<sup>th</sup> July. For more information please see page 6 inside for details.



The Legend of Shangri La fascinating cultural heritage comes the Chinese Rhythm and Dance Sensation at the State Theatre from 22-26 June.



# Chinese Cultural Year in Australia



On Tuesday 31 May the opening of the Chinese Cultural Year in Australia was held at the Melbourne Town Hall. The venue was filled to overflowing with a crowd that was in for the ride of their life.

The opening was auspiced by the Hebei Province and on display was an amazing array of world class acrobatics, with some acts that you are unlikely to see anywhere in the world, and it was all going on in our town hall.

The one and half hour show just went from one amazing performance to another amazing performance. The audience was taken on a ride that saw people juggling plates to people juggling each other or juggling furniture or heavy ceramic pots or



very delicately doing the same with paper umbrellas. Sometimes this work was done balancing two or three people high on each others shoulders and heads.

The audience was mesmerised by beautiful music performances on the Erhu and Pipa instruments and then by displays of Wu Shu that would have any martial arts enthusiast in awe. The sword and fan work involved showed mind and body in complete harmony.

In evidence was a group of performers who have great skill born of many hours, days and years of practice. The troupe worked incredibly hard to wow their audience and to demonstrate the beauty of precision, symmetry and aesthetics in alignment.

The appreciation of the audience was led by the new Consul General, the proud officials from Hebei and the other VIPs who congratulated the performers on stage at the end of the show.

If you have an opportunity to see this or similar performances here or in China I would encourage you do so. You will be amazed.

Neil Barker  
State and National Secretary ACFS



## Returning to China

In January this year I returned to work at Denton Corker Marshall, a Melbourne based Architecture and Design company with an extensive portfolio of local and international projects. I had previously worked with this company as an architect between 2004 – 2007, working on several large Chinese architecture projects including a 400,000 square metre shopping centre in Beijing, an 18 level Office Tower in Beijing, residential and retail projects in Chong Qing and Yantai City (Shandong Province) a mixed-use development in Liuzhou (Guangxi Province) and a hotel in Artux (Xinjiang Autonomous Region).

Denton Corker Marshall have been working on projects in China since designing the Australian Embassy in Beijing in the early 1980's and have established a number of good working relationships with several Chinese clients. Having worked in China as a teacher of architecture and planning as well as energy efficient design and architecture theory, as well as working in several local Chinese companies both in Nanjing and Shanghai, I developed a good understanding of the expectations of Chinese clients and also the scale and expectations of the projects and developers.

Since my return to Denton Corker Marshall, I have been working as a Senior Architect on both local and Chinese projects. In May of this year I had the opportunity to travel back to China again to meet with a number of current clients, view project sites and meet with the Local Design Institutes to discuss projects. In ten days I travelled to Beijing (北京), Qingdao (青岛), Nanning (南宁), Beihai (北海) and Shanghai (上海).

It was very exciting to be going back to China after a long break away and I must say that I felt wonderful as I arrived in Beijing again. Admittedly it is a very nice time of the year to be in China as the change of seasons is also happening in Australia and the weather is not too different. In Beijing I loved travelling around the town on the subway and sampling the local food as well as meeting up with some old friends who live and work there. I visited the site of our current main Beijing project, which is a winery, boutique hotel and clubhouse development on the outskirts of the city and reviewed the design proposal with the Local Design Institute that we are working with on the project. All of our meetings were in an office tower in the northwest of Beijing that I worked on in 2006 for the same client.

The next city that I travelled to was Qingdao, where I met with our Weifang project client and the Local Design Institute. This project is a mixed use residential and retail project and we have almost completed the Design



Beijing Zhong Kun Plaza



Development work for Stage 1. Stage 2 of this project is currently being developed and we are working through Concept Design stage. I had not been to Qingdao for many years and did not have much time to enjoy the scenery of the city including the old European style architecture and lovely shaded streets.

Next stop on my itinerary was Nanning to meet with our client and discuss our newest Chinese project, a mixed-use development at Song Shan Lake. We are currently working through master-planning of this significant development and I spent a number of hours sketching options for office buildings, residential towers, retail tenancies, car parking, green spaces and private gardens.

While in Nanning, I was asked to visit a potential new site in Beihai, which is a smaller city on the southern coast of Guangxi Province. I had not been to Beihai before and looked forward to seeing the coast. The significant thing about this city is that it has ocean on three sides of the town, North (hence the name), South and West. With a small population and a temperate climate, this town is apparently going to become a major development centre with residential and retail developments being created all over the town. Many of the residential units are being purchased by northern Chinese as a retreat from the cold winter as well as investment properties.

