

Australia-China Friendship Society
South Australian Branch inc.
BULLETIN

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BATIK photo courtesy of Ricky Yang of Easytour, Guilin



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AGM
Annual General Meeting –ACFS SA

DATE: Wednesday 12th March 2014

TIME : 7.30pm

**LOCATION : CitiZen Restaurant
401 King William St, Adelaide**

AGM to be followed by a light meal.

MEAL: \$ 25 per head Drinks extra
Booking essential
Phone Graham Bennett 08 82729763
Email acfssa@gmail.com



In China the horse is the most prized of the six common types of the domesticated animals. It has played an important role in supporting productive work of humans. It is also one of the 12 animals associated with the Chinese zodiac. The auspicious symbol of the horse, with perennial appeal to this day, finds myriad expressions in Chinese culture over the millennia.

We have been invariably touched by the solemn and majestic power of **Terracotta Warriors and Horses** in the mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor, the flowing elegance of **Horse and Swallow** of the Eastern Han Dynasty, the striking expressive brushstrokes in **Nymph of the Luo River**, and the radiant glory of **Dunhuang Murals**.

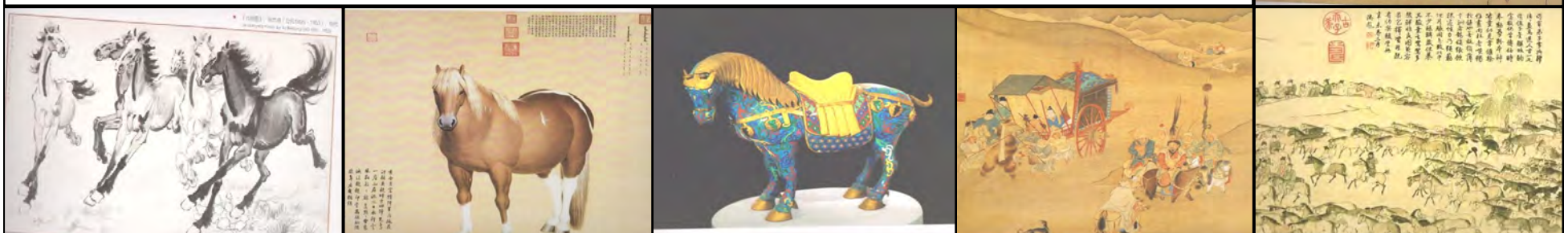
We are charmed by the chiseled forms of **Six Noble Steeds of Zhaoling**, the luxuriant colours of the Tang Dynasty **Horse with Three Colour Glaze**, and the ample roundness in **Foreign Envoys on Horseback**.

We find solace in the immense beauty of **Imperial Horses at Pasture**, the melancholy of **A Ming Dynasty Princess Departing for the Frontier**, the deft craftsmanship of **Cloisonne’ Enamel Horse**, the consummate match of Chinese and western techniques in **Snow-dotted Eagle**, and finally the sweeping force and vigour in the **Six Galloping Horses**.

These 12 classic images of the horse, which have been rendered in varied media including stone carving, mural, sculpture and painting, span two millennia from the Qin and Han eras to modern times

They elucidate unique artistic traditions centred on the horse and the tremendous appeal of Chinese culture, as part of a glorious civilization reaching back into antiquity.

(More year of the Horse on page 10)



Australia–China Friendship Society – SA
Current Executive Committee

President	June Phillips
Vice Presidents	Chris Mutton & Pat O’Riley
Secretary/Treasurer	Graham Bennett
Minute secretary	Helen Bennett
Tour secretary	Pat O’Riley
Committee	Brian O’Riley Ann Ferguson Jeff Emmel
Bulletin Editor	Lauren Nelson
Past President	Mike Williss

Sharing information and items of interest

Members are encouraged to contribute any items that might be of interest to our readers. Please email to the Secretary: acfssa@gmail.com with information to include in bulletins E.g...Books titles, DVD’s, films, commentaries, papers and future events

Typical ACFS – SA Activities may include :

Organising/attending Chinese exhibitions and awareness programmes,	Tours to/from China
Arranging loan of Chinese resources	Hosting delegations
Lectures on China's current affairs,	
Chinese film evenings,	

The ACFS-SA branch is a foundation member of the Federation of Chinese Organisations of South Australia (FOCOSA)

Opinions expressed in this Bulletin do not always reflect those of the Society and its policies. Reliance upon information in this Bulletin requires Independent verification of its accuracy or completeness.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



“A stitch in time”
President June makes running repairs to Exhibit items.



