



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

June 2018

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President's Report

Hi everyone and I hope you are keeping dry and warm.

I would like to thank all associated with a wonderful and fruitful Biennial ACFS Ltd Conference, held at the Victoria Hotel. Not only did everything go particularly smoothly (apart from my technology going awry), but the whole event was productive and positive.

In particular I would like to thank Tower Liu for his invaluable input, help and organisation, and Secretary Robin Matthews, without whose expertise we would all be lost. She began planning this Conference over 18 months ago and the results speak for themselves: the venue, the Bill Morrow Lecture, the Consular dinner and the AGM itself. Congratulations should go to Robin too for being elected National President for the ACFS Ltd, with thanks to past-President Dr Ross Gwyther for his sterling service.



ACFS Conference Delegates and Guests from Beijing, Canberra also Pacific China Friendship Association.

I am indebted to the Committee for their input and work over the past year in helping make this one of the best Conferences I've seen.



Long time Victoria member Louise Clayton honoured with a life membership by Chinese Consul-General Mr Zhao Jian at the Chinese Consulate

However, it is you, the Members, whom I especially acknowledge for participating, giving your time and thoughts in the pursuance of our goals. One such member is Louise Clayton, whom we honoured with a Life Membership at the Consulate dinner on Saturday night. This was a tightly-held “secret”, and it was a singular pleasure to present the award with the Consul-General, Mr Zhao Jian, to the great surprise of Lou herself. Enjoy the photos from the event!

Of note were our guests, Pacific China Friendship Association President Dr Hiria Ottino, our keynote speaker from Beijing speaking on ‘Soft Power’, Assoc. Professor Yao Yao and Mr Xu Fenghua and his team from the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). My thanks as well to the Bill Morrow speaker, the Hon.



Assoc. Professor Yao Yao

Philip Dalidakis MP, for his inspiring address about the relationship and future between Victoria and China.



Victorian Minister for Trade & Investment, Innovation, Digital Economy & Small Business Hon Philip Dalidakis at the Bill Morrow Lecture

Finally, we could not have achieved such success without our sponsors, whose kind donations lifted the high standard of the Conference. Thank you to Gordon Legal, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, China Books, Travman and the Chinese Consulate-General, as well as Ms Shu-Cheen Yu for her beautiful performance and James Raynes for his graphic design assistance.

The work now is to build on all which was discussed and what we have learned.

On another note, Secretary Robin and I were invited last week to the launch of the Chinese-Australian Oral History Project, where I accepted a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of ACFS Life Member Maurice Kwok Leong. Ms May Hu is conducting interviews with older Chinese regarding life before multiculturalism and from times past, supported by Melbourne University and SBS. I do not have a publish date for this work yet.

It has been an invigorating experience to play host to our honoured guests and once more, thank you to you, the Members, for your support.

Best wishes,
Anthony M Leong

CULTURE AND FRIENDSHIP

I have just returned from 12 days in April in China, accompanying my wife, who is a member of the Camberwell Chorale. The choir performed selections from musicals including excerpts from Puccini and Verdi operas at concert halls in Shanghai, Xuzhou, Tianjin and Dongying. The musical accompaniment was a grand piano but at home we usually have an orchestra. It was a tremendous success, especially the fact that the Chorale had learned to sing the Chinese popular song "My Motherland" in Mandarin. As soon as the pianist hit the first notes and the audience recognised their song, there was a very audible gasp of recognition followed by clapping and singing. The conductor, Mr Douglas Heywood, would then turn towards the audience and conduct the people in the hall. One of the older choir members is a lady who speaks fluent Chinese, and has worked and lived in China during Mao Ze Dong's time. She and a younger Chinese member spent hours training the others in how to pronounce the words and use the correct tones.



Member of Camberwell Chorale Marieke

We were all enormously impressed by the venues. Shanghai, Xuzhou and Dongying had new, beautifully designed venues of a quality that would equal the Sydney Opera House. The interior architecture was also marvellous. In Tianjin we performed in a former French theatre, lovely old architecture but acoustics were not so good. One cannot help leaving China with the feeling it is a country imbued with élan!

