



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

December 2019

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President's End of Year Message



Hi everyone and I hope you're well. Just a short message to wish you all the very best for the festive season and a great new year. This year has had its challenges and as it comes to a close, we all hope for a better, more peaceful year.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish everyone a very safe, happy and positive 2020. Thank you all for your continued support this year and I trust you will enjoy our activities next year.

Best wishes,

ACFS VIC AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 26 November 2019. The meeting was well attended and we were delighted to welcome the Consul General to the People's Republic of China in Melbourne, Mr Long Zhou and Consul Dong GuoJing.

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

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



Chinese Consul General Mr Long Zhou at ACFS Vic AGM

The Consul General congratulated the ACFS for maintaining a strong friendship with China since 1952 and this played an important part in the relationship which is reciprocated with heartfelt appreciation. At this difficult time the friendship is even more important which is mutually beneficial, but the fundamentals of friendship don't change. The Consul General emphasised that it is important to remain calm and confident with rational thinking especially with the biased media coverage. He wished ongoing friendship for next year with new and younger members for our organisation.

The Chair thanked the guests and members for their attendance at the meeting which closed at 7.35 PM and everyone then enjoyed refreshments and conviviality.

President's Report, November 26, 2019

We continue to perform strongly despite times becoming more difficult, but we have seen and overcome these challenges before and so we shall again.

We continue to contribute strongly to the Pacific China Friendship Association and there will be closer ties between the PCFA and Victoria. Those plans will be revealed in early 2020.

National President Robin Matthews, Vice President Tower Liu and I visited Melbourne Girls' School on July 1, to witness their China Culture and Language Program. We congratulate the school and students for their hard work and hope this continues long into the future,.

Later that month, Robin and I represented the ACFS at the annual celebration of the Jiangsu Sister-State relationship at Government House. The well attended event was a fitting tribute to the friendship between the two states.

August saw one of our most successful fundraisers, with the wonderful Shu Cheen Yu and her ensemble of students at the Brunswick Uniting Church. I thank them all for their outstanding performances and generous contribution.



Mr Maurice Leong cutting his 100 birthday cake

I also thank those of you who helped with catering.

In September, I attended the Museum of Chinese-Australian History dinner. It was also a celebration of our oldest member & their inaugural Board Member, Maurice Leong, who had just turned 100. We were publicly recognised as a sponsor and contributor to the Museum, with special mention given to our National President Robin Matthews.

Robin also represented us for the Federation of Chinese Associations' National Day dinner, delivering a strong, supportive speech in the face of mounting racism and anti-China. Her speech was extremely well-received, with many asking for copies.

Following that, I was privileged to represent us at the National Day celebration in Beijing on October 1. By the invitation, we were honoured for our continued work.

Thanks to the Park Hyatt, we hosted to talks with a Zhanjiang delegation, led by Mr Zhou Zhihui, the President of the Public Diplomacy Association. This is a relatively new think-tank for international relations. They were interested in our work and we exchanged ideas about ongoing cooperation.



Chinese Delegation Zhejiang with ACFS Victoria committee members

We were given further acknowledgment with an offer to travel with a small Parliamentary delegation to Tibet. Unfortunately the trip was deferred, but we are grateful for the invitation.

Next year we will have a robust program of activities. Additionally, we will be pursuing a membership drive for younger people.

It has been a privilege to be President of our Society and I particularly thank Vice-Presidents Damon Feng and Tower Liu, Secretary Robin Matthews, our diligent Treasurer Douglas Chen and Cultural Events Committee Member Lia Cross. Without their help and invaluable input I would not be able to function and I am extremely grateful for their untiring assistance. I also thank retiring Committee Member and former President John Breheny for his advice and hard work.

Importantly, it is you, the Members, whom I finally thank for your continued support. I wish you all the very best Compliments of the Season and look forward to a brighter and harmonious new year.

Anthony M Leong
President, ACFS Victorian Branch Inc.

2019 ACFS CULTURE AND LANGUAGE AWARDS

The ACFS was delighted to co-host the annual 2019 Cultural and Language Awards at the Chinese Consulate for the People's Republic of China in Melbourne.

The Award encourages students learning Chinese language and culture, and to reward the top students selected by their tutors for exemplary achievement in their studies.

In recognition of their achievements, ten outstanding students from University of Melbourne, Monash University, La Trobe University, Deakin University and RMIT received a certificate, plaque and Lenovo computer. Most students have visited China to study at Chinese institutions and participated in exchange programs.



Liam tells his story



Chinese Cultural and Language Awards evening



Award recipients with Consul General Long Zhou and ACFS VIC President Anthony Leong

One of the students, Liam, spoke of his Chinese cultural studies which is a fascinating journey to becoming a proficient and talented speaker of the Chinese language.

The ceremony was attended by the 2018 alumni, plus the teachers, friends and relatives of the winning students. The Consul General, Mr Long Zhou, ACFS President Anthony Leong, John Kennedy MP and Georgina McCann addressed the gathering. After the formalities, guests were entertained with music and delicious food prepared by the Consulate staff.

