



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

NEWSLETTER

August 2012

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Celebration-40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China & 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the Australia-China Friendship Society



A Stylish Celebration

July 24, 2012

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Australia's recognition of the People's Republic of China and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the ACFS, a special function was held on Tuesday 24th July at Queen's Hall, Parliament of Victoria.

From the spine-tingling, soaring notes of Shu Cheen Yu singing the national anthems of Australia and China through to the strong, positive messages of the speakers, the event was a grand success.

Hosted by ACFS Victorian and Federal President John Breheny and auspiced by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and ACFS member Hon Ken Smith MP, over 230 people attended. Among distinguished guests were the Chinese Consul General to Melbourne Mr Shi Weiqian, deputy

Consul-General Mr Huang Fengwen and consular staff. President Breheny welcomed guests and spoke about the positive and leading role the ACFS had played in Australia-China relations since 1952.

Following him, the Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Yuming spoke about the shared bonds and responsibilities of our two nations and how the continuing friendship will grow as China strengthens economically. He also spoke about cultural exchanges and the importance of continued co-operation between our nations.



Keynote guest speaker, former Prime Minister Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser then took the lectern to speak on the need for an independent, non-aligned Australia. He spoke of one which does not ignore traditional alliances but which looks to the future of peaceful co-existence between two potential rivals. He also warmly alluded



from left: The Chinese Consul General to Melbourne Mr Shi Weiqian; The Chinese Ambassador to Australia Mr. Chen Yuming; The ACFS National President Mr. John Breheny and former Australian Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser

to his many visits to China and the friendship he felt between the two peoples.

The final speaker was Leader of the Victorian Opposition, Hon Daniel Andrews MP, who spoke of the long history of Chinese here in Victoria, praising their contribution over the past 100 years. He went on to predict a vibrant future with the continued goodwill of both peoples.

The end of the formalities gave way to socialising and meeting of old friends. Of note was the attendance of ACFS founding members Betty Little, Chew Waitong and Eunice and Maurice Leong, with former National President Jeffrey Emmel and Federal Delegates Roz Handley (W.A.), Li Xu Qin (N.T.) and Jan Everett (Tas).

Special thanks must go to the ACFS Committee, as well as the wonderful staff at Parliament of Victoria, led by the capable Ms Robyn Rogers. It was regrettable that due to timing, the Victorian Government was not represented.

Finally, thank you to those who attended and made this important function truly memorable.

Anthony M Leong
Vice-President

AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

QUEENS HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA 24TH JULY 2012

Ladies & Gentleman:

My name is John Breheny. I am the National and Victorian State President of the Australia China Friendship Society – your host on this momentous occasion to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China and also the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS).

I would firstly like to pay my respects to the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land on which we stand, and to their elders past and present.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence here tonight of:

- the Honourable Mr Daniel Andrews, leader of the Victorian Opposition
- members and ex-members of the Victorian Parliament
- the former Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable Mr. Malcolm Fraser
- His Excellency the Chinese Ambassador to

Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the Australian and Chinese People



Australia, Mr Chen Yuming
 -the Chinese Consul General to Victoria, Mr Shi Weiqiang
 -the former President of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Mr Bob Smith
 -the former speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Ms Jenny Lindell
 -Interstate representatives of the Australia China Friendship Society State Branches, and other distinguished guests.

Due to other commitments I have been asked to convey apologies from:

-the Honourable Mr Simon Crean, the Minister for Regional Development, Arts and Local Government
 -the Honourable Mr Martin Ferguson, the Minister for Resources and Tourism
 -the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Mr Ted Ballieu
 -Ms Heidi Victoria, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
 -the Honourable Mr Ken Smith, the Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. It is under Mr Smith's auspices that we are here in this magnificent location.

We will be honoured tonight to be addressed by Mr Chen Yuming, the Chinese Ambassador to Australia, and also the former Prime Minister of Australia the Right Honourable Mr Malcolm Fraser.

I will leave it to Mr Chen and Mr Fraser to speak in detail about Australian/Chinese political and economic relations and I will confine my comments to the ACFS and our activities.

The ACFS was formed in 1952, shortly after the proclamation of the People's Republic of China.

It is a national body with branches at State and Territory levels and our platform is to:

- cultivate friendly relations with the people of China by fostering the study of China's history, languages, culture, social and political structure;
- to promote mutual understanding through friendly exchanges between the people of China and Australia and
- to seek to clarify misunderstandings and misrepresentations made about China.

In the past these aims have been supported by our pioneering of travel to China in the form of organised study groups, educational exchanges and

the two way traffic of various delegations.

Our Society advocated strongly for the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries and in particular I acknowledge the contribution of our member, the late Mr Tom Burns, Queensland Member of Parliament.

These activities have been carried out since 1952 and it is not to be forgotten that until the 1970's this was during the period of the Cold War, the so-called Domino Theory and the White Australia Policy. These were challenging times indeed!



