



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

August 2016

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**CHINESE NATIONAL DAY DINNER:** The Victorian Chinese National day dinner will be at the Happy Reception, 7pm Monday 26 September. All members are invited to attend venue. Please contact the Secretary via email: [acsf.vic@gmail.com](mailto:acsf.vic@gmail.com) or 0478 530 515 to reserve your place before 7 September. The cost is \$60.00/each.



### ACFS Vic President's Report, August 2016

Greetings to you all and I hope you are slowly thawing out from our Winter.

There have been a couple of small events we held over the past couple of months, but we're ramping things up and there is more

news.

#### Tonga Visit

Planning for the inaugural Pacific China Friendship Association is proceeding well. As Australian Pacific Convenor and Acting Secretariat Convenor, Robin and I flew to Tonga to meet HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita and her assistant, Ms Mishka Tuifua. We were taken to many venues to see what was available and also pricing and facilities. Whilst there, we were shown warm and gracious hospitality and the working relationship has really developed.

Following that successful visit and our presentation of documents to HRH and Mishka, Robin then flew to China for the biennial Friendship Forum in Anhui Province, where she met with the Pacific nations and with Mishka briefed them on plans and the pending documents.

#### Tea With Tower

Resident tea expert with a refined palate to match, Vice President Tower Liu,

treated us to some extremely fine and precious teas from various places famous for their delicate tea flavours. From fragrant, aromatic Dragon Well tea to light green teas, we spent a very pleasant and indulgent afternoon tasting some of the finest teas from China, beautifully backed by various food brought by participating ACFS members.

## Dinner Venues & Speakers

We have looked at two venues to hold our fundraising dinner and this will be decided on this week at our Committee meeting. The first is the upstairs dining area of **Dragon Boat** (lift and escalator-accessible), where we would have the entire floor to ourselves. The other is where we had the last fundraiser, the Peking Duck restaurant **Quanjudu**. If you have a preference, please feel free to let us know. We will also be finalising our speaker this week too.

## Website Templates:

You will be pleased to know our website is being upgraded and the templates are almost finalised, which will be done in the next 10 days, with great thanks to Hua from the NT Branch. More news to follow...

So for now, that's all! In the meantime, stay warm, stay dry and stay healthy.

Anthony

# 2016 FRIENDSHIP FORUM REPORT

*Robin Matthews*

The ACFS delegation declared the 2016 Friendship Forum held in the cities of Hefei and Chuzhou in Anhui Province a resounding success. This year's Forum was hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Anhui Provincial People's Association for the People's Government of Chuzhou City.

The Australian delegation was one of the largest to attend the Forum with representatives from the Bahamas, Barbados, Fiji, Micronesia, New Zealand including their Maori group, Tahiti, Tonga, US, Vanuatu.

Ross Gwyther ACFS Ltd National President led the delegation, and was accompanied by Roz Hanley, Gian Foh Wong, Ying Li and Then Jee Pui from

Western Australia, Jan Everett from Tasmania, Rui Xu from Northern Territory and Robin Matthews representing Victoria. Shaofang Liu recently of the Queensland branch was also part of the Australian delegation.

The first day of the Forum commenced with a visit to the Hefei State Hi-tech Industry Development Zone where we witnessed new developments in intelligent speech and artificial intelligence. This technology has positive implications for educational and language programs, telecommunications services and the smart automotive industry.



*Australian Delegation members at Iflytek Hefei State Hi-tech Industry Development Zone*

Later that morning we visited the Anhui Provincial Museum, followed by a briefing on the Anhui Province and a banquet lunch.

The conference component commenced the following day in Chuzhou with welcoming speeches from the hosts followed by a range of presentations from member associations. Of particular interest was a presentation by Professor Yao Yao, Director of Research at the China Public Diplomacy Association. He spoke about the importance of looking after yourself, then you can help others such as China's development work in Africa and the Pacific region. He also spoke about the image of Chinese people overseas namely Kung Fu, pandas and the Great Wall which needed greater understanding and enlightenment. Prof. Yao Yao also spoke about the importance of "soft power" and "same pace but different way" to achieve results.

Robin addressed the conference on the Soul of the 30 Minute City and Ross provided a summary and closing remarks on behalf of all the attendees. The Forum enabled delegates to renew acquaintances with other member nations, and was valuable to find out how their associations operated.

The Australian delegation was most appreciative of the CPAFFC for their kind generosity and was happy to renew friendship with their officers.

The following day, we drove through a new model village build for farm workers, enjoyed a brief concert by the community of He Dong village, and walked around the Langya Cultural Site including a steep walk to the Temple.

The Australian delegation then travelled to Hangzhou by fast train. Here we were met by old friend to WA ACFS Zhu Xin Director of Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and generously hosted to a sumptuous reception and dinner by Chen Zongyao Vice Secretary General of The People's Government of Zhejiang Province.



*Reception hosted by People's Government of Zhejiang Province*

After a free day of visiting local attractions we enjoyed a tour of the West Lake, a tea plantation and ceramic museum.

The trip showcased the many attractions of the city and more importantly helped to develop friendships everywhere we went.



