



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

NEWSLETTER

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December 2011

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year 2012*

ACFS (Vic) PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT

On 23rd November 2011 ACFS (Vic) held our Annual General Meeting at which various reports were tabled and the election of Office Bearers and Committee was conducted.

I have the pleasure to announce to those members who could not attend the AGM, our 2012 Executive and Committee.

Mr. Tower Liu	Vice President
Mr. Anthony Leong	Vice President
Mr. Neil Barker	Secretary
Mr. Dong Shen	Treasurer
Ms. Louise Clayton	Committee Member
Mr. Richard Lightfoot	Committee Member
Ms. Robin Matthews	Committee Member
Mr. Sean Murtagh	Committee Member
Mr. Phillip Parker	Committee Member
Mr. Robert Wang	Committee Member

I have also set out a copy of my annual President's Report which was tabled at our AGM and which sets out our activities and achievements for 2011.

I would like to convey my thanks to the Chinese Deputy Consul General Mr. Fengwen Huang who attended the AGM and gave an interesting and informative speech on China's peaceful development. On behalf of ACFS I wish all members and supporters a happy and prosperous 2012, the year of the Dragon.

Yours in Friendship

John D. Breheny
President





ACFS (Vic) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that 2011 has been an active and productive year for ACFS (Vic).

The following is an outline of some of our activities:

ACFS (Vic) organised a Chinese New Year celebratory picnic in the Fitzroy Gardens on 13th February 2011 and attended a farewell reception for the Chinese Consul General Mr Shen Weilan on 14th January 2011.

In mid-March 2011 I hosted a dinner for the First Secretary to the Governor of Shandong Province, Mr. Zhang Haifeng and his wife and daughter. Also in March I met with Mr. Bill Wilson, the President of the Australian Sister Cities Association.

In February 2011 ACFS (Vic) Executive Committee members accepted an invitation from ACMI to attend the first of a series of films starring the "Queen of Hong Kong", Linda Lin Dai.

In May 2011, with other Committee members I attended the opening ceremony of the Australia China 2011 Hubei Culture Week at the Melbourne Town Hall as guests of the Chinese Consulate.

On 11/6/2011 we organised a Yum Cha for members and supporters at which long-standing member the Honourable Ken. Smith (Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly) spoke.

On 13/6/2011 our association hosted a reception dinner for a delegation from the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

On 1/7/2011 I represented our National association at the memorial service in Brisbane for the late Mr. Keith Jenvey, the inaugural President of ACFS Ltd (our National body)

In September 2011 executive and committee members met with a visiting delegation from the Jiangsu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and municipal governments of Liyang and Danyang. Also in September our state branch secretary Mr. Neil Barker attended the International Day of Peace and Northeast Asia Development Forum in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province. ACFS (Vic) hosted a table at the Victorian Chinese Community Celebration of the 62nd Anniversary of the founding of the PRC and also participated in this event's organising committee. In addition, I attended a magnificent photographic exhibition by Tony Miller, a well known professional Melbourne photographer. Displayed were a series of photographs entitled "Light and Shade" depicting various aspects of life in Beijing.

Lastly on 17/11/2011, we hosted a dinner reception for a delegation from the Shanghai People's

Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

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 Vice-President Mr Tower Liu for his outstanding efforts through the year, not only in publishing and 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.

On behalf of ACFS (Vic) I wish all members a happy and productive festive season and New Year.

John D. Breheny
President ACFS (Vic)

DEAR SIR/ MADAM,

I HAVE BEEN DOING AN INTERNET SEARCH ON ORGANISATIONS THAT MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST ME WITH DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ROLLING HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MOOROOLBARK. WE ARE HOPING TO INVITE GUEST SPEAKERS AND RUN WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS ON A RANGE OF ISSUES AND CULTURAL PRACTICES, ARTS ETC FROM A WIDE RANGE OF COUNTRIES. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO EDUCATE CHILDREN SO THEY CAN CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA AND AROUND THE WORLD. WE ARE VERY COMMITTED TO AND PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAM ONCE IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE THAT COULD ASSIST ME IN DEVELOPING THIS PROGRAM. I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP YOU CAN PROVIDE WITH RESOURCES, INFORMATION AND IN PARTICULAR, LOCATING GUEST SPEAKERS.

I WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS FURTHER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT IN ANY WAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON.

KINDEST REGARDS,

Kate Warner
Rolling Hills Primary School



Glimpses of China

My wife Lorraine and I recently took a 25-day work and holiday trip to China.

We tend to be more interested in meeting people than seeing things, so these “glimpses” reflect some of the experiences which were most impactful.

Arriving in Shanghai – what can I compare it to?

Shanghai has about 22 million people and is a huge city, with 10 new subway lines and 468 subway stations built in the last 20 years. It is changing so fast even taxi drivers don't know their way around. After dinner one night, we took a taxi back to our hotel, a brand new, 5 star, 1000-room building. The driver peered at the hotel card and shrugged. He had to use my cellphone to call the hotel to find out where it was.

Shanghai feels quite different from most big cities in the developing world – it feels safe. (This is equally true for the other Chinese cities like Beijing and Chengdu.) Of course, there are still pickpockets and the like, but nothing like the common urban dangers I experienced while living in Santiago, Chile. We saw little evidence of an urban underclass – little begging, little evidence of delinquency and little graffiti.

“The Communist Party of China” as “service club”

“I don't believe in religion”, said my friend, a Chinese university student. “I'm a Marxist.” She is also a “candidate member” of the Communist Party of China (CPC), invited to join 6 months ago. “It means I have confidence in China's future”, she said. “We want to develop the economy for the benefit of everyone. I want to work hard to help make people's lives better.”

“Do you ever discuss big policy issues like – China's relations with the US, or China's traffic congestion or even the “one child policy”? “No, we don't talk much about politics”.

I left thinking of the CPC (at least at local level) as a kind of cross between the Unitarian Church and Rotary.

“I'm a capitalist – and a member of the Communist Party”

In 2002, the CPC permitted “capitalists” to

enter the party. Of the 66 million members, capitalists are a small minority, but their influence is significant.

We went to dinner with Sidney, another young Chinese friend, who works for Audi in China. At 28, Sidney has a wife, a child and owns two apartments (but no car). He has been accepted for an MBA program at a US University for next year, but is wondering if it makes sense to give up his good job to do that.

“I am a Communist but I'm also a capitalist”, he said. He, too, was a top student and invited to join the party while still at university. It seems the CPC has changed its recruitment from targeting those with “left wing” politics to “the best and the brightest” of Chinese youth.



In Chengdu, we met with representatives of the Chengdu Municipal Government Foreign Affairs Office. .

Who studies Mao Zedong thought?

I was invited to present to a group of graduate students at Sichuan University – one of China's largest and most prestigious universities. As I began my presentation, I asked who was familiar with Mao's famous essay “On contradiction”. In a classroom of about 80 students, two raised their hands – one of whom was a faculty member.

79 of the 80 graduate and undergraduate students did not recognize the most famous essay every written by Chairman Mao!!

Corruption in China and how it works.

When the waiter brought me the bill, he pointed to a number at the bottom of the bill and asked me



something in Chinese. "He's asking you if you want a receipt," my friend translated, "If you don't need a receipt, he will give you a lower price."

My dinner companion had had a bit of experience with corruption, which he described as "endemic" in China. He has lived and worked in China for 20 years.

"Here's an example," he said. "China has very good policies for compensating people who are dislocated by a dam, for example. China's policies are clearly the most comprehensive and humane."

He explained that when a dam is built, a budget is allocated for compensating those adversely affected. This money is paid by the project to the municipality, which in turn allocates the funds to those affected.

"But not all the money gets to those who are impacted", he says. "This is where the corruption comes in." In one project, the plans called for compensating peasants according to Chinese law. This worked out to 45 Yuan per unit of land and this money was duly paid to the municipality.

Two years after the dam was completed, he read there had been demonstrations with farmers demanding 10 Y instead of the 5 Y they were given. In other words, of the 45 Y which the project paid, only 5 had gone to the peasants.

Municipal administrations are widely viewed as very corrupt. Many officials have been arrested, some even executed when their corruption was exposed.

A bus ride shows growing class differences as China barges ahead

I'm in a bus on the way back to Chengdu on a 6 lane highway with a lot of traffic. The cost for the 2-hour, 140 km ride back to Chengdu is \$9 Canadian (AU\$8.70).

