



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

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**October 2019**



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It's been a very busy couple of months generally. As part of my duties for the PCFA, I went to Guangzhou to hear about the Greater Bay Area new Special Economic Zone, as well as seeing several art initiatives.

Returning from Guangzhou, I was invited as representative of the ACFS to view the October 1 celebrations in Beijing, so I packed my bags and off I went again.

The parade showed me just how far the "New China" has come in 70 years. From immense poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, China has one of the world's largest, strongest economies, with healthcare, education and community wellbeing foremost. Apart from the military spectacle (which all countries show on their 'birthday'), there were floats displaying technology and science, minority groups, past, revered leaders including Chairman Mao and much about youth and education.

Next year, we plan to focus more on members and a membership drive for young people. We will also be having cultural nights, perhaps a concert with various performers, as well as guest speakers and food gatherings.

Please remember our AGM next month where we will have former President of the Victorian Legislative Council, Mr Bruce Atkinson MLC. He will speak on his view of China and the road ahead in terms of our economy and direction.

The venue will be Ross House on Tuesday November 26, from 6:30pm. Please bring a plate to share with everyone and if you can bring a friend, it would be greatly appreciated.

Around about the same time, we will again host the Cultural and Language Awards, so that will be again a way in which we can encourage and foster good relations between our two countries and encourage younger people to learn and understand.

Best wishes to you all and see you next month.

Anthony.

# **Chinese Community Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the PRC & the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic relations between Australia and China**

**Monday 23 September 2019 - Happy Receptions, Sunshine Road Tottenham**

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Hon. Long Zhou, Arthur Wu, distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen.

It is an honour to be here to celebrate 7 decades of development and advancement of the People's Republic of China, 70 years of hard work and gains.

However, let me give you a brief timeline from our point of view:

In the mid-1850s, Chinese arrived in Victoria on the goldfields, amid racism;

In 1972, Australia recognised the People's Republic of China;

In 1991, the Cold War ended, with Australia following the US;

In 1996, the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of anti-Chinese feeling arose, with Pauline Hanson endorsed as a Liberal for Parliament;

2015 – public concerns about Chinese private housing investments

2018 – Clive Hamilton's book "Silent Invasion" fuels more racism

Why do I mention this?

Well, a community is one which shares and has certain attitudes and interests in common. This dinner represents your community coming together to honour the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of China, the Motherland and birthplace for many of you, young and old.

My organisation, the Australia-China Friendship Society, was founded in 1951, recognising the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Our work was to be non-political, promoting friendship and understanding between the peoples of Australia and China. In those days, there were only a few Chinese and several Australians, given the White Australia Policy of the time. We also

worked towards recognition of China with ¼ of the world's population, but we had to wait till 1975.

With present difficulties, criticisms and anti-Chinese sentiments, the ACFS is always ready to help bridge the knowledge gap, but mindful of your organisations and the part they play in our society here.

I don't presume to give you advice, but don't be deterred by the bias & lies, especially now. Many will take the opportunity to attack China and anything Chinese, so you must stand firm and counter racism via your various organisations. This is not being political, just telling the truth. You are not spies, you are not here to undermine society and you are not here to influence governments. You are here to contribute to your new home.

In fact, Chinese have a proud pioneering history in Australia. Those who came well before you, built the roads, the rail, much infrastructure, and developed trade. With China more important in this area in particular, you should be proud of your achievements here too.

China's achievements are astonishing, especially over the past 2 decades. In my various trips to China over the past 40 years, I have seen growth & amazing economic strength, improvement of living standards and a booming economy. But China needs your support as *hua ren* (overseas Chinese) to keep that progress continuing. All parents thrive on the success of their daughters and sons, and China is no different.

While we all celebrate the anniversary of the parent to many of you, you too should be proud of being part of a success story which will endure for decades to come.

On behalf of the ACFS, I congratulate China on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with a wish for many more years of success in good health and prosperity.

Thank you.

Robin Matthews  
National President  
Australia China Friendship Society Ltd

# **ACFS Ltd Board PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I am sad to see the news coming out of Hong Kong each day of the violence, rioting and vandalism there. Compared to the response witnessed in Western countries, the restraint of the police in HK is noted, and other measures the Hong Kong Government has imposed to quell the violence. (Even stronger anti-riot measures were introduced years ago here in Melbourne, Australia). It is unfortunate that the demonstrators in HK have not learned from history and the destructive influence outsiders have previously had on the territory. I believe we should speak up where we can, mindful of the fact we are not spokespeople for the Chinese Government.

