



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

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**March 2018**



## President's Report

Hi everyone and Happy New Year of the Dog.

If you are superstitious, allegedly this is a good year for developers and those in the petrol industry, with "adjustments" in the economy, especially shares (no idea how this is decided, but some Feng Shui 'expert' says so!). Anyway, I hope your year is a successful, happy and healthy one.

For us, the year has begun well with good news. We have had a couple of visits to the Chinese Consulate and they are interested in our activities. We look forward to working with them in future, including Consul General Zhao, and new Deputy Consul -General Mr Zeng Jianhua, who came to our AGM last November when he had just arrived.

Work is well underway to prepare for the ACFS Ltd (National) Biennial Conference to be held at the Victoria Hotel in Little Collins Street from May 25 to 27 this year. But... we desperately need volunteers, so if you can help with an hour or so before or during the event, please contact Secretary Robin [robin@remconsult.com.au](mailto:robin@remconsult.com.au) to have a talk about what's needed. We have guests coming from all over the world, so it will be an exciting and busy time. There are a couple of surprises we're planning too, so if you can get along and observe, you will be more than welcome.

Another bit of good news is the AGM for the Pacific-China Friendship Association. This is an organisation which was the brainchild of the Princess Royal of Tonga, HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita. The PCFA now has 14 nation-members from the Pacific and will hold their AGM in Hainan, late-November to discuss future activities and a Constitution. Lot of hard work but Australia has much to be proud of, especially with the guidance of John Breheny and Robin Matthews.

We note with sadness the passing of former ACFS President Paul Liu in December. Vice-President Tower Liu, Secretary Robin Matthews and I attended the packed funeral and conveyed our deep sympathy to the family. I acknowledge the vast amount of work he carried out for the Society and are grateful for his contribution over many years.

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. If you have any comments or feedback, we would love to hear it.

Best wishes.

## **2018 ACFS NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The Victorian branch of ACFS will be hosting the 2018 National Conference on 25 – 27 May 2018.

ACFS delegates from around Australia and invited guests from China and the Pacific will be in attendance.

Over the past years, the Bill Morrow lecture marks the commencement of the National Conference on the Friday evening and addresses issues of the developing friendship between the peoples of Australia and China.

Bill Morrow was born in Rockhampton in 1891, became an Australian Railways Union organiser and went on to be a Senator for Tasmania from 1946 to 1953. As part of his work to develop friendship between the peoples of Australia and China, he visited China three times as a guest of the Chinese Government, and became a member of the ACFS National Executive and Queensland State President.

The conference gets underway the following day with a formal opening ceremony, guest speakers and workshops on future directions of ACFS, ACFS organised tours to China and a formal dinner with entertainment. On the Sunday, the annual general meeting of the ACFS Ltd and Directors meeting will take place. The conference will be held at the Victoria Hotel in Little Collins Street and at this stage, the lecture and dinner venues are still being finalised.

To run a successful conference, many helpers are required. Tasks needing responsible people include; drivers with own cars, collection of materials,

preparation of conference kits, set up and pack down and registration desk. If you are interested in hosting any of our visitors or helping out over the weekend, please contact Robin Matthews Secretary on [robin@remconsult.com.au](mailto:robin@remconsult.com.au) or 0411 285 488. Further details and full conference program will be available as soon as all arrangements are confirmed. We look forward to seeing you over the weekend.

## SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERACTIVE FRIENDSHIP CAMP

The 14<sup>th</sup> Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp 2018, co-organized by Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC) and Shanghai Youth Federation, will be held from July 17 to July 26, 2018 (10 days) in Shanghai. Teenagers from all over the world are welcome to apply for it.

1. Applicants shall be from 15 to 17 years old with at least medium level of English communication skills. Applicants shall have an open mind and willingness to learn about a different culture. Priority will be given to those who can speak Chinese or are studying Chinese.

2. Applicants should submit a full application form, a copy of passport, signed "Rules for Camper" via email or fax. The formal invitation will be issued to the qualified applicants after examination and confirmation by SPAFFC. In order to leave more seats to the teenagers who are interested in China, those who have attended the Friendship Camp before will not be considered.

3. All applicants shall cover their own international travel expenses while SPAFFC covers the cost of the event, board & lodging, and transportation in Shanghai for the camp period. Any cost beyond the camp period shall be covered by participants themselves.

4. Participants shall arrive in Shanghai in the morning of July 17, 2018 and leave the hotel in the morning or afternoon of July 27, 2018.

