



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

**December 2017**

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## President's End of Year message, December 2017



Greetings to you all on this fine and sunny day. I hope you can enjoy the end of year celebrations and take a break from toil, whatever you are doing.

I have had the privilege of being President for several years and have been working on a strategy to grow and strengthen our Branch and the ACFS as a Federal body. This year focused on direction and expansion and we worked to identify sources of new members and events to attract and hold younger people. I now have a plan for 2018, with specific people dedicated to this task.

The Pacific - China Friendship Association has continued to carry out the objective of all Friendship Associations – furthering friendship and understanding between nations. It has grown to encompass 15 Pacific nations and next year will see the first AGM after founding, hosted in China.

Nearer home, I regret seeing two of our Committee leave due to other commitments. I thank Amy and Wai Ching for their contributions and wish them well in the future. We look forward to seeing them when the opportunity presents itself.

I thank those too numerous to mention for their help and input, but especially to Secretary Robin Matthews and Vice-President Tower Liu for their untiring work. Without their labours, much of our achievements could not have occurred. Special thanks must also be paid to Lia Cross for her cultural reports, which have kept us entertained and informed.

Finally, best wishes to you all for the festive season and may the coming year be full of joy, good health and success in all you do.

Anthony M Leong

# ACFS Vic Branch 2017 Annual General Meeting Report

The 2017 Annual General Meeting was held at Ross House on 21 November. President Anthony Leong opened the meeting by welcoming ACFS members and special guests Deputy Consul General Mr ZENG Jianhua, Consul ZHANG Xiaohong and Michelle Smith, Manager and Senior Curator at the Gold Museum Ballarat.

As the number of nominations for Committee positions equaled the number of vacancies, there was no need for an election. The following members were declared elected to the Committee:

Anthony Leong: President  
Tower Liu: Vice President  
John Breheny: Vice President  
Douglas Chen: Treasurer  
Robin Matthews: Secretary  
Lia Cross: Committee Member  
Damon Feng: Committee Member

**Deputy Consul General Zeng** conveyed the apologies of Consul General Zhao Jian for not being able to attend the ACFS annual general meeting and for his gratitude to the ACFS for sixty five years of friendship to China. The Deputy Consul commented that he only took up his post two weeks ago and is new to Melbourne. Mr Zeng spoke about the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the development of diplomatic relations between Australia and China and how this relationship has had positive momentum for both countries over the years. He said when he arrived in Australia that he was told that some people are still suspicious of Chinese intentions here and this has developed considerable gaps in the relationship, so this is no easy job to counter these misunderstandings. He hopes the two countries can keep working together and to support the two peoples of our countries of which the ACFS is a pioneer in this area.

**Michelle** gave an excellent presentation about the *Re-awakening the Dragon* exhibition that is currently on display at the Gold Museum Ballarat. Michelle's illustrated talk featured the precious items in the exhibition and collection which centred on early Chinese settlement in Ballarat and their treasured artifacts

which featured in past local celebrations. Especially noted was the Imperial Dragon *Loong* made of *papier maché* and cane, which is considered the third oldest in the world, has been used in Ballarat festivals for 150 years and is consequently getting a bit tatty. Also featured was the lion made in 1897 which still has his original makers mark. Precious silk costumes and headdresses also featured in the talk. Many of the items had been donated to the Ballarat Historical Society including temple boards from the Joss House which was demolished in the 1960's. An interesting feature identified on the embroidered canopy sashes was the Chinese settlers name for Ballarat which is *Twin Spicy City*. Michelle also spoke of how the vast collection needs funds to preserve it and is seeking \$39,000 to achieve this work. The Museum is collaborating with the National Museum of Australia and a visiting Chinese exhibition from China in 2019.



The Chair thanked the guests and members for their attendance at the meeting which closed at 8.00 PM and everyone then enjoyed refreshments including wine donated to ACFS by Horvat Estate Premium Pyrenees Wines and delivered by ACFS member Peter Gelo. The ACFS Ltd stamp collection was on display and Members enjoyed looking at this historical and special collection.

