



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

February 2016

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President's New Year Message:

This Year of the Monkey is Year 4713 in the Chinese Lunar calendar. It is a year when we should exercise perhaps greater care in matters financial and business (although I would hope we would always do that!). People born in this zodiac year should be also careful about their health, according to legend. However, as ACFS Victoria was 'born' in 1951, the Year of the

Tiger, we will have good health and reasonable finances!

On behalf of the Committee (regardless of your year!) we wish you and your family the very best in health, happiness and success. We have a lot of plans to carry out this year, including our new website, ongoing work with the Pacific nations & several functions, including the "Pig Iron Bob" film showing on March 1. I hope you were able to enjoy some of the Chinese New Year festivities in Little Bourke Street and the awakening of the dragon. Best wishes for this Year of the Monkey.



Anthony.

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR ~ THE YEAR OF MONKEY

2016 LUNAR NEW YEAR CONCERT

Wai Ching Chan

On 29 January 2016, the Collingwood Town Hall was packed with revelers partaking in the Lunar New Year concert organized by the Chinese Consulate of Victoria.



Comprising of a group of talented young artists, the Shanxi Folk Music Orchestra performed an hour and a half-long medley of traditional Shanxi folk music featuring wind, string, drum and percussion instruments. The Chinese Consulate's Consul-General, Mr Song Yu-min opened the concert by thanking the Orchestra for travelling the distance to perform during the busy festive preparation period. He also extended thanks to the Victorian Chinese for their continuing efforts in culture bridge-building between Australia and China which was enhanced by a visit from President Xi Jinping in 2014.

The concert began with a stirring performance of the famous Spring Festival overture with its upbeat opening movement. The music programme that evening was an elegant depiction of country life, whether it is the Uygur people beating tambourines at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains or families harvesting dates in the autumn. The performances also derived music scores local to different Chinese districts: Chaoyi, Dali, Chengcheng, Xinjiang Uygur, Dunhuang along the Silk road , Qinqiang, Wan-wan, Meie and Ruicheng of Shanxi. There were different set pieces featuring main music instruments; a stirring pipa performance piece featuring a happy scene at Tianshan mountain, or a 'ruan' (string instrument) ensemble depicting the annual torch festival

among the Yi people, a minority group in China. There was also a 'fusion' piece inter-weaving both Chinese and Indian traditional music influences which is a testimony to the east-west culture of Dun-huang, a previously booming ancient city along the Silk Road.

It was a cheerful evening with various folk tunes played with great finesse by the Shanxi Folk Music Orchestra. After all, the Orchestra has performed to accolades both locally and overseas. Overseas, it performed at the Silk Road Concert Series in Rome, in the City of Sydney, in Austria's New Silk Road Culture Week and the Amsterdam Canal International Music Festival. In China, they have won the Best Group at the Third Shaanxi Folk Instrument Competition and Outstanding Program Award at the 7th Shaanxi Arts Festival. To cap off the evening's fine performances, Mr Song and consulate staff members got on stage and entertained the audience with their passionate renditions of Mandarin Spring Festival songs. It was a fitting finale to an evening of fine music; many kudos goes to the Shanxi Folk Music Orchestra and the Consulate for bringing a gust of Chinese festivities into Melbourne and furthering the cultural bridge-building between the two countries.

Heart to Heart Concert

The Chinese Consulate has kindly provided the ACFS with some tickets for the Heart-to-Heart concert at 7.30 PM on Wednesday 17 February 2016. The concert is being held at the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt St, Southbank VIC.

This is an evening of traditional Chinese music, instruments and dance arranged to welcome the year of the Monkey.

The international performers are a troop of talented school students from Beijing who have performed in over 42 countries. The two hours of artistic performances will be a spectacular insight into the magical and culturally diverse country of China. The Heart to Heart Spring Festival will showcase the country's multi-cultural art and history.

If you would like a complimentary ticket/s, please contact Robin on 0411 285 488 to arrange pick up of the tickets.

The performers will also be presenting a concert the day before as part of a school exchange program on Tuesday, February 16, 7.30pm at the Ian Roach Hall, Scotch College, Morrison Street, Hawthorn if you cannot make it to the Wednesday evening performance.

Special viewing of 'The Dalfram Dispute: Pig Iron Bob'

When: 6.30 PM, Tuesday 1 March 2016

Where: Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership

603 Queensberry St, North Melbourne VIC 3051 (entry from Union Street)

Public transport: Tram Route 57 to West Maribyrnong from Elizabeth Street

Entry: \$5.00 to cover costs.

The ACFS has the opportunity for a special screening of the film *The Dalfram Dispute: Pig Iron Bob*.

In 1938, Australian dock workers refused to load iron onto the Dalfram, a steamship bound for Japan, because they feared the cargo would be made into weapons and used against the Chinese.

They believed the pig iron which would be loaded on to the Dalfram was to be turned into bullets for use against the Chinese people and possibly to come back here to Australia.



It led to an eleven week lock-out, with incredible pressure being applied by the government of the day. On January 11, 1939, Robert Menzies, Attorney General at the time, went to Wollongong to sort out the

dispute. He met with an angry crowd, where one lady shouted out "Pig Iron Bob" and the label lasted his lifetime.

The filmmaker, Sandra Pires, will be present and has kindly offered a Q & A session at the conclusion, so take this chance to ask her about this important turning point in the history of Australia-China relations.

More information about the film can be found here:

<http://www.thedalframdispute1938.com.au/>

Enquiries: 0411 285 488

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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VICTORIAN MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

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I/We support the Society's aims: Signature/s

I/We enclose the sum of \$ for my/our membership subscription.

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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
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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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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.