



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

August 2018

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President's Report



I hope Winter has been kind to you and you are not feeling too cool, although it's not been freezing, just wind-swept and a great need of more rain for our gardens and farms.

After a very short rest following the National Conference, we are now beginning to plan our next steps and strategies for 2019.

These steps will include:

- * expansion of membership via various student outreach programs,
- * more cultural and social events for members, and
- * a range of activities to showcase Australia-China relations.

We are in the planning stages and there are many details still to cover. While we have the outlines, we don't want to say too much before we finalise sponsorships and scope! Needless to say, 2019 will be a big year.

Our National President (and State Secretary) Robin is gearing up to go to the Friendship Forum in Haikou, Hainan, followed by representing Australia with John Breheny at the Pacific-China Friendship Association AGM in Senya. I will be attending not for the ACFS but as Convenor of the PCFA.

We have a fundraising dinner coming up on Wednesday 5 September at Shark Fin House, 131 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. Mr Julian Hill MHR will be our guest speaker who has worked on foreign affairs and intelligence with Senator Penny Wong.

With new laws on intelligence and "agents of influence", I believe this will impact us all, regardless of whether about China or other countries. Julian

will give insights into what this legislation means to organisations such as ours and any noteworthy matters. Come along for a great meal (\$65 + drinks at bar prices) with a highly-intelligent and informative speaker and to gain understanding into something which affects our future.

For now, stay out of the wind!

Best wishes and see you on Wednesday 5 September.



Watching or Watched ?

What's behind the new foreign interference & espionage laws?

Join Julian Hill MHR at our fund-raising dinner, to explore what the new laws mean to charities & organisations like the ACFS.

Julian has been on Joint Standing Committees for Trade & Investment

Growth 2016 - 2017 and is now with Public Accounts & Audit.

Venue: Shark Fin House, 131 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne

Date/time: Wednesday 5 September 2018, 6.30pm sharp.

Cost: \$65 per person, drinks at bar prices.

R S V P: Wednesday, August 29
Robin Matthews 0411 285 488
robin@remconsult.com.au



200 Years of Chinese Migration to Australia

The Chinese community turned out in vast numbers to acknowledge a chapter of Australian migration history at a celebration on Sunday 22 July at the Melbourne Town Hall. The event commemorated 200 years of Chinese migration to Australia.

Guest of honour was Mr Barry Shying and his family. Mr Shying is the great grandson of Mak Sai Ying, the first reported person to migrate to Australia from China in 1818. He spoke of the importance of tracing his family history and appreciation of the life of his ancestors.



The great grandson of Mak Sai Ying- Barry Shying and his grandson tell the family story on the stage.

The afternoon included speeches by Mr Jian Zhao Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne, Members of Parliament and recorded messages from the Prime Minister, Premier and Leader of the Opposition.

Interviews and discussions with various guests about Chinese contributions to Australian life such as the Gold Museum in Ballarat, Ararat Football Club, and returned soldiers Willington Lee and Robert Chong.

Musical entertainment was supplied by the Xin Jinshan Orchestra, Whitehorse



Chinese Association Choir, Melbourne Chinese Indoor Choir, Penleigh Essendon Grammar Chinese Band and Melbourne Chinese Singing and Dance Troup.

For many years the contribution of the Chinese diaspora to Australian society has passed with little public recognition, but the events of Sunday have started to focus the light on this important and valued part of Australian migration history.



Detail please see news on next page

Wearing Your Heart on your Sleeve

Is the title of an exhibition of evolution of Chinese Australian identity.

The exhibition is at Deakin University Art Gallery Burwood until 26 August 2018.

It was officially opened by Lee Lin Chin (see photo on page 4) who commented on the styling of earlier Chinese fashion, vibrancy especially of Indian and African fashion and regretfully the sameness of contemporary styles.

The displays showcase a variety of Chinese garments – old and modern along - side photographs of early Chinese settlers and social activities. *It explores the Chinese community's journey of personal & collective identity reflected through the garments Chinese Australians wore over the past 200 years.*

The Museum of Chinese Australian History generously loaned many of the garments and is a preview of part of the One Million Stories: Chinese Australians 200 years exhibition which is planned for the Museum which will commence in February 2019.



Robin Matthews

Jiangsu Sister Schools Welcome Ceremony

The Governor of Victoria, the Hon Linda Dessau hosted a welcome reception for hundreds of school children from Victoria and Jiangsu Province to celebrate the Jiangsu Sister Schools program on 24 July 2018.



This program has been operating for forty years and celebrates the close relationship and development of people to people friendships between schools in Victoria and Jiangsu Province.

Victorian Branch President Anthony Leong and National President Robin Matthews attended the Welcome Ceremony on behalf of the ACFS Vic Branch.

The ceremony commenced with a welcome by the Governor, followed by an address by Ms Sharyn Donald Assistant Deputy Secretary Department of Education. Ms Yuruo Zhang a student from a High School Affiliated to Yangzhou University spoke about the program and of the benefits of the Sister Schools relationships.

Students from Balwyn Primary and Officer Secondary College provided musical entertainment.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, students and guests enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea and inspected the State Rooms of Government House.

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