



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc). ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

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December 2018



President's Report

This year was a year full of activity and positive outcomes, furthering our aims of promoting friendship and understanding.

We began with a Chinese New Year dinner in February, hosted by the Federation of Chinese Associations. As usual it was well-attended, fairly long and entertaining.

Our National Conference in May was a great success. My special thanks and congratulations go to Robin for her organisational skills and terrific outcome. Events included addresses by 'soft power' authority Professor Yao Yao, from Beijing and the Chargé d'Affaires from the Chinese Embassy in Canberra. Both spoke of China's wishes for cooperation and to avoid conflict. Another special guest was the President of the Pacific-China Friendship Association, Dr Hiria Ottino, who spoke of the PCFA's activities. We also elected a new National President, Ms Robin Matthews, as well as new office-bearers Mr Dong Chen (Treasurer) and Mr Don Wilson (Secretary).

Our Annual dinner with Julian Hill MHR in August was held at Shark Fin House. Mr Hill spoke on the Labor Party's view of China and the policy regarding interaction between our two countries. We also said farewell to our friend from the Consulate, Mr Zhou Yujiang (Oliver), who was a stalwart supporter and advisor. We wish him the very best and hope to see him again in the future in an enhanced role.

September saw Chinese National Day celebrations with two functions hosted by the Chinese Consulate. Robin Matthews, Tower Liu and I joined the event at the Langham Hotel, where we heard from politicians and Chinese officials.

We are sponsoring two awards, one for students of Chinese culture and literature, and the other for the wider community. Both involve small grants/scholarships and a plaque. As one of the more populous states, I believe we should have more such positive activities. The first awards for 10 outstanding

students took place at the Chinese Consulate on December 6. The larger award will take place mid-2019.

We are fortunate the ties with the Consulate continue to grow and with the arrival of the new Consul for local affairs, Mr Dong GuoJing, we look forward very much to a long and fruitful relationship.

Recently in Hainan, I was appointed the Pacific China Friendship Association's Secretary-General. I look forward to strengthening ties both within the Pacific and with Australia and Pacific Members.

In conclusion, I thank you all for your support and wish you the very best for the coming season. We have made a number of great gains and trust that next year will be even better!

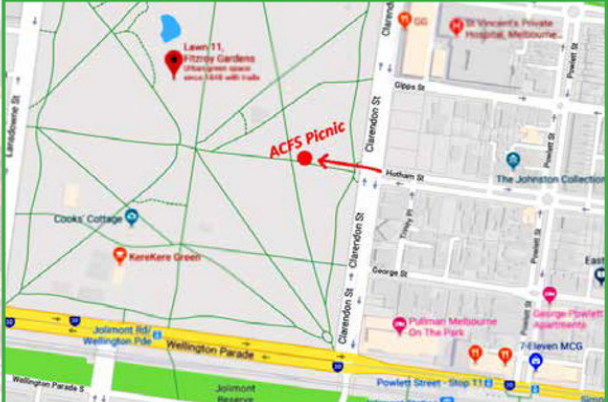

Anthony M Leong - President



**Celebrate Chinese New Year in the
Fitzroy Gardens, opposite Hotham Street,
East Melbourne**

When: Sunday February 3, 2019, 12.30pm onwards
Where: Fitzroy Gardens Hotham St entry
BYO Picnic lunch & drinks
EVERYONE WELCOME!

RSVP: Robin 0411 285 488 - robin@remconsult.com.au



The map shows the location of the ACFS Picnic at the Hotham Street entry of Fitzroy Gardens. The picnic spot is marked with a red dot and labeled 'ACFS Picnic' with a red arrow. The map includes surrounding streets such as Clarendon St, Hotham St, George St, and Wellington Parade. Other landmarks like Cooks Cottage, KoroKoro Green, and the Johnstone Collection are also visible.

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ACFS Victorian Branch conducted its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 5 December 2018 at Ross House. It was well attended by Members with special guests Deputy Consul General Mr ZENG Jianhua, Consul WU Meng and our guest speaker Ms Wesa Chau.

Anthony Leong, President thanked the Committee members for their work and efforts in representing and promoting the work of the ACFS over the last year. Anthony spoke about the National Conference that was held in May, the annual dinner held in August and the Chinese Language and Culture Awards which will entail presentation of a plaque, certificate and \$1200.00 to ten outstanding tertiary students. For next year it is proposed to establish an Australia China Friendship Award for someone who has contributed significantly to improve Australia China relations and friendship development. Anthony reported that he had recently been elected as Secretary General of the Pacific China Friendship Association. Finally in his presentation, he proposed a vote of thanks to ACFS Member Cina Choi for her generous contribution to the ACFS Vic Branch.



ACFS Committee members, Cina Choi, Wesa Chau with the guests from the consulate.

The Treasurer tabled his report and commented about the main expense for the Society was the hire of office space at Ross House and that we should think about investigating alternative office space. The Branch had supported the National body (ACFS Ltd) by contributing capitation fees and a contribution to the chaperone for the Shanghai Youth Camp.

