



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc). ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

October 2022

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President's Report

Hello and hope you are well and not too wet! I feel for the people suffering because of the torrents and the damage inflicted on so many. With Summer coming, we hope there is not much more rain to come.

As you know, we have had a very busy time. We had a wonderful anniversary dinner on 22 September at the Red Emperor Restaurant, and it was fully booked. What a great outcome and importantly, recognition of our 71 years of service, promoting friendship and understanding between our two countries. We were privileged and honoured to have guests from all the major Chinese organisations, plus our members. We welcomed the Minister Counsellor Mr Zhang Hua representing the Chinese Ambassador in Canberra, His Excellency Mr Xiao Qian, and the Acting Consul-General for Victoria and Tasmania, His Excellency Mr Zeng Jianhua. We had messages of congratulations from Friendship Associations throughout the Pacific, China, and Canada, as well as all the ACFS Branches here. Our National Body was represented too with the National President Ms Jan Everett (Tasmania) and new Executive member Mr Simon Wu (W.A.). It was also a time to thank our oldest members present, Mr Maurice and Mrs Eunice Leong. Coincidentally, it was the day of Maurice's birthday, so a cake was presented, as well as generous gifts from the Embassy on behalf of China and the Consulate. It was a celebration to remember!

Importantly, on the night of our Anniversary dinner, we celebrated



Mr Maurice Leong cutting his 103 Birthday Cake

the 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China. The ACFS in its early years strongly advocated for the recognition which came to reality with the election of the Whitlam Government in 1972.



Anthony Leong address to Members and Guests

putting behind it almost a decade of wasted opportunities, racism, and fear.

There are two notable events soon. First is the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Pacific China Friendship Association, of which we are a Board Member. This will be the first face-to-face meeting in three years, so it will be a great celebration on December 3 in Auckland, NZ. Our Branch has played a pivotal part in the Pacific, and it will be a pleasure to remain in that role.

The other event is our AGM, which will be held on Wednesday November 23 in the Hayden Ray-Smith Room, 4th floor, Ross House, 245 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, from 6.30pm. As per tradition, please bring a plate of food to share, as we consider it a little like a picnic, with food and drink for all. Our guest speaker will be Dr Bo Hu a Chinese language teacher. Come along to the first AGM we've had since COVID-19, listen to our speaker, learn what we will be doing in the coming year and enjoy the food and company.

See you at the AGM in November.

Anthony Leong President ACFS Vic Branch



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

12 September 2022

President and Members

Victoria Branch, Australia China Friendship Society

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Pacific China Friendship Association, it is my delight to offer our warm congratulations on the two remarkable milestones you are celebrating later this month.

The 70 years of the ACFS Victorian Branch, and 50 years of Australia's diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic of China, are significant achievements and reflect the tenacity with which the ACFS has successfully steered the relationship over 7 decades. A long history is sure to have its share of challenge, though no doubt the rewarding friendships and exchange between the two peoples has overshadowed any difficulties along the way.

The ACFS achievement is an encouragement to all our Friendship Associations, to stay the course and be true to our aims.

We wish you continued success and another 70 years of closer friendship, deepened understanding and greater exchange between the people of Victoria and the People's Republic of China.

Sincerely in friendship,



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

Remarks at the Celebration Dinner of Australia-China Friendship Society Victorian Branch

ZHANG Hua, Minister Counsellor
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia

President Anthony Leong of the ACFS Vic Branch, ACFS National President Mrs. Jan Everett, Acting Consul-General Mr. Zeng Jianhua, ACFS members and friends, Good evening!



It's my great pleasure to attend tonight's event. Let me start by conveying H.E. Ambassador Xiao Qian's warm congratulations to ACFS's 70th anniversary and sincere greetings to all the friends present.

The ACFS is a pioneer in China-Australia friendship. It was among the first societies globally to acknowledge the People's Republic of China and played a unique role in facilitating exchanges and understandings between the peoples of our two countries. There is a saying in China, "when

Minister Counsellor Mr. ZHANG Hua

drinking water, one should never forget its source." I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciations to your vision, significant contribution and longstanding support to China-Australia friendship.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic ties. Over the past half century, our bilateral relations have been steadily moving forward in general, with cooperation and friendship as its main features. The past couple of years witnessed a difficult situation in our bilateral relations, which was unfortunate. The change of government in Australia has provided us with a possible opportunity to reset the relationship. We have seen high-level

communications conducted and important consensus reached, both sides reconfirmed China-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and agreed to jointly celebrate the 50th anniversary. Now it's time for both sides to translate these consensus into concrete actions.

