



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

NEWSLETTER

October 2011

4TH FLOOR, ROSS HOUSE, 247 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE VIC 3000

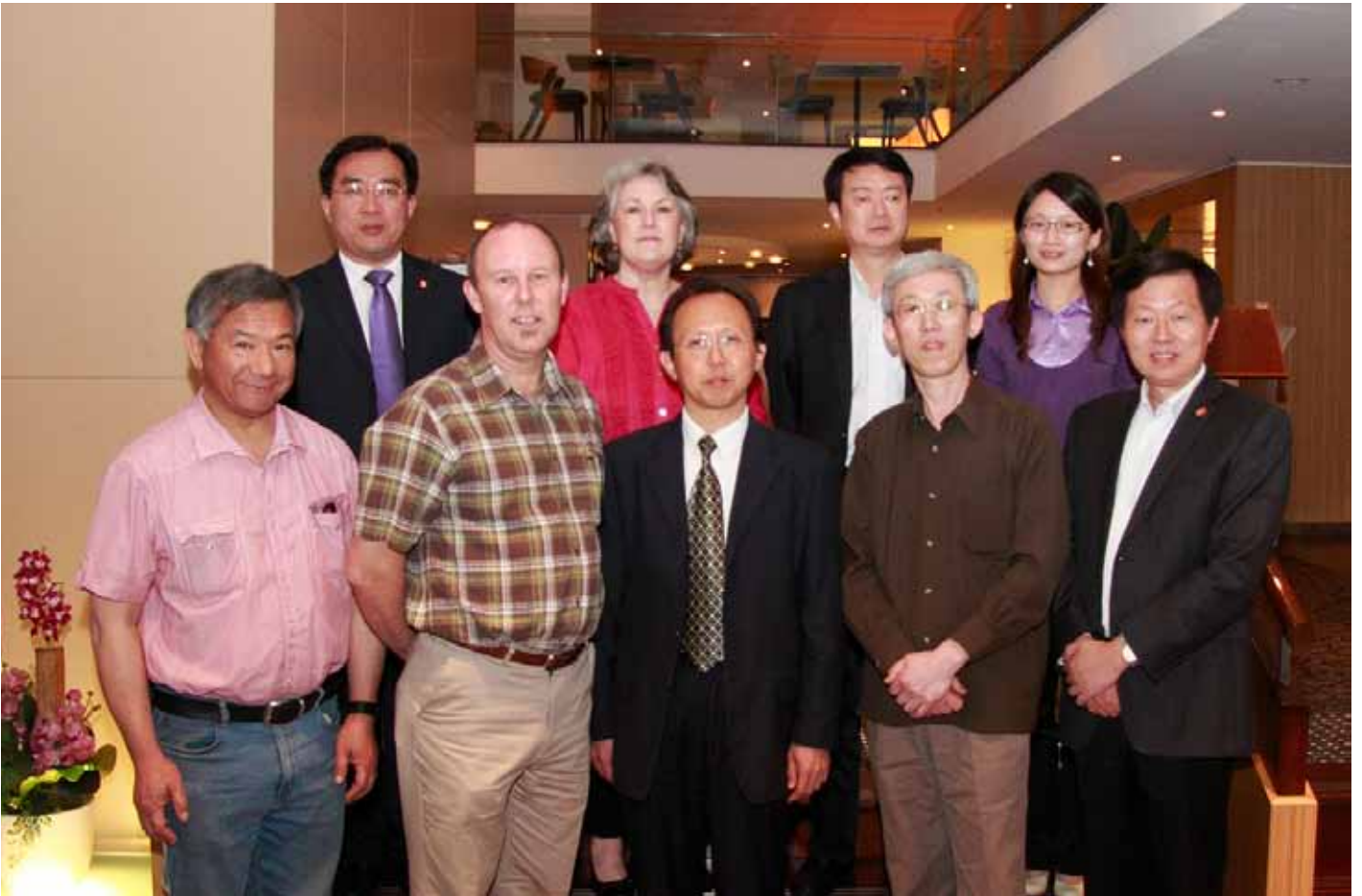
TEL/FAX: 03 9654 8099

MOBILE: 0431 155 139

E-MAIL: ACFS.VIC.@GMAIL.COM

WEB: WWW.ACFSVIC.ORG

ACFS's Friends from Jiangsu, China



ACFS National Secretary Neil Barker and Victorian Branch vice president Tower Liu, Anthony Leong and Committee members Robin Matthews met a delegation from the Jiangsu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and municipal governments of Liyang and Danyang in 18 September 2011.