The number of nominations for Committee positions did not exceed the number of vacancies, so there was no need for an election. The following members were declared elected to the Committee.

President:	Anthony Leong
Vice President: x2	Tower Liu and Damon Feng
Secretary:	Robin Matthews
Treasurer:	Douglas Chen
Committee members:	Lia Cross and John Breheny

Deputy Consul General Zeng congratulated the ACFS for their Annual Conference held in May and to Robin Matthews for her election as National President of ACFS Ltd. He reported that when he attended the 2017 ACFS AGM, he was newly arrived in Melbourne and in the last 12 months the China Australia relationship has continued to grow, however the relationship is heavily influenced since the election of Donald Trump in the US. Victoria is the exception with a continued growth in trade and relations where the Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews considers Victoria the “gateway to Australia”, is a good role model and partner to China. Mr Zeng spoke about increased trade including students studying in Melbourne as positive signs for a better relationship.

Wesa Chau, our guest speaker for the evening spoke about “Asian Australian Diaspora Philanthropy”. Wesa’s study involved interviews with 54 people with backgrounds from China, Malaysia, Philippines and India. The main points she made were that people did not speak about their philanthropic work and were humble in their giving. Many people don’t understand the charity and Australian tax regulation system. The longer someone has settled here, the more they give to Australian causes and maybe the ACFS could look at building bridges in the future to link philanthropists to charities.

The Chair thanked the guests and members for their attendance at the meeting and everyone then enjoyed refreshments and much conviviality.

Robin Matthews Secretary

The Chinese Language and Culture Award Ceremony

On Thursday night 6th December, I attended the Chinese Language and Culture Award Ceremony at the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne. It was a great celebration of University students' achievements in their Chinese study.

The Chinese Language and Culture Award was established by the Chinese Consulate General in Melbourne and the Australia China Friendship Society Victorian Branch (ACFS), to encourage students learning Chinese language and culture, and to also reward the top students' exemplary achievement in their study. Ten outstanding students from Melbourne, Monash, La Trobe and Deakin Universities plus RMIT were chosen by their tutors as being one of the best academically, and it was the greatest pleasure to see them being rewarded with a plaque and financial incentive.



The Consulate General Mr Zhao, the President of ACFS National and Victorian Branch with the award receivers.

Speakers included Chinese Consul-General Zhao Jian, ACFS Vic President Anthony Leong and Department of Education and Training Vic, Participation Branch Director Ryan Collins. Speakers mentioned that being Australia's second largest state in both population and economy and the cultural capital and education state, there are 178 schools across Victoria which have established a sister school program with a school in China. Mandarin has become the second popular language in the school LOTE program, with around 78,000 students enrolled across Victoria schools. More and more have expressed their interest to study Chinese and learn Chinese culture. All speakers acknowledged the students' achievements, congratulated them on their accomplishment and wished them success in the future. The rewarded students also presented their own stories about learning Chinese, or preformed in other ways.

As a newly-elected Vice-President for ACFS Vic branch, it was my pleasure to attend the Ceremony, and I look forward to seeing further co-operation between the Chinese Consulate General and ACFS Vic Branch.

Damon Feng, Vice President, ACFS Victoria

2018 FRIENDSHIP FORUM REPORT

It was a pleasure to lead the Australian ACFS delegation to the 2018 Friendship Forum in Hainan Province, China. Our delegation consisted of Jean Norman from ACT, Margaret Kelly from NSW, Martin Wu from NT, Dave Matters and Ovidio Orellana from QLD, Roz Hanley and Gian Wong from Western Australia, Jan Everett from TAS and Liz O'Connor and John Breheny from Victoria.

Other delegations were from the Bahamas, Canada, Fiji, Jamaica, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands Tahiti, Tonga, Vanuatu and the United States.

Travelling via Guangzhou, we arrived in Haikou where the Forum was held. We had a full day of meetings and speeches from Ms FU Caixiang Vice Governor of Hainan Province, Mr XIE Yuan Vice President of CPAFFC, HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita from the Kingdom of Tonga and other delegation leaders. Topics covered were "Build a bridge of culture to promote people-to-people connectivity", "Strengthen tourism cooperation to promote economic growth" and "Enhance youth exchanges to lay a solid foundation for friendship".

The Forum dinner was a feature with entertainment from delegates, and the Australian crew sang the “Drovers Dream”, capably led by Gian.

The following day after conference formalities, the delegations attended the 19th Hainan International Tourism Island Carnival opening ceremony and wandered at leisure through the many local exhibits. In the afternoon, there was a visit to a modern entertainment and sports complex, with some of us choosing to visit the Haikou Arcaded Old Street, where we enjoyed coconut drinks.

The third day we travelled to Sanya City via the Beireng Village, and the Boao Le Cheng International Medical Tourism Pioneer Zone. This was a forty-five square kilometre precinct whose goal is for the Pilot Zone to become a leading medical and wellness destination in the next 7-10 years, with first-class health-care infrastructure and services.

Day four included a visit to Nanshan Mountain, the Hainan Lu Qiao Noni Juice Processing Plant and finished off with a spectacular show in the Sanya Romance Park, with theatrics of light and sound, dance, gymnastics and songs depicting ancient stories of Sanya.



