

News Letter

June 2009

Australia-China Friendship Society Victorian Branch

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Welcome Dear Friends



Back Row: Anthony Leong; Douglas Chen; Joe Montero; Barry Pond; Mr Boming Qing; Phil Parker; Tower Liu; Neil Barker; Craig Skinner; John Breheny. *Front Row:* Cleo; Louise Clayton; Chi Sun.

VICTORIA HOSTS DELEGATION FROM BEIJING

By Louise Clayton, President ACFS

Two representatives from the Beijing Head Office of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Youxie) visited Australia in June for a ten day friendship tour which included Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Hobart.

The representatives were Mr Qing Boming, Deputy Director General Department of American and Oceanian Affairs, Youxie and Ms Sun Chi (known as Cathy), staff member of Youxie. Vice Presidents Tower Liu and Joe Montero and I had previously met Mr Qing and Cathy in China last year, when we attended the

Friendship Forum and Sister Cities Conference, so it was lovely to be able to return the hospitality.

Whilst in Melbourne, the pair was hosted in "home stay" accommodation, which they enjoyed, as it gave them some insight into the daily lives of Australians. Committee members were very helpful and between us we managed to give them an overview of some of Melbourne's attractions. During their time here they were given a tour of the city, and visited the Botanical Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance. A visit to the Immigration Museum provided our guests with some interesting background and insights into Australia's multicultural history, particularly in light of the early Chinese immigration to Australia in the 1830s.

They were warmly welcomed by Councillor Kevin Louey of the Melbourne City Council and were given an informative tour of the town hall.

A highlight of their stay was a visit to Parliament House where they attended Question Time and an afternoon tea hosted by the Hon George Seitz MP and the Hon Ken Smith MP, joint Chairmen of the Victorian Parliamentary-China Friendship Group.

Our committee hosted a dinner for our guests at the famous Chloe's Restaurant where members had the opportunity to get to know Mr Qing and Ms Sun. Finally, we farewelled our guests for the next and final leg of their trip to Hobart. Mr Qing hopes that Youxie will return to Australia in 2011 when they intend to visit the other branches of the ACFS.

We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of extending our hospitality and the hand of friendship to our Youxie friends, and we look forward to meeting them again soon.

To pay your member fee on line or at the bank to make cash deposit:

ACFS VICTORIA BRANCH AT COMMONWEALTH BANK
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Then to notified ACFS secretary by e-mail or just make a phone call.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN JUNE 2009

It has been a busy couple of months since the last newsletter.

In May we met with two delegations from China organised by the Shanghai Branch of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Youxie).

The first delegation, led by Mrs Zhang Lili, Chairperson of the Shanghai Women's Federation, comprised representatives of the Federation who were visiting Australia as part of a friendship tour, and to attend the opening of a crafts exhibition in Sydney.

A few of our women members met with the group, and over lunch we discussed a range of topics including women's and children's affairs, trade unions and their role, working conditions of women and other matters of general interest.

Later that month our committee had the opportunity to meet with a delegation of Shanghai Youxie representatives, led by Mr Chen Longxing, Deputy Secretary General, Shanghai Youxie.

At our meeting, discussions were held about additional and better ways to promote exchanges between our two organisations. These might include educational exchanges such as the establishment of sister-school projects between Australian schools teaching Chinese and their Chinese counterparts.

The delegation enjoyed their taste of Italy at the Italian restaurant in Carlton, and we hope to be able to follow up on our discussions in the future.

We have also recently hosted a delegation from Beijing, a report of which appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Overall we have been very pleased to have had the opportunity to welcome our friends from China and to exchange news and views as to how to better facilitate friendship and understanding between our two peoples.

Finally, I wish to remind members that we have our next film night coming up on Friday 31 July, so I hope to see you there.

Louise Clayton

SPORTING FRIENDSHIPS BETWEEN CHINA AND AUSTRALIA

In 2008 three members of the Victorian Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society were our representatives at an important Friendship Conference in China. During that time they met and worked with Qing Boming, Deputy Director General Department of the American and Oceania Affairs of the Beijing Youxie.

Recently Beijing Youxie leader Boming and his associate Sun Chi spent a busy two days in Melbourne as part of a whirlwind Australian tour. In that time members of our Friendship Society were able to return some of the hospitality that was received in China last year.

They had a very busy two days in Melbourne and one of the unique activities they were able to experience was a quick visit to Melbourne International Tennis School located, at East Keilor Tennis Club.

Phil Parker, Managing Director of Asia Australia Sports Education (AASE), took Qing Boming, Sun Chi and Tower Liu (Vice-President, ACFS Victoria Branch) out to East Keilor Tennis Club on the Monday afternoon, where they helped to celebrate 10 years of Chinese tennis at Melbourne International Tennis School.