Led by Mr Hu Haiou Secretary General of Jiangsu People's Association for the Friendship with Foreign Countries, the delegation was in Melbourne on a very brief overnight visit having previously visited Rockhampton, Brisbane and Sydney.

Key issues of interest to the delegation were to pursue sports exchange opportunities and the importance of encouraging youth for cultural and education exchange.

Tower arranged for the presentation of Victorian wine to our guests and Committee Members gratefully accepted informative booklets on the history and culture of *Jiangsu Today* and a grand hand embroidered floral picture, which will proudly reside in the ACFS office.



MAKE A DATE



Australia-China Friendship Society Victorian Branch Inc. AGM will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 23rd November 2011, 4th Floor, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.



60 Years of Friendship!
The ACFS is 60 years old, so join us for dinner to celebrate this great achievement!
Seats are limited so get in early

When: 7.00pm Thursday 1 December 2011
Where: The No.1 Steamboat Restaurant,
No.1 Lygon Street Carlton (Cnr of Victoria Street)
Cost: \$50 per head

How to book:

1. Pay directly into the ACFS Victoria Branch Account, BSB: 063-019, Account number: 10040625, put your name in the subject line and email acfs.vic@gmail.com with the following information:

- A. your name,
- B. the date you paid and
- C. how much you paid OR

2. Complete the following form and mail with a cheque to ACFS Dinner, 4th Floor, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 3000

ACFS 60th Birthday Dinner.

Name

Contact Phone

No. of tickets (@\$50 per head)

Total included \$.....

Bookings close Friday 25 November 2011.

ACFS is trialling Face Book

Join us on The ACFS Facebook Page at
<http://www.facebook.com/ACFSLtd>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this newsletter is the final one before our Annual General Meeting in late November 2011, I would like to offer members and supporters some thoughts on the past year.

Firstly, I can report with pleasure that the ACFS (Vic) management committee has functioned energetically and enthusiastically throughout the year. In fact, since my involvement almost 10 years ago on the committee or executive, I cannot recall a more committed and harmonious group of people responsible for managing ACFS (Vic). Without exception all executive and committee members have worked hard and creatively to carry out our objectives.

2011 saw the arrival of the new Melbourne Consul General Mr. Shi Weiqian and the new Cultural Consul Mdme. He Ta. From my discussions with Mr. Shi and Mdme. He, I am confident of a continued robust relationship between our Society and the office of the Consulate General at Melbourne.

As reported in earlier newsletters, this year we have hosted various delegations from the PRC, have organised a members' picnic and yum cha and have attended various receptions, art and photography exhibitions and other activities relevant to the 2011/2012 Year of Chinese Culture.

2011 is of great significance to our Society as it is the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the ACFS. Please join us on the 1st December 2011 to celebrate this occasion (see details in this newsletter).

This year is of great importance to the people of China as it is the 100th Anniversary of the Republican Revolution led by Dr Sun Yat Sen in 1911, which ended thousands of years of dynastic rule by the Chinese emperors and aristocracy. Although followed by decades of lawlessness, warlord rule, foreign invasion and civil war, the 1911 Revolution paved the way for liberation in 1949 when the Chinese people at last "stood up". Since 1949, they have not ceased to stand up.

Whether it is the occasion of this 100th Anniversary or for other reasons, I was gratified to at last read a balanced and realistic appraisal of the PRC in The Age news paper on 6/10/11. This was an extract of a speech given by the Federal Opposition spokesperson for communication, Malcolm Turnbull, to the London School of Economics.



