

Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

June 2021

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President's Report

Good morning and I hope you have recovered from Lockdown #4. Sadly, I suspect this will not be the last and we may have more to come, albeit less severe as more of us are vaccinated. In the meantime, practice physical distancing, wear a mask whenever you go out (even if it's not absolutely necessary) and keep away from crowds unless it's completely unavoidable...and get vaccinated if you haven't already!

The astonishing war of words continues between the West on one hand and China on the other. Conspiracy theories are being dusted off yet again and we see unhelpful comments about China being "defensive...and brittle" (retiring diplomat Ms Frances Adamson, 'the Age', 23 June 2021). Well, Ms Adamson, if you had over 80 nuclear missiles pointed at you, your every move criticised and your every pronouncement vilified, you would be pretty concerned too. When you feel the entire world is against you, you are likely to be extremely defensive.

On the positive side, China is making great green strides towards lowering its carbon footprint to zero and the initiatives are as impressive as they are numerous. I recommend China Environment News <https://vk.link/chinaenvironment>, which keeps abreast of all the newest initiatives for a green, cyclical, renewable economy. To name several projects, look at China's electric vehicles, renewable power generation and crop diversity without harmful chemicals (or patents!).

The other news which is good for American academia but bad for Australia's reliance on overseas students is that China's vaccine by Sinopharm (Sinovac) has been recognised by several of America's Ivy League Universities. This has led to a flood of Chinese students travelling to the US, while Australia languishes behind. As a nation which prides itself on leading education for

overseas students, and indeed relies on them for valuable income, we are now hopelessly lost in terms of wooing students back.

As a friendship society, we should be playing our part in communicating that much of the problem is Australian policy, internal and external. We should be making positive and constructive suggestions as to the way forward. For example, there are reciprocal 'bubbles' with quarantine measures, the admission of travellers who have been vaccinated with WHO-approved vaccines and financial incentives for incoming students (prices ex-Shanghai in May 2021 rose from US\$931 to US\$4,348 due to peak demand).

Finally, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions and outbreaks around Australia, the Committee has decided to postpone our fundraising dinner, our 70th Anniversary and the Box Hill Ely Park AFL events until next year. This is in the hope that far more people will have been vaccinated and it will again be safe to gather in larger groups. While we are disappointed, we are mindful that while face-to-face encounters are preferable, it is unsafe now for this to happen. We regret having to make this decision, but hope you understand.

I trust you stay safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you in safer, easier times.

Anthony Leong

Yum Cha 24 April 2021

Our first 2021 ACFS Vic yum cha lunch held on Saturday 24 April 2021 was a most enjoyable event, providing the opportunity to meet with members and friends after COVID-19.

Special guest for this event was Ms Bridget Barker who completed a Master's degree at Tsinghua University between 2018 & 2019, as part of the Schwarzman Scholars' Program. It was interesting to learn from her perspective about life in China, and she reminded us how amazing WeChat is which has given Chinese people a much easier life than ever before. Of course, we can't forget about the amazing Chinese food too, with her favourite foods in China being Jian Bing and You Po Mian.

We were pleased to welcome guests from Melbourne Girls' College (MGC) – Ms Chen and her students from year 11. It was great to meet those young students who have shown great interest in Chinese language and culture. We



hope they can have an opportunity to attend a school camp in China in future.

The event was held at Northeast China Family Restaurant, where members feasted on delicious and mouthwatering Chinese food. We really appreciated the great food and service provided by the restaurant.

We look forward to meeting you all again in our next Yum Cha event! Our guest speaker Darrell Egan

will then present us on how AFL can promote friendships with China. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions we cannot say exactly when, but hopefully it will be in July.

Damon Feng



Right Road, Wrong Way.

