



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

October 2015

4TH FLOOR, ROSS HOUSE, 247 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE VIC 3000

TEL/FAX: 03 9654 8099

MOBILE: 0469 622 254

E-MAIL: ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM

WEB: WWW.ACFSVIC.ORG



President's Report

Very happy 66th Anniversary to the People's Republic of China!

It has been a long journey for modern China, from the heady days of defeating the Japanese invaders in the second such conflict, to becoming an international force economically and politically. No longer does China have to face indignities such as "concessions" and bow to foreign will.

From the Long March to the 'One Belt, One Road' blueprint of President Xi, China has striven relentlessly to better the lives of her citizens and strengthen her position, so history is not repeated. China will never again be at the disposal of others to plunder at will or exploit against her sovereign interests.

Long live the peoples of Australia and China. May we grow old and prosper together in harmony, health and good fortune. Congratulations to the CCP and the people of China.

On a more mundane note, please remember our AGM at Red Cliff Restaurant, Wednesday 25 November, from 7pm. The meeting will be held first, then dinner after for those who wish to stay on.



We are trying this as a new format, so let's see if this works. It will be a good way to do business, have a meal and socialise at the same time. I hope to see you all there.

Anthony

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 25th November, 2015** at 7pm at Red Cliff Chinese Restaurant, 256 Queen Street Melbourne.

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.

When: 7pm, Wednesday 25th November, 2015

Where: Red Cliff Chinese Restaurant, 256 Queen Street Melbourne.

Guest Speaker: Hon Robin Scott MP Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Members are invited to stay for dinner after the formal meeting at a cost of \$30.00 pp.
See inside for election details.

ACFS LUNCHEON AND TEA DISCUSSION



Tea, talk and tasty food were the highlights of our July lunch gathering.

ACFS members were privileged to sample some special teas recently brought from China. Tower Liu brought his special teapot and prepared several varieties of green tea.

Tower explained the different teas were grown under different climatic conditions including rainfall levels, temperature and soil types. Tower provided some historical context and said how the Tang Dynasty started the art of tea drinking. "With modern technology, the quality of the tea can

now be controlled and the freshness extended" he said.

President Anthony Leong thanked Tower and Micheal Ye who also provided valuable insights about Chinese tea. At the lunch, Cina Choi, valued ACFS member, made a donation to the ACFS and Anthony thanked her for the generous contribution.

Robin Matthews



2015 ACFS Environmental Study Tour to China

Wai Ching Chan



On 13 September 2015, 15 Australian ACFS members arrived in Shanghai for a 10-day tour of China's renewable energy, eco-wetlands and water treatment facilities. Led by Dr Ross Gwyther, a geophysicist with extensive experience in the environment, tour members came from all over Australia, bringing with them diverse skills, knowledge and experience.

Shanghai

The tour started at Ching Xi Suburban Park in Qingpu district, planned to be transformed into an eco-friendly retreat just a stone's throw from bustling Shanghai. The scenic park offers bird-watching and fishing, and is due for completion by 2016. We met officials from the local Environment Management Bureau, which is pitching the eco-park to developers and investors. A cordial dinner was hosted by the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC), featuring Mongolian lamb cutlets and smoked Chinese ham.

Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the Australian and Chinese People

The next day, we visited an electric car plant affiliated with the state-owned SAIC. The tour gained rare access to the factory and met its Manager of Planning and New Energy Development, who discussed the company's future. We then left for the Changning Low Carbon Energy Efficient Monitoring Platform which monitors Shanghai multiplexes' carbon emissions compliance against agreed targets. The project is fast gaining support from multiplexes which are offered cash incentives and loan facilities by Local Government.

On the third morning, we set off for a 90-minute drive to Chongming Island to visit the Dongtan wetlands. The wetlands is RAMSAR-certified and has recorded over 200 bird species hailing from Russia to Australia. Begun in 1998, the Dongtan team has shared information with other countries for better conservation of migratory bird species that stop at Dongtan wetlands during their annual pilgrimage.



Baoding

Taking a five-hour bullet train from Shanghai to Beijing, we finally arrived in Baoding by coach. The delegation was introduced to the President of the Hebei University and members of the International Exchange and Renewable Energy departments. Broad discussions touched on establishing greater student exchange programmes, current research into renewable energy and pollution controls. Later, Hebei University welcomed our delegation with a sumptuous dinner featuring unique Hebei dishes.

The following morning, we visited the Baoding High-Tech Industry Development Zone, including a visit to the Delong sewage treatment and Encanwell, an air quality monitoring centre. This zone features more than 160 energy firms, including wind, solar and power technologies. Lunch was hosted by the Baoding City and Hebei People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries who expressed a desire to establish greater friendship between China and Australia. We were also treated to red wine grown in Hebei, a collaboration between South Australia and Hebei.

After lunch, the ACFS delegation visited Yingli Solar Group and its museum of products and technology. The

Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the Australian and Chinese People

Yingli Solar Group featured a solar-powered indoor park with water-fall, live swans and budgies amongst the flora and fauna. The park is open to the public and can host functions in several restaurants and meeting rooms.