The ACFS is not a political organisation but at the same time our activities are necessarily political. This is because they involve the relations between the Australian people under pro-American and anti-socialist Australian Governments, and the Chinese people who, for the past 40 years or so have experienced unprecedented development and increases in living standards and whose Government has steadfastly continued along the path of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and non-expansionism.

The ACFS wants to see friendly relations based on mutual respect and understanding throughout our region and internationally. We believe that it is not in Australia's interests to be used by any foreign power in its rivalry with China. We are alarmed by



the increase in tension in our region as a result of the United States' so-called "forward deployment" policy.

I have no doubt that our Society's success in realising our aims in the past has been the result of our focusing on good relations between the Chinese and Australian people. We will continue to concentrate on this.

Thank you.

John D Breheny

National President, Australia China
Friendship Society Limited
President, Australia China Friendship
Society (Vic) Branch

We Admire Pioneers' Vision

-Speech by His Excellency Ambassador CHEN Yuming at the reception, 24 July 2012, Melbourne

Mr John Breheny, President of Australia China Friendship Society,
The Hon Malcolm Fraser,
Distinguished Guests,
It is my great pleasure to attend tonight's reception.

This year is special in the history of China-Australia relations, as it marks the 40th anniversary of our diplomatic relations and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Australia China Friendship Society Victoria Branch.

Let me first extend, on behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Australia, our warm congratulations on the 60th birthday of ACFS Victoria Branch.

The title of my speech today is "We Admire Pioneers' Vision".

ACFS Victoria Branch deserves our respect.

It was one of the first non-governmental organizations in Australia, if not the western world, that recognized the new China.

It has been a pioneer and witness of the friendly exchanges between the people of China and Australia.

In 1952, most Australians still knew little about or even had a bias against China.

But it was at that time that ACFS Victoria Branch

started to devote itself to the cause of friendship between our two countries, building a bridge of friendship between our peoples.

It displayed extraordinary strategic vision and courage.

20 years later, with official diplomatic recognition, China-Australia relations entered a new historical stage.

It embodied your hard work and valuable contribution.

The Chinese people who care about and support China-Australia relations will never forget this.

In the past four decades we have seen ups and downs in the international situation and great transformation in our respective countries.



But the friendly and cooperative relations between China and Australia have braved waves and pressed ahead.

This should be attributed to the political wisdom, vision and courage of our leaders and peoples.

The 40 years of diplomatic relations plus the 60-year history of ACFS is an entire century, from which we have learned valuable experience.

The first is mutual respect.

Over the past 40 years, our two countries have



respected each other's national conditions and the development path that we have chosen.

We have respected each other's core interests and major concerns, as well as cultural and historical traditions.

A clear and long term direction guiding the growth of bilateral relations has been set.

The second is mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

Our trade volume increased 1000 times in 40 years.

Exchanges and cooperation in wide areas have grown in an all round manner.

China has become Australia's largest partner in trade, international education and many other areas.

All this is achieved not only because of our natural complementarities, but more importantly, the principle of equality, mutual benefit and seeking common development.

The third is greater understanding.

40 years ago, we found each other a mysterious country.

Today, we find each other fascinating and no longer strangers.

This is because our peoples have had more exchanges.

As I know many Australian politicians, government officials and scholars first visited China as a tourist.

The successful Chinese and Australian cultural year and the rapid increase of direct flights have narrowed the distance between the two countries and fostered a closer sentiment between our peoples.

Chinese visitors spend more money in Australia than any other foreign tourist group.

Mandarin and Cantonese are the second and fifth most used language in this country.

When people know more about each other, they develop warm feelings and care more about each other.

Those who engage in the cause of friendship understand this best.

The forth is to seize opportunities.

We are witnessing the most profound adjustments in international situation in decades.

The Asia-Pacific is increasingly becoming the global strategic gravity and main economic engine.

By implementing the 12th Five-year Plan in all aspects, China is shifting the main driver of its growth from export to domestic demand.

Australia is drafting the "Australia in the Asian Century White Paper", to position the whole Australian society for opportunities from Asia.

It is up to us to decide how we can benefit from these common opportunities and interests in front of us.

We stand ready to strengthen exchanges with the Australian government, parliament, political parties and people from all other circles to enhance our mutual trust, deepen cooperation, and make the next 40 years of China-Australia relations even better.

Dear colleagues from the Australia China Friendship Society and our Australian friends from all circles, as long as we work together, we will make that happen.

Report on speeches given by Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser and Hon Daniel Andrews

40th Anniv of Australia's recognition of PRC & 60th
Anniv of ACFS - July 24, 2012

To a packed audience in Queen's Hall, Parliament of Victoria, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser addressed the issues regarding defence and military build-ups in our region and what he proposed Australia's responses should be.

Mr Fraser began by saying his first overseas trip as Prime Minister was not to the usual venues of London or Washington, but Japan and then more importantly, to Beijing.



