



August 2011

Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

NEWSLETTER

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“ Mr. John Breheny, National President, hosts a dinner for BPAFFC delegation”

Led by Mr. Zhang Jiangguo, President of China Campus Magazine, a group of six delegates from BPAFFC (Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries) visited Sydney & Melbourne during 11 - 15 June 2011. At their first stop in Sydney, the committee of Chinese Youth League in Sydney met the delegation in their Chinatown office. On 13 June, the delegation had to travel to Melbourne by coach as their scheduled Qantas flight was cancelled due to volcanic ash. Upon their arrival at night, at his house Mr. John Breheny welcomed the delegation. He introduced other committee members of ACFS Victorian Branch, and then John & his wife Liz hosted a warm reception for the delegation, followed by a mediterranean style buffet dinner.

After their trip, Mr. Zhi from BPAFFC wrote

to Mrs Rose Hanley at ACFS, “the meeting with President Breheny and other ACFS friends was exciting and joyful”. Mr. Zhi also indicated in his email that he will seek to organise another delegation in 2012 to Australia to promote understanding and appreciation of Chinese traditional paintings to interested Australian friends.

ACFS (Vic) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST 2011

Since our last newsletter, I am pleased to announce that on 11th June 2011 our society organised a most successful Yum Cha for members and supporters. We were honoured with the attendance of long time member, the Honourable Mr. Ken. Smith, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly who spoke



at length of his official and unofficial experiences in China and in relation to the Chinese community in Australia.

On 13th June 2011 our society was visited by a 6 member delegation from the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Instead of hosting a dinner at a restaurant, it was decided to invite the delegation for a meal at my home in Brunswick. This was the time of the volcanic dust cloud scare and as all aeroplane flights were cancelled from Sydney to Melbourne, our travel agent CITS had to arrange a mini-bus for the trip to Melbourne. The delegation arrived in Brunswick at 8.00pm, looking weary and "travel-worn". Notwithstanding this, the evening with my family and members of our Committee was most successful and it was obvious that the delegation members greatly appreciated the opportunity for a "home visit".

Visits to Australia by delegations from China

(and our visits to China) are extremely important in furthering our objectives of friendship and co-operation.

2011 is a very significant year for our Society as it is the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the ACFS. It is even more significant because the first ACFS branch was established in 1951 in Melbourne. Of course many changes in Australian/Chinese relations have taken place in the last 60 years. Diplomatic relations were established in 1972 and we no longer live in the era of the cold war. I believe that Australia's future lies with a close and co-operative relationship with China and that the ACFS has an on-going and important role to fill in this objective.

Later this year it is intended to arrange an evening to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of ACFS. Further details will be provided as soon as possible.

John Brehney



Victorian Branch Yum Cha

ACFS members enjoyed a Saturday Yum Cha on 11 June at Dragon Boat on the Yarra.

Long term ACFS member, the Honourable Ken Smith MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the Victorian Parliament was our guest speaker on this occasion and he addressed some of the vast changes he has witnessed in China over the 15 years he has been visiting the country.

Mr Smith referred to the new railway to Tibet as a good way to travel to the region, instead of flying which can cause some altitude problems with some travellers. He was impressed with the developments in the region including education and commented that what he witnessed in Tibet was at great odds to what is generally reported in the daily media in Australia. Mr Smith commented that he travelled widely and freely in the area and didn't encounter any restrictions.

The construction of high rise buildings, road networks and freeways especially around Shanghai were also noted as major engineering developments. Highlights for Mr Smith of his many trips to China include the friendship and hospitality of the many people he has met, eating dumplings and the custard tarts.

Robin Matthews



VALE MR KEITH JENVEY



It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Mr Keith Jenvey in Queensland on the 25th June 2011.

On behalf of the National Australia China Friendship Society I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt condolences to Keith's wife Jing Zhou and his family and friends.

I was privileged to be able to attend Keith's memorial service in Brisbane on the 1st of July 2011 to represent the ACFS.

