



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc).ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

November 2016

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President's Report, October-November 2016

I hope this finds you all well and gearing up for the end of the year and the season of bringing people together.

The past couple of months have been huge for ACFS Senior Vice-President John Breheny and Secretary Robin Matthews, as they prepared for and attended the inaugural Pacific~China Friendship Association (PCFA) conference in the Kingdom of Tonga.

With talks beginning in 2010 with John and furthered in 2012 by Robin and I in Chengdu, the PCFA has had a long journey of coming into being. Originally the idea of the Princess Royal of the Kingdom of Tonga, HRH



Princess Pilolevu Tuita, the PCFA now has around 10 member Friendship Associations, with more wanting to join. New President Dr Hiria Ottino from Tahiti is a competent and clear-thinking man who quietly solves problems and should be an asset in growing the body.



We all gathered in Nuku'alofa, capital of Tonga, to welcome delegates and guests from about a dozen different Pacific Island nations, from Hawaii to NZ. After prolonged and sometimes heated debate, we all agreed on an Interim Constitution and a communiqué, establishing the organisation. There is a report elsewhere by John with the document.

One of the things to come out of the conference was meeting Professor Yao Yao, aka the Kung Fu Panda! His presentation on China's "soft power" was as instructive as it was entertaining and Professor Yao travels the world talking on this topic. We suggest perhaps having him next year as our fundraising dinner speaker. We will have more details in the near future.

Finally, we are beginning planning for more informal meetings, around culture and food. We are also thinking of reviving our famous picnics, but closer to the city so more people can come along. If you have any suggestions for more activities, please tell us, as we hope to have at least 6-8 this coming year.

As we shape up for the end of the year, please stay safe, travel carefully and keep well.

Anthony.

China Surfs Pacific Wave

John Breheny

On October 25 in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita opened a conference to provide a network for greater cooperation, exchange and friendship between Pacific and Oceania nations and the People's Republic of China. The *Pacific~China Friendship Association (PCFA)* is an alliance of Oceania nations and China, creating an informal bridge between island nations.

Delegates from across the Pacific-Oceania region gathered to identify issues, discuss mutual areas of concern and methods of problem-solving, from the environment to the economy and finance.

The conference was joined by China's President of the Central People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Madame Li Xiaolin and representatives of most Pacific nations plus New Zealand and Australia.



Robin talks to Mme Li Xiaolin and Ms Mishka Tuifua

In her opening address, HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita stressed friendship, trust and reliability as the most important values of friends and despite challenges associated with small nations, self-reliance, learning from and supporting each other was vital: "...the Association will perform two functions, internal and external, weaving a strong, vibrant fabric to keep our nations sure and

sound...”



HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita addresses delegates

Mme Li continued the theme, stating, “...This (Association) will provide an important and ongoing link between (the) region and China, advocating on behalf of your nations and finding collective solutions...”

As Senior Vice-President, I and Federal Secretary Robin Matthews were Australia’s delegates to the conference, with Victorian President Anthony Leong elected PCFA Convenor by all delegates present.

In my presentation, I began with the history of the PCFA’s beginnings. I said that unity with common wishes for independence and harmony were keystones and inaccuracies about China should be corrected to maintain balance and peace. I went on to say “...present policies of the West are leading to an ever increasing risk of our countries being drawn into a needless and potentially catastrophic conflict...”, and that the only way forward is by “... diplomacy, discussion and negotiation...”, a view which was generally shared.

The conference continued with me leading discussions over the new Association’s Interim Constitution and formal resolutions, which drew heated debate but final consensus, with all members unanimously endorsing and ratifying both documents.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in Hainan, China, in late-2017. In the meantime, there is much work to be done to enlarge the membership and enhance ties between all participants.

Photos from: Pacific~China Friendship Association conference



John in private talks with HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita, Mme Li Xiaolin and Mr Chen Tie, Chinese Chargé d'Affaires



Secretary of Tonga China Friendship Association & New President of the Pacific~China Friendship Association with Anthony Leong

**Pacific~China Friendship Association
Communiqué
Kingdom of Tonga, 27 October 2016**

The inaugural conference of the Pacific~China Friendship Association was successfully held between 25-27 October 2016, at Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga.

In attendance were delegates from the China Friendship societies from Australia, Fiji, Maori, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Tonga. Apologies were received from the Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu. Observers were from Australia-China Friendship and Exchange Association, Hawaii and New Caledonia.

The Conference commenced with an opening ceremony, dedicated by the Reverend Dr Tevita Havea, Secretary-General of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. Welcome remarks were presented by the Honourable Semisi Sika, Minister of Tourism and Infrastructure.

The main keynote speeches were presented by HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita, President of the Tonga-China Friendship Association, who declared the Conference open, and Mme Li Xiaolin, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

A further keynote speech was delivered by the Honourable Siaosi Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga. In addition, a vote of thanks was given by Mr Chen Tie, Chargé d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Tonga.

The opening hymn and musical contributions were provided by the Tonga Tertiary Institute Choir.