The members of the Pacific China Friendship Association stayed the following day for their Annual General Meeting.

The PCFA was inaugurated in October 2016 in the Kingdom of Tonga and its aims principally include promotion of friendship and understanding between Friendship Associations and to participate in projects of mutual interest, including cultural, educational and economic activities.

The meeting commenced with an address by the Patron, Her Royal Highness, Princess Salōte Mafile’o Pilolevu Tuita who promoted a Pearl Maritime Road initiative to extend to the Pacific Region, easterly to the Maritime Silk Road, part of the Belt and Road programs.

Dr Hiria Ottino, President of PCFA, reported on the many achievements of the organization so far, including scholarships with the Shanghai Ocean University, coordinating students to attend an international camp in Shanghai, provision of library books and lap top computers.

An election of five Board Members took place and representatives from Friendship Associations from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Australia were successful.

Dr Ottino was confirmed as President and Mr Anthony Leong was elected as Secretary General.

The meeting then discussed and ratified a new Constitution which will guide and support the Association in its deliberations.

A presentation from Wuxi SunTech Power Company showed how their sustainable technologies can be utilized especially across the Pacific Region to benefit communities, ending with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Wuxi Suntech and PCFA.

The meeting concluded with general consensus, willingness and co-operation to partner on future projects to benefit the communities of the Pacific Region.

*Robin Matthews
National President
ACFS Ltd*

Edited email from Bridget Barker sent in November 2018

Ni hao everyone!

Studying a Masters degree, travelling and spending time in Beijing doing lots of extra curricular events fill up my time more than anticipated. I've written the majority of this on the train on the way back from Shanghai.

It's been two and a half months since I said a teary goodbye to Morgs, Mum, Dad and Charlotte at the airport.

So, I flew from Melbourne to Hong Kong and then after walking like 5km through the airport I finally got to Beijing and was greeted by a contact through Dad, Mum, Liz and John's connection with the ACFS organised through Tower (hi and thanks again Tower!!). I arrived to a paparazzi frenzy because I was on the same flight as the Chinese swim team who were returning from the Asia games, so that was kind of funny! The young lady who picked me up was lovely and explained plenty about Beijing to me, also with what I found in the next few weeks I was so pleased to have her to help getting a cab.

A quick recap of the program I'm in. It's called Schwarzman Scholars, this is year three of the program and was founded by an American Businessman - Steve Schwarzman. The main vision is that young people have an experience living in China, to have an understanding of China's history and the ongoing and growing role in global trends. It's also designed so that the cohort 138 of us all aged 22 - 29, 40% American 20% Chinese and 40% from the rest of the world, all live together and build relationships, understand each others cultural working and academic backgrounds. It is a fully funded scholarship, so I'm feeling incredibly fortunate.

Arriving at the college was pretty surreal, it's this immense building in the middle of Tsinghua University, it's got a very good environmental rating and was planned and built meticulously. My room is pretty deluxe for a dorm as well, it's private, I have my own bathroom, a comfy single bed, nice big window, a desk and heaps of storage space.

Some of the activities/groups/events I've been a part of that are all self organized, optional extracurricular to our studies and other official events here:

- Women's discussion group
- Tsinghua graduate athletics day
- Speed reading 101

- Hip hop yoga
- Acapella group
- Dancing in the dark (think no lights no lycra)
- Basketball for beginners
- Chinese classical music performance
- Excel training
- Student Government (I'm the Tsinghua relations and Sport Rep)
- Baseball for beginners
- Museum tours and events
- The OG (aka original gangsters – scholars who are 26-28 years old, we go out for dinner as opposed to the clubs sometimes haha)
- 'Our political systems' discussion group
- Kombucha making crew
- Boba tea group (bubble tea..... I'm fairly addicted now)
- Belt and Road initiative discussion group
- American intervention in the middle east: the case of Syria
- The ups and downs of a surgeon in training
- Drug policy and reform in the US
- The small story of a solar project
- The surprising Jewish history in China
- Responding to the threat of nuclear disaster
- Nicaragua - historical and current political situations
- A day in the life of a Singaporean homicide detective
- Exorcisms, demographics and politics: the surprise of global desecularisation
- The ultimate guide to Chinese table manners
- Don't touch my hair: the intersection between Black hair and US.
- Beijing is a lot greener than I anticipated.
- The food is really different to what's considered 'Chinese food' in Australia, I am in dumpling, noodle, tofu and general fresh made thing heaven)
- 'WeChat or die' is a phrase we use, it is truth. You pay for everything on Wechat, even smaller street side food vendors use to WeChat pay. It's nearly a cashless economy for day to day interactions.
- People are so respectful, and I feel incredibly safe all the time.
- Learning Chinese language is hard, as hard as I thought it would be, but the surprise is how much I am really enjoying it!
- The scale of things is immense but seems to be done with such ease.

Much love to all, from Bridge

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: Damon Feng

TREASURER: Dong Chen

Tower Liu

COMMITTEE: Lia Cross

John Breheny

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