My last stop on the trip was Shanghai where I spent two nights. My time in Shanghai was spent catching up with some old friends from when we lived there between 2007 and 2009 as well as phoning some old contacts and potential future clients. I visited Pudong where we lived and worked during most of our time there and stayed at a hotel in Nanjing East Road in Puxi, right near the People's Park and my favourite street in Shanghai, Fuzhou Road.

It was great to be back in China, even though my time in each city was quite short. China is still a challenging yet inspiring place to work with many great projects and some wonderful people. With my position with Denton Corker Marshall, I hope that I can continue to help our clients achieve their aims and goals as well as continuing to meet new clients and development opportunities there.

ACFS committee member Matt Missen





# Beijing - My first impression

-- Tony Miller --

**Why Beijing ???** With the impending arrival of my 50th birthday, I wanted to celebrate it in a world-class city - Beijing fitted the bill.



**The Roads** Expansive and busy!! The amount of traffic was mind boggling, with 500,000 extra cars added to the roads every year, where are they going to put them all??

The car horn was ever present, and when based on Australian driving conditions it was chaotic but somehow people get around without any road rage - amazing!!

**Forbidden City/Great Wall/Summer Palace** The sense of history in Beijing is overwhelming - even with the flood of visitors at each site, I was still able to find a quiet place and think about the events, people and times that had tread these historical pathways. Many a time I was overcome by goose bumps as I thought of the warriors that stood on The Great Wall, the politics and intrigue

of the Forbidden City and the splendor of The Summer Palace.

**Security** It was everywhere - bags x-rayed in the subway (even in New York they didn't do that!). What's with the high level of security at the Olympic stadium? The Olympics ended 3 yrs ago so why all the security still??

Tianmenn Square - expansive but couldn't help feeling the heavy hand of security being everywhere.. even the so called "plain clothes " security was even obvious and a definite mood of zero tolerance seemed to pervade.....

**The People** Very friendly and smiling and seemed amused at my attempts at speaking Mandarin!!! Constantly being stared at. As it was quite warm, I wore shorts and a t-shirt and being a fair haired Aussie they seemed fascinated by me!! English was virtually non existent but by smiling and very theatrical hand gestures the message got across - sort of !!

**Taxis** I must admit they drove us crazy ! They were very cheap, but even with a map of exactly where we wanted to go plus the address in Mandarin the taxis would 90% of the time drop us nowhere near our desired destination. ARGHH!!!! What was this all about????

**Food and Drink** Great, amazing and cheap - I loved going to the Hutongs and eating at the little dumpling shops or roadside grilled chicken skewers. Yum!!! With food so cheap we were able to try a wide range of food, which was exciting.



What did surprise me is how early people ate and restaurants closed when compared with the Chinese eating culture of late night dining in Melbourne's



Chinatown and Hong Kong I was surprised to see most restaurants finished service by say 9pm.

It was hard to locate the great bars but once discovered they were fantastic - cocktails very cheap (which pleased my wife) but wine was very expensive. We had some memorable Japanese plum wine and a pleasant Chinese wine.

The most stunning bar was a Philippe Starck designed bar - huge and eclectic and the drinks were beautiful. Thank you Beijing for a memorable 50th birthday !

*Tony Miller is a Melbourne based Professional Architect Photographer.*

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR INTERESTING STORIES AND ARTICLES TO SHARE WITH OUR MEMBERS. ANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE GREAT STORIES TO TELL PLEASE CONTACT ACFS OFFICE OR E-MAIL TO [ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM) OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER DO NOT ALWAYS REFLECT THOSE OF THE ACFS AND ITS POLICIES. RELIANCE UPON INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER REQUIRES INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF ITS ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS

## Xin Hai Revolution Photography Exhibition

It was 100 years ago that an uprising led by Dr. Sun Yet Sen saw the overthrow the Qing Monarch, thereby laying the groundwork for a modern republic of China.

To commemorate such an occasion, the Chinese Masonic Society in conjunction with the Council for the Peaceful Unification of China plans to hold a photo exhibition from 18 June till 23 June, inclusive. On the first day, i.e Saturday 18 June, an official opening ceremony will be graced by Mr. Shi Weiqiang, the Consul-General of the PR China.

It would be good to have you there to witness the occasion, details of which are:

**Place:** Chinese Museum, Cohen Place, China Town.

**Date:** Saturday, 18th June 2011.

**Time:** 2.00 PM.

## International Chinese Arts Festival 1991-2011 20th Anniversary Programs

The influx of 40,000 Chinese Students from China in 1991 has greatly improved the Chinese Arts and Cultural life in Australia for the last 20 years. For this reason, the International Chinese Arts Festival was established to produce a locally contemporary stage play performing in Melbourne and Sydney with two invited Chinese artists from China.

