



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

December 2015

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President's Report, December 2015

This latest round of climate talks in Paris is important to us for a couple of reasons.

First, the world must come to an agreement to avoid a repeat of Beijing's Red Alert to pollution and similar occurrences around the world, especially in emerging nations.

Secondly, the world is warming. It's a scientific fact, not guesswork or theory. This means that some countries in low-lying areas, especially in the Pacific, will vanish, inundated by civilisation's lack of controls. This is where we come in.



We are a small organisation in a crowded marketplace full of newcomers attempting to get onto the China bandwagon. However, as one of the oldest and most respected friendship groups, we offer something most cannot – trusted links across a wide expanse of experience without a hefty price tag of being a lobbyist! This is relevant because we have just been included as part of a Secretariat to help organise a meeting of Pacific Rim nations out of Tonga. We will probably be moving on this in the first half of next year, something positive in terms of survival and the economy for those nations who feel very alone at present. We should feel proud to have been invited to help and I pay my respects to Her Royal Highness Princess Pilolevu Tuita of Tonga for her foresight and caring.

For our other plans, I am pushing for a concerted membership drive as well as more social activities during 2016. Hopefully we will also have a big fundraising event, but there is nothing concrete yet. The Federal Branch and us will have new websites modernized and updated, as well as a couple of more tours to China, which we will outline next year.

In closing, I thank the Committee for their ongoing hard work and our delegates to various events and tours. I acknowledge their hard work in furthering our goals of promoting friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and Australia. I especially appreciate the untiring Executive who have performed effectively and efficiently over the year.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe festive season and a happy, successful 2016.

Anthony M Leong,
President, ACFS Vic Branch

ACFS Vic Branch 2015 AGM Report

The ACFS Victorian branch tried a new location for the Annual General Meeting this year, which was held on 25 November 2015. We met at Red Cliffs Chinese Restaurant and was declared by all attendees as highly successful.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming members and special guests Deputy Consul-General Mr Huang Guobin, Consul Mr Zhou Yujiang and guest speaker Professor Damian Kingsbury. Anthony thanked the Committee members for their dedication and work to promote the ACFS and to Vice President Tower Liu for his negotiations with the restaurant.

As the number of nominations for Committee positions equaled the number of vacancies, there was no need for an election. The following members were declared elected to the Committee:

<i>Anthony Leong:</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Neil Barker:</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>Tower Liu:</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Amy Chan:</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>John Breheny:</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Wai Ching Chan:</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>Douglas Chen:</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lou Clayton:</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>Robin Matthews:</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Lia Cross:</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
		<i>Charlie Jenkins:</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>

The meeting was addressed by Deputy Consul Huang who congratulated the new Committee, spoke of the friendly exchanges with the ACFS since its inception in 1952 and the Chinese involvement in the Victorian gold rush 160 years ago. Deputy Consul Huang referred to the wonderful evening hosted by the Consul General for Committee members earlier this year that further cemented the relationship with the ACFS. He spoke about President Xi's visit to Australia earlier in the year and the benefits of Australia signing the Free Trade Agreement. The visit of Premier Daniel Andrews to China was also highlighted that will promote cultural exchanges between Victoria and China. Deputy Consul Huang concluded by stating the importance of promoting peace and working together.

Professor Damian Kingsbury was the guest speaker and the title of his speech was "Strategic relations in the South China Sea". Professor Kingsbury addressed a number of issues, namely that China is considered the second super power in a multi polar world and its claim to territories in the South China Sea go back as far as 1947. "China is currently asserting itself in the South China Sea for strategic reasons, namely to protect potential resources of gas and oil and fisheries". He mentioned how China does not recognize the United Nations conventions on this area. Another possible reason he purported for the current interest is that the area is the world's busiest water way for shipping and global trade. "The problems in the area are being exasperated by the United States supporting claims over the area by Japan and the Philippines". He asserted there was no clear right or wrong and no law to determine the outcome. Professor Kingsbury concluded that "we live in an interconnected world of which China is a leading player and who we rely on for trade. In our interdependence, the best oil that smooth's the way is friendship".

After the formalities of the meeting, members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous banquet.

2015 BEIJING INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PEOPLE – TO – PEOPLE FRIENDSHIP

The ACFS Ltd was the only Australian organization to be invited to attend the 2015 Beijing International Forum On People – To – People Friendship in Beijing in November 2015. The Australian delegation was represented by Ann Ferguson from South Australia and Robin Matthews and Amy Chan from Victoria.



(photo of Ann, Robin and Amy at forum)

Founded in 2011, the Forum has built a communication and cooperation platform for Sino-foreign parties in an open and future oriented manner. The theme for this year was to promote friendly civil exchanges and discuss harmonious urban development.

The Forum was organized principally by the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and attended by representatives from twenty countries and provinces within China.

ACFS Ltd was pleased to be invited to participate in the forum which provided opportunities to further develop relations with BPAFFC and to foster relations

with other countries friendly with China.

Our star performer was Amy who addressed the forum on three heritage restoration projects in Victoria, one of which was the See Yup Temple Memorial Tablets Restoration Project.

