



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

May 2015

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### President's Report, May 2015

I hope you are staying warm, as the weather has turned and winter is very close.

As some of you may know, we have been seeking closer ties with the Consulate in order to share knowledge and discuss topics of mutual interest.

On Tuesday 5 May, we had the pleasure and honour of being invited to the Consulate by His Excellency Mr Song Yumin, via Cultural Consul Ms He Ta. There, we met Consuls from various sections, then dined and continued chatting informally. It was an extremely productive evening and I take this opportunity to thank the Consul-General and his staff for their kind hospitality and exchanges of ideas. I hope this can continue long into the future. We have a small article and photos further on.

We have been busy planning functions, including a visit to the Gallery, a couple of yum cha's and our big event for the year, a panel discussion about Asian input into government and leadership roles. We want to have representation from all levels of government and hopefully a lively Q&A. We will let you know when plans are complete.

More good news is the ACFS has been chosen as the only non-government-organisation to go to an international friendship and co-operation forum in Beijing in November. The Forum will cover urban development, local government and planning. With China's rapid emergence, all sides will benefit greatly from an international exchange of ideas.

I am very pleased and proud to announce that Secretary Robin Matthews and Committee Member Amy Chan have been chosen (with South Australia's Ann Ferguson) as Australian representatives. Robin will be speaking on Local Government and governance, while Amy will be speaking about heritage issues and the challenges of a modern city. We are privileged to have members who are so highly qualified to speak on issues of importance to China. Apart from wishing them well, we also look forward to hearing what they have to say on their return in mid-November.

As always, we welcome your feedback and please feel free to email or ring the Secretary or me with any suggestions or queries.

Anthony



Consul General H.E. Mr Song Yumin

**Vic Branch Committee members** past & present were generously hosted at a meeting and buffet dinner by the Melbourne Consulate to the People's Republic of China on Wednesday 5 May, 2015.

Consul General H.E. Mr Song Yumin welcomed us, introduced his senior staff and spoke about the Chinese economy, recent reforms and the close ties with our organisation. He concluded his address with a commemoration of the conclusion of the second Sino Japanese War in 1945.

In response, our President Anthony Leong praised modern Chi-



Consul General H.E. Mr Song Yumin and consuls of Melbourne Consulate to the People's Republic of China with Victorian Branch Committee members past & present

na's economic strength and highlighted our historical ties with the People's Republic. He also emphasised how we could strengthen even more the ongoing relationship between our two countries.

"It is only by remembering those solid foundations & honouring and preserving those strong, historic ties, that we can ensure a bright, unshakeable future", he said.



The meeting concluded with an exchange of gifts. The ACFS presented the Consul General with a copy of Dr Sophie Couchman and Kate Bagnall's new book Chinese Australians: Politics, Engagement and Resistance and the ACFS received the volume in Chinese and English of President Xi Jinping's The Governance of China, an invaluable aid in understanding China's future.

Robin

Consul General H.E. Mr Song Yumin present a copy of Chinese and English Book of President Xi Jinping's "The Governance of China" to Victorian Branch's President Anthony Leong



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**Dream and Memory** The photography exhibition of Dream and Memory - Changes of Chinese People's Livelihood in the Past 35 Years (1978-2013). The opening of the exhibition will be held at Pacific Arts Centre, 125 Adderley Street, West Melbourne 3003 on Monday 18 May 2015 at 10:30am.

## 'ANZACS Untold' – A Fusion of Sound & Cultures:

It is rare fusions work to the advantage of all components, but the recent Australian and Asian Orchestra concert was an example of music and culture complementing each other perfectly.

Sunday 29 March at Methodist Ladies' College saw an exhilarating and moving performance of five pieces dedicated to virtue, strength and the chaos and emptiness of war in its finality.

Beginning with the famous "1812 Overture" by Tchaikovsky, the orchestra displayed the finest of Western symphonic traditions, showing grandeur, authority and stridency as written by one of the greatest Russian composers.