They arrived at the Courts at 4.00pm and it was still a beautiful blue sky Melbourne day. The players had already begun their warm down session in the nearby Gymnasium. Boming talked with Yang Zan, who was Chinese 18 & Under Doubles

Champion two years ago. Yang is from Tianjin and currently a Year 12 VCE student at Essendon Keilor College. Yang came here as a result of a promotion that was held in Tianjin as part of the Sister City Program with Melbourne.

Qing Boming was very impressed to see that in this group of players were other International students from Italy, Germany, India, Japan and of course Australia. However he missed seeing 17 years old Kunming female player Zhang Shuying, who was injured and having a rest day.

Chinese students who have done 2-3 years in the VCE Schooling and Tennis Program have come from many cities including Beijing, Heliogjiang, Tianjin, Hong Kong and Kunming.

Since 1999, AASE has assisted over 40 Chinese players come to Australia for tennis training at Melbourne International Tennis School for periods of time ranging from 1 week to three years. This Program has also consistently maintained a strong international flavour with players from Nepal, Britain, New Zealand, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, India, Germany, Chile, Austria, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Over this 10 years period, AASE has made 20 trips to China and arranged Tennis Training Clinics in more than 15 different locations. In 2004 AASE arranged to act as a Sponsor of the Beijing Tennis Festival at the National Tennis in Fengtai District and Michael Baroch was the Guest Coach in junior skills clinics, which were televised by BTV and CCTV 6.

AASE negotiated diplomatic and financial assistance from the City of Melbourne to hold the inaugural National Chinese Tennis Coaches Conference held at Beijing Sports University. Now more than 200 Coaches from across China have participated in three National Tennis Coaches Conferences spread over four years at Beijing Sports University. These Conferences have been run cooperatively in partnership with the China Tennis Association.

The Conferences provide important assistance to the development of Chinese tennis

by improving the technical skills of hundreds of coaches.

As a key event in the China tennis calendar, the Conference will spread its influence by shifting to other cities in different Provinces in the future. This starts with Chengdu in Sichuan this coming September 2009 and hopefully in Nanjing Jiangsu Province (sister State to Victoria) over the coming April/May holidays in 2010.

AASE has worked closely with Michael Baroch, who is the best Coach of International Juniors in Australia. Michael has coached Sharapova, Philippoussis and worked with Tony Roche /Ivan Lendl for seven years.

AASE assisted with negotiations for MITS head coach Michael Baroch, to work training many of China's best young juniors for the Shanghai Ba-Shi Shuang Qian Tennis Club between 2003 – 2007, AASE also arranged for Michael to undertake Training stints with the Provincial Teams of Tianjin in 2007 (supported by the City of Melbourne Office in Tianjin).

Through AASE's long terms cooperation with Century Tennis Club, Chengdu, Michael will work with 10 members of the Sichuan Provincial Team to improve their performance in the approaching National Games in October. This will include coaching China's top women doubles players Zheng Jie and Yan Zi. Michael first met Yan Zi in 2002 during a coaching session at China Tennis School in Daxing. He also had contact with them when the Chinese Women's National Team trained at MITS Riverside Centre at Ascot Vale in 2004. During this 2-3 week session he will also conduct a three days Conference for Chengdu Coaches and a corporate weekend for innovative Chengdu "entrepreneurs".

During the coming Chinese Summer holidays (July/August), 10 young Chinese players from Guangzhou and Chengu will be training in Melbourne for 1 to 3 months.

Friendship between the peoples of Australia and China can take many forms; it is positive that Australia's excellent tennis training resources are being shared with young Chinese people and helping to provide another avenue for effective relations between the two countries.

Source: Phil Parker Editor: Neil Barker

Teaching In Hubei Province China A Reflection

By Barry Pond

I was employed as a Foreign English Teacher from mid June 2002 until the end of November 2002. I initially started work at a Teachers Training School, and at the commencement of the first term I taught at the Shi Yan Junior Middle School. Both schools are located in Jianli County, Hubei Province, the Peoples Republic of China.

Hubei Province is located in south central China; it has a population of approximately 58.3 million and covers an area of 187,400 square kilometres. Because this is an inland province, temperatures vary considerably on different occasions during the year; in summer time 43 degrees Celsius is considered normal, in winter it gets below zero degrees Celsius. Wuhan is the provincial capital. It is located on the Yangzi (Chang Jiang) River and has a population of 7.2 million people. Jianli County, located on the same river, is some 250 kilometres southwest of the Wuhan and has a population of approximately 1.7 million.