Re: Australian Federal Government Cancels BRI MoU:

Carrying through their anachronistic and fearful mentality of the Cold War, the Morrison Federal Government has cancelled two Memorandums of Understanding between the State of Victoria and China. Citing the agreements being against our country's interests, the two agreements cover infrastructure and bilateral works. Minister Payne's declaration that the two MoUs with China (and another two with Iran and Syria) are "...inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy or adverse to our foreign relations", has in one action soured any hope of a mid-to long-term rapprochement with our largest trading partner and a healing of the political and social rift between our nations. Minister Payne's assertion China will not retaliate is naïve at best, disingenuous and delusional at worst. Her ignorance or blindness is disappointing and dangerous.

Victoria is a leading economic indicator, a hub for building, finance and services, with a growth the envy of most countries and one of the highest standards-of-living globally. To maintain and enhance a steady path, external partners are useful in aiding public works and injecting valuable finance, technology and exchange of ideas and commerce. While a MoU might not convey 'nuts and bolts' in terms of actions, it is an important symbol of friendship between two parties, an acknowledgement of trust and ongoing cooperation. By cancelling such memorandums, the Federal Government shows itself to act in bad faith with a scarce understanding of International intent and especially the ultimate goals of China. Invasion or undermining of Australia has never been an option.

We respectfully call on the Australian Government and Minister Payne to reverse this clearly retrograde action, which will importantly send a message to the Chinese that Australia is not an insular, xenophobic arm of anti-China forces. It will also demonstrate Australia's willingness for dialogue, mutual understanding and a respectful, ongoing relationship

Anthony Leong

China news

(with thanks to the Chinese Consulate)

Global futures:

When delivering a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2021, Xi said that the world needs consultation on an equal footing to create a future of shared benefits. Marking the 20th anniversary of the BFA, this year's annual conference is themed "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation."

China's Economy:

China's economy grew by 18.3% year-on-year in the first quarter of the year, versus 6.5% in the last quarter of 2020, thanks to last year's low comparison base and a steady momentum of recovery, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday. The country's first-quarter gross domestic product came in at 24.93 trillion yuan (\$3.8 trillion), which represents 10.3 percent growth compared with the level in the same period of 2019, as well as a two-year average growth of 5 percent, the NBS said.

Hong Kong:

Hong Kong embraced its first National Security Education Day after the law on safeguarding national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) came into force in mid-2020. Various activities, including lectures, exhibitions, mosaic walls and Open Days of disciplined services, were held to raise public awareness of safeguarding national security.

Climate Change

Vice-Premier Han Zheng has said China is willing to maintain communications and cooperation with the United States by synergizing their strengths to push for the implementation of the Paris

Agreement with all other parties. Han made the remark during a virtual meeting with John Kerry, who was on a four-day visit in April to Shanghai as US President Joe Biden's climate envoy. China and the United States made a joint statement vowing to join hands to cope with the urgent global crisis.

At the second Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 Summit, Premier Li Keqiang said China will work toward an economic system that prioritizes green, low-carbon and circular growth, and promote across-the-board green transformation of its social and economic development in a bid to deliver on its climate response pledged,

Space:

China on 29th April sent into space the core module of its space station, kicking off a series of key launch missions that aim to complete the construction of the station by the end of next year. The successful launch of the core module marks that China's space station construction has entered the full implementation stage, which lays a solid foundation for the follow-up tasks.

China National Space Administration on May 19 released photos taken after the landing of the Tianwen-1 Mars probe. Tianwen-1 established a data link back to Earth on May 15 and started sending back images on May 17. The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) hailed the feat by issuing a congratulatory statement after the release of the photos.