Keith worked as a civil engineer and became interested in China in the early 1980's. This interest led him to become fluent in Mandarin and gaining qualifications as an acupuncturist. For many years Keith was the President of the Queensland Branch of ACFS.

I first met Keith in 2004 in Perth at the national conference and AGM of ACFS. At that time our national body was a loose federation of the various State branches and it was Keith who tirelessly promoted the concept of modernising and legally

incorporating the organisation.

It became apparent to me in 2004 that Keith was a man with a mission. He said that just as Australia's relations with China had changed dramatically since 1951 when ACFS was founded, so too the ACFS must change to reflect the new and developing relationship.

As with all change, there was resistance to Keith's concept and over the following 2 years, Keith continued to energetically promote the reform process. The end result was that in 2006 ACFS Ltd became a corporation limited by guarantee, which enables us to carry out our activities internationally. Keith was elected the first Chairman and President of ACFS Limited. He occupied this post for the maximum period of 2 years.

Keith will be remembered by the ACFS as a man of immense willpower and energy; as a man who disregarded negative factors in people and brought out the positive elements; as a man who had a long term vision. He did not suffer fools.

From a personal point of view, I regarded Keith as a mentor and a friend. His contribution to the great cause of friendship between the peoples of Australia and China was immense.

At Keith's memorial service Consul Wu Shenghao delivered an address on behalf of the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese Consulate General of Queensland. Mr Wu spoke of the contributions made by non Chinese individuals to promote friendship and understanding between the Chinese people and the peoples of the world. Mr Wu referred to the Canadian doctor Norman Bethune with whom members will be familiar. Mr Wu acknowledged Keith's efforts in this regard.

Keith Jenvey will be sadly missed.

John D. Breheny
National President
Australia China Friendship Society Limited





Promoting Communications with peoples all over the World

On 18th of July 2011, Shanghai hosted its 7th International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp. At this camp youth aged between 12 and 18 from 12 different countries came together to promote friendship and communication among peoples all over the world.

This year was the first time that a delegation from Australia attended the camp. My parents were very keen for me to attend the camp as they thought it was an opportunity for me to experience a different way of life. They often tell me that I perhaps do not appreciate how privileged we are to live in Australia and that a view into another culture would help me see the world from a different perspective. I thought it would be an awesome way to meet people from all over the world, so I decided to go.

Well, the exposure to a different way of life started as soon as we left the airport. I was overwhelmed by the endless highrise housing, masses of electricity towers, billboards, multiple lane highways and continuous blasting car horns. Immediately the questions started, how many people actually live here, is this really just one city? Our lovely host, Mr Wu Fei, explained that Shanghai had a population of 22million people. Three weeks later, I am still digesting this piece of information- can 22 million people really live in one city? As we got closer to the city centre I was impressed by the array of architecture. The high rise buildings came in all shapes and sizes. This was extraordinary.

Upon our arrival at a lovely hotel (The Shantex) which was to be our base for the next 10 days we were presented with camp t-shirts and a camp schedule. Everything was very organised. That afternoon we went to an opening ceremony at the Putuo District Library Auditorium where we saw Chinese dancers,

Chinese costume display and a Pipa (Chinese 4 stringed lute) exhibition. During this ceremony all of us were called up on stage to hold our countries flag. It was a powerful sight to be standing amongst the flags of China, Serbia, Russia, Korea, Belgium, France, Canada, Thailand, Australia, Germany, Italy, Sri Lanka all together and knowing that I was in the midst of friends from all over the world.

The second day of camp, we were treated to many organised activities which included Chinese Martial Arts at Shanghai Indoor Stadium and various Chinese folk games such as spinning tops and Jianzi (a traditional Asian game in which players aim to keep a weighted shuttlecock in the air using your feet and other parts of the body). These activities were not only fun but allowed us to get to know each other and to further develop our friendships and understanding of each other's cultures.