Beijing

The third part of the tour included five days in Beijing. The first day was a visit to Hanergy Group, a private company specialising in wafer-thin, solar technology. We toured the Clean Energy Exhibition Centre that showcased various concept uses of light-weight solar film, and shared its vision for cleaner use of energy through joint research and development projects with American, German and French partners.



The second day was a visit with the Administrative Committee of the 798 Modern Art Zone. We saw the specially-curated work of David Diao, a Chinese-born American artist based in New York. Our members thoroughly enjoyed the retrospective of the artist's creative journey. The art zone attracts over 800,000 visitors a year since it opened in 1995, with more than 170 galleries from over 25 countries in its grounds.

Our third day included a visit to the Qinghe sewage treatment plant and a discussion with the Deputy General Manager of Beijing Drainage Group. The state-owned firm is responsible for treating water in the Beijing municipality. Due to a current water shortage imposed by the growing Beijing population, the group outlined its focus to conserve water through greater recycling of waste water; it is treating Beijing's sewage water to global benchmarks before reusing it in industrial plants, with the sludge recycled as fertiliser.

On the final day of the tour, the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC) organised a roundtable with Mr Wang Zhongying, Deputy Director, Energy Research Institute, Prof John Moore, chief scientist, GCESS, Beijing Normal University and Ms Wang Junling, Deputy Director, Beijing Municipal Research Institute of Environmental Protection. The seminar included a lively discussion on the effects of climate change on the Nordic ice sheets and Beijing's plans by 2030 to establish a stable power source of renewable energy through power regulation, technological demand and innovation. The session ended with an elaborate lunch hosted by the BPAFFC featuring a few dishes with medicinal properties! Overall, this environmental tour was rated highly by its participants, who enjoyed the intellectual discussions complemented by visits to the plants and developments. Highlights included the special access arranged by ACFS to Chinese officials and entrepreneurs actively pursuing opportunities to transform the renewable energy and resources sector.

Importantly, the best compliment came from a participant who said that it has enhanced her understanding of China, culture and people, an outcome the ACFS strives to repeat with future tours.

Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the Australian and Chinese People

CULTURAL NOTES

The last few months have been a busy period for China related Cultural activities. I hope many of you have managed to catch some of them!

FILM: Back in August, some iconic movie films were featured as part of the "Accent on Asia" component of the Melbourne International Film Festival. Among them, "Dearest"- the "emotionally charged" story of two parents of two parents searching for their kidnapped son. This is an a continuing and very sad problem in China. Also, the much lauded film from one of China's new directors Luo Li titled "Li Wen at East lake". Described as "an audacious political work" in the program it is set in the area of East Lake in Wuhan. Two more films "Red Amnesia" a "psychological thriller" and "A Coffin in the Mountains" based on murder stories in small remote mountain villages were both brilliant and I wish both movies could be made more available to the general public by some movie house.

Commercially films have included "The Nightingale"(a French Chinese collaboration looking at generational problems in modern China) and "Coming Home", a film which reunited actress Gong Li and director Zhang Yimou in a heart breaking story of mental trauma, left by the Cultural Revolution, on a woman whose husband did "come home" from exile but whom she failed to recognise. A tragic story but beautifully and gently told. More recently, there was a good turn-out to see to see the special showing of the film "The Third Pole" featuring the wonderful and unforgettable Tibetan and the Qinghai plateaux. Hope you managed to catch at least some of these.

MUSIC AND DANCE: As part of the "Supersense Festival of the Ecstatic" at The Playhouse in August, Tao Dance Theatre presented two pieces choreographed by Tao Ye with music by Xiao He. These 2 contemporary performance pieces simply titled "4,5" and presented with minimalist props and music are difficult describe because of their complete newness. "4" consisted of a group of four dancers in dark garb and darkened faces and a black background- a real monochrome piece. The dancers moves were repetitious and precise, with such an even equal distance between them that one would think they were attached to each other by invisible strings."5", saw a group of 8 dancers writhing prostrate on the stage but moving across each other in slow tumbles and crawls but remaining in complete contact with each other at all times. It reminded one of an amoeba like creature slithering slowly across the floor while percussion sounds and beeps accompanied them in dissonant tones. According to the advertising brochure, the choreographer Tao Ye said of his work: "No specific words can express the meaning of tonight's performance". Spot on!

In October, as part of The Melbourne Festival", a collaboration between the Australian Art Orchestra and Chinese musicians from Sichuan (playing gu zheng, gong and other percussion instruments) resulted in the musical piece "Water Pushes Sand"- a jazz combination with a difference, and enjoyed very much by the audience. There were also solo pieces by a master of Sichuan opera demonstrating the famous, lighting fast mask changes which had the audience asking for more. Those of us who stayed behind for a Q&A session after the show, requested and were treated to, a solo traditional piece on the "gu zheng" by the talented Ms. Tao one of the Sichuan musicians. A pity there were only two performances scheduled for this event-it deserves a much wider audience.

