



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

4TH FLOOR, ROSS HOUSE, 247 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE VIC 3000

E-MAIL: ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM WEB: WWW.ACFS.COM.AU

FOLLOW US ON  TWITTER @ACFSVIC AND  FACEBOOK @ACFSLTD.

February 2020

President's Report, February 2020



Greetings everyone and I hope you are all well and survived the heat and then flooding.

On that topic, it is the terrible irony that over the past several months, China and our friends had expressed sympathy and support for Australia during the catastrophic bushfires and they regularly asked through channels about the welfare of the Australian people. Then came the Novel Coronavirus 2019, where in a matter of a couple of weeks, disaster struck the other way around, and it is now we who must show compassion and support for those in China and elsewhere suffering under the strain of this scourge.

On the topic of the COVID-19 virus, I am sad to report an alarming rise in racism and anti-Chinese outpourings, bringing together prejudiced people's xenophobia and hatred of all things different. I have been contacted by the ABC, the Age and Channel 7 to put our point of view, but I am still appalled by some attitudes. One particular venue (a bar) even wanted to have a "Mr Chan's Corona Night" as a promotion, making fun and profit from a racist concept. Happily, due to outrage, the 'event' was cancelled, but not before the damage was done in terms of racist supporters.

We have planned a full year of activities, which we will post in a couple of weeks' time when we have worked out the funding! There will be many things you can all take part in and even some competitions!

For obvious reasons, the normal round of events and celebrations for New Year were muted and several events were cancelled as a result of performers and guests from China self-quarantining and staying home in China. I am grateful for their selfless acts for and on behalf of beleaguered communities in China.

I will be in contact by email when we have finalised more details about what we're doing this year. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

The ACFS Ltd is member of the Pacific China Friendship Association and following are messages to China from the Patron.



PACIFIC CHINA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
The Princess Royal, Her Royal Highness, Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolveu Tuita
Patron, Pacific China Friendship Association

27th January 2020

Madam Li Xiaolin
President Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
No. 1 Taijichang Street, Doncheng District
Beijing 100740, People's Republic of China

Dear Mme Li,

On behalf of the Board and Members of the Pacific China Friendship Association, I express our deep concern and compassion for the people of China, especially those affected by the coronavirus in Wuhan.

While I am certain the People's Government is doing everything humanly possible to contain and eradicate this deadly coronavirus, I appreciate the many pressures faced to do what is necessary, while maintaining the people's confidence and calm.

We wish you and your people the very best at this grave time, assuring you of our concern, prayers and willingness to help in any way you consider supportive and beneficial.

With warmest wishes,



The Princess Royal Her Royal Highness Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolveu Tuita
Patron Pacific China Friendship Association

The Pacific-China Friendship Association Patron

The Princess Royal, Her Royal Highness. Princess Salote Mafile'o Piloveu Tuita
address to CCTV, 20 February 2020



*Pacific-China Friendship Association Patron,
The Princess Royal, HRH Princess Salote
Mafile'o Piloveu Tuita.*

As Patron of the Pacific-China Friendship Association, I send warm greetings on behalf of our members to our sisters and brothers in China and elsewhere, living under the cloud of the COVID-19 virus.

Daily we hear of the bravery of so many who risk their lives to save others at the epicentre of Wuhan and other areas. Their courage and sacrifice inspire us, reminding us that faced with disaster, humanity can perform extraordinary feats of bravery.

With the identification of the genome and its sharing around the globe, scientists in China and elsewhere have found encouraging results in the quest to develop a vaccine, while several countries have found a

"cocktail" of anti-viral drugs is effective treatment as well. We pray for a speedy and successful completion of the research and an end to this scourge across the world.

Our Association congratulates the Chinese People's Government on their swift action and the immediate steps to limit the spread of the virus. It is due to this and the selfless dedication of the Chinese medical community that has averted a total calamity.

I am sure China and the world will recover. It is saddening to hear that last week there was more loss of life due to the virus, but with the enormity of the people's struggle and untiring spirit, I feel these tragic figures will soon fall.

Again, our support and prayers are with you all, and we, along with our sisters and brothers in China, share the cry, "Jiayou* Wuhan, Jiayou Zhongguo!".

Chinese "open for business"

Message sent to our friends at CPAFFC, BPAFFC, SPAFFC and ZPPAFFC

The Australia China Friendship Society Ltd sends our best wishes to you and your associates during this time of deep international concern about the Novel Coronavirus-2019. We are thinking of you all and hope you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe from the virus.

We see on TV daily the empty streets and businesses in many of your cities. Correspondingly here, many Chinese restaurants are operating at half their usual business activity. Your medical fraternity is doing wonderful work and we wish them every success in heroically looking after the Chinese people.

Unfortunately the coronavirus has provided another opportunity for unscrupulous people to spread mistruths and fear, which is inciting racism. The ACFS here is doing what we can to counter the misinformation and challenging racism where it occurs.

We hope the virus crisis will be resolved soon so everyone can resume their normal activities and we can again concentrate on promoting peace and understanding between our two countries.

Our very best wishes and kind regards

*Robin
National president ACFS Ltd*

After sending goodwill greetings to our fellow Friendship Associations in Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou, I attended the Chinese Community "Open for Business" lunch at Shark Fin Inn.