The rest of the week included a mornings Orienteering at the beautiful Changfeng Park and an afternoon shopping at Tianzifang which is a maze of lanes filled with art shops, fashion and traditional Chinese wares. On Thursday we went to visit Shaoxing Province which was amazingly beautiful. We went for a boat ride on the East Lake which meandered



Pictured: Jordan Richards, Chris Zhao, Jacobs Meredith-Bell, Matt Parry, singing "I am, you are, we are Australian"



through caverns and rock grottoes and we visited the Chinese Rice Museum and wandered around Luxun's (a great Chinese writer) former Residence.

After a week, it was time for our 2 night home stay with a Chinese family from Shanghai . We were all really nervous to leave our base, and the friends that we had made. Even though the organisers told us that the home stay families were very carefully selected, I still felt like I was way outside of my comfort zone. The home stay ended up being an unforgettable experience. It allowed me to truly absorb everything Chinese – the way they lived, how they relaxed, how they cared for each other, and their habits like taking their shoes off before going inside. My home stay family really spoilt me by taking me ice skating and taking me to the movies. I loved it and I will never forget it and I think that I have learnt that taking the risk to go outside my comfort zone can be worthwhile. The remainder of our time in Shanghai was spent seeing some of the most recognised sites in Shanghai such as the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the Bund. No words can describe how beautiful the Shanghai Night skyline is from the Boat Cruise along the Huangpu River at night. We also went to the wax museum at the base of the Pearl Tower which showcases the history of the culture of Shanghai. Next door to this we visited the Shanghai Aquarium and did some shopping on Nanjing Road .

As our 10 days drew to a close we attended the closing ceremony. Each of the country delegations put on a show which somehow represented their countries. The Aussies decided to sing 'We are Australian' which was received quite well. Then for the goodbyes which involved lots of tears, hugs and contact detail swapping.

I am so grateful to everyone from 'Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries' and the 'Shanghai Youth Federation' for organising this opportunity. Thank you also to the Australia China Friendship Society for selecting me as an ambassador for Australia . Not only do I now appreciate other cultures but I also have friends from all over the world. I love Shanghai and all of its bustle. I feel so honoured to be one of the people that were part of this trip and I would like to encourage all organisers to continue to offer, organise and support this opportunity to other teenagers in the future.

From Jordan Richards
SA delegate

Fujian Province 30th Anniversary Tour

Last June 22 Tasmanians were joined by 6 folk from interstate to travel to Fujian Province China, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the close State to Province relationship between Tasmania and Fujian. After an extensive tour around the province half of the group took the extra option package to Xian, before returning home and the other group travelled to Nanjing. Suzhou and Hangzhou. All tours were thoroughly enjoyed by all and ably led jointly by Jan Everett(President) and Maureen Ling(Secretary) Tas. Branch ACFS.

The tour of Fujian (9-20June) was a very generous package provided by Travman Tours, a division of CITS Group, enabling the travellers to visit iconic places in an exciting province and share in the celebrations of the friendship relationship at official functions in the capital Fuzhou. The itinerary, entering China with China Southern Airlines via Guangzhou in the south, included visits to Xiamen, Quanzhou, Yongding, Wuyishan and Fuzhou. Excellent four star hotels, meals, tour guides and bus, train and air travels were all top quality and totally pleasing to all the group.

Exciting visits and events included the Hakka Round Houses, The Bamboo Rafting in Wuyishan, Various entertaining shows, temples, galleries, museums and historic placers within dynamic Fuzhou. We also shared a visit to the 9th China Cross-Straits Technology and Projects Fair with the Tassie exhibitors and the party of the Tasmanian Minister for Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts. Also with this party and thanks to the generosity of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Fujian Provincial People's Government, we visited the massive maritime and surrounds developments at Ping Tan Island and enjoyed an official banquet one evening in Fuzhou as guests of the Vice-Governors of the Province.

It was a great honour to share these events and especially to celebrate the continuing Fujian/Tasmania bond and forge further meaningful ties between our peoples. We were indeed happy to see the incredible progress underway in Fujian – now so advanced! "Inspirations by the kilometres", as one traveller expressed! The Tasmanian Branch of ACFS records its appreciation, along with that felt by all on the tour, to those who made this wonderful experience possible.