Ann addressed a sub-forum theme of industry cooperation and development on the Aged Care industry in South Australia.

CHINESE MUSEUM 30TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Written by: Wai Ching Chan and Lia Cross

On 6 November 2015 Friday, Melbourne's Chinese high society descended onto Happy Receptions restaurant in Ascot Vale to celebrate the Chinese Museum's 30th anniversary with a sumptuous eight-course dinner.

The dinner went off with a feisty start with an energetic traditional dance performance by a symbolic pair of Chinese lions. Mr Bill Au, Chairman of the Chinese Museum delivered the welcome speech. He emphasised the role of the Chinese Museum which is to build a strong and cohesive culture and



The ACFS members: Cina Choi, Mrs & Mr Maurice Leong, Wai Ching Chan and Lia Cross

society in Australia. Mr Song Yumin, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne, complimented the Chinese Museum as an informative and inspiring education centre; the museum was able to reach out to 30,000 young students and connected with 32 schools through its dynamic education programme. He also sees the role of the Chinese Museum as a place to foster a better understanding of Chinese culture. Mr Peter Selinger, the Museum Director stated that more than one million visitors have visited the Chinese Museum in the past 30 years with current visitor numbers at 40,000 yearly. He acknowledged that the Museum is blessed with a passionate board of directors who has tirelessly steered the Museum to what it is today.

A special award was presented to our Lifetime Member, Mr Maurice Leong. He was given a framed certificate of appreciation by Mr Au for his tireless time and resources contributed over the past 30 years to the Museum. Mr Leong also donated a classic Chinese flower-print vase to the Museum for its live auction that evening.

The dinner featured a traditional face changing dance, and a hauntingly beautiful melody played on the Chinese sheng (a Chinese mouth-blown free reed instrument consisting of vertical pipes). The dinner was a great success celebrating of the Museum's work through the decades, and in commemorating its pioneers' efforts in building a solid foundation for its success today.

Maintaining Peace and Stability in the South China Sea

by Ma Zhaoxu Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Australia
The full text can be found on the ACFS Vic Branch web site www.acfsvic.org

It is China's long-standing position that it has indisputable sovereignty over the South China Sea Island and their adjacent waters. And China has a solid historical and legal basis for that.

The Chinese were the first to discover and develop the islands. The discovery of the island by the Chinese people can be traced back as early as the Han Dynasty between 23 and 220 AD, as documented by ancient books of that time.

The Chinese Government was the first to exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction over the islands, which came under Chinese jurisdiction from the Yuan Dynasty between 1271 and 1368 AD. After World War II, China took over the archipelagoes invaded and occupied by Japan during the war, and erected on them marks of sovereignty.

Before the 1970s, no country had ever disputed China's sovereignty over the islands. However, since the 1970's, some coastal countries have illegally occupied some of China's islands and reefs. China's construction work on some of the islands and reefs has recently attracted much media limelight.

The construction is carried out mainly for three purposes: improving the living and working conditions of people stationed there; better performing China's international responsibility and obligation in maritime search and rescue, disaster prevention and mitigation, environmental protection; and better providing international public good such as navigation safety, marine science and research, meteorological observation and fishery production.

Over the years, some countries have carried out large-scale land reclamation and construction on disputed islands, building fixed facilities such as airports, harbour basins, helipads, office building, barracks, hotels and lighthouses as well as deploying offensive weapons like missiles, artillery guns and cannons.

China has always maintained that navigation freedom in the South China Sea enjoyed by all countries based on international law should be guaranteed. Guided by this principle, China has actively participated in maritime safety co-operation.

China's determination to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the South China Sea is firm.

On the other hand, China believes that disputes should be resolved through negotiation and consultation.

China will continue to call on all parties to make concerted efforts for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) signed in 2002 and formulating a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) so that the South China Sea could become a sea of peace, co-operation and friendship.

ACFS Membership renewal

Memberships for 2016 are now due for renewal.

Family \$40.00 Single \$30.00 Concession \$15.00

Your membership can be paid by: cheque to ACFS Vic Branch and mailed to: ACFS Vic Branch, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000 or EFT: BSB063-019 Account no. 10040625

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



ACFS 2016 China & Taiwan Tour

20/AUG Melbourne - Guangzhou

Flying with China Southern Airline to Tunxi via Guang-zhou at 10:30PM.

21/AUG Guangzhou - Tunxi

Flight arrives at 6am, check-in to airport hotel to freshen up. Free at leisure or join the optional Guangzhou City tour. Check-in for Guangzhou to Tunxi flight at 5pm, upon arrival transfer to Huangshan International Hotel for the next 3 nights. (D)

Optional Guangzhou City Tour:

Meet at Guangzhou airport around 06:00am, full day Guangzhou city tour to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall, The Five Rams Statue, the Five Story Tower and the Nanyue King Museum, Chen Clan Temple. Transfer to air-port in the afternoon for the Guangzhou to Tunxi flight. (B/L) Tour cost: \$210 per person (min 2 passengers).