In his speech Mr Turnbull pointed out China's extraordinary growth from 1980, and criticised the dominant view of the US and Australian governments that this represents a threat to the west, the Pacific region and the rest of Asia.. The following quote is of great relevance:

"Most Americans appear utterly flummoxed by the swiftness of China's rise, which was not on their horizon until recently. As late as the 2004 US Presidential race, for instance, China's economic rise barely rated a substantive remark from either candidate in 3 hours of debate over America's future watched by a combined audience of 160 million.

" It is important to note that China's growth in power, economic and military, has not been matched by expansionist tendencies....With its energy and resource security depending on long global sea lanes, it is hardly surprising that China would seek to enhance its naval capacity. Suggestions that China's recent launch of one aircraft carrier and plans to build another are signs of a new belligerence are wide of the mark.

"It makes no sense for America, or its allies, to base long term strategic policy on the contentious proposition that we are on an inevitable collision course with a militarily aggressive China. I disagree with the underlying premise of the 2009 Australian White Paper that we should base our defence planning on the contingency of a naval war with China".

It is hoped that this analysis and approach by Mr Turnbull becomes recognised and shared by our National leaders.

From a personal point of view, I would like to express gratitude and appreciation to all our members and friends for their continued support in 2011, and also to the outgoing executive and committee of ACFS (Vic). In particular I acknowledge our Victorian Vice-President Mr Tower Liu for his outstanding efforts through the year, not only in publishing, preparing and editing our bi-monthly newsletter (which often necessitated his good-natured hounding of me to complete my President's report on time), but also for his unstinting efforts to further the cause of friendship between the Australian and Chinese peoples. Special thanks are also given to our Secretary Mr Neil Barker for his dedication and commitment in carrying out his duties and to Vice-President Mr Anthony Leong for his advice, organisational work and enthusiasm.

John D, Breheny
ACFS (Vic) President

International Day of Peace and Northeast Asia Development Forum

Report by Neil Barker
ACFS Victorian Branch and National Secretary

I had the great honour of being invited, as a representative of the Australia China Friendship Society, to attend the International Day of Peace and Northeast Asia Development Forum in Shenyang City between 20 and 22 September 2011.

In 2001 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that established September 21st as the International Day of Peace. In recent years the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), the largest peace organization in China, has been hosting activities on this day. This year the the observance of this day was held in conjunction with the Northeast Asia Development Forum. This forum has been held every September in recent years in Liaoning Province. The forum aims to explore Northeast Asian peoples' common aspirations for peace, strengthening cooperation and promoting development, and enhancing friendship among these people.

The International Day of Peace and Northeast Asia Development Forum was attended by the Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and CPAPD President, Foreign Affairs Officials (including officers of the Shenyang People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries), Shenyang City and Liaoning Province officials, representatives of the United Nations, former political leaders of North East Asian countries including Japan and Mongolia, as well as diplomats, business people, scholars, experts and representatives of Friendship Societies from Northeast Asia, Asia, Europe, and America. More than 1,000 people attended the conference.

The host city Shenyang has for many hundreds of years played a central role in the political, cultural and economic life of north-east Asia and more broadly of China itself. The city plays a central role in transport and commercial cooperation with Russia, Mongolia, Japan and the Korean peninsula. For many years it has been an important centre for heavy industry and manufacturing. The City has recently established a New Special Reform Zone – the Shenyang Economic



Zone. The region's rich human history dates back more than 7,000 years and includes being the birthplace and spiritual home of the Qing Dynasty which commenced its rise in the 1600's. During the 1900's this area was significantly impacted by various regional and world conflicts.

Shenyang has a population of 8.3 million people, the fifth largest city

in China. It is the capital city of Liaoning Province, a province of 43.19 million people. It is the only province in China that has both coastal and foreign country borders.

The International Day of Peace was celebrated with a series of presentations, as well as the reading of a message from the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-Moon by the United Nations Coordinator in China.