History is the best teacher. The deeper we understand the history, the greater initiative we can take to navigate the future. During his meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong last July, Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi put forward several proposals for resetting the relationship. These proposals are exactly the invaluable experience from the past years and should be further upheld in the future.

The first is to cultivate the correct perception of each other. Commitment to peace and harmony is deeply rooted in the mindset of the Chinese. China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. China's development aims to enable its 1.4 billion people to live a better life. China's policy of friendship and cooperation towards Australia remains unchanged. Our two countries have no historical grievance or fundamental conflict of interest between us, we have every reason to be good friends and partners.

The second is to seek common ground while reserving differences. Diversity is what makes our world an exciting place. China and Australia are different in history, culture, political system and development model. It is normal that we don't always look eye to eye. The Australians are proud of their multi-cultural diversity, while the Chinese have a fine tradition of inclusiveness. When we have different views, we should handle it in a constructive and calm manner, and never let our disagreement get in the way of our friendship.

The third is to promote mutual benefits and win-win. The collaborations between our two countries in various fields over the past 5 decades have yielded fruitful outcomes and greatly benefited our peoples. We've achieved many "number ones" in our practical cooperation. Here I give a small example: China is the largest growth market for agriculture exports and for the 12th consecutive years was Australia's most valuable market, far exceeds the Japanese and US markets. Our economy is highly complementary, as long as we bear in mind the fundamental interests of our countries, our cooperation will certainly deliver more tangible results.

The fourth is to enhance people-to-people connectivity. Amity between the peoples holds the key to sound relations between countries. Although China and Australia are geographically far apart, the friendship between our two peoples has a time-honored history. More than 100 pairs of sister provinces/states and cities have been established. Victoria is known as the "Education

State”, and China is the largest source of international students in Australia. Prior to the pandemic, China was Australia’s largest inbound market in terms of visitor arrivals and total visitor spend. We have many good stories in this regard. Such engagements have laid strong foundation for our diplomatic relations.

In the upcoming October, the Communist Party of China will hold its 20th National Congress, which is to draw blueprints for China’s development over the next five years and beyond, and add momentum to China’s modernization drive. In this historical process, China will always view Australia as a friend and partner of mutual benefit, with our concerted efforts, the potential for co-operation will be further unleashed. ACFS can certainly play an even more active role in this course.

In conclusion, I wish tonight’s event every success!

Thank you!



Mr Maurice Leong receiving gift from Embassy and Consulate-General

Speech by Acting Consul General Zeng Jianhua In celebration of the 71st Anniversary of the ACFS and 50th Anniversary of China-Australia Diplomatic Tie

Mr. Anthony Leong, President of the Australia China Friendship Society Victoria Branch,

Mr. Zhang Hua, Minister Counselor with the Chinese Embassy in Australia,
Dear Robin Mathews, Past National President of ACFS

Mr. Tower Liu, Vice President of ACFS Vic Branch, and Members of the Australia China Friendship Society, Dear old and new friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening! It’s a real delight and a great honor to join all of you tonight

at dinner hosted by the Australia China Friendship Society Victoria Branch. Thank my good old friend Anthony and Robin for your invitation.

I would like to extend, on behalf of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne and in my own name, my warmest congratulation on your 70th anniversary. My heartfelt appreciation and best regards also go to all friends present here tonight for your long-term support for the friendship between the Chinese and Australian people.



Acting Consul General Zeng Jianhua

Since its establishment in 1951, the ACFS has been playing an important role in promoting mutual understanding between our two peoples 20 odd years before the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia later in 1972. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between our two countries. Over the past 50 years, the relationship has never always been a smooth one, with ups and downs, in twists and turns, however, it has always been a strong people-to-people link based on mutual respect. This wouldn't happen without all friends' long-term support and efforts in promoting the friendship between our two peoples, including members of the ACFS Victoria Branch, and those in the early years passed away, my respectful regards.