A number of Chinese organisations in Melbourne hosted by the Chinese Masonic Society expressed great concern at the effect of the corona virus on the wider Australian community.

The Hon Jenny Mikakos MP, Minister for Health, Dr Brett Sutton, Chief Health Officer for Victoria and Mr Long Zhou, Consul General for the Peoples Republic of China in Melbourne and Tasmania addressed the gathering.

The multicultural participants expressed solidarity with the people of Wuhan, quashed myths about the spread of the virus, the negative and unfounded fears it is having on the restaurants around the area and the Chinese community being declared "still open for business".



Hon Jenny Mikakos MP, Minister for Health lunch "OPEN FOR BUSINESS"



Chinese Consul General Mr. Long Zhou and Minister Jenny Mikakos



Guests Gethering in Shark Fin Inn



Consul General and Minister with Chinese Community members

Speakers condemned the racism that has emanated from the misinformation about the virus and hope that greater publicity about the facts, evidence and science will dispel the untruths.

ACFS VIC BRANCH WEBSITE

Our website has not been functioning for some time now. As a member and supporter of ACFS, are you able to help us to upgrade our website to a modern and efficient site so we can inform our many members and supporters of our news, events and articles. Please contact Anthony on 0415 335033 or anthony@modform.com.au if you can help.

Standing with Victoria's Chinese Communities

Iconic Victorian landmarks will be lit up in red and gold and a trade delegation sent to China as part of the Andrews Labor Government's show of solidarity with Chinese communities.

Premier Daniel Andrews today launched the 休戚与共 campaign ("Stronger Together") to combat some of the challenges arising from the COVID-19 outbreak and to urge Victorians to come together in support.

As part of the push, some of Victoria's most important buildings – including the Arts Centre, the NGV, the Melbourne Museum, Melbourne Town Hall and Flinders Street Station – will be lit up in red and gold as a symbol of solidarity with Chinese Victorians on Friday.

A number of economic roundtables will bring Chinese community leaders together to share ideas on how to revitalise local businesses and boost trade, with the outbreak already having a significant impact on the hospitality, tourism and international education sectors.

The Labor Government intends to lead a delegation of 100 Victorian businesses to China to further strengthen trade relations.

At home, the Government will also host a dinner for the Chinese community – including diplomatic, business and student leaders – paying tribute to the contributions our Chinese communities make to our state every day.

The same stories of contribution will be featured across a number of Government digital platforms, sharing with more Victorians the profound role our Chinese communities have played in shaping our state and our nation.



Melbourne Flinders Station



Melbourne Town Hall

Cultural Notes

Hello everyone and welcome to our first Cultural Notes for 2020!

It's difficult to know where to start with so many cultural events on offer, so let's review what has happened.

First, I hope some of you were able to catch the Australian Premiere of "The legend of Chinese Song Fairy" by the Chinese National Opera & Dance Drama Theatre at Hamer Hall on December 17th late last year (chineseculturalfestival.com.au). Would love to have seen it but unfortunately by the time I found out about it was sold out!

Although it was not Chinese, but Korean, it was wonderful to have an Asian movie recognized in the BEST movie category at the Academy Awards. The film "Parasite" was indeed remarkable and I'm looking forward to something similar happening to a Chinese film in the future now that the conservative voters of the Academy have opened their eyes to the existence of wonderful movies out there no matter what the language!

On the same note, I hope many of you managed to catch the well appreciated "The Farewell" from a director of Chinese descent in the American diaspora.

The climax of the Chinese Cultural scene, also known as the Chinese New Year Concert, was a bit of an anticlimax this year. The usually bustling Hamer Hall was scantily full and some people were wearing masks! A pity, because those of us who attended anyway, were treated not only to a warm welcome by Consular staff and local dignitaries but also enjoyed a magnificent concert. I especially enjoyed Chu Wanghua's "Silk Road Symphony:III. Presto alla danza" and Liu Chuang et al... "Yellow River Piano Concerto". The different movements simulated the various sections of that historic river from its bubbling source, to its turbulent gorges and meandering course towards its end, all beautifully captured with piano, drums, harp and wind instruments. Jieni Wan at the piano did a wonderful job!

After interval we were treated to Mendelssohn's "Symphony No.3- Scottish" where you could almost smell the heather!

Looking ahead short term, those of you who have a Chinese New Year

Concert programme, will already know about the following concerts coming up

1. Thursday, March 19th at Melbourne Town Hall, a Beethoven and Mendelssohn concert by young prodigy Christian Li. Don't miss it!

2. Thursday, 11 June also at the Town Hall, Tian Lu makes her debut as a conductor with music from Tchaikovsky's "Swan lake" and cellist Li-Wei Chin will tackle Saint-sans' "First cello Concerto".

Already on the way is ASIATOPA (Jan.-March) 2020, with some great performances that I mentioned to you in the last Newsletter. Program Booklets are still available at venues, libraries and cafes so grab a copy if you don't already have one.

If you have not procured tickets for some of the fantastic events, do hurry before they book out. Also, don't forget the FREE events at the Melbourne Museum plaza, Chinese Square Dances (February 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28) at 9:00am. Go and join in and have some fun!

More events next time! Zai-jian for now,

Lia Cross- Cultural Scout



MSO 7th Chinese New Year concert at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne

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