



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

August 2022

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President's Report

Hello and hope you're staying warm and safe.

Coming out of the lockdown part of COVID is not easy, juggling normal activity and staying safe. The pandemic is far from over, with Victoria experiencing one of the highest per capita death rates *in the world*. I admit to being astounded Victorians accept such a high level of death without outcry, yet 18 months ago, zero deaths was considered the ultimate prize. Once again, dollars triumph over lives. Still, whatever others do, continue mask-wearing, social distancing and hand-washing!

Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan, accompanied by her son who is President of two lithium mining companies, surprised most and garnered a swift response from China over the now under-threat 1-China Policy. Ms Pelosi's wilful diplomatic hostility and the use of her office to aid her son's business (Taiwan is a major source of lithium) is staggering arrogance and corruption. America has finally shown itself to be the Emperor with no clothes, wearing the two-faced mask of Janus (as I wrote [elsewhere](#)). It is bewildering that the USA and (still) deputy sheriff Australia, repeatedly engage in war rhetoric, bolstered by a pathetic, simpering press.

The media's egregious performance and arrogant rudeness to the Chinese Ambassador at last week's Press Club was a lesson in mob mentality and appalling political bias. The Press Gallery should take a long, hard look at itself and the Code of Conduct to which they purport to adhere. Their ugly, anti-China prejudice was overwhelming, with nothing like accurate reportage.

On a final, happy note, we are starting to move from the lethargy of lock-down and losing so much time in terms of meeting in person. To kick off, we are celebrating our 70th Anniversary (a year late!) and also the 50th Anniversary

of the diplomatic recognition of China by Australia, with a fund-raising dinner.

When: Thursday September 22, 6:30pm

Where: Red Emperor Restaurant, 133 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne

Cost: \$85 or \$65 concession per person

Booking:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acfs-70th-anniversary-gala-dinner-tickets-402273519927>

Dress: Business attire

Also if you're in the city, have a look at the window in Ross House – we were given the chance to display our wares on the street-front & there's an article and photos in this newsletter to show what was done. Thanks to Ian and Robin setting up the display.

So, book now for the dinner, have a look at our window if you're in town and we'll keep you informed of the other things we'll be doing soon.

Stay well and see you at the dinner (bring a friend or two if you can!).

*Anthony Leong
President ACFS Vic Branch*

National Report

The Board and Executive of ACFS Ltd met during the first week of August, the first meeting since our national conference in Perth in June.

The agenda consisted of the resignation of Nancy Chen from Western Australia and the election of Simon Wu from that state.

It was reported the ongoing construction of the website is nearing finalisation and this is a welcome development.

Invitations from Beijing Peoples Association for friendship with Foreign Countries to participate in two online forums on sports and international cultural friendships were tabled.

Specialist tours to China will hopefully resume next year.

The next meeting will decide on location and host for the 2024 National Conference.

Directors of ACFS Ltd are:

Jan Everett (Tasmania) National President

Shu Qin Li(Northern Territory) Senior Vice President

Tower Liu (Victoria) Junior Vice President

Casey Davidson (Queensland)

Simon Wu (Western Australia)

Executive Members are:

Robin Matthews Immediate Past President

Karla Orellana National Secretary

Luo Yafei National Finance Officer

Roz Hanley National Tours Officer

WINDOW DISPLAY

Ross House has provided the ACFS the opportunity to showcase our organisation during the month of August with a display in the large front window fronting Flinders Lane in Melbourne.

The Committee selected a range of artifacts and memorabilia previously presented to us, plus an information and contact details poster.

After two weeks, we have had several requests, so our efforts have resulted in positive feedback and we look forward to more enquiries.

Hopefully we can do this again next year.



Nancy Pelosi – Janus of the West



It is said that one is judged by one's actions, not words. With the recent visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the island of Taiwan, the world has witnessed a practical reversal of the USA's "One-China" policy, written and endorsed in 1971 by the UN and the USA.

China is vast, comprised of a huge land mass and major islands, over which

they have had dominion for centuries. Several times these islands have changed hands, usually by force (e.g., Hong Kong, Macau), but eventually they have returned to China's rightful sovereignty. Taiwan is the same, having been sequestered by fleeing traitors under the questionable 'leadership' of Chiang Kaishek. However, from 1971, Taiwan has been recognised as part of China, never a separate state.