I have been working in Melbourne for over 4 years. During this period, the Consulate General has maintained close relationship with the ACFS Victoria Branch. We together set up Chinese Language and Culture Award in 2018, with the aim to encourage and reward Victorian college students who make high achievements in Chinese language and culture learning. The award ceremonies were held respectively in 2018, 2019, and early this year. I'm looking forward to the ceremony to be held by the end of this year.

Last but not least, I would like to mention a special person present here tonight, Mr. Maurice Leong, a founding member of the ACFS. He is the person who deserves our appreciation and respect, Maurice is a witness, a founder, a

supporter, a contributor, a long-term hero in supporting the bilateral friendship between our two countries and two peoples. Today is his 103rd birthday, I still remember the occasion of his 100th birthday 3 years ago at the Chinese Museum, what a miracle like Maurice by defying or ignoring the passing of time. May joy, love and happiness surround you years ahead.

The Chinese Consulate General in Melbourne and I myself are willing to continue to work together with your society to promote the friendship between our two peoples. Let us join hands and make persistent efforts in this regard.

Thank you!

ACFS LTD REPORT

Robin Matthews

The Board and Executive of the ACFS Ltd met last week via ZOOM. This is the second meeting since the National Conference in Perth in June earlier this year.

The meeting received an invitation from the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to consider some joint projects, of which will be discussed at our next Branch meeting.

Proposed specialist tours to China were discussed, namely the Silk Road Tour and joining with the New Zealand China Friendship Association on a Long March Tour. These will only take place when China is opened up again to overseas travellers.

I gave a report on the Pacific China Friendship Association and the forthcoming Extraordinary General Meeting in Auckland during the first week of December. The PCFA expects representatives from the sixteen member associations and looks at mapping actions for the next four years. The ACFS is represented by our National President, Jan Everett.

The National President congratulated our Branch for the celebrations of our 70th Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China. In addition, Roz Hanley from Western Australia Branch was congratulated on her appointment as Foreign Member of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Development of the national website and consequently our Branch site are still a "work in progress" and will inform members as soon as they are up and working.

HISTORIC CERAMIC AND PAINTING ART EXHIBITION

To mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia, China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia and Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne will hold China Today Arts Week 2022.

The Path of Inheritance is an exhibition of works by Inheritors of Chinese Ceramic Intangible Cultural Heritage & Life on the Blackland: This is an exhibition of outstanding fine art works from Heilongjiang Province, China, being held at the Pacific Arts Centre 125, Adderley Street West, Melbourne VIC 3003 from Nov.1st to Nov.10th, 2022.

ACFS VIC 2022 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Australia China Friendship Society will take place on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 4th Fl Ross House at 6.30 PM.

The agenda will consist of Reports from the President and Treasurer, election of new office bearers (only if we receive more than one nomination per vacancy) and guest speaker.

This year we are fortunate that Dr Bo Hu will be our guest. He is a specialist Chinese language teacher and will speak about Chinese decedents learning their native language.

After the formalities, we will enjoy a selection of finger food refreshments that members bring to share.

Acting Consul General Zeng Jianhua will also be invited and we look forward to his attendant.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY VICTORIAN BRANCH INC.**

Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 6.30 PM
4th Floor Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne.

The Ordinary Business of the meeting will be to confirm the minutes of the last AGM, to receive the financial and other reports for the last financial year and to elect the Officers and Committee members of the Society.

ACFS Victorian Branch NOMINATION FORM 2022/23

All financial members of the Society are eligible to nominate for the Office of President, Vice President (2 positions), Treasurer, Secretary and Ordinary Committee Members (up to 6 positions). Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by the candidate. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

NAME OF NOMINEE:(print)

POSITION: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Ordinary
Committee Member (circle one only)

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE:

CONTACT DETAILS: Tel: Mobile:

EMAIL:

ADDRESS:

This nomination form must be delivered to: The Secretary, ACFS Vic Branch, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000, or email: secretary@acfs-vic.org not later than 7 days before the date fixed for the AGM.

All nominees are required to enclose a brief written introduction about themselves (maximum 150 words) with the nomination form. In the event of an election, the introduction will be circulated to members.

If you have any queries, please contact Robin on 0411 285 488

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
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