# A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY THROUGH CHINA

Mr Li Shihong, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration invited guests to celebrate *China Australia Year of Tourism 2017 – A Beautiful Journey Through China* at a function at the Park Hyatt hotel in Melbourne on Wednesday 15 November 2017. Roz Hanley from Western Australia ACFS, Jan Everett Tasmania ACFS and Robin Matthews, Tower Liu, and Kim Luu from ACFS Victorian branch enjoyed the hospitality of Travman Tours.



Prior to the dinner, guests had the opportunity to view and listen to many Chinese airlines representatives along with travel companies who displayed brochures of their activities. Attendees were entertained with Chinese traditional music and calligraphy writing.

After the sumptuous dinner, guests listened to Mr Li Shihong, Mr Zhao Jian Victorian & Tasmanian Consul General, Hon. John Eren, Minister for Veterans Affairs, Sport and Tourism and Cr Philip LeLiu from City of Melbourne.

Mr Zhao reiterated how tourism is always an important part of the Australia China relationship and how this cooperation can lead to tangible benefits for the two countries. Tourism cooperation leads to trust and friendship by providing greater understanding of history, culture and our people.

Minister John Eren appreciated the partnerships with China and emphasised how important it is to protect the good relationships. Victoria currently has \$23billion worth of trade with China and how this is important for our local economy. Ten Chinese airline companies fly directly to Melbourne airport and this is a direct result of the strong relationships with China and fostered by Premier Andrews. Parents in China obviously trust Victoria to educate their children as 68,000 students come to study in Victoria.

Councillor Philip Le Liu from the City of Melbourne told us that 1.2million Chinese visitors came to Melbourne this year and how they were interested in seeing the laneways as well as enjoy the hospitality and shopping. Cr Le Liu also informed the guests that the Lord Mayor is planning a major business mission to China next year.

The last speaker for the evening was John Moran from Sydney who addressed his personal Chinese journey with an entertaining presentation.

The evening was regarded as highly successful with the potential to further develop strong relationships within the Chinese travel industry. This in turn will directly benefit future ACFS tours.

*Robin Matthews - Secretary ACFS Victorian Branch*

## Panda Power

[Trevor Nace](#)

In a display of China's commitment to ramping up renewable energy resources, the country just finished a 250-acre solar farm in the shape of a panda. The effort is partially a PR campaign as China continues to lead the world in renewable energy investment.

The first phase of the solar power plant was recently completed, adding 50MW (of the total 100MW) to the electricity grid in Datong, China. The panda shaped plant was proposed in May of 2016 by [Panda Green Energy's](#) largest shareholder, China Merchants New Energy. It was quickly approved as a way to build support for sustainable energy development with [Chinese youth](#).

To create the visual effect of darker and lighter solar panels, Panda Green Energy used both darker monocrystalline silicon and lighter thin film cells. This allowed the energy company to stagger the solar panels in an array that mimics the colouring and shape of a giant panda.

The new solar power plant in Datong will replace burning 1 million tons of coal in the next 25 years as China flexes its ability to make rapid improvements in its energy system.

There are three general types of solar panels used in the world today: Monocrystalline silicon, polycrystalline, and thin film. The first two are generally more common, with polycrystalline panels the most popular for residential solar panels in America. On the other hand, thin film performs

better in low light situations but is less effective than the monocrystalline and polycrystalline options.

This is just the first of 100 panda-shaped solar plants planned across China and Asia in the coming years. This past May, Fiji announced a smaller panda shaped solar farm.

This is part of China's larger [Belt and Road Initiative](#) along the historic Silk Road. This initiative, a foundation of Xi Jinping's foreign policy, aims to place China as a leader in external policy in Asia. The initiative is underpinned by trillions of dollars of infrastructure investment China intends to build along the historic silk road that connects Asia to Europe. China is anticipated to spend \$150 billion per year on the 68 countries that have agreed to the initiative.



This includes aggressive infrastructure investment in road, bridges, power plants, gas pipelines, railways and ports. In total, the investment is estimated at \$5 trillion across the 68 states as China begins to take centre stage in the globalization of Asia.

At a time when the United States has faltered in its commitment to future renewable energy growth, there are countries that are taking advantage of the leadership gap. Regardless of what the global energy system looks like in the coming decades, it is imperative for the United States to be front and centre in those conversations.