I am amazed by a steady stream of high-powered new cars. These apparently belong to China's new, expanding and somewhat exuberant bourgeoisie: Mercedes, Volvo, Volkswagen, Porsche, Chinese SUV (a Chery), Audi A5.

I can't help thinking that the traffic flow seems to epitomise some of the economic and social divisions of current day China.

Traffic crisis and taxis on strike

One of the things that stunned me about Chinese cities was the prevalence of the automobile. When I arrived in China, I was still carrying around in my head the image of (Canadian) Prime Minister Chrétien on a bicycle in Beijing.

The Chinese market for automobiles has been the hottest on the planet. The first thing any young Chinese with any money in his or her pocket wants is a car. There are currently 62 million vehicles in China, or about 1 per 20 people.

The result has been traffic congestion on an unprecedented scale. Traffic inches along everywhere, despite the fact many of China's urban arteries are grand boulevards 3 or 4 lanes wide on each side, with pedestrian overpasses.

In Chengdu, a city of 12 million, we couldn't get a taxi in rush hour. A series of taxi drivers looked at our address and shook their heads. A friend later explained that as our hotel was on the other side of Chengdu, the taxi would be stuck for an hour or two in traffic and wouldn't be paid enough to even pay for petrol. The result: an unofficial strike during rush hours – taxis are not available.

Is there a one child policy or not?

"What about your family," I asked a friend, "I suppose you are an only child."

"Oh no, she said, smiling, "I have a younger sister. She is 10 years old."

China introduced the one-child policy in 1975 to control China's booming population. It was envisaged it would be in place for "at least" 30 years. In the West it is widely criticised, but nobody has suggested a better approach to control China's population which is now at 1.3 billion people. (It is estimated that it has avoided 250 million births).

"But what about the one child policy?" I asked her. "In my province", she answered, "a couple who has a daughter can have a second child after 8 years".

The "one child policy" actually is not a national law but a "policy" which is interpreted and applied differently in different provinces in China. There is a national "policy" but no national law, as I understand it (NB: the "one child policy" does not apply AT ALL to



any of China's national minorities).

In recent years, there has been renewed debate in China about whether the "One child policy" should continue. While it has been effective, it has reinforced the old prejudice for male babies and prolonged the barbaric practice of female infanticide, common in feudal China. Demographers now worry about the same questions challenging the west – a smaller workforce supporting a growing cohort of retiring baby boomers.

Is the "communist party" really still a "communist party?"

"I hate this government", one Chinese man told us. "They allow too much corruption." But then, "Honestly, I don't see anyone else who could do better. They are the best we can do for the moment...Yes, (free elections) would make a difference...It would be chaos. There are too many competing interests, too much selfishness. People with money would buy votes. We need a strong government or this country will disintegrate."

That made me think if it really isn't "communist" any more, perhaps it should change its name. In fact, one China observer I read recently suggested it would be better named the "Pragmatic Party of China".

What attitude should we take toward China? Is it appropriate to be cynical?

China is a huge real time social experiment. Overall it seems to be working - in 60 years, the Chinese have found the two things they wanted most – independence from foreign control and economic wellbeing for most people.

In China, there are lots of good, hardworking, honest people trying to do the right thing. Some are in government, using the tools of government to build a better China – fairer, more environmentally friendly, more "harmonious", using government powers to fight corrupt landlords and exploitative employers.

On the other hand, there seems to be many officials (particularly at local level) who use government powers to serve their own ends.

People struggle over property rights, individual and labour rights, health, taxation and development vs. environmental protection; some fights are in the

public domain - there are some estimated 80,000 protests in China every year.

So far China has made incredible progress, but the future is still a blank page.

Peter Larson
Canadian-China Friendship Society

The following is an extract of an article recently published by Tom Hayden, American social and political activist, which will be of interest to our members.

America's New Cold War With China Tom Hayden, AOL, 11/18/11

By declaring that he will dispatch 2,500 Marines to Australia, **President Obama has crossed a line, beginning a new Cold War with China, one based on military encirclement on sea and land**, costing unknown trillions in defense dollars, and shoring up cheap labor markets in a free trade zone excluding China.....

