



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc). ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

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**December 2021**



## President's Report

As we look at easing restrictions on life regardless of the infections and deaths, I hope you remain vigilant and cautious. The virus is still with us and can still inflict sickness.

The media machine against China rolls on and is also ramping up in the Pacific, which does not augur well for good relations and understanding. Australia only two days ago affirmed the “leadership” of the USA in the Asia-Pacific area, which is a clear sign of the outcome the West seeks. While difficult, we must speak out against this sentiment and all the ill-will it means, at the same time explaining China’s standpoint – one of peaceful coexistence, cooperation and a win-win scenario where everyone benefits, especially those in need in emerging nations.

Thank you to those who attended the online AGM. It certainly lacked the warmth of a face-to-face meeting, but we achieved what we set out to do and I congratulate those who re-nominated and were appointed.

Next year, we are planning a whole raft of face-to-face (COVID-safe!) events which will hopefully culminate in the belated 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the ACFS. It will be a big party (we remember our 60<sup>th</sup>!) and we hope to have a special guest speaker. We will be in touch with details once we arrange a date.

Thank you for sticking with us through these hard times, both in terms of lockdowns and coping with the virus, and also in the face of unrelenting criticisms and lies about China, which we seem to have to refute daily. I am so encouraged by your strength, your solidarity and support. Thank you.

Stay safe and let’s look forward to a wonderful break and hopefully a very Merry Christmas, a wonderful New Year and above all, please stay safe.

*Anthony Leong President ACFS Vic Branch*

# ACFS VIC Branch Annual General Meeting Report

Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Annual General Meeting was held via ZOOM teleconference.

President Anthony Leong opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country, aboriginal elders and welcomed ACFS members.

The meeting was very short and only dealt with presentation of President and Treasurer's reports and election of Executive and Committee members.

As the number of nominations for Committee positions equalled the number of vacancies, there was no need for an election. The following members were declared elected to the Committee for the next year:

Anthony Leong: President

Tower Liu: Vice President

Ian Parker: Treasurer

Lia Cross: Committee Member

Darrell Egan: Committee Member

Damon Feng: Vice President

Robin Matthews: Secretary

Joe Montero: Committee Member

The meeting acknowledged the absence of Dong Chen who sadly did not re-nominate for a position on the Executive.

The President commented that Dong had devoted many years as Treasurer to the ACFS and as National Finance Officer for ACFS Ltd. This is a great contribution which must be applauded for furthering the ideals of our organisation and to improve greater understanding between the peoples of Australia and China.

In recognition of his significant contribution to the ACFS, the AGM moved the following resolution:

That our sincere thanks be conveyed to Dong Chen for his many years of valuable service as Treasurer and Committee Member of the ACFS. His loyalty and commitment to the ongoing work of the ACFS is to be commended and we look forward to seeing him at ACFS events in the future.

The Victorian Branch is planning a schedule of events for 2022 including our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations held over from last year and look forward to seeing you at these events.

# **MSO** Chinese New Year

Now in its ninth year and the first performance of Season 2022, the MSO's Chinese New Year celebration is one of Melbourne's premier cultural events, you don't want to miss!

This unique musical celebration features an all-star cast and is perfect for the whole family. It brings together the worlds of western operas and Chinese masterworks.

Joshua Tan will conduct the Orchestra through a variety of beautiful pieces including Mendelssohn's The Hebrides, Op.26 and Zhao Jiping's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in D minor, The Disillusioned Dream, featuring MSO audience favourite, Li-Wei Qin. Opera Australia stars, soprano Sharon Zhai and tenor Kang Wang will also feature, performing works from Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Turandot and more.

We look forward to celebrating a happy, safe and prosperous Year of the Tiger with you!

**Chinese New Year**  
7.30pm Saturday  
5 February  
Arts Centre  
Melbourne,  
Hamer Hall



Book now

In accordance with current Victorian Government health requirements, audience members attending this performance must show proof of their double dose vaccination against COVID-19, or medical exemption, and wear a fitted face mask except when eating and drinking.

Learn more about Arts Centre Melbourne's COVIDSafe measures.

*The MSO's annual Chinese New Year concert is supported by the Li Family Trust and presented in collaboration with Arts Centre Melbourne*



## 2021年博物馆圣诞免费开放日

请查看活动信息中文版

Celebrate Christmas and Melbourne's re-opening with free admission to the Chinese Museum.

Sunday, 19th December, 10am-7pm

You can view all our exhibits, participate in lantern making working workshops, watch performances of traditional Chinese music and pick up unique Christmas presents in our giftshop.

Afterwards, wander throughout Chinatown to soak up more of Melbourne city's Christmas festivities including lion dances, stage performances and more!

### Program of Events at the Chinese Museum

- Museum opens with free admission 10am-7pm (last entry 6.30pm).
- Lantern making workshops (45mins duration). Cost \$5 per lantern making kit. Taking place inside the Museum, on the hour. No bookings required, just show up.
- Chinese music performances, featuring the Erhu, Hulusi, Yangqin and Guzheng throughout the day.

# 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  
Tower Liu

TREASURER: Ian Parker

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