



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

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**October 2018**



## President's Report

As we approach the end of the year, there is so much to do and so many things to plan for next year, which we will talk about in depth at our AGM. Speaking of which, please see the four major activities below in which we'll be involved.

Our ACFS Victoria AGM will be on 5 December 2018 at Ross House. Guest speaker will be Ms Wesa Chau, talking on philanthropy and Chinese organisations.

A bird watching tour is planned for May 2019 led by Brian Boyd, an active member of BirdLife Australia. The tour guides in China do volunteer work as surveyors for China Coastal Waterbird Census Team and a percentage of the tour cost is donated to the operation of this work. The booking deadline for this tour is 31 January 2019.

Every two years, the Friendship Forum and Pacific China Friendship Association AGM are held, this time in November at Haikou and then Sanya City in Hainan. There, we will meet with other Friendship Associations from around the world to discuss our activities, while at the PCFA AGM, we will be discussing ratification of a new Constitution and what we will do from now on as an organisation;

Finally, Tower and I attended the National Day celebration, while Robin and I went to the cocktail reception at the Langham. The Consul-General, Mr *ZHOU Jian*, outlined the long journey of the friendship between our countries, the direction of China in terms of the *Belt and Road* policies and the way we can interact in that regard. He also stressed the strong, good relations between us, which should not be derailed by detractors.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on December 5 (please remember to bring a plate of food to share with us all), where there will be much to report.

# ACFS VIC BRANCH AUGUST DINNER

ACFS members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal at Shark Fin House and used the opportunity to catch up with friends.

Our guest speaker, Julian Hill MHR candidly addressed the issues presented by the media and Federal Government about Australia's relationship with China. He spoke about the Australian Labor Party's attitude to China and the importance of dialogue between the two countries.



The gathering also farewelled Oliver - Mr Zhou, Yujiang our friend from the Consulate who is leaving Melbourne for a new posting to Beijing. The ACFS is very grateful for Oliver's friendship and support during his term here and we wish him all the best in future diplomatic appointments.



*The guest speaker Julian Hill MHR with ACFS members and consuls from Chinese Consulate.*

# National Day Celebration

Robin Matthews

Standing for nearly an hour listening to speeches is not usually something I relish, but on the occasion of the reception of the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China generously hosted by Consul-General of the PRC in Melbourne Mr Zhao Jian and Mme. Wu Ting was a pleasure to listen to the warm words of friendship, co-operation and achievements.



The Consul-General commented on the many achievements especially increasing the Chinese people's standards of living and how this has enabled China to contribute in a positive way and become a key anchor to the world economy.

Mr Zhao referred to the Asia Africa Summit held earlier this year, and how President Xi said "China's door will not be closed" easing market access which will lead to a stronger and improved world economy.

The Consul-General said it has been five years since the introduction of the *Belt and Road Initiative* and how this has opened up prospects of *Win Win* possibilities for the world bringing peace, openness and a bright future.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and China, the promotion of peace and development has led to economic development making Australia one of the largest student export markets with over 200,000 Chinese students studying here and 8000 Aussies studying in China.

Victoria is in a unique position to develop further co-operation with China and has become the "gateway for Australia and China".

Mr Zhao spoke about the April 2018 celebration of 200 years of Chinese immigration to Australia and how this has contributed a significant part to our multicultural society. Chinese immigrants have worked hard, made a unique and special contribution here and played a positive role between China and Australia leading to common development between the two countries.

The Consul-General finished off by stating – if there is a readiness to work on the common aspects of friendship and mutual respect together with the world this will lead to peace and development.

# First impressions of studying at Tsinghua University in Beijing

Bridget Barker

In late 2017 I was fortunate enough to be named a *Schwarzman Scholar*, meaning that from August 2018, I would be spending 12 months studying a Masters of Global Affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing on a full scholarship. I am six weeks in to the program thus far and thought it an opportune time to share some of my initial observations of the University and of Beijing.

In the first week of the program I was impressed with the instant community feel to this University. For context, *Schwarzman Scholars* is a relatively new program (this is year three), and so at this time, our newly constructed College does stand out a little both physically and in the way we were established and run. We are unique in that our college is made up of 138 scholars from 39 countries and 97 undergraduates with 41% from the United States, 20% from China, and 39% from the rest of the world so, our residence and program is different to a lot of others at Tsinghua. Despite our relative newness, we have felt superbly welcomed by the University from the very early stages.