Robin Matthews

Cultural Events

ACFS members and friends may be interested in attending some of the following events:

1. “ASIATOPA” festival January to March, (booklets available at all Libraries and community houses etc... right now) , with lot’s of representatives from China and Chinese diaspora performing in theatre, dance, storytelling, cuisine, art, etc...
2. “What is Chinese? “ an interactive exhibition at the North Melbourne Town Hall put on by artists Xiao Ke and Zi Han from Shanghai.
3. Local communities Dance / exercise routine at Melbourne Museum plaza in February put on by a group of Chinese Square dancers.
4. A new Chinese film “ Wild Goose Lake” just started at Cinema NOVA in Carlton.
5. Many events which will be advertised in daily papers and Chinese papers all associated with Chinese New Year!
6. Looking ahead, the Melbourne Recital Centre program is now available for Jan., Feb., March and there are some Chinese artists who will be performing.



Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Arts Centre Melbourne for Asia TOPA present

Chinese New Year

31 January 2020 | Hamer Hall
\$45.00 - \$149.00





Australia-China Friendship Society



**Unique Yellow Sea Spring
Birdwatching Tour 06-15 May 2020**
Led by Brian Boyd



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rudong, Jiangsu.** Tens of thousands of migratory shorebirds and woodland birds including Saunders's Gull, Black-faced spoonbill, the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, & Nordmann's Greenshank flock to this area in Spring.
- **Hangzhou, Zhejiang.** Crested Ibis may be spotted.
- **Wuyuan, Jiangxi.** Blue-crowned Laughingthrush, endemic Masked Laughingthrush, Hwamei, Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, Short-tailed Parrotbill, Dusky Fulveta, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, and other woodland birds including Pied Falconet, Red-billed Leiothrix, Red-billed Starling, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Chestnut 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.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: 06 May 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*

Sydney flight: **MU562 1100/1920** by China Eastern Airlines

Melbourne flight: **MU738 1100/1940** by China Eastern Airlines

Brisbane flight: **CX156 0050/0730** to Hong Kong, then connect the flight **KA864 0910/1200** onto Shanghai by Cathay Pacific Airlines.

Adelaide flight: **CX174 0625/1345** to Hong Kong, then connect the flight **KA896 1600/1835** to Shanghai by Cathay Pacific airlines.

Perth flight: **CX170 2355-1/0745** to Hong Kong, then connect the flight **KA864 0910/1200** to Shanghai by Cathay Pacific Airlines.

Day 2: 07 May Shanghai to Rudong

Head to Rudong by bus in the morning; check in hotel around noon time; birdwatching in the afternoon

Accommodation: Links Golf & Spa Hotel (local 5 star spa hotel and conservation supporter)

Day 3: 08 May Dongtai Mudflat

Lunar Calendar date 16

Visit the largest mudflat in the Yellow Sea Region – Tiaozini Mudflat in Dongtai County, the mirror sky mudflat and home of tens of thousands birds from Australia and New Zealand

Accommodation: Links Golf & Spa Hotel

Day 4: 09 May Rudong county

Lunar Calendar date 17

Shorebird and landbird watching in Xiaoyangkou town in Rudong

Optional: fishermen community visit/primary school visit, who are long term conservation partners locally

Accommodation: Links Golf & Spa Hotel

Day 5: 10 May Rudong to Shanghai

Lunar Calendar date 18

Birdwatching in Rudong in the morning; returns to Shanghai in the afternoon

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Shanghai near Hongqiao railway station

Day 6: 11 May Shanghai to Hangzhou to Wuyuan

Head to Hangzhou by bullet train in the morning; birdwatching in Deqing for reintroduces Crested Ibis; head to Wuyuan by train in the evening

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Wuyuan

Day 7: 12 May Wuyuan

Birdwatching in Wuyuan, the most beautiful county in China for its lakes, mountains and historic ancient community and architecture; It is going to be the first county-level nature reserve for the **Blue-crowned Laughingthrush**.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Wuyuan

Day 8: 13 May Wuyuan

Birdwatching in Wuyuan, we will visit different habitats for more species as well as sightseeing.

Optional: tea house for tea performance, Wuyuan is famous for its green team

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Wuyuan

Day 9: 14 May Wuyuan to Shanghai

Birdwatching in Wuyuan in the morning; returns to Shanghai by train in the afternoon (Train schedule: G1507, Wuyuan 14:14 – Hongqiao, Shanghai 17:56)

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Shanghai near Pudong Int' Airport, suggested for those who leave next day

Day 10: 15 May Shanghai to Australia Meal: B

Today you will be transferred to the Shanghai Pudong Airport for your flight to Australia.

Return to Sydney flight: **MU562 2000/0900+1**

Return Melbourne flight: **MU737 2005/0900+1**

Return Brisbane flight: **KA871 0800/1100** to Hong Kong, then connect the flight **CX157 1245/2320 to Brisbane**

Return Adelaide flight: **KA877 1325/1615** to Hong Kong, then connect the flight **CX173 1845/0505+1 to Adelaide**

Return Perth flight: **CX365 0940/1230** to Hong Kong, then connect the flight **CX171 1450/2235 to Perth**

ACFS member price: \$5750.00 per person, Non-member price: \$5850.00 per person. Single supplement: \$780.00

Minimum group number: 10 people

Inclusions:

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

Exclusions:

1. China Visa application fees.
2. Personal expenses.
3. Travel insurance (Strongly recommended).

For further information and booking, please contact:

Roz Hanley - ACFS Ltd National Tour Organiser

email: hanley@iinet.net.au

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

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