With China adding almost half of the global solar capacity last year, they have made a clear stance in their intent to be a global leader in the energy transition. I doubt I need to expound on the consequences of the United States not stepping up to lead or even be part of the conversation. Regardless of your thoughts on the energy transition, the road will be paved, whether it's by the United States or foreign states.

*Trevor Nace is a geologist, Forbes contributor, founder of [Science Trends](#), and adventurer.*

# China Photography Tour

The Australia China Friendship Society invites you to join Susan Moss on a photographic tour to the beautiful Guilin area of China in September 2018. Enjoy the Chinese Autumn with scenes of golden rice terraces and the very scenic Li River. 13 day tour to Guangzhou, Zhaoxing, Longsheng, Guilin, Xianggong Hill & Xingping

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** 18 Sep Australia ✈ Guangzhou Today you will take China Southern Airlines flight from Australia to Guangzhou. Upon arrival, please collect your luggage and meet your tour guide and drive back to the hotel for 1 night. Sydney flight: CZ326 1045/1830 to Guangzhou Melbourne flight: CZ344 1030/1745 to Guangzhou Brisbane flight: CZ382 0955/1655 to Guangzhou Adelaide flight: CZ664 1000/1735 to Guangzhou Perth flight: CZ320 0830/1630 to Guangzhou

Accommodation: [Ocean Hotel Guangzhou \(1 night\) http://oceanhotel.coscohotels.com/en-us/about.html](http://oceanhotel.coscohotels.com/en-us/about.html)

**Day 2:** 19 Sep Guangzhou 🇨🇳 Zhaoxing Meal: B/L/D

Drive to visit Shamian Island for street photography. The territory was divided into two concessions given to France and the United Kingdom by the Qing government in the 19th century. The island is a gazetted historical area that serves as a tranquil reminder of the colonial European period, with quiet pedestrian avenues flanked by trees and lined by historical buildings. You can take pictures of the local people's life as many Chinese people do morning exercises here. After dim sum lunch, transfer to the train station to take high speed train to Congjiang of Guizhou Province D2832 1510/1852. Transfer to the hotel at Zhaoxing Dong Village and have welcome dinner.

Accommodation: [The Post Office Hotel \(2 nights\)](#)

**Day 3:** 20 Sep Zhaoxing Meal: B/L/D

In the morning, drive up to Tang'an Dong Village on the mountain (6km), which was made an ecological museum by the co-efforts of the ecologists from China and Norway in late 1990's. Take photos of Dong village, their architecture and their costumes. We are going to give some tips on taking pictures here. Most of the day we can wander around Zhaoxing, which is the largest Dong village in China. There are so many different themes for you to shoot at this well-preserved traditional village.

**Day 4:** 21 Sep Zhaoxing 🇨🇳 Sanjiang 🇨🇳 Long Sheng Meal: B/L/D

Take a morning train to Sanjiang (20 mins). Transfer to Longsheng (1.5 hrs), visit the local market, where you will see all kinds of produce and mountain products trading here among the local people. Then have lunch. In the afternoon, proceed to Jinkeng, take the cable car up to the No. 3 Platform at Jinfoding. Wait for the sunset and shoot the fantastic view of rice terraces here (tripod needed). Then walk about 45 mins to your hotel, your bags will be dispatched to the hotel. Comparatively the beds in Chinese hotels are firmer. Overnight at Jinkeng Rice Terraces. (B, L, D)

Accommodation: [Panorama House Hotel \(2 nights\)http://www.quanjinglou.com/](http://www.quanjinglou.com/)

**Day 5:** 22 Sep Long Sheng Meal: B/L/D

Early in the morning, walk to No 1 spot to take photos of sunrise. Then have breakfast. Visit a local farmer's house, and watch the Yao ladies hair combing show. After lunch, have a rest, and walk to No 2 spot for more picture taking at sunset. Overnight at Jinkeng Rice Terraces.

**Day 6:** 23 Sep Long Sheng 🇨🇳 Guilin Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, walk down the mountain, take the bus to Guilin. After lunch, have a rest and take the photos in the city such as Pagoda Hill at sunset and Two Pagodas downtown in the early evening. Overnight in Guilin.