22/AUG Tunxi

After breakfast at hotel, visit the old street, the Ink-stick and Ink Stone carvers workshop, museum and other popular attraction around Tunxi. (B/L/D)

23/AUG Tunxi

After breakfast at hotel, visit Yi County including the an-cient villages, artist's studio and residences, Xidi and Hongcun. Later in the after-noon, tour Shexian County incl. visit to paper/ink stick/brush/Shexian inkstones workshop. (B/L/D)

24/AUG Tunxi - Mt. Huangshan

Full day Mt. Huangshan Tour, up to the mountain top by cable car. Go hiking and sightseeing over the Guest-greeting Pine, the Lotus flower Peak, the Giant Fish Peak, the Bright-top Peak and the Flying-over Rock. Later in the afternoon visit the Immortal Bridge. Stay at Beihai Hotel for 1 night. (B/L/D)

25/AUG Mt. Huangshan - Tunxi - Fuzhou

Watch the sunrise in the morning before breakfast. After go on hiking and sightseeing over the Lion Peak and the Begin-to-believe Peak. Later in the afternoon, coach transfer to Huangshan (2hrs) Railway Station for the Bul-let train to Fuzhou.(B/L/D)

26/AUG Fuzhou

Official Meeting at Fuzhou (B)

27/AUG Fuzhou - Taining

Early morning train to Taining, one of the top ten charming towns in China. Upon arrival, visit the bronze sculpture at the Champion Street and scholar Cultural Square. (B/L/D)

28/AUG Taining - Fuzhou

This morning, board the cruise to sail along the World Cultural Heritage, The Big Lake and enjoy the scenery of Kanroji, Yuan-yang Lake, Large Red Cliff incl. raft tour near the Sanming Zhuangyuan Rock. Later in the afternoon, transfer to station for train back to Fuzhou. Upon arrival transfer to hotel. (B/L/D)

29/AUG Fuzhou

Fuzhou City tour and later tonight enjoy the Meiling Op-era. (B/L/D)

30/AUG Fuzhou - Pintan - Taipei

After breakfast at hotel, coach transfer to Pintan for the Fast Ferry to Taipei. Upon arrival at Taipei Port, transfer to Santos Hotel. (B/L/D)

31/AUG Taipei

Today enjoy a full day National Palace Museum Tour, lunch at Silk Palace in National Palace Museum. (B/L/D)

01/SEP Taipei

Full day City tour, visit Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, Presidential Office Building, Longshan Temple and Taipei 101. Later in the afternoon visit Formosan Aboriginal Museum. Rest of the day Free at leisure.

02/SEP Taipei

Full day tour visit to Yangmingshan National Park, Beitou Hot Spring Area, Danshui River Old Street. Lunch at the famous Din Tai Fung Restaurant. Tonight visit the Shilin Night Market. (B/L/D)

03/SEP Taipei - Guangzhou - Melbourne

After breakfast at hotel, free at leisure till transfer to air-port for flight to Melbourne via Guangzhou (4hrs transit time at Guangzhou airport). (B)

04/SEP Melbourne

Arrive in Melbourne in the morning around 0900AM

Tour Prices:

China & Taiwan Tour:

Air and land package price: \$5,565 per person twin share, Single Supplement: \$1,705.

China Tour (excluding Taiwan):

Air and land package price: \$4,015 per person twin share, Single Supplement: \$1,100.

China & Taiwan tour inclusion:

China Southern Airline International return airfares with taxes

- China domestic train 1st class soft seat: Tunxi-Fuzhou (bullet train), Fuzhou/Taining return.
- Fast Ferry ticket (Pintan - Taipei).
- 12 nights 4 star Twin share accommodation
- Sightseeing tours with entrance fees
- Round trip transfers in each city
- Professional English speaking local guide
- Daily breakfast, lunches & dinners as specified in the itinerary

Exclude:

- Sightseeing, service and any other meal not mentioned in the itinerary
- Chinese Visa Fees
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities, tips to guides, driver and porters
- Personal expenses such as drinks, laundry, telephone, and excess baggage charges
- Personal loss, illness or damages incurred during your trip

China Southern Airlines International flights Itinerary:

20/AUG	CZ322 Melbourne - Guangzhou ETD: 2230 ETA: 0600
21/AUG	CZ3627 Guangzhou - Tunxi ETD: 1930 ETA: 2100
03/SEP	CZ3098 Taipei - Guangzhou ETD: 1430 ETA: 1635
CZ321	Guangzhou - Melbourne ETD: 2100 ETA:0840



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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Given Names

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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,
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Please put your name in the subject line & email REFERENCE to
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You may send cheques to the Treasurer at the ACFS office address
YOUR DONATION WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| PRESIDENT: | Anthony Leong | COMMITTEE: | Neil Barker |
| | | | Amy Chan |
| VICE PRESIDENT: | John Breheny | | Wai Ching Chan |
| | Tower Liu | | Louise Clayton |
| SECRETARY: | Robin Matthews | | Lia Cross |
| TREASURER: | Dong Chen | | Charles Jenkins |

We are always looking for interesting stories and articles to share with our members. Any members who have great stories to tell please contact ACFS office or e-mail to acfs.vic@gmail.com

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turn to ACFS Victorian,
4th Floor - Ross House
247 Flinders Lane, Mel-
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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.