To commemorate the 20 years journey, we have organized 10 major events commencing from 5th July to end of November. There are three World Premiere Programs in this year's Festival

### Programs:

1. 5th July – Official opening of festival with Screening of a documentary “Australian Spirit, Chinese Heart” - the life and artworks on the artist Di Xiong Yao, which is produced by Shufang Zhao. Exhibition of sections of “Soul of Australia” – the 100 meters long scroll painting by Di Xiong Yao. This event is a world premiere.

Location: ACMI, Federation Square City

2. 3rd August – Solo painting exhibition of an East/West fusion painting by Pisen Hong who has exhibited widely in Australia and overseas. This event is fully sponsored by Mr. Jason Yeap OAM. We thank him for his generosity.

Location: Melbourne International Fine Arts Gallery, 278 Collins St. City.

3. 13th & 20th August – A season of six Chinese films will be screened at the New Arts Centre of Carey Grammar School in Kew. Carey Grammar, Chinese Fellowship, Australia China Friendship Society and the Festival jointly present this event.

4. 23rd August – A variety concert to be held at the Melbourne Town Hall Introducing the three regional opera/music to complement with Western baroque music.

Location: Melbourne City Town Hall

5. 23rd September – We present a world premiere concert at the Melbourne Recital Center with an “All Julian Yu Music” Program. Julian has emerged in the last 20 years as one of the major Australian composers. The major orchestras in Australia and China have played his works. This event is to be supplemented



by Ms. Shu-Cheen Yu, a renowned soprano who will sing a specially written work by Julian Yu. This is also a world premiere exercise.

Location: 31 Sturt St. Southbank 3006

6. September – A newly created experimental play is being organized and produced by the Melbourne University Chinese Theatre Group.

Location: Arts Centre, Melbourne University

7. October – A one day Academic lecture series to be held at Melbourne University co-sponsored by Asialink.

8. November – Establishment of a Scholar Exchange Foundation between La Trobe University, Centre for China Studies (Peking University and Peking Foreign Language University) and the festival to raise funds for a scholar exchange, research project conferences and a short term student's semester exchange.

9. Recording and making a documentary on the International Chinese Arts Festival.

10. Establishment of a Festival website for long-term publication with international arts communities.

## A RECIPE FROM SICHUAN FOR OUR COLD WINTER

### DRY FRIED CHICKEN (Gan Bianji)

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 red capsicum, diced  
 750gm chicken meat, diced  
 4 spring onions, chopped  
 75 ml corn or peanut oil  
 6-8 dried chillies  
 1 teaspoon whole Sichuan pepper  
 1 1/2 tablespoons Sichuan chilli bean paste  
 1 tablespoon Shaoxing wine or dry sherry  
 2 teaspoons dark soy sauce  
 1 tablespoon minced garlic  
 1 tablespoon minced ginger  
 1 1/2 tablespoons black Chinese vinegar  
 small bowl roasted peanuts  
 2 teaspoons sesame oil



#### METHOD:

- Mix together the Shaoxing wine, vinegar & soy sauce and set aside
- Mix together the garlic, ginger, dried chillies & Sichuan pepper corns and set aside
- Heat wok & add oil – stirfry capsicum & spring onions and set aside
- Re-heat wok (add some more oil if necessary) & stirfry chicken pieces until most of the water content is gone
- Add garlic, ginger, pepper & dried chilli mix – cook until fragrant
- Add chilli bean paste and continue cooking
- Add wine, vinegar & soy sauce mixture & continue to stirfry until chicken is dry & fragrant
- Return vegetables and toss to heat, toss in peanuts
- Remove from heat and stir in sesame oil.

Serve with steamed rice and Enjoy with Family & Friends (DON'T EAT THE DRIED CHILLIES!)

## THE AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY'S AIMS

Cultivate friendly relations with the people of China by fostering the study of China's history, language, culture, social and political structure.

Promote mutual understanding through friendly exchanges between the people of China and Australia. Strengthening ties with travel, the exchange of ideas, information and trade between the two countries.

To seek to clarify misunderstandings between the peoples of China and Australia, which may arise from the misrepresentation of information.

**PRESIDENT:** Mr John Breheny

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Mr Anthony Leong  
Mr Tower Liu

**SECRETARY:** Mr Neil Barker

**TREASURER:** Mr Dong Chen

**COMMITTEE:** Ms Louise Clayton  
Mr Richard Lightfoot  
Ms Robin Matthews  
Mr Matthew Missen  
Mr Sean Murtagh  
Mr Robert Wang

ACFS (VICTORIA) Inc. A0038007M ABN NO. 39 746 574 225

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Family Name (Mr /Mrs/Ms/Other).....

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Fax .....

Given Names .....

P/code.....

Email.....

#### VICTORIAN MEMBERSHIP RATES

Family \$40.00

Single \$30.00

Concession \$15.00

Corporate on Application

I/We support the Society's aims: .....Signature/s

I/We enclose the sum of \$ ..... for my/our membership subscription.

**YOUR DONATION WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

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