Speaker Pelosi visited Taiwan on August 3, 2022, much against the will of her own Democratic Party, even US President Biden, who counselled against the trip, and various media outlets including the New York Times. Nevertheless, as a strident critic of China, Ms Pelosi took her country one step further in hostility.

China has played a significant role in the past 40 years helping emerging nations improve infrastructure, raise standards of living, and promote education. China has become economically stronger due to opening their economy to market forces. The Belt and Road Initiative has taken hold globally, giving a method of exchange and communication all can use without the usual sanctions of crippling

debt and indenture. What this means to the West is a loosening of their economic stranglehold on other countries, beginning a re-balancing of financial clout in favour of poorer nations. As China has been caring for these smaller countries for so long, they have become allies, partners in building a better, peaceful world. Anyone seen as jeopardising such progress will be seen as a wrecker, someone uninterested in equality, harmony, and a level playing-field. By Ms Pelosi visiting a Chinese territory and allying herself with secessionists, she is fomenting antagonism and deliberately flouting international agreements for personal, political gain. She is taunting China, pushing an ideology of confrontation and aggression. Even if mere rhetoric, this is terrible policy.

With the incredibly Anglo-Saxon AUKUS pact, conservative forces have coalesced around a mythical enemy (China), whilst selling military hardware under the guise of 'defence'. With submarines in particular promised to Australia in 30 years' time, it is proof positive the agreement is a toothless tiger, with meagre threats and inflammatory language. Even with a new Australian government, China is still referred to in dark tones of anger and enmity. Ms Pelosi can be seen as bolstering this militarism, with terrifying prospects.

In an increasingly complex and stressed world, nations cannot afford to be two-faced when it suits. As in life, they cannot tell lies and expect no consequences, especially if those lies escalate tensions and use proxies to fight ideological (and, Fates forbid, physical) wars. The West must realise their days of hypocrisy and rule are over. They can no longer hold others to ransom or blackmail them with military might and economic sanctions.

If we cannot hold frank dialogue with each other and help those in need of assistance, the planet is doomed. With Ms Pelosi's Taiwan visit, it shows the ugly face of US diplomacy and the blatant disregard for the sovereignty of other nations.

We should recognise it for what it is – not only has the Emperor no clothes, but he is wearing the mask of Janus.

Anthony Leong

The Difference between Chinese and Western Cultures

(中西文化比较)

The following article is based on a series of lectures I gave to my Chinese students studying business at HuaShang University in Guang Zhou. So, let's begin with an overarching statement. Chinese and many Asian cultures are "High Context" and Australia and most Western cultures are "Low Context." In high context cultures; information is conveyed implicitly, relationships are stable, there is no or very little concept of personal space, time belongs to everyone, and thinking is deductive with multiple sources of information and people make extensive use of non-verbal elements. In low context cultures; information is conveyed explicitly, relationships are short lived, personal space is rigidly defined, time is a commodity, thinking is inductive with a single source of information and people use extensive verbal elements.

The major differences don't stop there. Chinese believe in collectivism while Westerners believe in individualism. Unlike rigid Chinese culture, western culture allows freedom to express affection freely. While the Chinese believe in relationships, inner fulfilment and happiness, westerners believe in a materialistic approach, an emotional and a pragmatic outlook.

To fully understand Chinese culture you need to remember it is 5000 years old and largely unchanged. This has resulted in their own music, musical instruments, painting techniques, cuisine and traditional medicine. On the other hand western culture is constantly evolving. We believe it is more advanced and looks for adventure and exploration (although Zhen He did his own fair share of exploring). We westerners find Chinese culture quite complex compared to our own.

The average Chinese family have around 5m² of living space while westerners have around 40m². Western culture promotes a wealthy and luxurious life style. Westerners use given names to address people and the Chinese use family names. Having made these assertions, western cultures do vary between countries.

Next article I will look at Philosophy, Language, communication literature and painting. Meanwhile stay well for now.

Ian Parker

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
secretary@acfs-vic.org

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 secretary@acfs-vic.org