



Australia-China Friendship Society

Victorian Branch (Inc). ABN 39 746 574 225

Newsletter

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October 2017



We are climbing out of our cold weather and the sun is shining as I write this to you and we are slowly ramping up our activities after winter.

In September, we held an invigorating dinner/fundraiser at Restaurant 369 in the city. Our guest speaker, Labor Shadow Attorney General Mark Dreyfus, was an entertaining, engaging and approachable guest. He happily chatted with everyone and spoke about the challenges and advantages of the Australia/China relationship and how it can grow. He outlined his vision of how Australia would deal with the US/Australian alliance as well as a burgeoning China market and increasing influence, saying a balance could and should be struck. Lively discussion and debate took place before Mark finally had to leave after dinner. Hopefully there will be many more such engaging events.

We were invited to attend the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka's (MADE) Robe exhibition in Ballarat, before it was moved to the Immigration Museum in Melbourne. It's worth a look before it goes off to China, where it will be seen in Beijing and Nanjing. We were able to help the people from Nanjing obtain the exhibition when they were here as our guests in August.

We also attended a National Day event hosted by the Chinese Consulate at the Park Hyatt two weeks ago. It was very crowded, but agreeable, meeting up with old friends and making new ones. As entertainment, our dear friend ShuQin Yu sang, which was as always wonderful to hear.

We need to be talking about next year's Federal Conference being held here, so there's lots to discuss & do. If you want to be part of it, please let Secretary Robin Matthews know and she will gladly allocate you a job!

Finally may I remind you all of our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 21 November, 2017, from 7pm. Please come along, bringing a plate or something to drink and share, as we normally do. Bring friends too and anyone interested in China and Chinese matters – we want new members and the AGM is a good time to hear what we do and our plans.

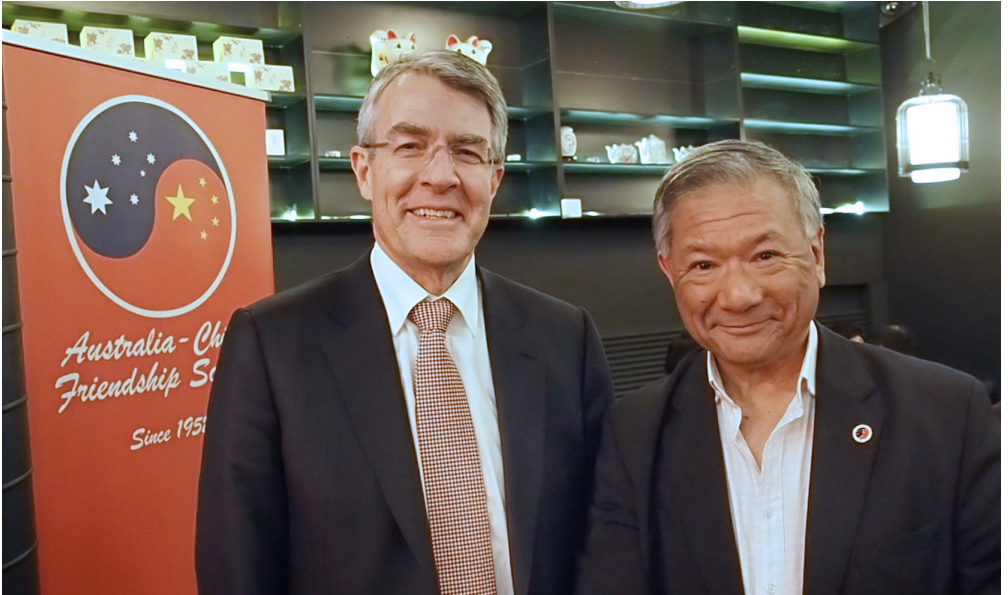
I look forward to welcoming you then.

Anthony M Leong

ACFS VIC BRANCH DINNER

Wow, what a great night we had! Over 50 members and friends gathered at Restaurant 369 in Melbourne to enjoy sumptuous food and listen to our guest speaker the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP talk about Labor and Australia's relations with China.

Anthony, our President, welcomed everyone and wished them a successful and enjoyable evening.



Mark spoke about his visits to China and the historic visit of Gough Whitlam in 1971 which was the fore-runner of a long and successful relationship with Labor Governments and the People's Republic of China. He commented that we now have a better understanding of China and the mutual relationship will benefit both countries into the future especially around the areas of climate change, trade and security. He pointed out the difficulties learning Mandarin language for Australians that must be overcome to increase understanding between our two countries and was critical of the current Federal Government for not supporting and promoting the study of Asian languages enough in our schools.