By David J Andrews
ACFS Tasmania



EMBRACE CHINA

The “Embrace China” Art Troupe returns to Melbourne in 2011 with a new and stunning performance.

Hosted by AIMG Holdings, and proudly presented by E & E Event. “Embrace China” features favourite songs such as “Qingzang-Tibet Plateau” by BaiMaYangzong, “Jasmine” by pop star Zhang Xiaofen, and “Dragon Boat Melody” erhu instrument performance. Moreover, the famous acrobatic performer – Jin Linlin, will bring us her signature performance-Hula Hoop, which has made her the newest creator of a Guinness Record. The all-star professional group “Embrace China” will bring this spectacular Chinese entertainment to City of Melbourne communities.

The focus of “Embrace China” Art Performance is on encouraging community participation, and inspiring traditional Chinese culture for both overseas Chinese and their next generation.

Since 2008, the troupe have travelled around the world and performed more than 200 successful shows in Italy, Germany, Czech, Hungary, U.S., promoting cultural exchange between China and the visited countries.

Good seats are available at the Athenaeum Theatre. Meet your favourite stars in this event. Only one show in Melbourne don't miss out!

For more information and Chinese Language show info, please contact Reception at: 03 9608 8288, reception@3cwmedia.com.au

Date: 7:00pm Sunday 28th August, 2011

Location: Athenaeum Theatre,
188 Collins Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000

Tickets: \$28, \$38, \$58

Group Tickets (10 or more):
\$25, \$35, \$55 per ticket

Ticketing Enquiry:

