



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

June 2016

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ACFS Vic President's Report

Well it's been a busy couple of months while we plan for events later this year.

We're hoping for a couple of lunches or events with speakers, but the best venue we'd seen so far was too expensive. Anyway, we press on. We are also planning a major event with a very special guest. Two of the Committee are working on it - more news soon.

Past-President John Breheny, Secretary Robin Matthews and I went to the Biennial Federal Conference in Hobart and met also with other Branches, the China People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). Jan Everett hosted a fantastic and enjoyable few days, making the



Conference informative and interesting. Unfortunately Robin fell very ill and spent all the time in bed. Her recovery is slow, but progressing. However, some highlights:

Robin is now National Secretary, John remains a Director and senior vice president, Wai Ching is Federal Assistant Secretary and I have been appointed to the Board as South Pacific Affairs Convenor.

We were given a wonderful reception about the South Pacific Forum and an extremely productive meeting with the CPAFFC people from both their National and Beijing bodies. Robin and John were appointed ACFS National Delegates to the South Pacific Forum to be held in Tonga later this year. Robin and I will soon go to set up the Forum there with HRH Princess Pilolevu and Mishka Tuifua.

We finally had a long and meaningful discussion about the website and that's now advancing with proper guidelines, rather than Hua and I flying blind.

We heard presentations from two businesses who wish to work with us and while one has been taken on board, the other was asked to return with a more planned proposal.

Well that's it for now and I will report back to you all after the Tonga visit. Stay warm with the cold snap and look out for our next lunch event.

Anthony

ACFS National Conference - Hobart 2016

Wai Ching Chan

The theme for this years' ACFS National Conference was "Building Friendships, Building the Future'. Held from May 20 to 22 in Hobart, the conference's agenda was jam-packed with guest speakers and meetings with one common aim - to construct good relationships and progress bridge-building between Australia and China. The opening night speakers were Elise Archer, MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Tasmania, Andrew Wilkie, Federal MP Independent member for Denison, and Scott Bacon, MP for Denison, Tasmania. Mr Wilkie set the tone of the conference with his observations that it is in Australia's interest to think strategically about her foreign policies with China and America; it is in her interest to not take sides and maintain a balancing act in her relationships with the world's two superpowers. He acknowledged that it is a tricky balancing act where major decisions have to be consciously made, and disputes like the South China Sea should be left to China to play out, rather than for Australia to test the waters.

Mr Bacon delivered the Bill Morrow lecture where he spoke about the power of friendship with China, more notably the financial relationship of doing business in China. Tasmania established a sister relationship with Fujian, China where 116 delegations were sent between the two cities. He acknowledged the relationship of shared passions where there is increasing tolerance be-

tween China and Australia, and socio-economic benefits are established in industries like the abalone trade, mining resources and have also expanded to Antarctic explorations.

In an acknowledgement to the Aboriginal heritage of the land, Aboriginal Elder Aunty Brenda Hodge was invited to give the Conference's first morning speech where she emphasized caring for the country's waterways and sea and giving respect to the Tasmania's community. Subsequent speeches were made by Ms Jan Everett, President of the ACFS Tasmania Branch, Professor Wong Siu Hon, Patron of ACFS, Master Wang, ACFS supporter, Buddhist Academy of Tasmania Permanent President, Dr Vanessa Goodwin, representing the Tasmanian Government, Ms Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor of Hobart, and Mr Ross Gwyther, National President of ACFS. Presentations were also made by two guest speakers, Professor Ian Allison, Australian Antarctic Division and Ms Katie Grubb, Mandarin Pathways.

The meeting agreed that the Victorian branch will host the 2018 National Conference in Melbourne. John Brehney was elected as senior vice-president, Anthony Leong was appointed as Special Director to the board as South Pacific convenor, Robin Matthews was elected as Company Secretary and Wai Ching Chan was appointed as unofficial assistant secretary.

