



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

May 2017

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President's Message

Well, it's half way through the year and almost Winter, though exceptionally mild and dry. I hope you're all enjoying this unexpected, balmy weather.

We're busy planning for the National Conference next year (to be held at the Victoria Hotel), as well as several smaller events this year. A highlight will be our fundraising event in August, where Federal Shadow Attorney General Mark Drefus MHR, will share with us the alternative Federal government's view of China and the complex relationship we share. Mark is entertaining and informative, and I look forward to hearing his views.

We had our first "off-grid" Committee meeting the other night, where, because of Metro works along Flinders Lane, we met at my home for dinner as well as deliberation. A productive night was had by all and I thank all who participated for making the meeting as pleasant as it was fruitful.

In other matters, the Pacific-China Friendship Association's (PCFA) President has just spent several days meeting with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries heads, so I await news of his meetings. As you know, ACFS has had a strong role in the PCFA and we will continue to contribute.

As always, my thanks to the Committee members who have worked behind the scenes and in the next newsletter there will be announcements of more activities.

In the meantime, stay safe and warm.

Anthony Leong

EARLY NOTICE

The ACFS will be having a dinner on Tuesday 29 August 2017 at Restaurant 369, cnr Exhibition and Little Bourke Street. The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP will be the guest speaker, so put the date in your diary for an interesting and enlightening evening with an entertaining and engaging speaker.

With the Federal Opposition leading in the polls, hear the alternative government's attitude to China. Who better than the Shadow Attorney General to speak on dealing with our largest trading partner and the rule of law between two vastly different cultures?

Tickets are limited so book early.

THE WALK FROM ROBE

In the 1850's, gold was discovered in Victoria and thousands of Southern Chinese flocked here for the "gold rush". Chinese called this the "New Gold Mountain".



Charles Zhang with Robin and Anthony in Ballarat

In 1857, the Victorian Government imposed a 10 pound Poll Tax on all Chinese who disembarked at Melbourne. This necessitated the Chinese leave their ships at Robe in South Australia and trudge the long distance to the goldfields.

More than 18,600



Charles Zhang at Commemorating Walk from Robe in Victoria Parliament

Chinese gold seekers trekked overland from Robe and many died from exhaustion and sickness along the way.

To commemorate the 160th anniversary of this walk, a re-enactment was arranged by the Chinese Community Council of Australia, following the walk of Ballarat Chinese Charles Zhang and his son in 2013. The ACFS welcomed home the walkers first in Ballarat and then at Parliament on May 25.

The ACFS congratulates the walkers and organisers on commemorating the arduous and courageous walk of 160 years ago and reminding the community of the racism and discrimination which should never occur again.

Twenty days later at the end of the re-enactment, the walkers were welcomed to Parliament House by the Premier Hon Daniel Andrews MP who expressed



Victorian Premier Hon Daniel Andrews apologises to Chinese community for racist policies during gold rush era

profound sorrow and apologised on behalf of the Government of Victoria 160 years ago for the shameful treatment of the Chinese immigrants who were subjected to the poll tax. The Premier spoke warmly of the prodigious commitment that Chinese people have made to the culture and economy of Victoria, and that we should all be grateful for this contribution.



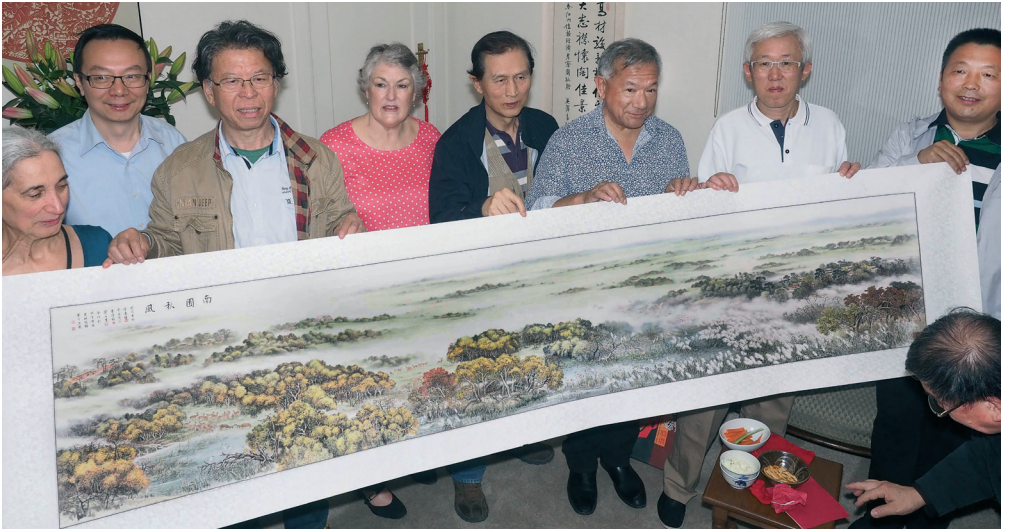
*Fourth generation descendant of Chinese migrants,
Adrian Hem at Parliament House, Victoria.*

BPAFFC DELEGATION HOSTED BY ACFS VIC BRANCH

The Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries organised a brief trip to Melbourne over the Easter weekend of 16 and 17 April 2017. Their trip later proceeded to Fiji where they showed an exhibition of traditional Chinese paintings.

Included in the delegation were ten representatives from the Beijing Municipal Institute of Culture and History who were painters, architectural historians and writers. Our friend Chen Yi from BPAFFC was the interpreter.

The ACFS exchanged gifts with the delegation and were delighted to receive a number of books on Chinese architecture, a scroll and a painting.



A gift Chinese Scroll to the ACFS

The ACFS Vic Committee hosted the delegation to a welcome reception and dinner on the Sunday evening and the following day arranged a visit to Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen and the National Gallery of Victoria at Federation Square where they viewed a collection of Aboriginal art and an overview of Australian painting. An enormous lunch at Sofia Restaurant in Camberwell was enjoyed in-between the gallery visits.

Our travel weary guests were farewelled at the conclusion of the NGV visit where they enjoyed some shopping before their evening flight to Fiji. Special thanks to Vice-President Tower Liu for looking after the needs of our guests and Secretary Robin Matthews for the efficient organising.



华人 - 财富

Chinese Fortunes

28 一月 JANUARY - 25 六月 JUNE 2017



Join our ACFS trip to Ballarat to view the Chinese Fortunes exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka Ballarat on Saturday 10 June 2017. The exhibition tells the stories of Chinese history from the gold rush era.

Chinese translation is displayed throughout the exhibition.

If you would like to travel by car with one of the Committee members, please ring 0411 285 488 or 0411 322 808 and we will arrange pick up. Cars leave Melbourne at 11.30am with the aim of touring of the exhibition at 1.30pm.

The Saltbush Kitchen, located at the Museum, offers a quality menu sourced from fresh, local produce and cooked on site.

Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE)

102 Stawell Street South

Ballarat

Entry

\$12 Adults

\$8 Concession and Children 6 – 15 years

\$8 Students 15 – 18 with student card

\$5 Children 5 and under

\$35 Family Pass

Gold coin donation for locals

Discounted rates are offered for groups of ten or more people.

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,
Commonwealth Bank 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 ACFS office address
YOUR DONATION WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Promoting Friendship and Understanding Between the
Australian and Chinese People

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.

The ACFS Victorian Branch

PRESIDENT: Anthony Leong

COMMITTEE: Amy Chan

VICE PRESIDENT: John Breheny
Tower Liu

Wai Ching Chan

Lia Cross

SECRETARY: Robin Matthews

Damon Feng

TREASURER: Dong Chen

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