In the first week we attended the Graduate Students convocation ceremony and heard a great deal of excellent speeches from both top level University staff and the Student Union President, all of whom described the importance of diversity at Tsinghua University.

I have had weekends, evenings and in between classes to explore Beijing city, the campus and nearby Wudakou area.

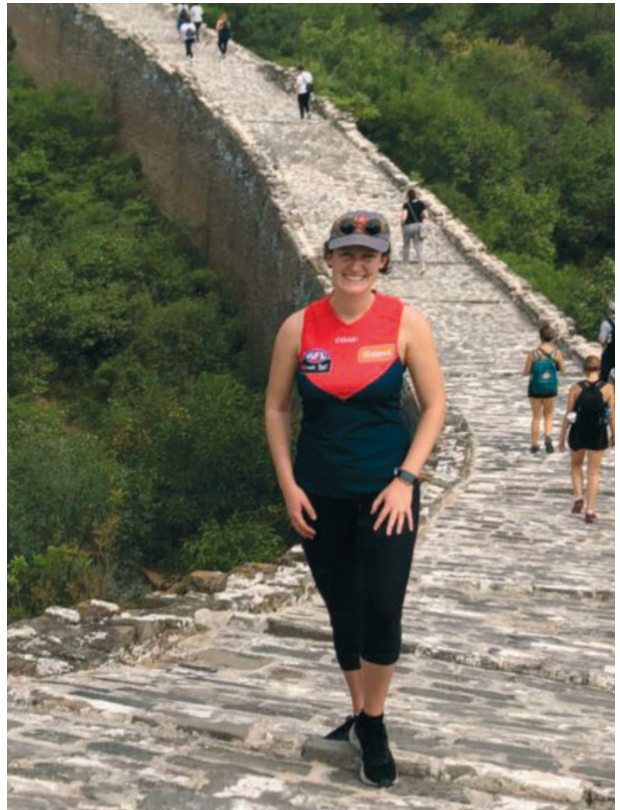
It's fair to say I am in dumpling, hand pulled noodle and bubble (or Boba) tea heaven here so far. There are around nine different canteens on campus, and an immense amount of restaurants close by.

We have had the opportunity to see the Old and New Palaces as well as the Confucius Temple and tomorrow we are visiting the Forbidden City.

Aside from all the fantastic food and exploring the Tsinghua Campus, a particular highlight of my time so far was when I went with some fellow scholars to the National Centre for the Performing Arts to see the Chinese National Symphony Orchestra which was a fantastic and memorable experience.

Overall, I have had a great introduction to China within the program and outside the walls of the college. I am looking forward to learning more about China, its people, the rich culture and history as well as of course a small look in to the future of China and Australian relations. I am relatively new to learning about China, but I am now quite sure this will be a lifelong relationship and no doubt like many of you, I will be fortunate to be in a position to continue the respect and friendship of Chinese and Australian peoples.

*Bridget is the daughter of Neil Barker (former Victorian State and National ACFS Secretary) and Bernadette O'Connor (ACFS volunteer).*



*Bridget Barker - wearing Melbourne AFL top at Jinshanling Great Wall.*

# 14<sup>th</sup> Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp – 2018

Marianne Cronin, Chaperone/Teacher for ACFS

It is with pleasure that I report as chaperone/ teacher on my participation at the 14<sup>th</sup> Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship camp in 2018. The camp was held at the Oriental Land Villas, two hours by bus from the centre of Shanghai. I escorted four 15 year old students from Mt Lawley Senior High School, Western Australia, who are currently studying Mandarin.

The organisation by the Shanghai Friendship association personnel was outstanding. They had a well trained team of students to assist and together they had prepared a very comprehensive set of cultural activities for the visiting students. Their friendship, dedication and hard work contributed to a very positive and memorable experience. In my reflections to the camp organisers there were very few suggestions I could make as the thoughtfulness that had gone into making it an interactive and friendship promoting event, were extremely good, from on site activities, accommodation, meals, homestays for students and visits to Shanghai tourist areas.

I made two minor suggestions; firstly, some opportunity for some free time. Days were long from 7am to frequently past 10pm and there was little chance for the students to have a wander around the grounds and chat with new friends. Secondly, perhaps the encouragement of more early formalised interaction of foreign students with, in particular, the Chinese participants. I actually formally introduced my students to a small group of Chinese students as an encouragement to foster cultural exchange.