We also were treated with the utmost hospitality and friendship. Us fellow travellers, only six people, accompanying singing partners always were given free seats. In the concert halls we were very conspicuous as the only lao wai in the audience. In Xuzhou I sat next to a Chinese family, and during the interval, and on the off chance that the man could speak some English, I asked him if he liked the music. Immediately he said, yes, he liked it very much but his son should sit next to me because the boy spoke English much better. So, the 12-year old boy changed seats and sat next to me and conversed, very self-assuredly, in excellent English with me. Occasionally, I used the tiny bit of Mandarin I have to say a few things. I complimented his dad that he had an excellent son! Whereupon the boy told me that his English teachers at school never said anything more than “Ni hao?”. My tiny bit of Mandarin was better than theirs, apparently.

In February this year my wife, Marieke, and I happened to spend some days in Canberra and on one late afternoon we visited the Australia Museum, where we met a group of young Chinese tourists. I asked them in Mandarin if their cakes were nice. Immediately, they said, “Do you speak Mandarin?”. I said “No” but I can say just a few things, and anyway, “where are you from?” “Xuzhou” was the answer. So, I told them about the plans of the Chorale to sing there and one of them, a young man, said they would love to attend, and “here is my email and my mobile phone number, contact me when you are there”. As soon as our itinerary was complete, I emailed it to him, “Jackie” is his English name. Straightaway an email came back. “The venue is close to my office and I will definitely contact you at the hotel”.

This happened. After the evening performance we all walked to a nearby restaurant to have a very late evening meal and then were bussed back to the hotel. During the interval I had gone to the foyer in the hope of seeing Jackie, but I couldn't find him. That night, just as Marieke and I were taking our shoes off and getting ready for bed, three loud knocks on the door. I opened the door and there was “Jackie” plus two other gentlemen, carrying a huge bouquet for Marieke and a gift for me. One of the other gents was the director of Jackie's company, a huge electricity supplier, and the other was manager of our hotel, who, as it turned out was a friend of Jackie. Jackie had been unable to attend the concert due to a business meeting in Nanjing.

We arranged they would collect us the next afternoon for a sightseeing trip. This they did, and we had a lovely afternoon with Jackie, his wife Rebecca, who came along and spoke excellent English, and the hotel's manager. The day finished with a sumptuous dinner in an upmarket restaurant. Our hosts were such lovely, educated and cultured people, we could talk about where

the world seems to be going and what each thought about that. It was an incredible experience. I learned that Jackie and Rebecca have a 19-year old daughter at university who does have plans to spend some time studying overseas. We met her briefly at her university, but she was studying feverishly for an English exam next morning. So, I told Rebecca and Jackie that if their girl should decide to come to Melbourne, she already will have a Yeye and a Nainai there.



Xuzhou Music Center, Jiangsu Province

Having spent my childhood in Asia (Indonesia, when it was still a Dutch colony) and worked as a professional in China and other Asian countries, I have learned that in Asia, if you extend hospitality and friendship to a guest, you go full blast! You hold nothing back. What a wonderful cultural tradition!

Robert van de Graaffw

The ACFS Vic newsletters of March and May 2018 were printed with incorrect dates of March 2017 and May 2017. We apologise for this mistake and any inconvenience this may have caused.