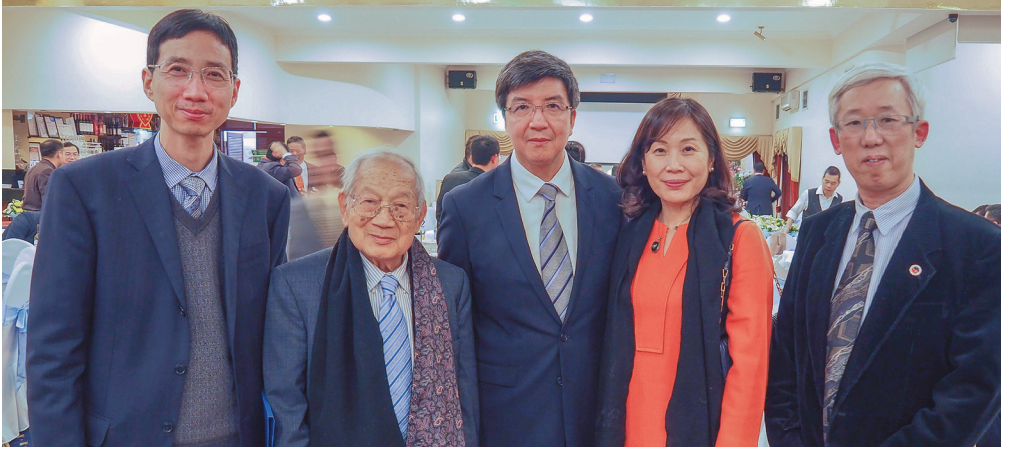
The National Conference was deemed a success by representatives from the six states – Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, Northern Territories and Western Australia. There were new faces and fresh ideas were discussed. Many thanks go to Ms Jan Everett and her team of very efficient committee members and volunteers who worked tirelessly and quietly behind the scene. They have left a high standard for Melbourne to match and up come 2018.

Melbourne Societies Farewell Consul-General

It is always sad to say goodbye to friends and tonight was no exception when Chinese organisations gathered to bid farewell to Consul-General Mr Song Yumin, who with his wife is returning to Beijing.

The ACFS was represented by Vice-President Tower Liu and President Anthony Leong, along with See Yup Society representative and ACFS Life Member, Maurice Leong. We were fortunate to meet with the new Cultural Consul, Dr Chen Xiao and look forward to having more discussions with her in the near future.

In his farewell address, the Consul-General spoke of the ties especially between Victoria and China and quoted Victorian Premier Andrews in saying that our friendship is worth far more than mere commerce.



There followed a sumptuous banquet of many courses and entertainment by two singers, one of whom we know well. Some will recall the lunch where Shu-Cheen Yu spontaneously performed for us whilst talking about her music over lunch. Her voice is still as wonderful as ever.

Following dinner, guests mingled and took photos with the departing guest of honour, wishing him and his wife every success wherever in the world they may travel.

Anthony Leong, 6 June 2016

China's historic quest for a peaceful rise

Jean-Pierre Lehmann

China is the first new great global power to emerge in over a century

It is receiving a great deal of unsolicited advice in the process, notably, then US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick's 2005 admonition to Beijing that it should be a "responsible stakeholder". (Note: that was two years after the invasion of Iraq!) It was logical, therefore, that the Chinese should ask how the preceding emerging great powers got there. One result of the inquiries was a brilliant 2006 CCTV series, *The Rise of the Great Powers*.

The series begins with Portugal in the 15th century, the first great global sea-borne power with an empire stretching from Brazil, across the Atlantic, to both West and East Africa, through to the Indian Ocean with an outpost in Goa and, thence, to the Western Pacific in Macau. Following Portugal, the series describes the rise of the next eight great powers: Spain, the Netherlands, Britain,

France, Germany, Russia, Japan and the United States.