Accommodation: [Bravo Hotel \(1 night\) http://www.glbravohotel.com/](http://www.glbravohotel.com/)

**Day 7:** 24 Sep Guilin 🇨🇳 Xianggong Hill Meal: B/D

Free morning, or you can have a stroll around the downtown lakes to take photos of the local people's life. In the afternoon, drive to Huixian Wetland, where you will see a perfect combination of Karst limestone

hill, water surface and rice fields. Transfer to the hotel at the foot of Xianggong Hill. Overnight at this hotel.

Accommodation: [Xianggongshan Jujinlou Inn \(1 night\)](#)

**Day 8:** 25 Sep Xianggong Hill 🚗 Xingping Meal: B/L/D

Early morning walk up to the top of Xianggong Hill to have a panoramic view of Li River at sunrise, a wonderful spot for photo-taking. After a quick breakfast, drive 1 hour to Yangdi to board the bamboo raft (4 persons share one raft) to cruise down Li River before 10 am. Disembark at Xingping. After lunch, have a rest. In the afternoon, a free stroll at the 1700-year-old town and ancient street to take photos. At the sunset, take photos of the local fisherman and cormorants with the stunning landscape of Xingping. Overnight at the hotel in Xingping.

Accommodation: [Jingranju Boutique Resort \(1 night\)](#)

**Day 9:** 26 Sep Xingping 🚗 Yangshuo Meal: B/D

Get up early in the morning, and take a local boat on Li River to a certain spot and shoot the great view of stunning scenery, fisherman and cormorant. After breakfast, drive to Yangshuo. Check into the hotel and rest. At around 3pm, go out to Yulong River area for more photo taking. Overnight at Yangshuo.

Accommodation: [New West Street Hotel \(2 nights\)](#) [http://www.nwshotel.com/newwest\\_zh-cn.php](http://www.nwshotel.com/newwest_zh-cn.php)

**Day 10:** 27 Sep Yangshuo Meal: B

Get up early in the morning, and drive to Jinbao River and take photos of the sunrise. Free afternoon. You can stroll at Yangshuo town for more picture opportunities. Reward yourself with a great light show at night, which is directed by the most famous movie director in China - Zhang Yimou. He was also the director of the opening ceremony of Olympic Games 2008. Overnight at Yangshuo. (B)

**Day 11:** 28 Sep Yangshuo 🚗 Guilin Meal: B/L/D

Drive back to Guilin city. And in the afternoon visit Daxu old town for some more photos. Or we can arrange some other options for photography opportunities. Farewell dinner. Overnight in Guilin.

Accommodation: [Bravo Hotel \(1 night\)](#) <http://www.glbravohotel.com/>

**Day 12:** 29 Sep Guilin 🚗 Guangzhou ✈ Australia Meal: B

Transfer to the train station and board the high speed train to Guangzhou (2.5 hours), then transfer to the airport by a private coach and connect your flight to Australia.

Return to Sydney flight: CZ325 2110/0825+1

Return Melbourne flight: CZ321 2055/0840+1

Return Brisbane flight: CZ381 2120/0825+1

Return Adelaide flight: CZ663 2215/0830+1

Return Perth flight: CZ319 2220/0600+1

**Day 13:** 30 Sep Australia

Arrive in Australia in the morning.

ACFS member price: \$4280.00 per person, Non member price: \$4380.00 per person

Single supplement: \$650.00

\*\*\*Minimum group number: 10 people\*\*\*

## Inclusions:

1.Twin share at the hotels as mentioned in the itinerary or similar. 2.Fully inclusive tour with English speaking guide, entrance fees and meals as per itinerary. 3.China Southern Airlines airfare departing from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth to Guangzhou and back from Guiyang via Guangzhou on economy class including taxes and fuel surcharges. 4.First class train tickets Guangzhou-Congjiang-Sanjiang, Guilin-Guangzhou 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.Local Photographer from day 4 to day 11. 9.CBT travel wallet and travel bag.

## Exclusions:

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



# 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](mailto: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

SECRETARY: Robin Matthews

VICE PRESIDENT: John Breheny  
Tower Liu

TREASURER: Dong Chen

COMMITTEE: Lia Cross

Damon Feng

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)