# TEA - TASTING AFTERNOON

by: Wai Ching Chan

On 24 July 2016, ACFS Victoria organized a tea-tasting session for its members. The master of tea-ceremony was ACFS Victoria Vice-President Tower Liu. Members were treated to a range of good-quality tea from the famous Chinese green tea, Long Jing to the equally renown Oolong Tea and its affiliated Tie Guanyin. Tower also showed the audience how to brew a pot of good tea – namely one is to warm up the tea pot with boiling hot water before simmering the tea leaves in hot water for the flavours to be diffused fully. He also emphasized on the importance of using only freshly opened tea leaves; tea leaves are best consumed once the tea containers are opened as the fragrance of the tea leaves will evaporate swiftly. The quality of the tea can still be maintained when kept in a sealed container. Another good tip to know is that good tea leaves can be stored in the refrigerator for up to ten years.



It was a relaxing, Sunday afternoon learning about the intricacies of tea-making, and sampling both good and common tea to discern the difference. ACFS members who were keen to learn more about Chinese tea were also engaged in a question-and-answer session with Tower. The tea-tasting session was quietly enjoyed by all present. A positive feedback was a request for more tea-tasting sessions exploring other varieties of Chinese tea, so keep a look-out for them in future ACFS calendar-of-activities.

# CULTURAL NOTES

## Exhibitions:

For those of you who haven't managed to get there yet, the Chinese Museum has two wonderful new exhibitions on at present.

The first, based on the Han Dynasty (220-206 BC) and embracing items from private collections previously unseen, concentrates on the cultural, technological and economic development as well as the territorial expansion of the period.

Historians, explorers and inventors are featured along with their personal stories. One of my favourite stories is that of Grand Historian Sima Qian who, because of devotion to his work when compiling his opus "Records of the Historian", chose the humiliation of castration rather than banishment after displeasing the Emperor, in order to complete his work. I recall writing a paper about him during my Chinese history studies at university and have often wondered whether any historian would be as brave today?

A reconstruction of the first seismograph is featured based on written records, as well as astronomical instruments, and a very early clock. Other inventions like papermaking, the wheelbarrow, the plough and a machine for planting grain in straight lines are brought to life with illustrations from original sources, especially tomb art. Even if you've been to Xian's museums many times, it is still worth seeing. Catch it before it finishes!

The second exhibition, which opens officially on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, tells the not so well known story of the Australian Legation in Chongqing during the 1940's. A wonderful book has been put together from primary sources like letter, official correspondence, archival film as well as newspaper reports of the time and wonderful photographs. I found it very eye opening and thoroughly recommended it. Of course, our members are welcome to come and join the opening of the exhibition so do come along.

## Film:

As we have already advertised to members, the Melbourne Film Festival has been in progress and as usual, Asian countries are well represented. I hope you managed to catch some of them and I'll mention two Chinese films here.

First, the wonderful documentary by Zhang Yang "Paths of the Soul" which traces the journey of almost two thousand km by a group of devout Tibetan Buddhists on pilgrimage to the ancient (about 7<sup>th</sup> century) and highly revered "Jokhang Temple ". Walking such a distance would be an epic, but prostrating

your self every few steps for the whole distance in extraordinary!

Second, the very moving debut feature by Zhang Hanyi, set in the extremely dry north among the dusty loess hills during bleak winter weather. Here people have to struggle to stay alive in their dilapidated cave dwellings and huts. Heating kangs (beds) with sticks from an outside fire is a very important task in winter as is slaughtering goats to feed the village and minding the flock where it is too cold and dry for vegetables to grow.

The story centres on a father and son walking through the sparse frozen forest gathering firewood and the belief that “grandmother” has come back to the earth as a bird. It’s a depiction of simple, humble people with spiritual beliefs that seem improbable to outsiders. The audience looked on and wondered whether this was really true. This is not the China they hear about in the news. But YES, it is true, such villages still exist in the remote areas of the country and they are not “absurd” as in the words of one reviewer in the “Hollywood Observer”.

The producer and director were showing real people in a real situation without outside commentary. I invite these critics to go and visit these villages as I did, in order to gain a more comprehensive view of China and its people.

Lia Cross



## Vale Ken Bathie

Long time ACFS member Ken Bathie passed away on the 14th June 2016.

Margaret Stonehouse remembers *Ken took over as Acting President in 1992 when Jack Lazarus passed away suddenly. During his time as President, Ken worked tirelessly to promote the aims of the Society. He was succeeded by Betty Little in 1998.*

The ACFS is grateful for the work and commitment of Ken in promoting the work of the Society and wish to pass our condolences to his family and loved ones.

The ACFS was represented at Ken’s funeral service by Anthony Leong President ACFS Vic branch.

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](mailto:acfs.vic@gmail.com)

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

PRESIDENT: Anthony Leong

COMMITTEE: Neil Barker

VICE PRESIDENT: John Breheny  
Tower Liu

Amy Chan  
Wai Ching Chan

SECRETARY: Robin Matthews

Louise Clayton  
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](mailto:acfs.vic@gmail.com)