



October 2014

Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

NEWSLETTER

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From the President - A Busy month:

We were represented at a couple of very successful celebrations for Chinese National Day (one of which I was unfortunately unable to attend). Happy 65th Birthday, China!

Our delegate Wei Ching Chan returned from the biennial Friendship Forum in China (Guizhou) and her report is in this newsletter. There were many issues discussed and renewed meeting with old friends, especially those from New Zealand. It is pleasing to report that young people were in force within that delegation.

Our upcoming AGM (Wednesday 26 November, 7pm) is important for us, as we need to change our constitution to fall into line with new rules. We need members to ratify the changes at a Special Meeting, which will form part of the AGM, so please come along and be part of this change. It won't take long, but it's a big step we need to make, to ensure our rules are legal and clearer than before. Special thanks to the sub-committee charged with changing our rules and especially Louise Clayton for doing the spade work.

I look forward to seeing you in person. There will be food and drink after the meeting and lively discussion with it.

Anthony Leong

ACFS VICTORIAN BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: 7pm, 26th November, 2014

Where: 4th Floor Meeting Room, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne.

Business: Elections for Office Bearers and Committee.

Notice of AGM, Special Business and Nomination Form are located on page

Guest Speaker: TBA

Refreshments will be served following questions and discussion. Members are asked to assist in supplying finger food. Remember that the doors will be closed by 7.15pm

2014 Friendship Forum

Wai Ching Chan

The 2014 Friendship Forum was held in picturesque Guiyang, China from 31 August 2014 to 5 Sep 2014. The five-day conference invited Friendship delegations from 11 countries, including Australia,

Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago amongst other Pacific islands which made up about 100 participants. The Forum opened with a keynote address focusing on building harmonious relationships by the Vice Governor of Guizhou Provincial People's Government and President of Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Mr Meng Qiliang, and the Vice President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Mr Hu Sishe. The central theme of harmony and friendship was apparent throughout various keynote speeches and discussions and best summed up by Pilolevu Tuita, Princess of the Kingdom of Tonga, who compared the delicate art of diplomacy to a Lao Tzu saying: 'one should not meddle in other countries' affairs nor try to own them. To meddle in them is to cause disharmony and to try to own them, you may lose them in the process.'

Other key speakers also focused on the constructive tools for building bilateral harmonious relationship. Mr Cao Xiangnong (Deputy Director-General, the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) examined the benefits of cultural and educational exchanges through expertise sharing. Dr Ross Gwyther (President of Australia-China Friendship Society) talked about promoting knowledge transfers through scientific study tours to foster deeper exchanges between Australia's and China's scientists. Mr Zhang Minghui (Deputy Director of Guizhou Provincial Cultural Department) was happy to promote Guizhou's recent efforts to showcase its heritage to the world; he listed a plethora of activities that comprised of cultural exhibitions held in Taiwan and Hong Kong, international cultural awards received and overseas music and dance performances to major cities including Melbourne in 2014.



Historical photos presented to Youxie by the ACFS national president Ross Gwyther

Meanwhile, other countries have been building constructive bilateral relations through its younger generation. Several General Ys were spotted in the Australia, New Zealand and Canada delegations. The New Zealand-China Friendship Society is fostering exchanges through cultural youth camps and funding a Masters in International Relations at a Beijing university. The US-China Peoples Friendship Association is encouraging student-teacher delegations and travelling art exhibitions groups. The Sister Cities Australia is mentoring a younger generation in cultural awareness through its Young Ambassador program and participating in dragon boat competitions in Shanghai, China.

The spirit of Friendship was also carried into the ongoing South China Sea dispute. Mr Li Zhaojie, (Professor of Law, Tsinghua University School of Law) maintained that since 2002, China's intention is not to disrupt the peace and harmony in the South China Sea. Its policy is not to provoke nor instigate disputes, but to enable dialogue with its neighbours. However, the South China Sea historically is a region of maritime disputes between China, Vietnam and the Philippines. The complexity of diplomatic relations in this region is contributed by four factors: the South China Sea is a busy maritime transport hub; it acts as a strategic military hub for some countries and their naval bases; some countries have been asserting its control and might in the sea; and others have threatened

China with South China Sea attacks. In 2012, America expands its US-Pacific strategy under former Secretary of State, Ms Hilary Clinton to encircle China causing some countries to be concerned about the safety of the South China Sea. Whilst China maintained its current position of no territorial disputes nor disagreements, the questions that ensued after Mr Li's talk gave credence to some countries' concerns of China's sovereignty claims over the air and waters and provided some more food for thought.