Welcome to all our Members, I hope you have enjoyed your Festive season and that 2014 brings health and happiness (and I assume some wealth would never go astray)

This is the Chinese Year of the Horse, let us hope that any hurdles we encounter will be small ones! As a person with an interest in horse racing I do hope the Year of the Horse will be a good year. As the Chinese say, “A good horse never turns its head to eat the grass behind.” So, look ahead, not back.

I take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their hard work and valued input. It is such a pleasure to be involved with dedicated people that are passionate about their continued involvement with the ACFS.

For those who were unable to attend the 2013 Christmas Yum Cha function at CitiZen restaurant you missed an amazing lunch. We hope you can make the opportunity to experience it for yourself and join us for the 2014 end of year Christmas Yum Cha.

We have been fortunate to obtain the “Nostalgia in Blue” exhibition to display in the Murray Bridge Art Gallery, which commenced with the opening on 9th February 2014. We encourage everyone to visit the gallery to view the exhibition, and we urge you to pass the information amongst your contacts.

The efforts of Graham Bennett, Pat O’Riley and Murray Bridge Gallery Director, Melinda Rankin in obtaining the exhibition cannot be underestimated and I applaud their efforts.

There was an enormous amount of work, emails and phone calls behind the scenes before the crates carrying the artworks arrived. It is a spectacular display and will be on view for several weeks until March 23rd.

We gratefully acknowledge the Peoples’ Republic of China, through the Chinese Embassy in Canberra, for their co-operation in staging this exhibition and hope that this is the beginning of access to many future exhibitions.

2014 will be another active year for our ACFS-SA committee with the promotion, interviews and selections for the International Shanghai Youth Camp, and continuing contact with Daniel Ong, our Scholarship student.

During recent weeks our branch has commenced discussions with Rotary representative Jenny Phillips in regard to potential cooperative projects which might benefit Australian and Chinese Youth.

Due to renovations at our regular meeting place, recent committee meetings have taken place at Mt Barker in the form of business/social dinner meetings. It is my desire to extend invitations to general members to attend the social/dinner part of these evenings during 2014

In Friendship June

The AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY—SA branch
in conjunction with
The MURRAY BRIDGE REGIONAL GALLERY

PRESENTS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

“NOSTALGIA IN BLUE”
(Courtesy of Chinese Embassy in Canberra)

February 9th-March 23rd
Tues-Fri 10am—4pm
Sat 10am—2pm

A UNIQUE EXHIBITION of TRADITIONAL, HANDCRAFTED BANDHNU, BATIK, and BLUE PRINT CALICO that has been produced using TEXTILE DYEING & PRINTING TECHNIQUES

These techniques have survived for more than 2,000 years in different parts of China, where they offered a vibrant taste of Art in ordinary Chinese lives, particularly during the TANG, SONG and MING DYNASTIES.

Don’t Miss It!!

ORDER of AUSTRALIA MEDAL (OAM)

On Australia Day 2014 our ACFS- SA committee member Ann Ferguson, Mayor of the district council of Mt Barker, was awarded an ORDER of AUSTRALIA MEDAL for her services to Local Government and to the community.



Ann has almost completed her 2nd four year term as Mayor and is entering her fourth year as a contributing member of ACFS.

Congratulations Ann.

2014 National ACFS National Conference June - 6th-9th

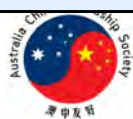
The bi-annual 2014 ACFS conference will be held at the Novotel Darwin Atrium, Brolga room and will be attended by representatives from Beijing and Shanghai in China as well as National directors, state delegates and observers from State branches.