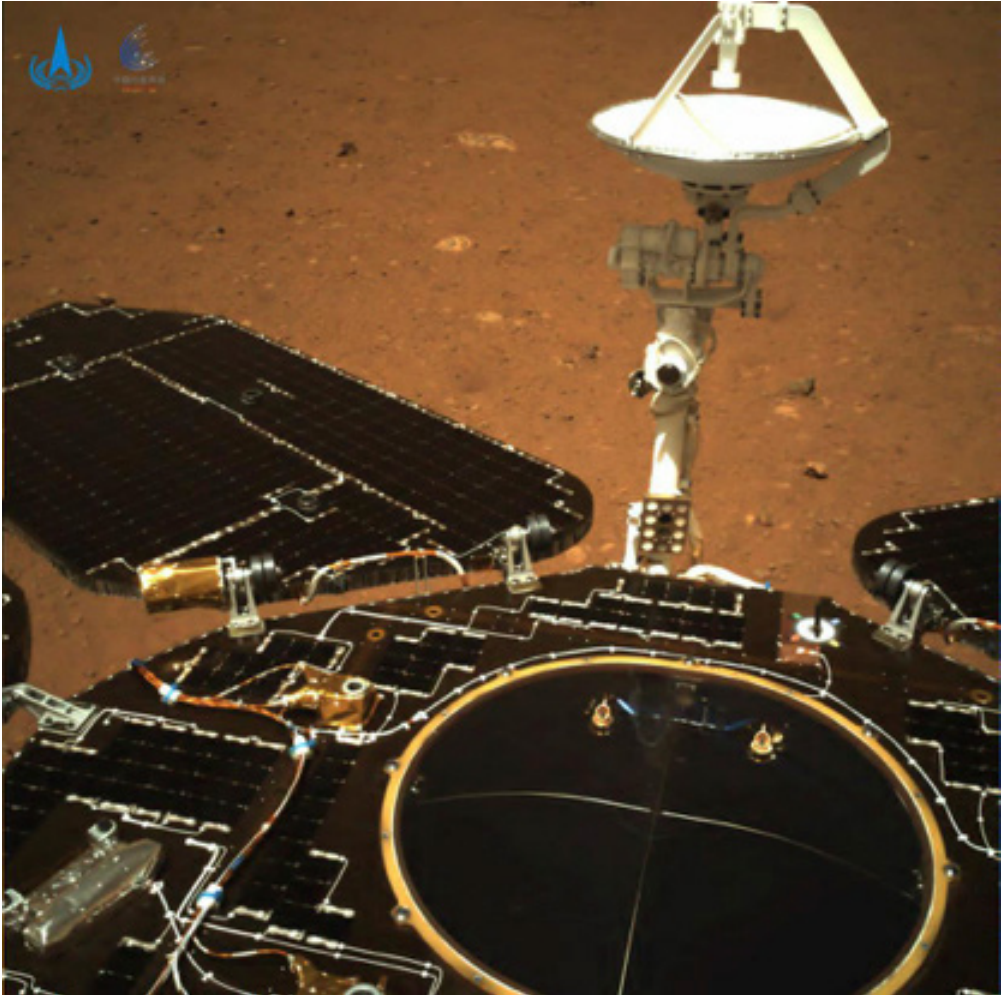
COVID-19 – Sars-CoV-2

China on May 13 inaugurated a new national administration of disease prevention and control, with its five major functions including formulating policies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

The establishment of the Beijing-based administration signals an expansion of the roles of disease prevention and control agencies from preventing and containing diseases to

comprehensively safeguarding and promoting the health of the entire population.

The establishment of the national administration of disease prevention and control marks a key step toward deepening reform of the country's disease prevention and control system. It will accelerate fixing the loopholes in the public health system and enhance the country's epidemic response capacity, experts said.



Tianwen-1 Mars probe landed on Mars

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Scan to participate or visit
www.shine.cn/writingcontest2021



第六届 “相聚上海”

征文活动

6TH SHANGHAI GET-TOGETHER WRITING CONTEST



中国，一个温暖的国度

China, a warm and welcoming country ...

这里有古老的文明，让你感受来自东方的魅力

Where ancient civilization allows you to feel the charm of the East...

也有智慧化的生活，让你对人类的未来充满了遐想

while the tech of tomorrow gives you hope for the future of mankind.

上海，一个可以阅读的城市

Shanghai, a city where everything is "readable".

剧场、图书馆、美术馆、音乐厅.....

Where theaters, libraries, galleries and concert halls

传统与现代和谐共存

reflect the perfect mix of tradition and modernity.