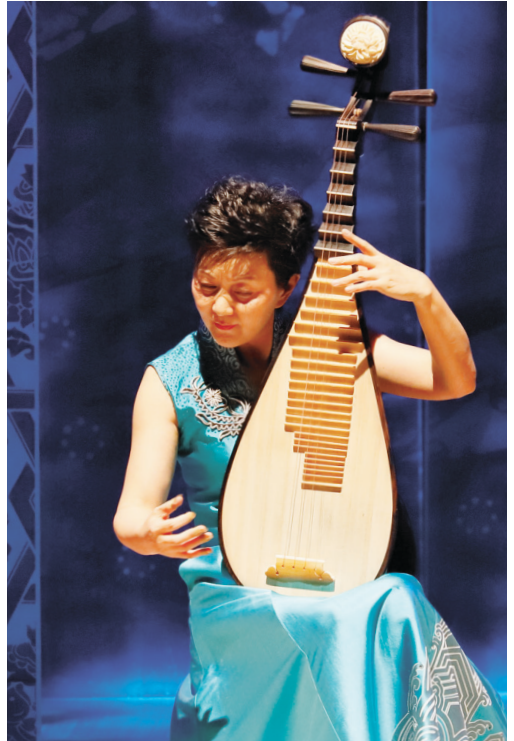
CULTURAL NOTES

Lia Cross- cultural scout

Hello all, not much has been happening since the Chinese New Year Concert but I hope that those of you who managed to catch the “Tales of the SILK ROAD” on Tuesday, May 8th at the Recital Centre found it as enjoyable as I did.

Led by renowned Pipa master Zhang Hong-Yan, young musicians of the Plucked String Orchestra of the Central Conservatory of Music, presented a varied and outstanding concert of Chinese plucked instruments (Pipa, Ruan, Huqin) and an assortment of percussion including bells, drums, xylophone , tiny cymbals, gongs and assorted others.

Ranging from solos to full orchestra, the concert wove it's magic through melodious pieces like “Spring of Tian Mountain” and “Blossoms on a Moonlit River in Spring”, to a comical percussion piece where talented percussionists Wang Jianhua, Wei Ran, Qiu Yiming and Peng Huiyu delighted the audience with their carefully choreographed imitation of a “Cockfight”.



My favourite piece was definitely “Tales of the Silk Road” when minimalist but well matched sounds from Pipa (Zhang Hongyan) and drum master Wei Ran, accompanied brilliant dancer Li Xiang through a series of modern dance movements of exquisite condortionism and Tai Ji like poses. Brilliant!

The second part of the concert featured some pieces with the full orchestra with conductor Ge Yanan and concluded with an ancient music ensemble “Ambush on all Sides” where some of the musicians left the stage and came to sit at the end of the rows of seats literally surrounding the audience ‘on all sides’. This both surprised and delighted the audience who responded with a resounding and prolonged applause.

If you missed this event, don't worry because there's another wonderful concert to come on Sunday, August 5th called “Karakorum - a musical journey” which will take us back to the Silk Road. Book now!



Unique Yellow Sea spring birdwatching tour

05 - 14 May 2019 Led by Brian Boyd

- **Rudong, Jiangsu.** Tens of thousands of migratory shorebirds and woodland birds including Saunder's Gull, Black-faced spoonbill, the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and Nordmann's Greenshank flock to this area in Spring.
- **Hangzhou, Zhejiang.** Crested Ibis may be spotted.
- **Wuyuan, Jiangxi.** Blue-crowned Laughingthrush, Short-tailed Parrotbill, endemic Masked Laughingthrush, Hwamei, Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, Short-tailed Parrotbill, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, and other woodland birds including Pied Falconet, Red-billed Leiothrix, Red-billed Starling, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Chesnut Bulbul, Grey-headed Parrotbill and more may be spotted.
- **Led by China Coastal Waterbird Census** surveyors team who have been working as volunteers for over 10 years.

Brian Boyd - Tour Leader

Brian Boyd was a trade union activist and official for four decades.

However his other passion, bird-watching, started nearly sixty years ago. At Morwell Primary School he became a member of the Gould League.

Today as an active Member of Birdlife Australia, Brian continues his life long love of all things ornithological.

He has criss-crossed Australia many times, including visits through its far north rainforests, thirteen deserts and a number of key offshore pelagic waters, in search of many elusive bird species.

Birds like the orange-bellied parrot, regent honeyeater and forty-spotted pardalote were hard work to find along the journey.

Brian says bird watching is now in his DNA and he loves encouraging others to enjoy its unique pleasures.