The presentations were followed by the opening of a new World Peace Park on the outskirts of Shenyang, in the Shenbei New Zone, by Mr Chen Haibo, Mayor of Shenyang City. This spectacular opening included a school marching band, lines of school children waving flowers, the release of peace doves, and the watering of trees in a peace forest. It was evident from the attendance of representatives of countries from this region that there is a strong commitment to peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia, a region with a complex political history.

The Ode to Peace variety Show held in the evening at the Liaoning Grand Theatre was a dazzling display of acrobatics and dance mixed with a number of beautiful musical performances.

The Northeast Asia Development Forum was held at Liaoning University and the presentations focused on Regional development, cooperation, exchanges, and mechanisms and patterns of cooperation.



In the afternoon the Forum provided opportunities to visit the Shenbei New Zone, including a tour of a mobile phone components factory. This new development was well planned and includes housing for the employees.

The visit included opportunities to discuss with the Shenyang People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries possibilities for increased cooperation between Shenyang City/Liaoning Province and Australia. A range of possibilities were discussed and plans have been discussed for the launching of a new era of exchange between this region and Australia, commencing early in 2012 – watch this space for more information.

I wish to sincerely thank my hosts for their extremely warm reception and great generosity in looking after me during my time in this most interesting and exciting city. The opportunity to visit and meet with them and to discuss and plan for future cooperation and exchange is greatly appreciated.

It is hoped that this visit will be a new page in the cooperation between our two countries.

2011 NATIONAL DAY DINNER

The ACFS hosted a table at the Victorian Chinese Community Celebration of the 62nd Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China 1949 – 2011 held at the Dragon Boat Palace restaurant on



the 19 September 2011.

The Chinese Masonic Society Lion Dance Team welcomed attendees and was followed by the National Anthems of China and Australia. The Hon. Shi Wei Qiang, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne gave the key address and Victorian MPs Michael Gidley and Hong Lim spoke as well.

A pleasant and important contact was made with the new Cultural Consul Ms He Ta, who expressed great interest in our Society and eagerness to meet with us in the near future.

The crowded evening was well patronised by Chinese organisations and businesses with great entertainment and dining following throughout the evening.

Light and Shade

A photographic exhibition by Tony Miller



I had the unexpected pleasure of attending the photographic exhibition by Tony Miller, a well known architectural and professional Melbourne photographer, accompanying the Victorian President of ACFS, to the Colin Moxey Gallery in South Yarra recently.

Tony had been to Hong Kong but went to mainland China for the first time earlier this year with his wife, to celebrate his 50th birthday. Along with some of the challenges and highlights Tony experienced within China, (as evidenced in his article in this newsletter earlier this year) he has captured the vibrant and often multifaceted aspects of Chinese culture and way of life, in Beijing, his selected city to visit, within the exhibits in his show.

Entitled "Light and Shade", Tony's photos were often a contrast between a seemingly grey/black/white

background and then some aspect of the subject matter would be contrastingly coloured or highlighted, much to the pleasure of the viewer. Other photos, such as "Tulips, Summer Palace", where just brimming with colour and texture and filled me with joy just to see it.

Photos of the fascinating Hutong areas, the Summer Palace, Forbidden City, and Great Wall, strong architectural edifices that inspire, were contrasted with shots of many aspects of Chinese culture and life in photos of the Arts Districts, Dumpling Heaven, or boats on the lake at the summer palace.

The exhibition was a fond reminder of the amazing sights that I have had the pleasure of witnessing in China as well as allowing me to view China from another's perspective as well. For me the contrasts within Tony's photos heightened my appreciation of China, it's people, culture and history.