Our South Australian branch will be represented by two State delegates

- June Phillips
- Ann Ferguson

Members may recall:

- **ACFS-SA life member Sir Walter Russell Crocker KBE** (25 March 1902 - 14 November 2002) He was an Australian diplomat, writer and war veteran. As a diplomat, he encouraged recognition of Mao Tse-Tung's China in the early 1960s and in the early 1970s he was ahead of his time in advocating Australia-China relationships.
- **ACFS-SA life member Roy Baynes** was awarded an OAM for his services to International relations, recognising his long contributions to establishing relationships between the people of Australia and China.





Women in China – a brief history

How has the position of women changed over the last century
in Chinese society?

A year 12 research project by a Chinese student studying in Adelaide.



Introduction

Nowadays, women are having almost equal status to men in the world. Women have the right to vote and the power to administer government offices including presidential campaigns. However, women's rights in ancient China were virtually non-existent centuries before the early 1900s; there was a prominent male domination in the country of China. Women were labeled as servants and gifts; women were indicated less useful than men. Chinese women had been oppressed for several millennia by the feudal patriarchal system. In political, economic, cultural, social and family life, women were considered substandard to men.

By looking at the current situation of women in Chinese society and traditional situation of women in Chinese society 100 years ago, this report will focus on how the Chinese woman's position has changed in: education, marriage, freedom, role in the family, and role in the workforce, over the last century in Chinese society.

1. Traditional situation view of women in Chinese society 100 years ago.

1.1 Education

Centuries before the early 1900s, Chinese women were not allowed to be educated, but were forced to learn how to serve their own families and take care of the in law's whole families. A British woman tried to introduce girl's education in 1860, by opening a women's Christian school in Shanghai, it was not supported by the public at the time; Chinese society was resistant to the 'Western values'.

In 1920, Peking University became the first school in China to enroll female students. It was the earliest movement of women education which purpose was to protect and strengthen China from the foreign incursion since the late 19th century. It aimed to increase the quality of the people in the country and to nurture the next generation. With this purpose, few middle schools opened their admission for girls in Beijing, Shanghai and Hunan in 1921.

1.2 Marriage & Freedom & Family

From the view of traditional Chinese, women were used to enhance the reputation of the family. In the feudal Chinese society, women had no dominance at home or in marriage; even the rights of their body; this can be seen most effectively by the practice of foot binding because men believed that small feet were more attractive. In addition, if a woman didn't bind her feet, she would be marked as an unsuitable candidate to be married and this would bring shame to her family.

Before 1949, 95% marriages were pre-arranged in China and men could legally marry with one wife and several concubines. The marriages were basically paired according to the wealth and social status of both families. Freedom of true love was dead under the parenting controlling and the feudal concepts. If a woman was married to a man, she became her husband's 'personal property' and had to serve her husband for the rest of her life. Chinese women were not permitted to divorce their husbands as this would consider as shameful to her family and she would be left out by her family and friends the rest of her life. Women didn't have property and inheritance rights and of course they were not allowed to remarry even if their spouse died. Women were completely excluded from social and political life.

The first Marriage Law was proclaimed in April 1950 after Mao-Tse Tung took power in 1949. Mao Tse Tung was the first president and the person who established the People's Republic of China. He was the person who broke the traditional feudal culture and pushed the gender equality to eliminate the oppression of women to benefit the country in 1949.

The 1950 Marriage Law abolished pre-arranged marriages to give freedom in marriage and monogamy; women had the right to divorce their husbands. Women were encouraged to release their feet.

1.3 Workforce Role

In 1990 to 1949, Chinese women were forced to work at home. Chinese women had the responsibilities of preparing food, cleaning and looking after children. It was common for women to take up manual labour at home. Women were not supported to have independent sources of income. Additionally, the common occupations that women held were limited to spinning, weaving and sewing. They were customarily assigned with the most despised and least important jobs and positions.

After "liberation" in 1949, most intelligent women were introduced to work in the state factories and businesses. Meanwhile rural women became involved in the Communist labour service. This changed women's position in their families because women became an important source of family income.