Tour itinerary

Day 1: 05 May 2019 - Australia to Shanghai

Today you will fly to Shanghai, upon arrival, please collect your luggage and meet your tour guide and drive to the hotel for 1 night. Accommodation at Shanghai Central Hotel 4*. (B/L/D)

Day 2: 06 May 2019 - Shanghai to Rudong

This morning travel to Rudong, (92 kilometres of coastline), situated on the Yellow Sea Coast. This afternoon we start to explore and watch the migratory shorebirds and woodland birds. Stay 3 nights at Nantong Links Hot Springs Hotel. (B/L/D)

Day 3: 07 May 2019 - Rudong

Visit the largest mudflat in the Yellow Sea Region – Tiaozini Mudflat in Dongtai County, with its mirror-sky like mudflat and home of tens of thousands of birds from Australia and New Zealand. (B/L/D)

Day 4: 08 May 2019 - Rudong

Enjoy watching shorebirds and land birds in Xiaoyangkou and Dongtai areas, home to abundant bird and marine life, and serve as migratory stopovers for the spoon-billed sandpiper, a critically endangered bird which now numbers in the hundreds. **Optional:** fishing community visit or local primary school visit, (long term local conservation partners.) (B/L/D)

Day 5: 09 May 2019 - Rudong

to Shanghai Continue to watch birds in Rudong in the morning, then return to Shanghai in the afternoon and enjoy some free time. Stay at Shanghai Central Hotel 4* for 1 night. (B/L/D)

Day 6 - 10 May 2019 - Shanghai to Hangzhou

Take a bullet train to Hangzhou, enjoy birdwatching in Hangzhou Botanical Gardens, and then head to Wuyuan by train in the evening. Stay overnight in Wuyuan. (B/L/D)

Day 7: 11 May 2019 - Hangzhou to Wuyuan

Enjoy birdwatching in Wuyuan, one of the most beautiful counties in China for its lakes, mountains and historic ancient community and architecture and visit the first county-level nature reserve for the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. Stay overnight in Wuyuan. (B/L/D)

Day 8: 12 May 2019 - Wuyuan

Today we will explore different habitats for more species of birds and enjoy some sightseeing. Stay overnight in Wuyuan. (B/L/D)

Day 9: 13 May 2019 - Wuyuan to Shanghai

Continue birdwatching in Wuyuan in the morning. Then take a train journey back to Shanghai. Stay overnight at Shanghai Central Hotel 4*for 1 night. (B/L/D)

Day 10: 14 May 2019 - Shanghai to Australia

Today you will be transferred to the Shanghai Pudong Airport for your flight to Australia. (B) Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Price per person at twin share basis:

ACFS member price: \$5,750 per person Non-member price: \$5,850 per person

*Single supplement: \$780

*Minimum group number: 10 people.

Inclusions

- Twin share at the hotels as mentioned in the itinerary or similar.
- Fully inclusive tour with English speaking guides, entrance fees, meals as per itinerary.
- China Eastern Airlines airfare departing from Sydney, Melbourne, to Shanghai and return on economy class including taxes and fuel surcharges.
- Cathay Pacific Airlines airfare departing from Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth to Shanghai and return on economy class including taxes and fuel surcharges.
- First class train tickets Shanghai-Hangzhou, Wuyuan-Shanghai.
- Travel by air-conditioned coaches whilst in China.
- Chinese tea and one glass of soft drink included in all lunches and dinners.
- All tipping.
- Local escort from China Coastal Waterbird Census surveyors team.
- CBT travel wallet and travel bag.

Not included:

Chinese visa application fee; personal expenses or travel insurance (*Strongly recommended*).

For inquiries or bookings please contact

CBT Holidays Toll free 1300 886 678

Australia China Friendship Society Ltd Email: hanley@iinet.net.au

*Terms and Conditions apply

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

SECRETARY: Robin Matthews

VICE PRESIDENT: John Breheny

TREASURER: Dong Chen

Tower Liu

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