He states, "I came away greatly and significantly encouraged...by the possibility of a future relationship...which would help to promote peace...". He understood China's wish to look after her people first and raise the standard of living. This became vital when the so-called Tigers of Asia foundered economically in the late 90's. No international banking

Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, who said all the "right" things about engagement, exchanges and dialogue, but at the same time, was working on further strategic placements. He deplores this "two-track" policy which he says will inevitably lead to a second Cold War, a depressing scenario the ACFS knows only too well.



organisations could move fast enough (or willingly), but China bailed out the Asian financial sector single-handedly. Such "steadfastness" has led to China leading the world in terms of growth and reliability, solid measures protecting against recessions and shattering unemployment prevalent in the West.

As a major partner and neighbour, he concludes, "...I think...in these (fiscal) matters, China has been a force for good in our part of the world..."

Turning to our USA alliance, Mr Fraser believes Australia has become complicit, regardless of government, in US military expansionism, especially now in the western Pacific. Establishing bases and troop deployment point to a strategy anything but benign. He was in China in May and spoke to

The answer, he continued, is for Australia to be a good friend to both countries by not agreeing to everything asked by the USA, but to have open, independent dialogue. If that means giving friendly advice or disagreeing (such as the Iraq war, Afghanistan and troops in Darwin), allies will come to respect the independence and need for true consultation and decisions made in Australia's interest, not those of a super-power.

Mr Fraser's concluding remarks were about our multicultural heritage and the fact Australia should be proud of the society we have built, despite detractors. He also thanked the ACFS and the many people who worked to make ours a successfully diverse society.

Following Mr Fraser, Labor Leader of the



Opposition Mr Daniel Andrews spoke on matters more local. He began by outlining the cultural diversity of the State of Victoria and the many nationalities which gathered here. He paid tribute to the Chinese who were here from gold-rush times and the fact that now we are so diverse, a fact which he said we are perhaps not as adept as promoting as we should be. He alluded to the fact that ours is an inclusive cultural diversity, not one we merely tolerate, one which we "...would all do well to perhaps be louder in our praise of this rare, this rich and such an important thing...". He also pointed out that the Chinese were amongst the few ethnic groups who were so willing to share all aspects of their culture and heritage with the wider community.

Moving from the Victorian-specific to the points touched on by Mr Fraser, he reiterated the feeling that our links with China were both necessary and strong, such ties which should be celebrated, in the belief that "...a strong China means a strong Australia...". With so many links both economic and cultural, China is a friend in whom we can have confidence and pride, especially all those who are of that heritage and contribute to Australian society.

Biography of Robert van de Graaff

Robert van de Graaff was born in Indonesia on 11 September 1932, when that country was still a Dutch colony. He was there with his mother and a younger sister and brother during the Japanese occupation, when his father was a prisoner of war working on the Burma Railroad for the Japanese. He survived that experience. The Japanese closed the schools for the Dutch and most of the Dutch people entered concentration camps. Having spent the first 15 years of his life in Indonesia, Robert feels very much at home in Asia. In 1947 the family was repatriated to Holland where Robert finished high school and university and then migrated to Australia. He is still working as an environmental consultant specialising in soil science. Two of the luckiest things that happened to him were in 1991, when he was asked to replace a Melbourne University professor to participate in UNESCO workshop in Chengde because the professor was unable to go, and in 1993, when he was asked to help write a proposal for an AusAID project in China. That proposal succeeded and so he could go to China. The rest is history as they say!

Luncheon

ACFS LUNCH AND PRESENTATION - By Robert van de Graaff

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER - 12.00PM

No. 1 STEAMBOAT RESTAURANT, 1 LYGON STREET (CNR VICTORIA ST).

\$30 PER HEAD (ACFS MEMBERS), \$35 PER HEAD (NON-MEMBERS)

Bookings by Friday 19 October

e-mail: acfs.vic@gmail.com or call: 0431155139

The human side of an AusAID cooperative mining waste land rehabilitation project

- Robert van de Graaff (ACFS Member)

Between October 1993 and November 1997 Robert participated in a cooperative project funded by AusAID and carried out by a partnership between Woodward Clyde Pty Ltd and ACIL Australia Pty Ltd on the Australian side and the Beijing General Research Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (BGRIMM). He was a subcontractor to ACIL and describes the experience as the best period of his working life. He made several good friends among his counterparts in China and has been back quite a few times.

Robert had been in China once before, in 1991, and on that occasion made another life-long friend who now is married and lives in the US with her American husband. She still calls him 'father' using the German word (Vater) because she also has her own real father.

During the AusAID contract he was in China twice a year for periods of four to six weeks and experienced some funny episodes, all in all they were very successful with the project and his Chinese work colleagues paid him an enormous compliment by smuggling him in with a group of world famous scientists who were being received by Wen Jiabao. smuggling him in with a group of world famous scientists who were being received by Wen Jiabao.

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
Ms Lia Cross
Mr Robert Wang

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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Address.....

Phone

Fax

Given Names

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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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