



# Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

## Newsletter

**June 2022**

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

PHONE: 61 478 530 515 E-MAIL: [ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ACFS.VIC@GMAIL.COM) WEB: [WWW.ACFS.COM.AU](http://WWW.ACFS.COM.AU)

FOLLOW US ON  TWITTER @ACFSVIC AND  FACEBOOK @ACFSLTD.



## President's Report

Greetings and I hope you are warm despite ongoing cold weather.

We are still awaiting confirmation of our special Guest Speaker for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and we will keep you up to date as news happens. We are also planning a panel discussion with some high-profile people with different viewpoints on China and things Chinese, so this will be another great event to attend.

Matters still continue thankfully to thaw between Australia and China, especially with the meeting of Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and the Chinese Minister for National Defence, Wei Fenghe in Singapore. Foreign Minister Penny Wong, meanwhile, has travelled to some parts of the Pacific, finally recognising the region has significance!

On June 12 and 13, the National ACFS held their AGM and Conference in Perth. There were many distinguished guests, including the Premier of Western Australia the Hon. Mark McGowan, the Chinese Ambassador to Australia H. E. Mr Xiao Qien, the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, H. E. Ambassador Lin Songtian and heads of both Beijing and Shanghai PAFFCs.

On the first day, I had the privilege of speaking to Conference about the important part the ACFS played in the Pacific, directly influencing outcomes for some Pacific nations, and giving advice. I cited the central role the ACFS played in the founding of the Pacific-China Friendship Association, and that body's impact in the region.

On the second day, I spoke to the ACFS National Directors' meeting about harnessing media to fight anti-China misinformation. I supplied a full list of

Western references and a comparison with Chinese media information. I urged people to use constructive, analytical methods to answer criticisms and to use facts, not just argument. Nobody likes to be lectured if they're wrong, and critics of China are no different. I gave 10 examples of where China is criticised and how these were wrong. The topics included Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, South China Sea, debt traps and Chinese expansionism. In all cases, using *Western* sources, I showed the West was contradictory at best, outright liars at worst.

I would like to thank the Western Australia Branch and President Simon Wu for hosting a very successful event and for giving me the opportunity to address the important delegates there. The entire Conference was enjoyable, and we all were happy to finally meet in person after so long in lockdown.

Stay well until we meet soon at our next function.

*Anthony Leong*  
*President ACFS Vic Branch*

## ACFS National Conference Perth 10 -12 June 2022

Our national conference held 10, 11, 12<sup>th</sup> of June was the first opportunity for us all to gather as one for quite some time. The conference was held in a slightly less sunny than usual Perth, at their conference and exhibition centre, which by the way makes Melbourne's "Jeff's Shed" look like a garden shed.

The weekend began with the annual Bill Morrow Lecture delivered by Stuart Crockett, the former Western Australian Trade Commissioner to China. He spoke of the extensive trade relationship WA has with China. Unsurprisingly, WA's biggest export to China is iron ore, followed closely by LNG. Although I understand not as much of this is processed on Western Australian soil as they would like, but that's a discussion for another forum.

The conference proper began at 9am on Saturday with an opening address from NP Robin Matthews, our national president, followed by WA Premier, the Hon Mark McGowan. If you were looking for an Australian leader to talk positively about our relationship with China, he is definitely your man. The premier is acutely aware of the significant portion of WA's income that is derived from trading with China.



*Bill Morrow Lecture delivered by Stuart Crockett*



*WA Premier Hon. Mark McGowan address to ACFS Conference*



*Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency Xiao Qian address to ACFS Confrence*

Premier McGowan was followed by the Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency Xiao Qian. Ambassador Qian also spoke positively about Australia's relationship with China but noted that it was not going to be healed overnight. He spoke of the extensive trade relationship between Australia and China and the obvious benefits to both countries, but did not address the current tariffs being applied to Australian imports.

Ambassador Songtian Lin, President of CPAFFC was more forthright in his view that Australia should not be telling China how to behave. President Lin acknowledged the difficulties with the current relationship, agreed it was repairable, but said it would take considerable effort and the resolution would not be all Australia's way.

Following morning tea, Anthony Leong, Secretary General PCFA, outlined the objectives of the association, and the importance of the relationships with China for the entire Pacific region.

Guest speaker, David Ling OAM JB, pastor and publisher, took the discussion beyond trade issues. Having written two books, *A Comprehensive Chinese Australian History (1818-2018)* and *Wake Up, China Souls! Dragon Seeds*





*Secretary General PCFA Anthony Leong speech*



*Guest speaker Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall*

*and the Fallen Civilisation*, David provided a brief overview of the history of our relationship, from the gold rush and indentured labour to the generations that followed to become part of the Australian fabric.

The next guest speaker, Professor Barry Marshall, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Clinical Microbiology, spoke of the link between technology and medicine heralding unexpected breakthroughs. The example he used was how technology had enabled researchers to identify stomach bacteria that have been shown to cause ulcers.

Lunch was followed by Madam Zhang Qian, Executive Vice President BPAFFC (via video link), touching again on the relationship between the two countries. As did Madam Jing Ying, SPAFFC, (again via video link) whose view was that the distance between two nations should not inhibit friendship. Madam Jing Ying also mentioned the book exchange program resulting in a significant library of Chinese Language books at the WA office in Perth.