Education in China is a national not a provincial responsibility. Hence, the syllabus is uniform throughout the country. Students attend Primary School for six years; Secondary education consists of three at a Junior Middle School followed by another three years at a Senior Middle School. Students attend Junior Middle School for five and half days a week, Senior Middle School students are at school for six and a half days a week.

The official language of the PRC is what we call Mandarin and what the Chinese call (putonghau – common speech) which is a Beijing based dialect. At home students' will often speak their own dialect; however, all students commence Mandarin at grade 1 in primary school. Primary students also commence English in grade 4. Mandarin and English are compulsory subjects in the Chinese school system.

Within the secondary school, my smallest class was exactly 50 students, but the numbers increased substantially after that with 2 classes in the high sixties and 3 classes in the high eighties. My largest class was 93 students.

At the Teachers Training School we had 64 students; they were English teachers from primary and secondary schools. In many instances their English grammar and spelling were good; however, their pronunciation was the area that required a good deal more training.

At the secondary school, where I taught the equivalent of year 7, there was a prescribed text for every subject. Each text is specifically designed for that subject and used by all schools throughout the nation. The topics I taught included the writing, spelling and pronunciation of the following:

- **Parts of a room,**
- **Kitchen utensils,**
- **Days of the week,**
- **Months of the year,**
- **Family relationships,**
- **Provinces in China & their capitals,**
- **Foreign countries & their capital cities.**

The Teachers Training School provided ongoing training for primary and secondary teachers in Jianli County. I was asked to prepare the training schedule for all of the classes I taught. All students had to deliver at least 3 individual presentations. In addition, the class was divided into 13 syndicates; for the purpose of group discussion, evaluation and presentation by a group member. Topics covered included:

- **Agreeing & disagreeing,**
- **Apologies & responses,**
- **Interrupting & preventing it,**
- **The family unit,**
- **Stereotypes & xenophobia,**
- **The changing role of women in China.**

The final topic caused more than a little debate between the students; some of the older men yearned for yesteryear when most married women stayed home and cared for children, performed domestic chores and worked in the fields. Surprise, surprise the female teachers, including those that were married, strongly disagreed with this view. Many of them compared their opportunities with those of their mothers and grandmothers, some of whom had arranged marriages and many who had a life of domestic servitude with little or no educational

opportunities. One female student concluded with the following quotation, "Chair Mao stated that women hold up half the sky".

The students that I taught at the secondary school were approximately 12 to 13 years of age, there were roughly equal numbers of boys and girls, yet the girls in every class significantly out performed the boys in oral English. One theory I have heard to explain this, is that girls of this age are more physiologically and psychologically advanced than their male counterparts. However, the students in the Teachers Training School ranged from 22 to 52 years of age, yet here again the best students were female. In my experience, Chinese females in the main are linguistically more proficient than their male counterparts.

Almost without exception most of the students I taught had never met a foreigner before. Getting stared at is an initial occupational hazard for a foreign teacher, however, there are other hazards as well, I was about to leave one of my classes in the secondary school, when one of the students asked me to sign their text book, I obliged, then within a fraction of a second more than 50 books were pushed at me, by over zealous or over enthusiastic students all wanting their books signed. I was crushed against the class room wall. I learn from that experience, when similar request were made in my other classes, I asked the students to come outside with me, line up and I then signed their books in production line style.

I'd like to conclude this article, by sharing segments of an interview I had with a provincial newspaper journalist. He asked me why had I come to rural China to teach, I replied, two thirds to three quarters of the Chinese population live in rural areas, and this was my way of leaning and working with them. Only then can you begin to understand more about the Chinese people. The same journalist posed another question to me, "what do you wish for the people in the future", I replied, "it is my firm desire that all Chinese children be given the opportunity to complete their education, that medical services should be made available to the entire population and that all retired people should receive a pension". The journalist smiled then looked me straight in the eye and said, "you must be a communist!"

Shanghai World Expo

Matt Missen

“Better City Better Life” The Shanghai World Expo will occur from the 1st of May to the 31st of October 2010. Located to the south of the old city center along both sides of a stretch of the Huangpu River the site lies between the Nanpu Bridge and the Lupu Bridge. The site is a massive 5.28 square kilometres, with 3.93 square kilometres in Pudong and the remaining 1.35 square kilometres in Puxi. With less than 12 months to go before it starts, a large section of the city has been transformed into a major showpiece for Shanghai and China as well as the many countries that are participating.