In July, four students and their chaperone from Tasmania attended the Shanghai International Youth Camp. From their reports, the Camp was highly successful and the students were most appreciative of this opportunity to experience the language first hand and cultural activities. Many thanks to Jan Everett for organising and advising the students and Roz Hanley for the arrangements with SPAFFC. We look forward to equally enthusiastic representation at the next Camp.

Last month, ACFS Ltd hosted a delegation from Hangzhou of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The delegation visited Western Australia, Melbourne and then New Zealand. In Melbourne, we had fruitful discussions, a most enjoyable lunch and visit to the National Gallery of Victoria. ZPPAFFC are keen to arrange exchange programs with ACFS Ltd and I look forward to developing ideas to further our friendship.

In September, all around Australia there were events to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 47th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and China. Melbourne was no different. On the 23 September, the Federation of Victorian Chinese Communities held a grand dinner where I was invited to speak. A copy of my speech was earlier circulated to Board Members.

Next year we have a couple of tours planned, notably the bird watching tour and another photography tour. I urge all Branches to promote these tours amongst our members. The 2020 National Conference is in the planning phase and I look forward to hearing more on this significant event for our organisation.

Robin Matthews  
National President ACFS Ltd

# National Day, Beijing October 1, 2019



It is a rare honour to be invited to celebrate China's Anniversary on behalf of our Members. It is testament to our Society's work that I was requested to represent the ACFS at China's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Beijing, along with other similar organisations from around the world.

On a warm, humid morning, we were driven to the Forbidden City and walked to our vantage spot, to the left of the main gate, the icon of the New China. Walking through the leafy, picturesque streets of the complex, it was a fascinating tour of history and architecture, of which I never tire.

At midday, with much ceremony, the Chinese flag was flung into life by the gesture of a soldier launching the flag's fly end into the sky, with a flourish of pride. There followed the first of several fly-pasts, followed by President Xi Jinping's speech and then the military parade. This was then followed by a procession of floats showcasing the Chinese people, their achievements and the progress of the People's Government in fields of science, technology, commerce and culture. Of note were the floats and portraits celebrating past leaders, at the head of which was Chairman Mao Zedong.

On behalf of the ACFS I thank the People's Government for the invitation and the acknowledgement of the work we do and have done over the past 68 years. It was a pleasure to sign the commemorative flag on behalf of the ACFS and witness the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

We all applaud the amazing journey of modern China over the past 70 years and look forward to a bright future of that strong, vibrant and peaceful nation.

Anthony Leong

# Ambassador H.E.Mr. CHENG Jingye's Speech at the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China



Good afternoon! It's a great delight to have you with us today to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

70 years ago, the founding of the People's Republic of China, in changing the destiny of the Chinese people, heralded a new epoch in Chinese history.

Over the past 70 years, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the entire Chinese people, through their hardworking and tireless endeavours, have created a development miracle in human history, resulting in unprecedented changes and epic accomplishments.

We have established socialist system, carried out spectacular reform and opening up, and embarked on the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

We resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macao and have advanced the cause of peaceful reunification of the country.

We have achieved a historic leap in the composite national strength. China's GDP has increased by more than 450 times in terms of US dollars, with our economy now accounting for about 16% of the world GDP. Being the second largest economy in the world, China enjoys a leading position in terms of trade in goods, manufacturing capacity and foreign exchange reserves. We built 140,000 kilometres of highways, the mileage of our high-speed railways comprises two-thirds of the world's total, and among top ten seaports in the world there are seven in China. The urbanization rate has increased from 10% to nearly 60%.

We have remarkably improved people's living standards. Over 750 million people was lifted out of poverty since 1978. The per capita GDP is now close to 10,000 US dollars. Average life expectancy has been extended from 35 to 77. We have established the world's largest social security system covering pension, medicare, basic living insurance and proper housing. The illiteracy rate has dropped from 80% to around 5%, and last year's university graduates numbered 8.2 million. China now has the largest middle-income population and the fastest-growing consumer market in the world. Last year, nearly 150 million people travelled abroad.