建筑、艺术、音乐、咖啡.....

Where architecture, fine arts, music and coffee

艺术与生活彼此交融

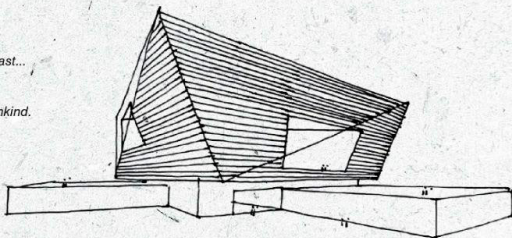
create the perfect blend of art and life.

来自全世界的朋友们，如果你喜欢中国，喜欢上海，欢迎写出你的故事，分享你的感受

Friends of the world, if you love China and adore Shanghai, you're welcome to share your stories with us.

让我们知道在过去的一年，你有没有重新认识中国，更加热爱上海？

Let us know if you rediscovered China and tell more in love with Shanghai this year.



主办 ORGANIZERS:

上海市人民对外友好协会 Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

上海市文化和旅游局 Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism

上海图书馆 Shanghai Library

承办 Co-organizer: 上海日报社 Shanghai Daily

Shanghai Daily

上海日报

The Writing Contest calls for **Foreigners who lives in or traveled to Shanghai**

征文对象：“上海之窗”的海外读者以及在上海生活、工作、学习、旅行的外籍人士等

Contents: Your work should be related to one or more of the following subjects:

征文要求：投稿作品须和以下主题相关

1. Your impression of the city of Shanghai, such as architecture, people and life style, etc.

你眼中的上海特色，如建筑、人文、生活方式等。

2. Your own Shanghai story, no matter you lives there, or just visited the city

你与上海的故事，无论你是长期居住在这个城市，还是只是来此旅游。

3. How did Shanghai affect you or change your life? What you miss about Shanghai?

上海这座城市如何影响或者改变了你的生活？为什么你会想念上海？

4. Your personal experiences about the Covid-19 pandemic

你亲身经历的抗疫故事

5. Your views or comments on the “Window of China” or “Window of Shanghai” books or its related collections, exhibitions and events;

通过阅读所在地图书馆内“中国之窗”和“上海之窗”的书籍或相关的展览、活动所产生的感想

6. Your thoughts on Chinese culture and its influence

你对中国文化及其对世界的影响的相关看法

Note:

注意事项：

1. Writing in English or Chinese is preferred;

作品语言为英语或中文。

2. Each article should be more than 200 Chinese characters, or 500 English words in length;

每篇作品不少于200 中文字，或不少于500 英文单词。

3. Only files in doc.docx or txt formats will be accepted;

提交作品文件必须为doc、docx、txt 格式

4. Entries should be received before December 31, 2021 to:

writingcontest2021@163.com

参赛者必须在2021年12月31日前将稿件发送至邮箱

writingcontest2021@163.com

5. By submitting your work, you are deemed to have confirmed that your submission to the Contest is your own original work, and agreed that it can be published in public media at the organizers' discretion.

投稿人承诺所投稿件为原创, 并同意主办方将所投稿件用于媒体刊登

Prizes:

奖项:

First prize: One winner will receive 6000 RMB yuan or gift with same value

一等奖: 一名, 获奖金6000元人民币或等值礼品

Second prize: Two winners will each receive 4000 RMB yuan or gift with same value

二等奖: 二名, 每人获奖金4000元人民币或等值礼品

Third prize: Three winners will each receive 2000 RMB yuan or gift with same value

三等奖: 三名, 每人获奖金2000元人民币或等值礼品

Fourth prize: several winners will each win souvenirs

四等奖: 若干名, 每人将获得纪念品一份

Organizers:

1. Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

上海市人民对外友好协会

2. Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism

上海市文化和旅游局

3. Shanghai Library

上海图书馆

Co-organizer:

Shanghai Daily

上海日报社



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, Darell Egan and Joe Montero

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