One major conclusion is that not a single one of the nine could have been described as a responsible stakeholder in their rise to global power: In every case, conquest, destruction, enslavement, executions, looting and the like were the order of the day. The rise of Mr Zoellick's own country, the US, entailed slavery, the genocide of native American Indians, wars and territorial acquisitions (notably from Mexico), the control of neighbouring countries in the Caribbean through the expulsion of other powers, the imposition of the Monroe Doctrine declaring Latin America a US sphere of influence, culminating in the Spanish/American war whereby Washington acquired Puerto Rico (plus Guam and the Philippines) and Spain was expelled from Cuba. In his compelling book, *Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea And The End Of A Stable Pacific*, Robert Kaplan draws an intriguing parallel between US perspectives on the Caribbean in relation to its national security, and China's on the South China Sea.

Arguably, the most relevant chapter of the CCTV series is that on Britain. It was Britain that woke China from its slumber and forced it, screaming and kicking, into the modern age. Imperial China, which, just before the outbreak of the first Opium War, corresponded to over 30 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), was almost certainly unsustainable.

The system was obsolete and violent peasant risings had been raging for decades. But it is the manner in which Britain behaved that retains for China and Britain - and for the rest of the planet - a deep moral quandary. As the totally illicit opium trade caused economic and social ravages, the Chinese pleaded with Britain to be a responsible stakeholder.

In an impassioned letter to Queen Victoria just prior to the outbreak of hostilities, commissioner Lin• Zexu appealed to her better moral self to intervene so the heinous trade could end. Lin pointed to the flagrant double standards (a recurrent theme among risen Western great powers) in noting: "I have heard that the smoking of opium is very strictly forbidden by your country; that is because the harm caused by opium is clearly understood. Since it is not permitted to do harm to your own country, then even less should you let it be passed on to the harm of other countries - how much less to China!"

Queen Victoria never replied to the letter, except in the form of gunships in the first Opium War, followed by a second offensive from 1856 to 1860, in which the French joined the British, culminating with the looting of the Old Summer Palace in Beijing - somewhat comparable to the Chinese looting the British Museum and the Louvre.

If the Portuguese seaborne empire is the first chapter in the rise of the great powers, the Opium War is the first chapter in China's century of humiliation. By the year of liberation (1949), its share of GDP had plummeted to 4 per cent, while in the process there were incessant foreign military invasions, as well as the moral injury of the treaty ports, the coolie trade and other forms of humiliation.

Though China, unlike India, was not colonised by a single imperial power, in the words of Sun Yat Sen, it was a "poly-colony" with multiple countries helping themselves to bits and pieces of Chinese territory in what were called "spheres of influence". In looking back over the past 500 years, it is clear that the narrative of the peaceful rise of a great power has never been written. Every single rising power from Portugal to the US has been bellicose, brutal and at times barbaric. It was after they had caused disorder that they sought to impose order - their order. If China wants a model of a responsible stakeholder, the fact is that it does not exist.

The term "China peaceful rise to great power status" was coined by Chinese thought leader Zheng Bijian in 2005. The future of humanity very much depends on whether, as it rises to become a great global power, China will behave with the same ruthless cynicism and cause as much misery and mayhem as its nine predecessors, or whether it will break the pattern and tear asunder the great-power-rising paradigm by rising peacefully.

It's a tough challenge, especially, I repeat, as there is no precedent, no guidebook one can take off the shelf, no historical mentor one can turn to.

Whether China ultimately succeeds or fails will, of course, greatly depend on China, but it will also depend on the attitudes and acts of the existing and erstwhile great powers. Western sermons are not helpful. To construct a better and more peaceful world, a collective constructive approach is quintessential. As is a degree of humility on the part of the Western powers (and Japan). They should recognise that they did not rise peacefully and, indeed, as they rose, China was abused. This might go some way in avoiding a Chinese syndrome of revenge.

A first concrete step in that direction might be for Queen Elizabeth, before she leaves the throne, to apologise to China on behalf of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, for her rudeness in never having properly replied to Lin Zexu's letter. A small act of this nature could have a huge impact.

The writer is Emeritus Professor of International Political Economy at IMD, Switzerland and Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong. This article first appeared in the South China Morning Post.