Just as some might wonder what the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is doing in Afghanistan, one might wonder what the United States Navy is doing in the China Sea. Call it imperialism, globalization or great power politics; **the new strategy is a replica of the eighty-year Cold War against the Soviet Union.** That conflict resulted in the implosion of the Soviet Union and much rhetoric about America becoming the "sole superpower," but has done little to advance the US wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; end the American isolation in Latin America; or prevent the rise of China as the emerging economic power. Along the way, millions of people died, were wounded or displaced in a series of hot wars with the Cold War as backdrop and rationale. By analogy, the new Cold War is based on the historic Soviet model of squeezing China's budget through military encirclement, while hoping for internal uprisings by Chinese workers and intellectuals against austerity and repression.

The new Cold War may be intended to be more economic, political and diplomatic than military. But bloody wars might erupt between North and South Korea, China and Taiwan, or through proxy wars involving Pakistan and India. The US network of



emerging military alliances could obligate the US to enter such conflicts.

America's leading foreign policy guru, Henry Kissinger, who has visited China more than seventy times, signals in his book, *On China*, the strategic challenge of China to the American global agenda, recommending a cautious path of coexistence with the new superpower. On the right, of course, are those with longstanding demands to «roll back» China, abetted by many seeking to impose trade sanctions. Hillary Clinton, in a November Foreign Policy article, called for a «more broadly-distributed military presence» combined with «forward-deployed diplomacy,» and warned -- above all -- against a post-Iraq, post-Afghanistan domestic desire to «come home.» (Ironically, «America, come home,» was the cry of George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, which both Clintons supported.)

At precisely the moment that our country is convulsed with historic protests against grinding poverty, foreclosures and unemployment, the US foreign policy elite seems more intent on occupying military bases abroad than answering Occupy Wall Street at home.

Viewed historically, this is a classic example of choosing the path of overseas expansion -- the «Open Door» foreign policy described by William Appleman Williams in *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* -- to channel attention and resources away from solving problems at home.

Obama's new Cold War approach includes an emphasis on continued bilateral cooperation with China while adopting a more aggressive and confrontational policy. Obama asserts that the United States is a «Pacific nation,» which intends to play «a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future.»

Could anyone imagine the Chinese government sending carriers and submarines to the California coast and announcing their intention to play a larger long-term role in shaping the western coasts of the Americas?

Instead of denouncing «coming home» as a new «isolationism,» the question should be whether

America is being committed to an over-extension of resources that should be invested in jobs at home.

If Obama rules out any defense cutbacks in the Asian Pacific region, where will the funding for our cities come from? If China chooses to respond aggressively, for example over Taiwan, will the US respond in kind, or be forced into backing down? Why should the US emphasize hard power against a nation that cannot be defeated militarily?.....Why not a primary emphasis on nonviolent cooperation with China on energy efficiency and green jobs?

In Machiavellian terms, is the new American deployment a cover for the pending withdrawal of American combat forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, or the real rationale for the Long War?

As Kaplan notes, US navy ships already have bombed Iraq and Afghanistan from the Indian Ocean, while the Air Force tries to secure Iraq and Afghanistan from bases in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. «Any American strike against Iran -- and its aftershocks regarding the flow of oil -- will have an Indian Ocean address,» he adds.

The US Marines «Vision and Strategy» paper (June 2008) predicts that the Indian Ocean will be a central theater of conflict and competition in next decade, while the 2007 US naval strategy called for a «sustained forward presence» in the same region.

«Herein lies the entire arc of Islam, from the eastern fringe of the Sahara Desert to the Indonesia archipelago,» Kaplan goes on, the epicenter of al-Qaeda, terrorism and anarchy. Here lie, he says, are the principle oil shipping lanes and «choke points of world commerce.» «Forty percent of seaborne crude oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz at one end of the ocean, and 50 percent of the world's merchant fleet capacity is hosted at the Strait of Malacca.» He concludes, «The Indian Ocean rimland from the Middle East to the Pacific accounts for 70 percent of the traffic of petroleum products for the entire world.»

Without public debate, without Congressional consent, without any cost projections, Americans are being herded into the dawn of a new era.

edit by John Brehney



Take an enjoyable Summer break

... watching great tennis by the exciting Chinese players at the Australian Open at Melbourne Park and at the Davis Cup v. Australia, at Geelong Lawn Tennis Club.

