



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

July 2017

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A fundraiser dinner with guest speaker

The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC. MP



Join ACFS Vic Branch to hear Mark Dreyfus Shadow Attorney General outline the position of a Labor Government's view on Australia China relations.

When: Tuesday 29 August 2017 6.30 pm for 7.00pm

Where: Restaurant 369

193 Exhibition St, Melbourne (Corner Little Bourke Street)

Cost: 6 course dinner @\$60.00

Bookings: Robin 0411 285 488 or

robin@remconsult.com.au

RSVP essential: 24 August 2017



President's Report:

Good afternoon everyone. I hope you are all staying out of the wind and cold, although it's one of the driest months on record.

The past weeks have been busy planning next year's National Conference of all ACFS branches here in Melbourne, and we have a very exciting line-up of speakers and guests. Stay tuned for details as we confirm them. I'm enthusiastic about hosting such a fantastic event, which will be the biggest since our 60th Anniversary celebrations.

Another important function is our Fundraising Dinner with the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC. MP, an entertaining speaker and Shadow Attorney General, having been the AG in the last Federal Labor Government. If there were to be a change of government, Mark would be one of the few making decisions about Australia's relationship with China.

Hear Mark speak on **Tuesday, August 29, 6:30pm for 7:00pm at 369 Restaurant, 193 Exhibition St, Melbourne (cnr Lt Bourke St)**. We will have the whole restaurant to ourselves, which will be wonderful. *Tell all your friends and book a table through us!* I am grateful to Tower for wrangling the restaurant and Robin for the planning to date.

We have been talking with China about various matters to do with the Pacific. I have had the pleasure of sending out several letters to various institutes in Shanghai regarding schemes and scholarships they have offered island member-states of the Pacific-China Friendship Association. The ACFS will have a role to play with this too, but I will update you when arrangements are finalised.

Shortly there will be a delegation coming over from Jiangsu Province. They will be visiting Melbourne for a brief meeting, then fly to Sydney. Here, they will meet with MPs and other Ministers' representatives. They have asked the ACFS to facilitate their visit and meetings, which we are in the process of doing. We are also talking to stakeholders who may wish to be part of the talks.

Finally, plans are now underway for getting help to tidy the ACFS office, look into a Gift Register and begin an inventory of items, some of which are undoubtedly of historic significance. We will be approaching Chinese student organisations for help, but if you know a young person who would happily help us with these tasks, please contact our Secretary (Robin@remconsult.com.au) or me.

Please stay well and I'll be in touch with more news soon.

Anthony Leong.

Cultural Notes

Lia Cross



Art: Hopefully some of you will have managed to catch the exhibition of art by Chinese artists at the Victorian Artists Society in Albert Street. If not, you can still do so if you hurry.

Exhibitions: If you missed out on seeing the delightful and informative “*Chinese Fortunes in Colonial Australia*” at Ballarat’s Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka, don’t panic! It is now closer to home at the Immigration Museum in Flinders Street so catch it while you can before it heads overseas to China!

This wonderful exhibition deals not only with hopefuls who journeyed to New Gold Mountain to seek fortunes on the goldfields, but in the words of the brochure from the exhibit, “they came from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds, and brought with them a wide range of skills and traditions”.



ACFS member Lia Cross and Kim Luu study exhibition

There were “merchants, entrepreneurs, medical practitioners and farmers.... and contributed greatly to the developing Australian social, cultural and economic landscape”.

Mementoes of all the above can be found in the exhibitions along with stories of individual families and their contributions. When you see it, you will grow in appreciation of these remarkable pioneer families and the role they played in our shared history.

Music: The Melbourne Recital Centre’s acoustically perfect Elizabeth Murdoch Hall, hosted a Chinese cultural event called “Imperial Chinese Bells” on 20 July. Not only ancient bells but other traditional instruments as well as lyrics were featured.

Film: Look out for coming events like the MIFF (Melbourne International Film Festival) coming up soon. The program will be advertised on line but will also be available in hard copy from most sponsoring venues such as the Forum Theatre and ACMI at Federation Square. Wishing you lots of enjoyment!

ACFS committee’s cultural scout

China debuts driverless train that only needs white painted lines as tracks

China’s latest mode of public transportation is a bus, tram and train rolled into one.

Its maker, Chinese rail transit firm CRRC, is calling it a “smart bus,” but it’s a lot more than that. Like a train, it’s modular and carriages can be added on; but like a bus, it runs on the road.

Amazingly, the carriage will follow a pre-set path and won’t need a driver — but it won’t need tracks to be laid, either. The train is equipped with sensors



that'll allow it to follow white-dotted lines on the road.

SEE ALSO: JAPAN'S NEW ULTRA-LUXURIOUS TRAIN IS HERE, AND TICKETS COST \$10,000 EACH

“It is like having a virtual rail for the bus,” said Feng Jianghua, chief engineer of CRRC. The 30 metre long bus is able to fit 300 passengers across three carriages. More carriages can be added or removed if needed.

The smart bus, or Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit (ART), is touted to be much cheaper than subway or tram systems, since it doesn't require infrastructure to be laid down. This could prove to be the solution for many medium or small cities in China that can't afford to build train lines.

It costs up to \$102 million to build a kilometre of a subway track, as compared to about \$2 million for a standard length ART bus, according to a report by Chinese state media Xinhua.

A 6.5km ART line will be built in the Chinese city of Zhuzhou, with operations starting in 2018.

Australia China Friendship Society

China Ethnic Minorities Crafts and Festival



Led by world renowned expert on ethnic minorities Prof Colin Mackerras

13 day tour to Guangzhou, Guilin, Yangshuo, Longsheng, Sanjiang,
Zhaoxing & Kaili - Departing on 22th April 2018



Tour leader: Professor Colin Mackerras AO

Prof. Mackerras has worked at Griffith University for over forty years & has visited China for purposes of teaching, researching, attending conferences and touring, nearly 70 times. He has written widely on several aspects of China, including the ethnic minorities. He won a Friendship Award in 2014, and in 2015 a Special China Book Award, given to foreigners who have made outstanding contributions in spreading Chinese culture through their writings. Please contact acfs.vic@gmail.com for detail tour information.



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