Freedom of navigation rights in the South China Sea was seen as important, but Australia should not take sides and any issues should be resolved diplomatically. He said it was a false choice to say Australia has to decide to

support one country over another. It is important to take the long view with a successful negotiation of our relationship.

He praised the ACFS for their ongoing work in promoting the friendship and understanding between the two countries and pleased to see our organisation is thriving.

Zhou, Yujiang Consul, from the Chinese Consulate in Melbourne was also our



guest and he congratulated Mark Dreyfus on his address. He referred to the long history of ACFS and our work in developing the close ties between the peoples of Australia and China. Mr Zhou spoke of the work the Andrews Labor Government is doing to promote the learning of Chinese language in Victorian schools, encouragement of the Young Leaders Program and the Premier's pledge and that of his Ministers to visit China. This all looked good for future relations.

The evening was a great success and is grateful for the many donations that were received on the evening. Over \$1882.00 was raised which will hosting our ACFS National Conference next year.

Robin Matthews

ACFS Members at Dinner



Jiangsu Youxie visit

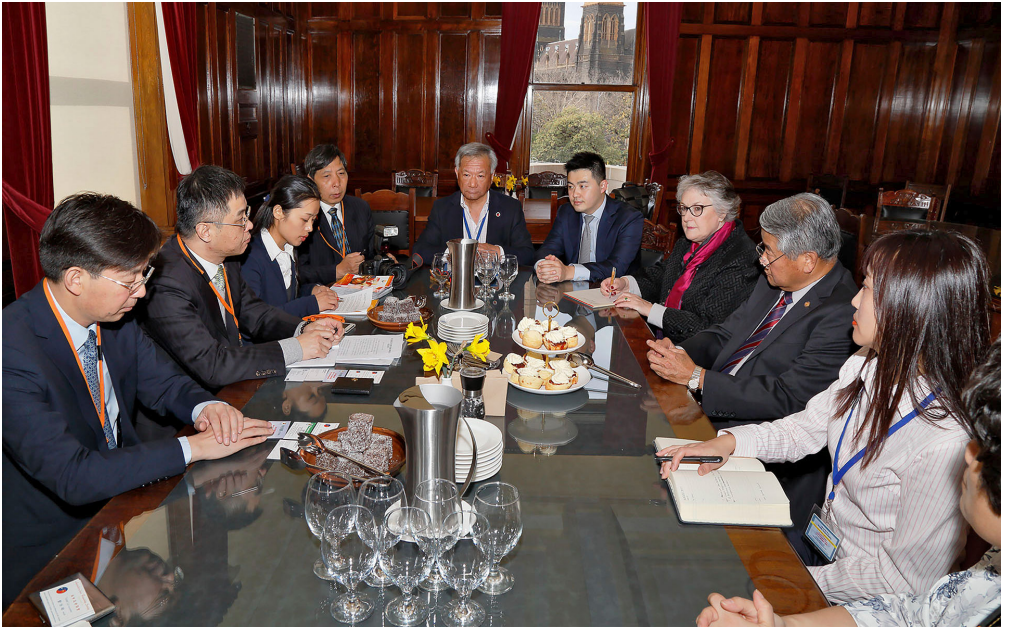
Back in August, the ACFS Vic Branch hosted a delegation of six visitors from Jiangsu Province.

The visit was a brief one and consisted of a meeting at Parliament House and a visit to the Immigration Museum in Flinders Street to view the setting up of the exhibition “From Robe to Chinese Fortunes”. The exhibition curated by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka in Ballarat is planning to travel to Beijing and hopefully Nanjing at the conclusion of the exhibition here in Melbourne.

The Parliament House meeting was hosted by Hong Lim MP and supported by Marty Mei Special Advisor to Premier Andrews, Sarah Masters and Cash Brown from MADE. Tower Liu, ACFS Vic Branch Vice President and Robin Matthews ACFS Vic Branch Secretary also attended the meeting.



The Delegation with Anthony, Robin and Tower at Parliament House



ACFS President, Anthony Leong welcomed the visitors and expressed sorrow that they were not staying longer in Melbourne.

Anthony highlighted that Victoria has the largest growth in investment and development, especially in the areas of health, education and infrastructure. Last year, Victoria provided more new jobs than the rest of Australia together and we are growing faster and stronger than anywhere else in this country.

“Several weeks ago we were at a company which supplies products for new babies. In talks with the management, Premier Andrews said that company should contact designers and manufacturers in Jiangsu and that Victoria already had a strong relationship with Jiangsu since 1979. This shows Jiangsu is uppermost in the mind of the Victorian government and businesses,” he said.