This was followed by a violin concerto "Red River Tone Poem" by Zhang Nan, played by extremely talented violinist Terence Lu. The concerto was a subtle blend of traditional Chinese music, weaving beliefs, customs and philosophies with Western musical conventions.



Composer George Dreyfus & singer Daye Gang - "A Song for Gallipoli"



(L-R) Composer/Conductor Robert Dora, violinist Terence Lu, singer Daye Gang & erhu player Ying Liu

One of the most challenging was the remarkable and impossibly difficult George Dreyfus new composition, "A Song for Gallipoli". Aably directed by Conductor Robert Dora, they wended their way through torturous key and tempo changes, a Dreyfus trademark. High praise must go to singer Daye Gang, whose pitch-perfect voice was often intentionally pitted against the instruments. The degree of difficulty singing against an entire orchestra can be likened to a lone voice swimming against a deluge of sound. George Dreyfus' score gave the discord and violence of war, the clash of sound jarring senses, heightening discomfort, a perfect vehicle for his personal, avowedly anti-war stance.

Polished performer Ying Liu played a lively and emotional "Red Plum Ca-

priccio” by Wu Houyuan, on the Erhu (2-string violin). Her performance was strong and sensitive, moving



Ying Liu plays “Red Plum Capriccio” by Wu Houyuan, on the Erhu

between traditional Erhu passages and passionate mirrors of Western music.

The final “Symphony to an ANZAC” by Conductor/composer Robert Dora was a fitting close to the concert, embodying all aspects of a soldier’s sacrifice, from departure from home soil to whatever fate awaited. The rousing, crashing brass invoked the most aggressive Holst, while the best symphonic traditions were reminiscent perhaps of Mahler or earlier composers in terms of style and fluidity. Each of the four parts were separate entities with different feelings and tempi, but underlying all was an uneasiness, a dread of violence and death. The finale was as in war – loud, unnerving and rising to a crescendo and sudden end.

Congratulations must go to Robert Dora for his talent, skill and creativity in guiding the performers and his excellent “Symphony to an ANZAC”. The entire afternoon was stimulating, enjoyable and one others hopefully will experience.

*(Thanks to Ms Linda Fisher for permission to take photos of the performances)*

## **The Australia China Friendship Society notes with sadness the recent death of former Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser**

Mr. Fraser’s public life was a paradox. From his belligerent pro-U.S and anti-Asian attitudes while he held the positions of Minister for the Army and Defence in the 1960’s (including his proposal that the US attack Hanoi with nuclear bombs) to his enlightened and progressive stance on Vietnamese refugees, his role in the Campaign Against Racial Exploitation and his consistent view that Australia should distance itself from our neo-colonial/”deputy sheriff” relationship with the US, Mr. Fraser experienced a personal and political epiphany.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012 our Society hosted a function at Queen’s Hall, Parliament House to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the ACFS and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Australia and the PRC. At that time I was the National and Victorian State President of the ACFS and I invited Mr. Fraser to speak at the event. When I explained to him that the reason we would like him to attend was that his public and outspoken views in support of Australian independence and against Australia being used by any foreign power in its rivalry with China were completely in accord with the ACFS position, he readily accepted our invitation.

We republish the transcript of Mr. Fraser’s speech at this event. :

<http://www.acfsvic.org/file/MalcolmFraserSpeechJuly2012.pdf>

John D. Breheny  
Vice President ACFS (Vic)

# TAN DUN - HE DID AGAIN

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, Tan Dun, the award-winning Chinese composer and conductor, together with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra offered a fantastic concert, East Meets West at the Victorian Art Centre's Harmer Hall on 28th February 2015.



The concert combined western and eastern culture by performing Ravel's Bolero and O mio babbino caro, and also Dun's Nu Shu: The Secret Songs of Women, which presents the ancient and authentic culture still existing in China. It marks the second time that Tan Dun has conducted the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the Chinese New Year Concert. The Chinese Ambassador to Australia Ma Zhaoxu and the Governor of Victoria Alex Chernov also attend the concert.