I wish to thank Mrs Roz Hanley sincerely for the professional & comprehensive assistance she gave both to the students and me in the preparation for the Shanghai camp. She organised singlehandedly the selection of students and we attended pre-trip meetings where we were briefed on requirements of visas, travel arrangements, insurance, and gift buying for the organisers and also for the Expo where we needed to have a collection of souvenirs for distribution. Several other countries' students received financial assistance from consulates, embassies or their own Chinese friendship societies, but in Australia's instance it was left to the chaperone and students to pay for all costs. Roz Hanley made up for any feeling of lack of ACFS support by her dedication and contribution.

Finally, the participation at this camp allowed me to highlight and promote the

activities of the ACFS in Australia. As a long time active member of the WA branch of ACFS, I had a considerable amount of knowledge and had participated in many friendship events over many years. It is important that for future chaperone/teachers that this role be defined and encouraged. In addition, I have also made good friends with some of the Shanghai organisers and we now communicate regularly online. Furthermore, I have also developed friendship links with a large number of the chaperones and indirectly this links with the significant aspect in common and that is friendship with the people of P. R. Of China.

To conclude, I have some additional suggestions for the arrangement, selection of students and guidelines for future participation by ACFS in the Shanghai Friendship camps. I am very happy to liaise with Roz Hanley in regards to this. I consider the participation by ACFS in the Shanghai Friendship Association camp a very important activity in the enhancing of friendship between China and Australia and sincerely hope this event can be continued.

## Report of photographic tour

*Susan Moss*

During the last two weeks of September 2018 I was privileged to host the first Australia China Friendship Society Photographic Tour to the Guilin region.

Seven participants came from Perth and two from the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. There were two camera club members Frank from the Workshop Camera Club and Bob the Frankston Photographic Club, one professional photographer Nigel from Fremantle and three enthusiasts Hilary, brothers Gabor and Daniel came through the U3A website. Not to forget Frank's wife Christine and Bob's wife Shirley.

A party of 9 plus me, we started our tour in Guangzhou where we were met by Rick Yang Deputy General Manager of Easy Tour China Travel Co Ltd who stayed with us and guided us so capably during our entire trip. Mr He a Guilin photographer joined us at Long Sheng. We all enjoyed seeing his style of photography at a seminar arranged by Rick on one night.

Rick and I had spent quite some time refining the itinerary to get the best opportunities for our photographers. We were not disappointed in the reality. There were many early starts to capture the sunrise, hundreds of stairs to climb, up and down the sides of mountains, but oh the view when we got there



*Golden Rice Terraces      Susan Moss      WA Camera Club*

was just stunning. We gladly set up our tripods and set about capturing the best images we could. Bob would say to me 'I am in my seventh heaven Susan' with a great big smile on his face. The group got on famously and enjoyed each other's company, networking and sharing their knowledge. Nigel shared his many years of experience willingly and it was gratefully received by us all.

The weather was quite warm and humid and we were always so pleased to have a cold beer with our meals that were included in our itinerary. Rick would take us to a restaurant and then order the banquet style meal. The food was delicious and always new things to try each day. It was a good thing we were getting plenty of exercise!

The accommodation was in the main smaller hotels and very comfortable the standard was very good.

Everyday there was something new to shoot right up to the last day. We have all come home with a swag of images to process and so many wonderful memories of the beautiful part of China and the friendly people. You can view the groups images here.

<http://www.susanmossartandphotography.com/the-tour-.html>



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY VICTORIAN BRANCH INC.**

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australian-China Friendship Society, Victorian Branch Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 5 December 2018 at 7.00 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne.

The Ordinary Business of the meeting will be to confirm the minutes of the last AGM, to receive the financial and other reports for the last financial year and to elect the Officers and Committee members of the Society.

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Guest speaker for the evening will be Ms Wesa Chau Director Cultural Intelligence, Research Training & Consulting who will speak about her recently published report on Asian Philanthropy.

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**ACFS Victorian Branch NOMINATION FORM 2018/19**

All financial members of the Society are eligible to nominate for the Office of the President, Vice President (2 positions), Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Members (up to 6 positions). Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by the candidate. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** .....(print)

**POSITION:** President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary Ordinary Committee Member (circle one only)

**SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE:** .....

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Tel:..... Mobile:.....

Email:.....

This nomination form must be delivered to: The Secretary, ACFS Vic Branch, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000, or email: [acfs.vic@gmail.com](mailto:acfs.vic@gmail.com) not later than 7 days before the date fixed for the AGM.

All nominees are required to enclose a brief written introduction about themselves (maximum 150 words) with the nomination form. Note that the introduction will be circulated to members at the AGM.

# **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](mailto:acfs.vic@gmail.com)