Australia China Friendship Society

China Cultural Tour 2017

Departing on 15th April 2017

**16 days tour to Shanghai, Kaifeng, Shaolin Temple,
Luoyang, Xian, Pingyao, Taiyuan, Datong & Beijing**

Shaolin Temple is the cradle of the Chinese Zen Buddhism and the Shaolin Martial Arts. Ping Yao is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a traditional Han Chinese city which was the major centre for the whole of China in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Luoyang Peony Festival is very popular among Chinese tourists and peony enthusiasts the world over. Each year from mid-April to mid-May, the peonies are in full bloom, generally reaching their peak during the period April 15th-25th, which is the date set for the annual festival. During the peony fair, gardens are awash with colorful flowers mostly reds mixed with whites, yellows and purples set against a background of thick, vibrant, dark green leaves, like a myriad of precious stones set in bright, shiny rings.

The Yungang Grottoes are an outstanding example of the Chinese stone carvings from the 5th and 6th centuries.

Itinerary

Day 1: 15 Apr Australia ✈ Hong Kong → Shanghai

Today you will fly with Cathay Pacific flights to Shanghai via Hong Kong, the largest city in China. Your tour guide will meet you at the airport then transfer you to Sunrise on the Bund Hotel 4* for 2 nights.

Day 2: 16 Apr Shanghai Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, the day begins with a grand city tour of Shanghai – the classical Ming Dynasty Yu Yuan Gardens with pavilions, towers and terraces and Pudong, the new economic district across from the Bund. The tour continues after lunch by a stroll along the spacious promenade of the Bund, window-shopping in bustling Nanjing Road. After dinner you will enjoy the

amazing Shanghai Acrobatics Show.

Day 3: 17 Apr Shanghai 🚢 Kaifeng Meal: B/D

This morning you will take the high speed train **D286 0725/1352** to Kaifeng city (approx. 6 hours), one of the capitals in ancient China. Upon arrival, you will visit the Millennium Theme Park of Qingming Festival where you will experience the social life of Ancient China dated back to 11 century AD. Then a visit to the dragon pavilion—the original site of the ancient imperial palace. You may also walk around the imperial street of the northern Song Dynasty.

Day 4: 18 Apr Kaifeng 🚗 Shaolin 🚗 Luoyang Meal: B/L/D

In the morning you will visit the Iron Pagoda—the symbolic building of Kaifeng City. Then drive to Shaolin. Visit the Shaolin Monastery. Built in 495AD, it is the cradle of Kung Fu (wushu) and Chinese Zen Buddhism. There are many attractions here including the Hall of Heavenly Kings (Tianwangdian), the Pagoda Forest, the Dharma Cave and the Shaolin Temple Martial Art Training Centre. After sightseeing, you will drive to Luoyang in the late afternoon.

Day 5: 19 Apr Luoyang Meal: B/L/D

Today you will visit Longmen Caves, which contain the largest and most impressive collection of Early Chinese Buddhist cave art represented by well-preserved pagodas, carvings and statues. In the afternoon, you will visit the China Peony Garden for the Luoyang Peony Festival.

Day 6: 20 Apr Luoyang 🚗 Xian Meal: B/D

You will take high speed train from Luoyang to Xian (approx. 1.5 hours), the most historic city in China and the capital of ancient China for 11 dynasties. Upon arrival at Xian, you will take an afternoon tour to Shanxi Provincial Museum.

Day 7: 21 Apr Xian Meal: B/L/SD

Today's touring is to the vast treasure of the underground army of the Terracotta Warriors. They are to be found at an archaeological site which so far has yielded some 8000 ancient terracotta soldiers and horses, each a unique, finely detailed sculpture. In the afternoon, you will visit the ancient City Wall and Grand Mosque. Dinner is a sumptuous dumpling banquet and a spectacular Tang Dynasty Show.

Day 8: 22 Apr Xian 🚗 Pingyao Meal: B/L/D

Today you will take the high speed train from Xian to Ping Yao (it takes approx. 3 hours). You will visit the old town of Pingyao. It is the best preserved among the ancient towns in China. It is the assembly place of folk houses in north China where row upon row of buildings in the Ming and Qing Dynasties stand in well-preserved conditions.