ACFS members, their family & friends are warmly invited to the first two ACFS activities for 2012. We are planning to meet on the Opening Day of the Australian Open and to meet on the north east of the grassed area with the big screen, just inside the Northern Entrance (best access is by tram) and at the rear of Rod Laver Arena between 11.00 - 12.00.



Those interested can obtain Day Pass tickets on sale at Ticketek outlets for about \$29 and will allow you access to all courts except the major two Arenas, so you can wander past many top players, close up.

Between 4-6 players from the Chinese national team will play in the Australian Open over January 14-29. Led by Li Na, who is from Wuhan, had a great 2011, winning the French Open and runner up in the Australian Open at Melbourne Park.

Other players to look out for in the main draw, which will be found at www.australiaopen.com. Include Zheng Jie and Yan Zi, Wimbledon & Australian Open Women's Doubles winners (from Sichuan), Peng Shuai (WTA ranking in the 30's) and Zhang Shuai (both from Tianjin) and Wu Di, China Mens No#1 (from HuBei)

The second activity is the Davis Cup, Asia Oceania Zone Group 1 China v. Australia, being played on grass at the Geelong Lawn Tennis Club over February 10-12th. 2012.

Again members are encouraged to make a day of it with family and friends, Tickets are on sale via Ticketek on January 13. We suggest you book early for Day 1 and follow up with a second day if matches are close.

The Chinese team is Ze Zheng, Shao-Xuan Zeng and Wu Di (Andy). Australian Coaches Des Tyson & Michael Baroch have helped Andy prepare for previous Australia Opens. Michael also coached him for 3 months in 2007.

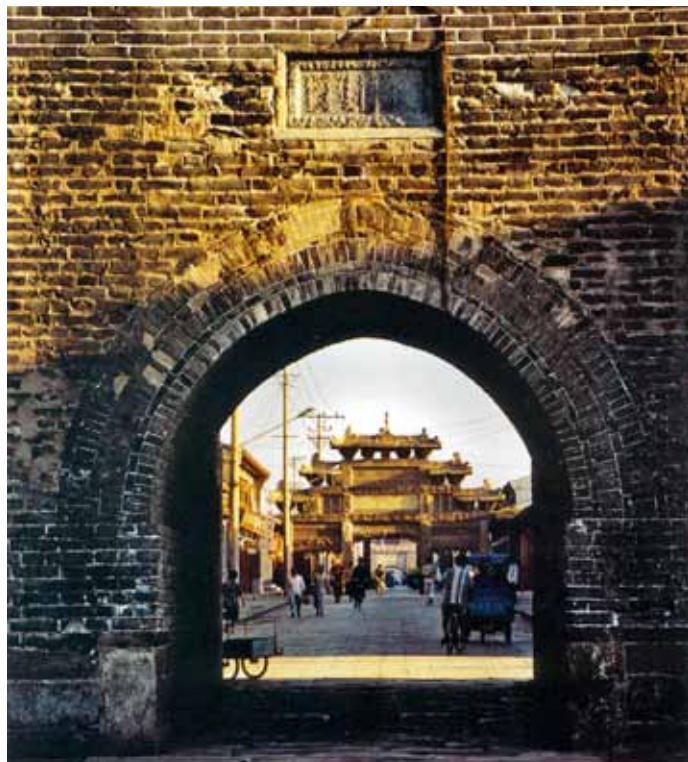
For further details Phil Parker - p.parker@aase.com.au

Traditional Chinese Architecture

House in Northeast of China

In the northeast of China, the winter weather is freezing but sunshine is plentiful. The land is open and the soil is fertile with resources in abundance. The Han, Man, Korean, Mongolian, Hui, E'lunchin, E'wenke and Hezhe nationalities make up the majority of the population. It is a multinational community.

The courtyard house is a traditional dwelling type in this area. It is spacious and the main gate is large and located in the centre of the wall to accommodate carts and horses to enter the central courtyard. The large open spaces allow the residents to feed livestock, store grains (sometimes even enclosing a milling room), and grow vegetables for their consumption. The south facing windows are large to maximise sun penetration and the spaces are deep. A concrete plinth bed with a small fire underneath (kang) is usually included to help keep the residents warm during the winter months



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 Phil Parker
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.

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