EXHIBITIONS: Two exhibitions have been on at the Chinese Museum's exhibition space recently. A short one by Master Kong Linguang with his own version of Chinese Kung Chu Opera masks and the second called Queensland Dragon which is on at present and will last till next March. This exhibition should be seen by every Australian - of Chinese heritage or not. Carefully researched and beautifully presented, it tells wonderful stories with photographs, of Chinese families who helped to settle far north Queensland. Did you know it was the Chinese who began the banana and pineapple industries of that state? An industry which became the basis , along with sugar cane, of Queensland's economy.

And yes, you can read all about it if you wish, not only by visiting the exhibition (which I highly recommend) but by purchasing an accompanying book called "Rediscovered Past- Chinese Tropical Australia". Details

Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the Australian and Chinese People

and order forms are available at the Museum.

Also of interest is the free exhibition currently at the Keith Murdoch Gallery (in State Library) of the drawings of the prolific Colonial artist S.T.Gill. Among his many drawings of life Melbourne during the Gold Rush and the Goldfields, are included some which deal realistically with the life of Chinese diggers and the discrimination displayed against them. Depicting the reality of that time is S.T. Gill's gift to Australia. Catch this exhibition fast as it closes on October 25th.

Not related directly to Chinese people but of interest, is the exhibition now showing at the National Gallery in Melbourne about Catherine the Great of Russia. This great collector of artefacts included in her collection many exquisite pieces from China some of which are on display in the last room of this exhibition. They are so beautifully intricate it was difficult to tear oneself away from looking at them. Do yourself a favour and go and see them before they are sent back to The Hermitage.

Lastly, I hope that some people managed to attend some of the regular talks about Chinese issues at the Asia Centre at Melbourne University. I'll mention only one as it was special- that given by Prof. Xu Guoqi from HK university in honour of the yearly "Kathleen Fitzpatrick Historical lecture." The lecture titled "The 1st world War and China's Great Awakening" described how in 1916, the British recruited Chinese people to help them against France: some 100,000 of which went voluntarily. They worked in ports, factories and dug trenches during the war. They stayed behind to bury the dead and clean up the mess. Most were illiterate but they worked hard and stayed the longest the professor told us. This is when the word 'coolie' was coined-"ku" means "suffering" and "li" means "strength and power".

But it was at the post war conference in Versailles when China sent a delegation to introduce itself to and join the family of western countries that things went wrong. The province of Shandong was given to Japan and China was ignored and not listened to. China gave up on western nations after that. It has taken a long time for China to get back on its feet and now it's the western nations knocking on her door. Thank you for your illuminating lecture Professor Xu and goodbye from me till the next Newsletter.

Lia Cross - ACFS Committee member



ONE for 20 Satellites

TAIYUAN, Sept. 20 (Xinhua) -- China successfully launched a new model of carrier rocket, Long March-6, at 7:01 a.m. Sunday from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.

The rocket carried 20 micro-satellites into space, which will be used for space tests.

The new rocket is fueled by liquid propellant made of liquid oxygen and kerosene. It is China's first carrier rocket that uses fuel free of toxicity and pollution, said the source with the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, which designed the rocket.

The launch has tested the feasibility and accuracy of the rocket's design as well as other new technologies.

The new carrier rocket will be mainly used for the launch of micro-satellites.

from <http://www.chinanews.com>

ACFS Victorian Branch: NOMINATION FOR ELECTIONS 2015

All financial members of the Society are eligible to nominate for the office of President, Vice President (2 positions), Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Member (up to 6 positions). A member may nominate himself or herself, or with the member’s consent, be nominated by another member.

A member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

Nominations must:

- be in writing;
- be signed by the candidate;
- and, where another member has made the nomination, also be signed by the nominator;
- include the written support of another member;
- be accompanied by a written statement of the candidate (maximum 150 words) as to why he or she is standing for election; and
- be delivered to the Secretary of the Society no later than 7 days prior to the AGM.

Notes:

1. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.
2. The written statement will be circulated to members at the AGM.

Proxy:

A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote or speak on his or her behalf at the meeting. The proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment. It may give specific directions as to how to vote, otherwise the proxy may vote as he or she sees fit. The proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting by the commencement of the meeting unless it has been sent by post or electronically when it must be received by the Society at least 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

ACFS (VICTORIAN BRANCH) NOMINATION FORM FOR AGM 2015

NAME OF NOMINEE:(print)

POSITION: President/Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary/Ordinary Committee Member (circle one only)

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE:

CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: Mobile:

Email:

NAME OF NOMINATOR (if applicable, where another member is nominating the nominee)
.....(print)

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR

NAME OF MEMBER ENDORSING NOMINEE(print)

SIGNATURE OF ENDORSER

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

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

**PRINT
POST**

PP 3310/88/00037

Stamp

If undelivered please re-
turn to ACFS Victorian,
4th Floor - Ross House
247 Flinders Lane, Mel-
bourne VIC 3000