Day 9: 23 Apr Pingyao 🚗 Taiyuan Meal: B/L/D

Today you will drive to Taiyuan. On the way, we will visit Qiao's Grand Courtyard, with the area of 8,724 square meters; it was the house of the richest family Qiao in Qing Dynasty in China. Though 2 centuries have passed,

it still keeps its original splendor in architectural style. We will visit the Jin Ancestral Temple; it was originally started in the Northern Wei Dynasty (386 - 532 AD) to commemorate the memory of Shu Yu (Zhou Wu), the founder of the state of Jin.

Day 10: 24 Apr Taiyuan 🚗 Datong Meal: B/L/D

Today drive to Datong (3.5 hours), on the way, we will visit the Hanging Temple and Yinxian Wooden Pagoda. The Hanging Temple was built during 386-534AD, and restored in 1900 and there are 40 wooden halls and structures linked by an ingenious system of pillars, posts and walkways. The Yingxian Wooden Pagoda was built in 1056 and is the oldest wooden Buddhist pagoda in existence; this pagoda is a 9 story octagonal building and was constructed without using any nails.

Day 11: 25 Apr Datong Meal: B/L/D

Tour to the Yungang Grottoes, which has 252 caves and 51,000 statues, the grottoes represent the outstanding achievement of Buddhist cave art in China in the 5th and 6th centuries. The Five Caves were created by Tan Yao, and with their strict unity of layout and design, constitute a classical masterpiece of the first peak of Chinese Buddhist art; afterwards we will visit Nine Dragon Screen.

Day 12: 26 Apr Datong 🚆 Beijing Meal: B

In the morning, you will take the train to Beijing. Upon arrival, you will be met and transfer to your hotel.

Day 13: 27 Apr Beijing Meal: B/L/D

Today you will visit the Tiananmen Square, the largest city square in the world. From Tiananmen Square enter the Forbidden City. This massive complex was the centre of the Ming and Qing dynasties. With almost 10,000 rooms, this well-preserved imperial palace is the largest in the world. After lunch, ride a trishaw to tour the ancient city alleys of the Hutongs and experience the lifestyle of the local people.

Day 14: 28 Apr Beijing Meal: B/L/D

Today you will experience the splendour of the Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is an amazing manmade structure built over 2000 years ago to protect China from northern invaders. Next to the Summer Palace, the largest and best preserved of all imperial palace gardens. Marvel with fascination at the Marble Boat and the ornately painted Long Corridor. In the evening, enjoy a delicious Peking Duck Banquet.

Day 15: 29 Apr Beijing ✈️ Hong Kong ✈️ Australia Meal: B

Today is at your own leisure. You are transferred to the airport for your flight bound for Australia via Hong Kong.

Day 16: 30 Apr Australia

Arrive in Australia in the morning.

Special price: \$3950.00 per person, Single supplement: \$810.00

Inclusions:

1. Twin share **4* hotels** as mentioned in the itinerary or similar.
2. Fully inclusive tour with English speaking guide, entrance fees, meals as per itinerary
3. Cathay Pacific airfare departing from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth to Shanghai via Hong Kong and back from Beijing via Hong Kong on economy class including taxes and fuel surcharges.
4. Second class bullet train tickets of Shanghai / Kaifeng, Luoyang / Xian / Pingyao, Datong / Beijing.
5. Travel by luxury, air-conditioned coaches whilst in China.
6. Chinese tea and one glass of soft drink included in all lunches and dinners.
7. All tipping.
8. CBT travel wallet and travel bag.

Exclusions:

1. China Visa application fees.
2. Personal expenses.
3. Travel insurance (Strongly recommended).

Booking Please Contact

CBT Holidays

A Tour Division of China Bestours

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Family Name (Mr /Mrs/Ms/Other)

Given Names

Address P/code.....

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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
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You may send cheques to the Treasurer at the ACFS office address
YOUR DONATION WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

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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

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.

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