5. During the camp, all participants will live in the designated venues. Please bring necessary clothes, wash suppliers and regular medicine if needed.

6. Closing date for application is 20 April, 2018.

Interested students must contact Roz Hanley at [hanley@iinet.net.au](mailto:hanley@iinet.net.au) prior to the closing date.

# 14<sup>TH</sup> SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERACTIVE FRIENDSHIP CAMP PROGRAMME (TO BE CONFIRMED)

## July 17 (Tuesday)

All day: Campers' Arrival

Evening: Welcome Dinner

## July 18 Wednesday

Morning: Opening Ceremony & Orienteering

Team Meeting & Foreign Teachers' Meeting

Afternoon: Team Flag Making

Dragon Boat Experience

Evening: Lecture-Chinese History, Culture, Language

## July 19 Thursday

Morning: Visit Zhujiajiao Watertown

Afternoon: Visit Shanghai Zoo

Evening: Theme Show on Nations-Painting

## July 20 Friday Check Out

Morning: Theme Show on Nations-Presentation

Afternoon: Theme Show on Nations-Free Market

Evening: Boat Cruise on Huangpu River & Meeting with Homestay Family

## July 21 Saturday

All day: Homestay

## July 22 Sunday

Morning: Homestay

Afternoon: Back to Campsite

Evening: Chinese Culture Experience

## July 22 Monday

Morning: Visit Oriental Pearl TV Tower

Afternoon: Kongfu Experience

Evening: Watch Acrobatics Show

## July 24 Tuesday

All Day: City Orienteering Competition

Evening: Lecture-Chinese History, Culture, Language

## July 25 Wednesday

One-day Trip to another City & Experience Chinese High-speed Train

## July 26 Thursday

Morning: Visit Shanghai Natural History Museum

Afternoon: Rehearsal

Evening: Closing Ceremony & Happy Gala

**Note:** 1. The above programme may be subject to change without prior notice.  
2. During homestay, foreign teachers will stay in the hotel and have a half-day tour in the city plus a lunch banquet in the morning of July 12. Three meals (dinner of July 12, lunch of July 13, lunch of July 24) are self-arranged by foreign teachers.

## ACFS Member Selected as a Schwarzman Scholar



Bridget Barker, daughter of former ACFS State and National Secretary Neil Barker and member Bernadette O'Connor, has been recently selected as a scholar in the prestigious Schwarzman scholarship program at Tsinghua University.

Tsinghua University, in Beijing, is one of China's premier Universities, with alma mater that include the current and former Presidents Xi Jinping and Hu Jintao.

The Schwarzman Scholarship program was established by American financier Stephen A Schwarzman, founder and chairman of the asset management firm Blackstone.

The program involves completion of a Master of Global Affairs and includes a range of leadership and international relations experiences. There are more than 110 places in the program each year, with approximately 80 places going to Chinese and American applicants and the rest to applicants from around the world. Bridget is one of five Australians selected.

Bridget's family has held long term membership of the ACFS and Bridget has, from a young age, attended numerous ACFS Victoria events. Bridget is currently the Diversity and Inclusion Manager for the North Melbourne Football Club, managing a range of programs for children, young people and organisations in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Bridget has coached Under 18 AFL women's football for the Melbourne University Womens Football Club and is currently the Western Jets TAC Cup coach. In 2015 Bridget was named the AFL Emerging Leader as a result of her tireless work in progressing women's football. She is also involved in the current development of the new AFLW football program.

Bridget has a strong commitment to social inclusion and diversity and the need for a global perspective. She is keenly aware of Australia's need to develop and strengthen ties with China which is why this opportunity attracted her. It is a substantial opportunity for a young Australian to learn and develop within a group of global youth.

The program commenced in 2016, and is considered a new Rhodes style program. It has been developed in order to foster closer relations between future leaders of the world, with a focus on developing deeper cooperation and collaboration between the east and west, including a better understanding of the history, culture, policies and economy of China.

Bridget commences the one year scholarship program in August this year and we look forward to occasional reports about her experience in and learnings from the program during 2018 and 2019 when she returns to Australia in 2019, and hopefully much improved capacity to converse in Mandarin!

## **Vale Paul Liu** 28/2/1928 – 15/12/2017



Paul was a keen supporter of the Australia China Friendship Society and was our President of the Victorian branch from 2000 – 2003.

He was a great community advocate and received a Centenary Medal and Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence.

He is fondly remembered and our condolences are passed to his family and loved ones.

The ACFS was represented at the funeral service by Anthony Leong, Tower Liu and Robin Matthews.

# 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)