We have made outstanding progress in science and technology. China has become a major scientific and technological player, with R&D expenditure ranking second in the world. China also ranks second in terms of the number of scientific papers cited and the number of international patent applications. The contribution of scientific and technological progress to economic growth in 2018 reaches 58.5%. Achievements such as the manned spaceflight, lunar exploration project, BeiDou navigation satellite system, quantum science and AI have captured the world's attention. China also leads in 5G technology development.

We have achieved major results in green development. China's total installed capacity of renewable energy accounts for 28% of the world's total. It is the world's largest producer, exporter and installer of solar panels and wind turbines. Non-fossil energy accounts for 13.8% of primary energy. We have 1.7 million electric vehicles - half of the world's total. With the largest plantation forest in the world, the forest stocks have increased by 2.1 billion cubic metres.

Over the past 7 decades China has made significant contributions to world's peace and prosperity. We have played an important role in promoting resolution to global and regional hot issues. We are the second largest financial contributor to the United Nations and the largest peacekeeping personnel contributor among the permanent members of the Security Council. In the

past decade, China has contributed nearly 30% of world economic growth.

We have promoted global connectivity and infrastructure building through the Belt and Road Initiative, which has become a widely participated platform for international cooperation. China has been actively engaged in global cooperation on climate change, playing a leading role in the conclusion of Paris Agreement. From 1950 to 2016, a total of more than 400 billion yuan of foreign aid was provided, with more than 5,000 projects.

It has been 70 years of dedication and commitment and 70 years of miraculous achievements. As a result, the Chinese people have taken a decisive step in the journey towards becoming richer and stronger. We are now closer than ever before in achieving national rejuvenation.

Dear friends,

Today's China has entered a new era. At present, the Chinese people are striving to achieve the "Two Centenary Goals" with full confidence. Next year, we will accomplish the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. By the middle of this century, we'll develop China into a great modern socialist country.

China stays committed to peaceful development and building a community with a shared future for mankind. China will promote a high level of opening up to the outside world, in pursuing mutual benefit and win-win outcomes. In short, it will continue its efforts in building world peace, contributing to global development, and upholding international order. China's sustainable development will bring more opportunities to countries around the world.

Dear friends,

China-Australia relationship to some extent is an epitome of the deep integration of China with the world. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1972, cut-across progress has been made in the bilateral relations. The trade volume between the two countries has soared from less than 100 million US dollars to over 150 billion US dollars. People-to-people exchanges have started from scratch, with current annual visits in both directions surpassed 2 million. The development of China-Australia relations has significantly enhanced the well-being of both peoples. As Prime Minister Morrison said, 'China is more than a customer, way more'.

China and Australia are important countries in the Asia-Pacific region. There is no historical grievance or conflict in fundamental interests between the two



countries. Instead, our economies are highly complementary, with many shared interests and huge potential for cooperation. We both stand for multilateralism and free trade, and support open global economy. The 1.2 million Chinese-Australians serve as an indispensable bridge and bond between the two countries. There is every reason to maintain the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in good shape but no excuse to have the relations hindered or damaged.

China always believes that a sound and stable China-Australia relationship serves the fundamental interests of both sides and is conducive to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

Both sides need to view each other's development path and social system in a rational way. It's essential to stick to mutual respect and properly handle the differences. We need to regard each other's development as an opportunity rather than a threat, so that mutual trust will be persistently increased, and suspicion or prejudices be reduced.

We should expand mutually beneficial cooperation, fostering a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory business environment for each other's enterprises. We need to deepen people-to-people links rather than erecting artificial barriers.

It's also important that we work together to uphold multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, while jointly advancing regional economic integration.

It's sincerely hoped that both countries will pull efforts in the same direction and take positive steps to overcome the difficulties, so as to push forward China-Australia relations along the right track.

In conclusion, may I propose a further toast:

To the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China;

To the healthy and stable development of China-Australia relations;

Cheers!

Thank you!



**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 Tuesday 26 November 2019 at 6.30 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.

**Guest speaker for the evening will  
be the Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC.**

**ACFS Victorian Branch NOMINATION FORM 2019/20**

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. In the event of an election, the introduction will be circulated to members at the AGM.

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