B J Zhuang AM, former China Regional Director for the WA Trade Office, then talked about the extensive mining relationship between Western Australia and China, describing it as a win-win relationship. The discussion included a detailed analysis of the trade between China and Australia, including a \$25 billion liquified natural gas deal that resulted in a large LNG terminal being built in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, Southern Guangdong. China is believed to be the largest importer of Australian LNG. Then, the \$1.14 billion supply of iron ore to the Baosteel Group at China's deepest sea port in Ningbo, Nth East Zhejiang Province. This relationship is important enough for Baosteel to have an office in Perth.

Then, a break to explore Perth or put our feet up prior to the gala dinner that included a welcome to country and a short address by Simon Wu (WA Branch President). Entertainment was provided by two excellent sopranos and two tenors. The sumptuous meal included an excellent red from Howling Wolves, Margaret River. For those who don't know, Margaret River is the West's premium wine producing area.

*CPAFFC – China People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries*

*PCFA – Pacific China Friendship Association*

*BPAFFC – Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries*

*SPAFFC – Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries*

This link will take you to an excellent collection of the very impressive Ningbo sea port and its facilities: <https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Ningbo+Zhoushan+Port&mmreqh=PihZTGDMsqhWd2sykBOzwSa6jQ%2fVL%-2bO8SkjSUPbpHoM%3d&form=IDINTS&first=1&tsc=ImageHoverTitle>

## ACFS Ltd Report

ACFS Vic Branch attended the AGM of ACFS Ltd in Perth on Sunday 12 June. The AGM followed the National Conference and gala dinner.



*ACFS Ltd AGM Directors, Delegates and some WA branch members*

ACFS Ltd holds its biennial conference that is rotated around different Capital Cities in Australia with the exception of our 2020 Conference which did not proceed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Delegates from Victoria were Ian Parker and Joe Montero. ACFS Ltd Directors Robin Matthews and Tower Liu and ACFS members Anthony Leong and Lev Lafayette all made up the Victorian contingent.

Robin Matthews stepped down as National President and Jan Everett from Tasmania was elected as the new National President. Karla Orellana from

Queensland is the incoming National Secretary and Luo Yafei from Western Australia is the new Finance Officer.

As part of general business, the Victorian Branch proposed a motion which was fully endorsed. It reads:

**Preamble:** Following press reports on Saturday 11 June 2022, the National body of the Australia-China Friendship Society welcomes the news of the meeting invitation extended by Australia's new Trade Minister Mr Don Farrell to his Chinese counterpart Mr Wang Wentao.

**Motion:** The National body of the Australia-China Friendship Society is indeed heartened by Australia's initiative in line with Chinese expressions of willingness to enter into dialogue, and congratulates the Australian Trade Minister on fostering the spirit of cooperation and friendship, by inviting talks with his Chinese Trade counterpart Minister Wang Wentao. We commend the Federal government in its action and trust this is the first of many positive steps for the future of our two great nations.

## Cultural Notes by Lia Cross

### Two interesting events to report on this time:

**First**, on March 3rd, an important event took place at the Chinese museum regarding a little known fact in Australian history - the relationship between Chinese people from the Gold Rush days and their relationship to Australia's First People.

At the Seminar, a new Exhibition was featured which brought together Chinese artist Zhou Xiaoping, with the co-operation of Chinese-Aboriginal Australians, some of whom were present and presented their stories. Below, is a photo of Aboriginal-Chinese Stephen Loo, telling the story of his family.

This exhibition will eventually be part of a permanent display at the Chinese museum after it's refurbishment, but in the meantime, it will tour Australian cities and also be sent for display to various cities in China. What an exciting prospect!

The seminar was attended by a number of notable guests, including Dr. Mathew Trinca AM, Director of the Australian Museum in Canberra and





Chair of international Council of (COM) Museums, Australia; Kwong Lee Dow AO, and Mr. Gareth Evans.

The **second** event of note, a concert called “Sheng Shen Shimmer”, also took place at the Chinese Museum on June 4th.

This time we saw a collaboration between musicians Duncan Forster on electric guitar and Wang Zheng-Ting playing two very traditional Chinese instruments, the flute and the one pictured below which a traditional ethnic instrument. Mr. Wang amused us with stories of him trying to pass this unusual instrument through airport security. It’s unusual shape plus the fact that it incorporates metal parts, can be mistaken when held sideways, for an automatic machine gun when placed under a scanning machine. Hence, he now removes the instrument out of its carry case and shows it to security and even plays some notes on it to make sure they understand what it is!

Anyway, this collaboration of musicians produced a very unusual but most enjoyable concert. The musicians expressed their hope to take this concert



to a wider audience in the future. Wouldn't it be great to see them at the Salon at Melbourne's Recital Centre one day!

*Cheers from Lia Cross- ACFS Cultural Scout*

**Dear members,** we are currently rebuilding our membership database as many members seemed to have slipped through the cracks. So, if you have not heard from us regarding your membership renewal this is probably the reason, for which we are very sorry.

The annual membership is still \$30.00, you can transfer directly into our

CBA Account: Australia China Friendship Society  
BSB: 063 019  
ACC#: 1004 0625  
Or just pop a cheque in the mail.

Please make sure you include your name in the bank transfer

If you have any questions they can be addressed to [treasurer@acfs-vic.org](mailto:treasurer@acfs-vic.org) or contact Ian Parker 0418 541 490

## 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)