



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

July 2015

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President's Report, July 2015

"Blow blow thou winter's wind..." Well, here in Melbourne we're certainly experiencing Winter in all its glory, so please keep safe and warm.

As is usual, Winter is a time for less activity and although I have been involved in talks about internal matters to do with our State and National website, not much else has happened.

Shortly we will have the tea appreciation event, with a lunch. Tower, our traveller and tea-expert of note, will demonstrate and share his knowledge of the centuries-old tea ceremony and tasting. I believe this is as much a part of our work as spreading information about China and her people. To reserve your place at the lunch, please refer to the details below.

We are working towards a Spring and Summer revival in activities, so stay tuned! In the meantime, stay cosy and safe.

Anthony

ACFS Yum Cha and Tea Ceremony discussion

Saturday 25 July 2015, 12.00 PM onwards

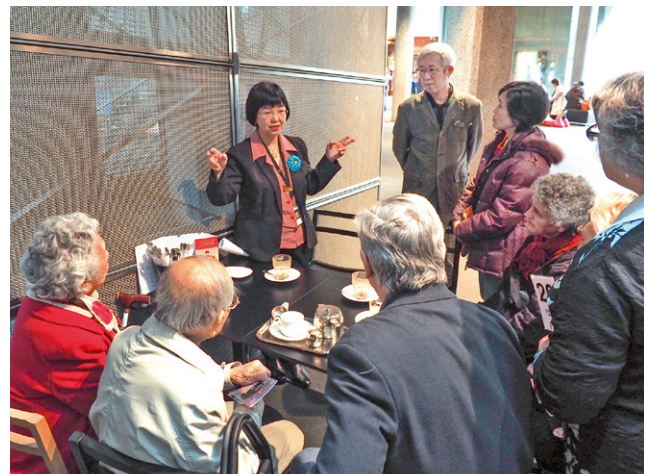
No. 1 Steamboat Restaurant, Corner Victoria and Lygon Streets Carlton

\$20.00 per person Booking via email: acfs.vic@gmail.com or Call: 0411 322 808

Golden Age Exhibition

The ACFS Vic branch had a very successful visit to the National Gallery of Victoria on 31 May 2015, where a number of our Members had a special guided tour and visit to the Golden Age of China exhibition.

The visit was made extra special by the expert commentary and explanations by Head Volunteer Guide Ramona Chua. Her vast knowledge and expertise was greatly appreciated by our Members and other



visitors to the Gallery who joined in our tour. Ramona did an excellent job and was very patient in answering all our many and varied questions.

The fine art works, clothing and trappings of the Qianlong Dynasty made an enchanting and memorable exhibition.

The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it will be regarded as one of the highlight activities of the year.

Culture Portfolio Report

The past two months have been very busy ones for Chinese Cultural events.

At the Australian Centre for Moving Image (ACMI) there has been a series of Chinese, “5th generation” film events featuring the works of post Cultural Revolution Beijing Film Academy best graduates. Among them: Zhang Yimou’s “Ju Do”, Chen Kaige’s “Yellow Earth”, Tian Zhuangzhuang’s “The Horse Thief)”, Wu Tianming’s “The Old Well” , Zhang Zeming’s “Swan Song” and Li Shaohong’s “Blush”. I hope members managed to view or re-view some of them.

Also, look out for a newly released film by Philippe Muyl “ The Nightingale”, chosen as the 2015’s Best Foreign Language Film (China) , as the official selection for the Academy Awards. This film tells the story of Grandpa Zhigen who sets out on a journey from Beijing where he has felt like an exile to his home village in southern China (Yangshuo near Guilin), accompanied by his spoilt, “one child policy” granddaughter Renxing. It’s a heartwarming story of generational differences accompanied by beautiful flute music and of course, the idyllic countryside. Don’t miss it! It should be showing at cinemas now.



ACFS members waiting at the front of the Golden Age exhibition

Also at ACMI, on May 27th, audiences had the opportunity to see Byron Huang-Dean’s “Wusong River” – “ an immersive sound artwork exploring the soundscape of Shanghai’s Suzhou Creek” (description cited from the publicity brochure by ACMI). For those of us who remember Suzhou Creek as it used to sound and look in the past and how it looks and sounds today, it brought back interesting memories!

Shining above all these in the past 2 months has

been “The Golden Age of China” exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). This exhibition concluded on Sunday , June 21st , with a Chinese banquet in the NGV’s Great Hall which was well attended by the public. In case you missed this exhibition it’s a great pity because it featured some amazing art work of coloured inks on silk by Jesuit court artist Lang Shining (Giuseppe Castiglione) and others, as well as some precious objects from the Palace Museum collection.

It told the story of Qing Dynasty’s Qianlong Emperor, who was a keen art collector and a prolific poet, calligraphist and essayist “having penned more than 40,000 poems, and some 13,000 prose pieces” (Quote from :NGV brochure), and who added to the already existing patronage of the Ming Dynasty and collections of his predecessors the Yongzheng Emperor, his father and his venerable grandfather, the Kangxi Emperor. These three Emperors as we know, presided over a relatively peaceful time in China’s history which has become known as “The Golden Age”.

My favourite paintings on show were those that showed the Emperor as a family man. For example, “*Qianlong Emperor celebrating on New Year’s morning*”- by Castiglione, where the Emperor is shown surrounded by children playing and other family members in a garden pavilion hung with New Year lanterns, trees covered with spring blossoms, and servants bringing trays laden with steaming New Year dumplings!

Among the artefacts and scrolls, were examples of exquisite porcelain vases, cloisonné objects, jade and other precious items from the Palace Museum collection. For me, the clock and sundials brought back lovely memories of hours spent at the Palace Museum viewing these items in their natural home. Hundreds of them not just a few examples. Still, we were fortunate to see some of them at all here in Melbourne and I hope that people will take the opportunity to visit the NGV’s own collection of Chinese objects or better still, visit the Palace Museum next time you are in Beijing!

Lia Cross- ACFS Committee member



Robert Browning

Poet: Robert Browning

In this concert, the artists are mezzo soprano Caroline Varcoe and bass Matthew Thomas who are accompanied by pianist Hoang Pham.

Concert information:

Saturday 25 July 2015. 7.30 PM

Salon (70 mins, no interval), Melbourne Recital Centre

Concert

Noel Fidge, ACFS Member, is a Melbourne based composer who studied piano and composition at the Elder Conservatorium of Music (Adelaide) and composition at The Julliard School of Music New York. Noel had an earlier career as a biochemist and medical researcher.

The Browning Song Cycle for voice and piano is a series of art songs composed by Noel based on the poetry of Robert Browning. Noel chose some of Browning’s shorter poems to base his compositions on.



Composer: Noel Fidge

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

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Address.....

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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

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