Overall, the Forum's message of friendship building to achieve world peace was heard and appreciated. Or as an American delegate puts it: to have continuing peace is a sign of progress, and one must always be kind, be kind and be kind.

September 2, 2014 – Visit to Moutai Town

In 1954, Zhou Enlai famously gave the credit of his success in Geneva to "Two Tai", one is Kweichow Moutai and the other is Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai. Nearly every visiting head of state has drunk Moutai; from Henry Kissinger in the 1970s to KMT chairman, Lien Chan in Zhongnanhai, China in 2005. Guizhou is recognized as China's 'No. 1 Wine Town', producing the famous Moutai liquor by the Chishui River in north Guizhou. Each bottle of Moutai retails for 1,000RMB and contributes to revenues of 40.285 billion RMB to the state-owned China Kweichow Moutai Distillery Group in 2013, with year-on-year growth of 10.64 percent. The production of the national drink has also provided the wine town of about 3,000 residents with employment for generations.

Moutai is produced through the method of distillation: heat the mixture of fermented grain and water to get vapour, which is condensed into liquor. Each bottle of Moutai is kept in ceramic bottles for five years to mature to its optimal taste before it is sold.

September 3, 2014 – Visit to Fenggang County

Located in the northeast of Guizhou Province, Fenggang County has a long history of tea producing as recorded in the Classic of Tea of Luyu in AC780 and is recognized as the tea region of Guizhou. Fenggang's mild climate, abundant rainfall and fertile soil rich in selenium and zinc have produced



THE DELEGATION FROM THE AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

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more than 5000 acres of tea plantations.

A good teahouse's skill and knowledge contributes 30 percent to the success of a tea plantation, with the local soil quality and climate contributing the other 70 percent. Extra care is also administered when plucking tea leaves; the tea leaves cannot be plucked using the fingernails as this would cause the leaves to darken. Instead the fleshy tips of fingers to pluck tea leaves are preferred. The tea leaves are plucked throughout the year, with spring designated as the season that produces the best tea. Both red and green tea leaves are produced organically and drunk for different reasons: green teas are plucked and dried and consumed to 'cool' the body whereas red teas are plucked and undergoes fermentation and consumed to 'warm up' the body. Each tree is harvested after five years' of growth and can produce tea leaves for approximately 10 years after.

The tea leaves are exported mainly to America and Europe and quality checks are conducted yearly by the exporters which would in term determine the price of tea. Prices range from 600RMB to 800RMB per 500g.

Penny Wong on diversity

On Thursday 9 October, we were invited to hear Senator Penny Wong speak on diversity and representation of Chinese in the Australian political scene and to attend a round-table forum beforehand. The event was hosted by Mr Neil Pharoah, Labor candidate for the marginal seat of Prahran.

Held in the Grattan Gardens Community Centre in Prahran, it was well-attended by residents, local Chinese and many from around Melbourne, including the redoubtable Ms Cina Choy, a well-known ACFS member and prominent Chinese leader. Younger Chinese were also represented, such as businesswoman and academic Ms Wesa Chau.

Senator Wong spoke of the difficulties of being racially different in an homogenous society (the 'bamboo ceiling') and attitudinal changes over the years, followed by a lively Q & A.



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We thank
Mr Pharoah
for the
invitation
and for
giving useful
insights into
the political
system and
some of the
stumbling
blocks.

65th Chinese National Day Celebration Committee of Victoria

Wai Ching Chan

The 2014 Chinese National Day Celebration Dinner was held earlier than usual this year on 22 September 2014, Monday. The venue remained at the renown Dragon Boat Palace Restaurant located at 149 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. ACFS Victoria threw its support behind the 65th anniversary with a well-represented table of its committee members.