The theme for the Shanghai World Expo is “Better City Better Life” and there has been a lot of effort made by the Shanghai and Chinese government to increase people’s awareness of the benefits of a cleaner and greener city. It promises to be an incredible event in the history of what is already one of the world’s most exciting and vibrant international cities. The emblem for the Shanghai World Expo is designed to represent the big family of mankind and tries to represent the expo bringing people of the world together for dialogue and harmony.

History The first World Exposition was held in London in 1851 to display the new technologies and strengths of the Industrial Revolution and achievements of the industrialized world. More recent expositions have become larger and larger and involve economic and cultural achievements as well as industrial in an ever-changing world. Many countries from around the world have chosen to have an exhibit at the World Expo to display their strengths and achievements as well as help to increase dialogue and understanding between their people and the other people of the world. This is the first time that a World Expo has been held in a developing country.

Participation The number of countries participating in the Shanghai World Expo is expected to reach 200 and the promoters are expecting over 70 million people to visit the site over the six months that it will be running. Australia is among the participating countries along with 45 other countries from Asia, 16 from Oceania (including Australia), 45 from Europe, 51 from Africa and 34

from the Americas.

Design Most participating nations have engaged a recognized architect or designer from their country to design their pavilions and some of the world’s most famous architectural practices are represented. The Australian pavilion was designed to display the cultural diversity and richness of Australian modern life as well as introduce the scientific achievements, technological advancements, historical background (including indigenous Australian folklore), food and wine and multi-cultural diversity that is created in Australia

The China pavilion was designed according to the theme of “Oriental Crown”. Its roof form refers to traditional Chinese vernacular architecture with the eaves of the building extending out well past the external walls. The colour red is of course used for the main building to represent the Chinese colour for happiness and the building is raised on a large terrace to help portray its grandeur and magnificence. The building can be seen from many parts of Shanghai and promises to be a significant landmark for many years to come.

Green Emphasis As with the Beijing Olympics in 2008 there is a very strong emphasis at Shanghai World Expo on “Environmentally Sustainable Design” (ESD), which is clearly indicated in many of the international pavilions as well as the masterplan for the overall development. A 14 hectare wetland park has been developed on the Pudong side of the site and will perform water purification as well as land regeneration purposes along the edge of the Huangpu River.

Public Transport Apart from the actual World Expo site and pavilions, there has also been major construction of public transport links all over Shanghai to help people move around. Several new subway lines have been completed to connect the people of Shanghai to the World Expo and people are being encouraged to use this public transport system to visit the site instead of using their own cars. While it has been difficult for people to get around the city while these transport links were under construction, their completion will certainly make commuting in Shanghai more convenient.



So, while my family and I have returned to Australia and have settled back in our house in suburban Melbourne, come May 1st next year, our hearts and our thoughts will be back in Shanghai where a large percentage of the world's countries and peoples will be represented and on display. It promises to be a great time in Shanghai and I wish the people of Shanghai great success in their endeavor to once again show the world what a wonderful city it really is.

Much information for this article was obtained from the official Shanghai World Expo website: <http://en.expo2010.cn/index.htm> which provides an extensive coverage of the latest news and events for anyone who wants to find out more.

Editorial

As the saying goes, "people regard food as their prime want." The people cannot survive without food. As part of a national culture, Chinese cuisine has become more important in world culture as a whole.

A new addition to the Newsletters this year is some Chinese Everyday Dish recipes. Any of our members or friends who are interested in Chinese cuisine, can try this at home. May be soon you will become a skilful Chinese cuisine chef. The recipes are originally from Chinese cooking books altered by Tower Liu to suit Australian food conditions.

If you have any tasty, easy to cook recipes that you would like to share with members through this newsletter, please send or email them to the ACFS office.

Black Pepper Beef

Ingredients:

250g Beef sliced
1 tablespoon minced garlic,
1 onion sliced, 1/2 red capsicum
50g mushroom sliced

Marinade:

1 tablespoon cooking wine
1 tablespoon soy sauce, sugar, cornstarch

Sauce:

1 tablespoon black pepper powder, sesame oil, soy sauce

Method:

Slice the beef and mix with cooking wine, soy sauce, sugar and cornstarch, let marinate for 20 min. Fry 2 tablespoon chopped garlic in oil, stir well with the beef and remove. Add 2 tablespoon oil to fry onion, capsicum and sliced mushroom, add beef slices with pepper, sesame oil, soy sauce, stir well and serve.

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:

acfsvic@vicnet.net.au

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not always reflect those of the ACFS and its policies. Reliance upon information in this Newsletter requires independent verification of its accuracy or completeness



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.

PRESIDENT: Ms. Louise Clayton

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Joe Montero
Mr. Tower Liu

SECRETARY: Mr. Neil Barker

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