*Mengyao Liu*



## TOWARDS A COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY AND A NEW FUTURE FOR ASIA

On 1 April 2015, the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping addressed the Boao Forum for Asia. This is a summary of the key points made by Xi and the full text of his speech can be found on our website at <http://english.boaoforum.org/hynew/19353.jhtml>.

The theme for the conference was "Asia's New Future: Towards a Community of Com-

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mon Destiny". Some of the key points made, include:

- Since the end of WWII and Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, Asia has been looking at peaceful ways of settling conflicts.
- Fast tracking economic growth leading to achieve development and prosperity will foster co-operation with Asian neighbors.
- Geopolitical change across the world presents many challenges with risks of political insecurity, low growth, low inflation, and low demand interwoven with risks of high unemployment and high debt.
- Promotion of a community of common interest for all mankind:
  - by making sure that all countries respect one another and treat each other as equals; and
  - opposing interference in other countries internal affairs and reject attempts to destabilize the region out of selfish motives.
- Win-win co-operation can make big and sustainable achievements that are beneficial to all.
- China is aiming for a 7 percent growth rate.
- Developing good relations with neighboring countries.
- The cause of peace and development is a lofty challenge, but hard work will lead to a community of common destiny for Asia's future.

## **Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre is presenting our "Cultures Together Choir" at the Hawthorn Arts Centre (360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, VIC 3000 ) on Sat 23 May 2015 at 2.30 pm.**

This is a unique concert featuring people singing in languages other than their own. The concert will predominately include songs from China, but the performers will also share music from Russia, Indonesia, America, Canada and Italy, in order to celebrate the different cultures that live within the City of Boroondara. The concert will be a celebration of music and culture and will bring people together who may not have met in other circumstances.

Please click on the link below to buy tickets. \$10 per ticket.

<http://www.hawthornartscentre.com.au/event/west-meets-east/>

All proceeds will go towards our [Inclusive Communities Program](#).

Please help us to promote this by forwarding this email to all friends, relatives and to those whom you think may enjoy this wonderful initiative from KNLC.

## **Vale Mrs Marie O'Connor**

The ACFS Vic branch was saddened to hear the news of the passing of Mrs Marie O'Connor. Mrs O'Connor is the mother of our members Liz and Bernie and mother-in-law of John Breheny, Neil Barker and Charlie Jenkins. She had a frequent presence at our functions over the years and we extend our condolences to the family.



**National  
Gallery of  
Victoria**

# A GOLDEN AGE OF CHINA QIANLONG EMPEROR



Experience the opulence and splendour of the imperial collection of China during the reign of the Qianlong Emperor. The exhibition showcases hidden treasures and reveals the mystery and secrets of imperial life in the Forbidden City, Beijing. *A Golden Age of China: Qianlong Emperor, 1736-1795* tells the story of China's foremost art collector Qianlong Emperor, one of China's most successful rulers and fourth and longest living emperor of Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Explore a rich concentration of more than 120 rare and valuable works of art works from the Palace Museum's art collection.

We are delighted to announce that a special viewing and guided tour of the exhibition *A Golden Age of China Qianlong Emperor* at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) 180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne VIC 3006 has been arranged for ACFS members and their friends. The special tour with a Mandarin speaking guide will commence at 2.00 PM on Sunday 31 May 2015. Please meet at the exhibition entrance 10 mins prior to the commencement time. Entrance fees to the exhibition apply. Entrance fee is \$18.00, Concession \$16.00, NGV Member \$14.00. Please RSVP before 21 May to email: [acfs.vic@gmail.com](mailto:acfs.vic@gmail.com) or 0411 285 488

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## 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:** Anthony Leong

**VICE PRESIDENT:** John Breheny  
Tower Liu

**SECRETARY:** Robin Matthews

**TREASURER:** Dong Chen

**COMMITTEE:** Neil Barker  
Amy Chan  
Wai Ching Chan  
Louise Clayton  
Lia Cross  
Charles Jenkins

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

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

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.

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](mailto:acfs.vic@gmail.com)

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