As per the customary tradition, the dinner opened with much fanfare by the Chinese Masonic Society Melbourne's lion dancers, followed by the national anthems of China and Australia. The opening speeches were made by Mr Arthur Wu, executive chair of the Chinese National Day Celebration Committee of Victoria and the Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Melbourne, Mr Song Yumin. Mr Song made a point about the strong trade relations between Australia and China and how this has fostered good relationships between the two countries. The two political parties also sent representatives to the dinner; Mr Craig Ondarchie represented the Premier of Victoria whilst Mr Hong Lim represented Daniel Andrews of the Labor Party. Mr Lim gave a longer-than-usual speech about getting the Chinese community to be more cohesive and harmonious, drawing strong examples from the Greek and Jewish communities who have made great contributions to the Victorian society whilst maintaining a well-articulated representation in both the political and social arenas. His rousing speech polarised opinions among the predominantly Chinese diners that evening and definitely left some room for post-dinner discussions. Finally, the speeches were wrapped up by Mr Chin Tan, the Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission who lightened the mood with his attempts at



Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the Australian and Chinese People

some Chinese dialect and Mandarin fortuitous sayings.

As usual, the Dragon Boat Palace did not disappoint. The dinner proceeded with its usual grand fanfare of delectable 12-course delights. This year's menu featured new entries like the braised mud crab with ginger and spring onion noodles and a different take on the king prawns – served pan fried with spicy salt. Due to the late start and longer speeches this year, much of the food was served only later. Some guests were seen leaving by ten as the next day was a work day, causing them to miss some dishes. Entertainment-wise, a professional Chinese soprano belted out classic Chinese and English songs to the more than two hundred guests who enjoyed her singing. It was another great night of speeches, songs and some revelry amongst the Victorian Chinese community who gathered once again in their dinner finery on a balmy spring evening in Melbourne.

AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO RULES: SPECIAL RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND

The current Rules of the Society were made in 1998 under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*. They generally reflected the Model Rules under that Act, with certain modifications to accord with the Society's aims and objectives.

Those Rules were amended in 2009 to better define the category of Life Member of the Society.

The Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 replaced the *1981 Act* and established new Model Rules for adoption by incorporated associations throughout Victoria.

In light of the new legislation and Model Rules, the Committee resolved to recommend to Society members the adoption of new Rules to replace the current ones.

The proposed new Rules have been modeled on the new Model Rules but adapted to reflect the Society's aims and objective, and current practices.

The new Rules will be:

- In line with the new legislation and Model Rules;
- Easier to read and understand, thereby making them more accessible to members; and
- In line with modern practices.

A copy of the proposed new Rules is attached for members' information.

Accordingly, notice is given of the following Special Resolution for the Annual General Meeting:

“That the current Rules of the Australia-China Friendship Society, Victorian Branch Incorporated be repealed and new Rules for the Australia-China Friendship Society (Victorian Branch) Incorporated be adopted as set out in the attached copy of the new Rules, with effect from the date of approval of the new Rules by the Registrar.”

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 26th November, 2014** at 7pm at Ross House, 4th Floor, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne.

The **Special Business** of the meeting will be to consider the Special Resolution, notice of which is given in this newsletter.

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.

Anthony Leong

ACFS Victorian Branch NOMINATION FORM 2014

All financial members of the Society are eligible to nominate for the office of President, Vice President (2 positions), Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Members (up to 6 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: President/Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary/Ordinary Committee Member (circle one only)

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

CONTACT DETAILS:

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

Email.....

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

All nominees are required to enclose a brief written introduction about themselves (maximum 150 words) with the nomination form. Note that 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 Anthony Leong
VICE PRESIDENT: John Breheny
Mr Tower Liu
SECRETARY: Ms Robin Matthews
TREASURER: Mr Dong Chen
COMMITTEE: Mr Neil Barker
Ms Wai Ching Chan
Ms Louise Clayton
Ms Lia Cross
Mr Richard Lightfoot
Mr Phil Parker

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Address..... P/code.....

Phone 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.

Pay directly into the ACFS Victoria Branch Account, BSB: 063-019, Account number: 10040625

Please put your name in the subject line & email REFERENCE to acfs.vic@gmail.com

You may send cheques to the Treasurer at the address in the left corner below and YOUR DONATION
WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

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Stamp

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turn to ACFS Victorian,
4th Floor - Ross House
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