Conference delegates unanimously elected HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita to be permanent Patron of the Pacific~China Friendship Association and Dr Hiria Ottino (Tahiti) was elected as the Association's President. Mr Anthony Leong (Australia) was appointed as Convenor.

During proceedings, HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita and Mme Li Xiaolin signed a Memorandum of Understanding for friendly cooperation between the Pacific~China Friendship Association and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

At the resumption of the Conference on 26 and 27 October 2016, a Constitution was approved and the following resolutions were made:

1. That the Pacific-China Friendship Association resolves to promote friendship and understanding between all Members and the People's Republic of China;
2. That the Association resolves to co-operate in projects of mutual interest, including cultural, educational and economic activities;
3. That the Association resolves to freely disseminate information between present and future Members in matters of benefit or advantage to the membership in whole or part;



Pacific~China Friendship Association October 2016

4. That the Association will work to correct misunderstandings, inaccuracies and misleading information published about any Member and the People's Republic of China;
5. That the Association will provide information in endeavours or activities, to promote people-to-people friendship, respect and understanding to all;
6. That the Association asserts its independence and endorses an independent Pacific without fear or favour.

With the historic foundation of the Pacific~China Friendship Association, our Members look forward to a stimulating and productive future in terms of regional cooperation and increased people-to-people ties between our Members and the People's Republic of China.



HRH Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita
Patron, Pacific~China Friendship Association.
27 October 2016.



Pacific~China Friendship Association October 2016

2016 Chinese National Day dinner celebration

by: Wai Ching Chan

On 26 September 2016, the yearly Chinese National Day dinner was celebrated at Happy Receptions restaurant in Ascot Vale. The evening shower that accompanied arriving guests was a welcome respite from the heavy pollen sweeping the city. More than 140 societies and associations were represented at the dinner, with the ladies dressed in their best evening finery, and the men looking regal in their suits and *samfus* (Chinese suits).



The evening opened with its traditional loud fanfare of a pair of Chinese lions dancing to cymbals clangs and drumbeats, courtesy of the Chinese Masonic Society. The audience sang the National Anthems of China and Australia before tucking into the first dish of suckling pork and jellyfish platter. The newly arrived Chinese Consul General Zhao Jian to Melbourne made his formal appearance with a speech emphasizing the strong economic and political ties between China and Australia. He noted that China is Victoria's biggest trading partner, providing huge streams of state revenue in tourism and education. He is encouraging continuing efforts to strengthen ties

between the two nations with their common agenda of building world peace and mutual economies.

Mr Hong Lim MP, representing Mr Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria, also referenced the Australian forefathers who trekked the long journey from South Australia to Victoria in search of prosperity during the 'gold rush'. Just like our forebears, the current trade flows between Australia and China is not unlike the search for wealth. He applauded ongoing efforts at cultural exchanges - the showcase of Chinese artefacts from the Emperor Qianlong 'A Golden Age of China' exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, and the 2017 National Ballet of China performances. These cultural exchanges help foster better cultural ties which in turn improve relationship between the two countries.

ACFS Victoria was well represented with a table of ten and a donation of \$300 to the event. The menu that evening was a delectable spread of crustaceans, steamed fish and battered pork. This was balanced by a healthy spread of steamed enoki, black fungus, Shanghai *bok choy*, and a well-braised dish of abalone, mushroom and cabbage. Guests were treated to high quality singing from an array of soprano and traditional singers whilst tucking into their food. There were mainstream Cantonese songs, Cantonese operas and folk songs sung. The evening was a success judging by the frenetic pace of people networking, eating or chatting. Indeed, it was a reliving an annual ritual of meeting old acquaintances and making new ones.

ACFS National is seeking expressions of interest for their tours scheduled for 2018. Some suggestions put forward include a music tour (exploring genres in jazz, jazz fusion, Chinese opera, minorities' folk music amongst others), a photography tour and a migratory bird watching tour.

Pease advise if you would be interested in any of the above tours by emailing to Wai Ching Chan at janizch@yahoo.com

Ideas for future tours would also be greatly welcomed.

ACFS looks forward to your input. Kindly email to us by end of November 2016 if possible.

Thank you.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australia-China Friendship Society, Victorian Branch Incorporated will be held on **Wednesday 23rd November, 2016** at 7pm on the 4fl 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 statement and the reports for the last financial year and to elect the Officers and Committee members of the Society.

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ACFS Victorian Branch NOMINATION FORM 2016

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:

This nomination form must be delivered to: The Secretary, ACFS Vic Branch, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000 or email: acfs.vic@gmail.com 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. Note that the introduction will be circulated to members at the AGM.

ACFS (VICTORIA) Inc. A0038007M ABN NO. 39 746 574 225

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

PRESIDENT:	Anthony Leong	COMMITTEE:	Neil Barker
			Amy Chan
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Breheny		Wai Ching Chan
	Tower Liu		Louise Clayton
SECRETARY:	Robin Matthews		Lia Cross
TREASURER:	Dong Chen		Charles Jenkins

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

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If undelivered please return
to ACFS Victorian, 4th Floor
- Ross House 247 Flinders
Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

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.