Athenaeum Theatre: 03 9650 1500
Ticketek outlet or online: 132 849

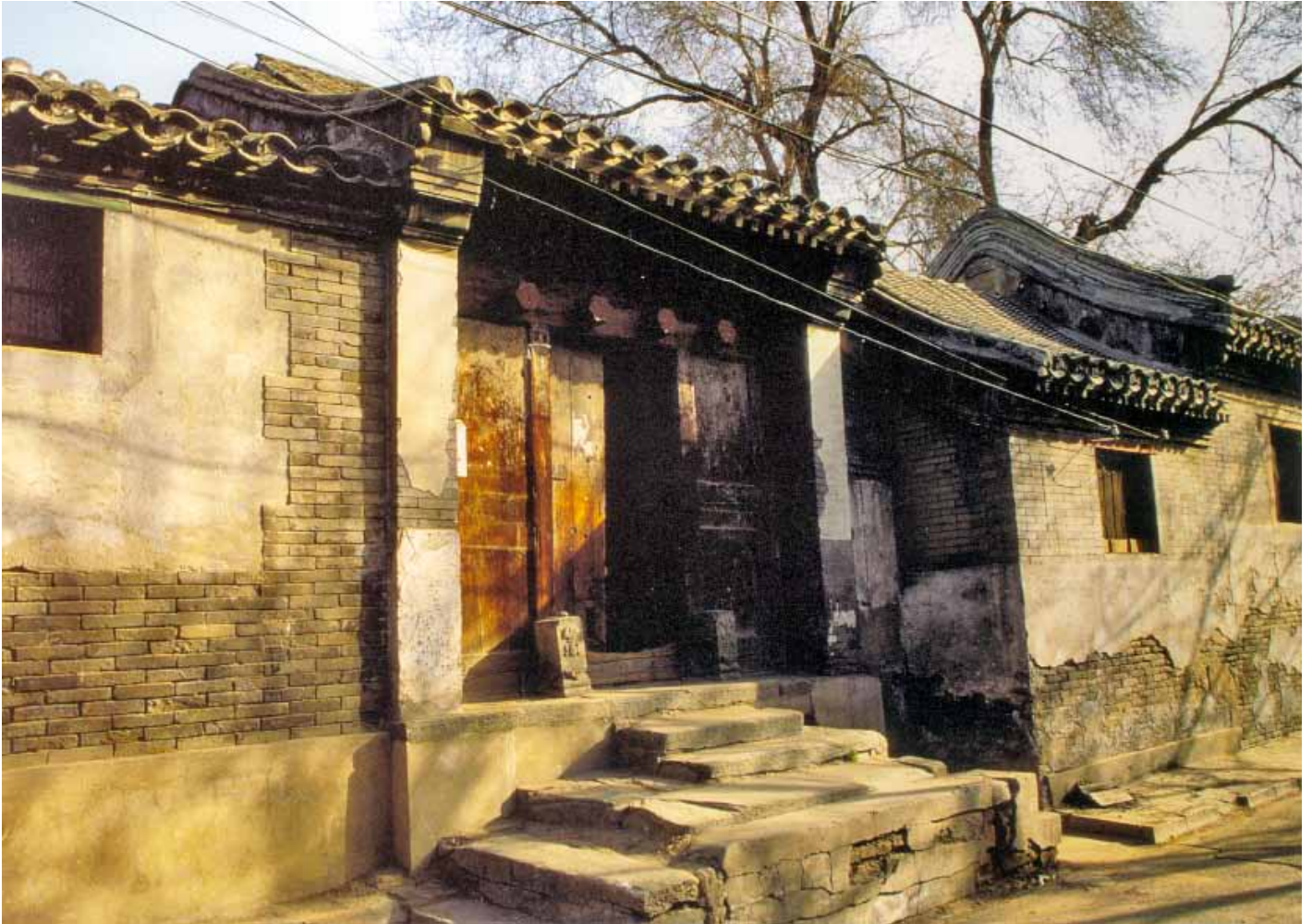
Traditional Chinese Architecture



Chinese local house styles are unique examples of architecture that reflect the local environment, climate, lifestyles and traditions of the people who used them. They represent the rich variety and long history

of the different people and places within China. Chinese local houses are structurally and culturally varied between the different areas and regions of China. Traditional houses tell us about the different nationalities' within the same region. For example, the suspended bamboo buildings which are utilised by many different Chinese minority groups such as the Han, the Miao and Dong nationalities in China's southwest regions. Different dwelling types were adopted according to the variation in geographies, climate, physical conditions as well as human cultural influences. Due to the varied geographical features of the building's sites houses of the same generic type also differed greatly in scale and level of complexity. The most typical Chinese local houses include some form of courtyard space, which is generally enclosed by a high wall and contains garden, recreation, family, religious and cultural festival activities. However, throughout China, there are many different typical styles such as houses made from brick, stone, timber or earth as well as cluster / semi detached, cave houses, stone chambers, pole system houses etc.

Selected houses in this column are based upon a series of collectable stamps published over the years by the Chinese State Postal Administration. There are 21 types in all. The photos presented with the stamps illustrate the different traditional styles and real life scenes. Some of the houses are still occupied as they have been for many years, and most of them have been listed as heritage sites. The ACFS newsletter will present a different style in each new issue.



Houses in Beijing

Beijing Siheyuan houses represent the highest level of clear and neat courtyard style houses in Northern China. The Siheyuan house is an important example and symbol of traditional Chinese architecture. In Beijing a number of the Houyingfang sites have been discovered and represent the maturation of Beijing Siheyuan style during the Yuan Dynasty. The architecture displayed in the painting 'A Picture of Thousands of Mile Territory' shows the Beijing Houyingfang style houses followed the formation started during the Song Dynasty. Compared to the Siheyuan style houses of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the front courtyard of Siheyuan houses of the Yuan Dynasty are larger than the backyard. By contrast those houses constructed during the Ming and Qing Dynasties had a corridor-connected-to-an antechamber "1" structure, with courtyards on either side of a central corridor. This different version has evolved into today's typical Beijing Siheyuan, which is encircled by the principal room, wing-room, corridors and tassel doors.



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

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Mr Tower Liu

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

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Phone

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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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