Delegation members were urged to return and spend more time in Melbourne in future where they can then have meaningful discussions with our Society and others about closer ties and the mutual benefits which will flow from such dialogue.

Robin Matthews

ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT THE ANCIENT CITY GATE OF XIAN

As part of the Chinese – Australia Year of Tourism 2017, ACFS Vic branch Vice President Tower Liu and Kim Luu attended the cultural performance titled “Dream of Ancient Changan”



Tower and Kim were invited by the China National Tourism Board and the event was organized by the Shaanxi Provincial Development Commission. Over 800 Australian tourists attended the event on 14 September 2017.

The show was a replica of a traditional Tang Dynasty welcoming ceremony usually performed for high ranking officials in ancient times.

The performance has only been held three times over the last ten years and this time it was specially produced for Australian tourists. The show was a theatrical wonderland with hundreds of local artists, dancers and ancient music.

Xian is the oldest of the four great ancient capitals being the capital under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Western Zhou, Western Han, Sui and Tang. Xian is the starting point of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

Cultural Notes

FILM I hope that many of you were able to make it to some of the film offerings by MIFF (Melbourne International Film Festival) back in August.

The Australia/China /USA piece “King of Beijing “directed by Sam Voutas was a treat! Father and son team Big Wang and Little Wang make a living by copying films they project (not always successfully as the opening scene proves) at a cinema in an outer suburb of Beijing and then flog as poor quality DVD’s until their subterranean illegal lair is discovered and they are busted!

This brought back memories of copied films you could purchase on Beijing streets for a pittance (and some people actually purchased encouraging the trade), where you could view the top of spectator’s heads at the bottom of the screen.

The humorously presented story of the relationship between father and son living precariously in underground stage rooms or their problematic three wheeled vehicle, was intertwined with that of a broken marriage where the unconventional father and unforgiving, critical wife, fight for the wellbeing of their son at every meeting as they share their parental duties.

The Tiger Mother wins the day as the young son finally accepts the inevitability of a steady, study crammed life instead of the freer but unsteady living provided by his Dad. A heart-warming and unfortunately all too typical story of Beijing fringe dwellers captured cleverly on film.

The other two films presented at the Festival were the Sundance Special Jury Prize award winning story of dubious characters (a travelling soap salesman, crook monk and two hapless policemen) in an abandoned village in wintry North China (which reminded me of the Theatre of the Absurd) by director Jun Geng, and the cinematically stunning crime drama by director Yang Heng.



THEATRE I did attend this year’s offering at the Melbourne Festival, “Under Siege”. This absolutely incredibly staged piece told the story of the political intrigues surrounding the ancient Battle of Gaixia between the Western Zhou represented by warlord Xiang Yu, and the Han, represented by warlord Liu Bang. Intertwined with the battle story wonderfully depicted by truly talented dancers, the legendary

love story of Xiang Yu and his favourite concubine Yu Ji , is exquisitely told. The contrast between the fierce leader and the tender lover Xiang Yu as presented by He Shang was masterful as and the playful interactions between the two selves of Han Xin ; White (Xiao Fuchun) and Black (Ouyang Tian) as his duplicitous alter ego.

The staging, ominously framed by a symbolic curtain of sharp scissors can only be described as spectacular. The costumes were sumptuous , and the accompanying music on classical instruments , under the direction of Chief Choreographer/Director Bai, made an unforgettable theatrical experience. I hope you managed to catch it!

Lia Cross- ACFS Cultural Scout

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Australia China Friendship Society Victorian Branch is currently updating our membership lists.

It appears that many memberships have lapsed and we have send letters asking if you wish to renew your subscription. If you would like to continue your membership, could you please pay for any outstanding dues as soon as possible to ensure continuity. Membership fees are due in October each year.

Family	\$40.00
Single	\$30.00
Concession	\$15.00

You can pay directly into the ACFS Victoria Branch Account - BSB: 063-019, Account no. 10040625. You must put your name in the subject line and email receipt no. to acfs.vic@gmail.com If you do not have internet banking facilities, you can send a cheque to:

Treasurer
ACFS Vic Branch
Level 4, Ross House
Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000

Notification for all activities is by email or our newsletter. We would very much like to invite you, but can only do so if you are a financial member and we have your current contact details.

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 Tuesday 21st November, 2017 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 2017/18

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.

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

COMMITTEE: Amy Chan

VICE PRESIDENT: John Breheny
Tower Liu

Wai Ching Chan

Lia Cross

SECRETARY: Robin Matthews

Damon Feng

TREASURER: Dong Chen

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