Liz O'Connor

Cultural Revolution Memorabilia

It would be hard to argue that any nation the world over has been through a more interesting series of twists, turns and events since the start of the 20th century than China. From the Boxer Rebellion, the cruel repression at the hands of Japan before and during World War Two, the struggle and eventual pronouncement of the People's Republic of China in 1949 right through to the fall from grace of the 'Gang of Four' and the radical reforms that have followed and continue on to this day. To me however, one period of time stands out from the rest in terms of its intriguing nature, that being the period of time between 1966 -76 known as the 'Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution'. No matter which side of the fence you sit on in terms of viewing the rule of the Communist Party and the broader topic of the Cultural Revolution, it can't be denied that the maneuvers of the various factions involved and the effects and emotions it aroused from deep within the Chinese populace paint a more interesting picture than almost any other period anywhere in recent history. I am always keen to learn more about this period in time, and I would be grateful if anyone with access to good information on the Cultural Revolution, and to historical artifacts from the time. Please email me if you can assist with information and the acquisition of artifacts from this period. I am especially interested in acquiring Mao badges.

Joel Simmons
kemarjsimmons@gmail.com



House in Shanxi



Shanxi Province has a very long history of settlement. Around 1.8 million years ago, ancient human activities began to occur in the south of Shanxi Province. Shanxi's traditional closed courtyard style houses are designed in the form of the Chinese character for sun "日". The

spaces are arranged from the centre of a long narrow courtyard to protect the inhabitants from the windy and sandy conditions in the Loess Plateau area.

In areas such as Pingyao, Taigu, Qi County and Linfen there are large scale closed courtyard houses in clusters. The main rooms of the closed courtyard houses in Central Shanxi are predominantly closed on three sides and open towards the south, the main orientation. The side rooms are facing into the courtyards and roof pitches are towards the centre to bring rain into the courtyard. In the southeast parts of Shanxi Province, many rooms are two levels high but some traditional Shanxi residences were up to three levels high.



VALE JOYCE ANDERSON

Joyce Anderson, a long time member of the ACFS, has died on 29 August last.

Joyce first joined the Geelong ACFS in 1976 and was a committee member from 1980.

Joyce was also a Victorian ACFS committee member from 1987 to 1996, when she attended the monthly meetings in Melbourne by travelling by train from Geelong. She actively participated in fund raising and other activities held in Melbourne. She acted as coordinator



between the State Branch and the Geelong Branch, and hosted Chinese delegations visiting Geelong. She also hosted many distinguished guests and delegations from China throughout these periods, with some visitors staying at her home during their visits to Geelong.

Joyce was a committee member in the Geelong ACFS from 1980, and actively participated in and worked towards promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese peoples. She participated in annual fund raising activities such as the Geelong Shows and the Geelong Pako Festa for many years. She helped with catering lunches and dinners including those for China National Day celebrations in Geelong. She is well remembered by all for her famous and very tasty apple crumpets and curried eggs entrée. She often assisted in weekend bus trips to the Footscray Market for Chinese students and their families who were studying at Deakin University in Geelong.

Joyce toured China in 1976 just before the end of the Cultural Revolution. She subsequently revisited China a couple of times, once as ACFS tour leader.

Joyce was a great friend of China, and worked tirelessly to promote friendship between our two peoples. She will be sadly missed.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australia-China Friendship Society Victorian Branch Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 23rd November 2011, at 7pm at Ross House, 4th Floor, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

The Ordinary Business of the meeting will be to confirm the minutes of the last AGM, to receive the financial statement and the reports for the last financial year and to elect the Officers and Committee members of the Society.

ACFS Victorian Branch NOMINATION FORM: 2011

All financial members of the Society are eligible to nominate for the office of President, Vice President (two positions), Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee members (up to six positions).

Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by the candidate. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

NAME of NOMINEE:

(Print)

POSITION:

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE:

CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel:..... Mobile:.....

EMAIL:.....

NOMINATOR: (Optional) (Print)

..... (Sign)

This nomination form must be delivered to: The Secretary, ACFS Vic Branch, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 3000, not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.

All nominees are required to enclose a brief written introduction about themselves (maximum 150 words) with the nomination form. The introduction will be circulated to members at the AGM.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Address.....

Phone

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

Please forward cheques to the Treasurer at the address in the left corner below

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