2. Current situation of women in Chinese society

2.1 Education

Under the system of compulsory education which was established in 1986, Chinese women then had equal education as men where they received nine years of compulsory education to study the same subjects and equal opportunity to enter universities. According to secondary resources, in 1949 illiteracy among women in China was 90 percent, but by 1995 this had dropped to 24.05 percent. Female students had increased from 23.6% in 1980 to 35.4% in 1995 in Chinese colleges. Similarly, female undergraduate students had risen to 45.7% in 2004; female postgraduate and doctoral students were also up by 44.2% and 31.4%

2.2 Marriage & Freedom & family

"Feet binding" has been a symbol of the ignorant old Chinese society. It was inhumane. It is fortunate that Chinese women do not have to experience this anymore. Today, Chinese women have freedom to wear what they like and can speak up to men in society.

Since the People's Republic of China began in 1949, Chinese women's views about marriage and their love lives have undergone enormous changes. Chinese women are now free to choose their lovers and life partners. The influx of western culture in 1980s has gradually influenced Chinese people's values about sex as this is not a taboo topic anymore. Living together before marriage is acceptable and common practice these days. Women enjoy the same rights of possession and inheritance of family property as men, even if they are divorced from the husbands. In politics, women now enjoy equal rights of election and being elected since 1949.

2.3 Workforce Role

According to statistics, China had 2.13 million women workers in the 1950s, accounting for 11.68% of the total workforce. In 1995 there were 56 million women workers in China, accounting for 38% and in 1997 there were 57.45 million women workers which accounted for 38.7%. In 1998, women account for 44% of the total number of employees in China, higher than the average world standard of 34.5%. This shows women made good progress in joining the workforce.

In 2008, there were more and more career women in China. 20% of managers in China are women, compared to 40% in the United States and 8% in Japan. In one survey, 45% of Chinese women said they did not want to give up their careers to get married.

Continued next page

3. The issues Chinese women face today (continued)

3.1 Education

Female students in country schools are still low compared to those cities. This is because country parents do not value education for their daughters and prefer that their daughters continue to labour at home.

3.2 Marriage

Nowadays, better educated and higher income Chinese women are finding it hard to get married, or even many of them are refusing to marry. This is because most Chinese men are afraid of marrying women who have higher incomes thus lose their dominance at home. As a result, many educated women opt out of the marriage game, to stay single and live either with their parents or in their own apartment.

Furthermore, the old custom of pre-arranged marriage is still common in backward spots in rural areas. Cases of drowning and abandonment of female infants and trafficking in women occur from time to time.

3.3 Freedom

Under the one child policy, female new-borns are often killed or abandoned these days; women are often forced to have abortions if they already have one child at home. Since 1997, hundreds of "mobile abortion clinics" have roamed the countryside in China.

Although, Chinese women are involved in politics, the real power still lies in men's hands. Women only hold the political jobs in the third and fourth tiers which are not the decision making positions is expected to increase. If the present trend continues, by 2020, there will be 30 million Chinese men unable to find wives.

3.4 Family

China also has another problem, a shortage of women. This is a special condition caused by the one child policy. The 2000 government census showed that the country has 20% more boys than girls aged 0 to 4 years old. In 2005 there were only 100 girls born for every 120 boys, and the disparity is expected to increase. If the present trend continues, by 2020, there will be 30 million Chinese men unable to find wives.

3.5 Workforce role

In Chinese society, "Gender discrimination" plays a serious role in the workforce. For example, minority numbers of female doctors appear because women generally do not hold a high status or decision making jobs. Chinese women are usually the last option to be employed and the first laid off because they are considered less "socially destabilizing" than men.

4. Conclusion

Women's positions in China have changed a lot from the last century, especially after the liberation in 1949. By law, Chinese women are having the same equality as men in education, marriage, society, rights and also in freedom. But, since the traditional culture and social foundations have existed for thousands of years it is difficult to change and improve in just a few decades.

Therefore, it is only safe to say that China is in a transition period.

China's forgotten war effort

Extract associated with Radio National Late Night Live - Friday 7th February 2014 4.30pm

Though it is largely forgotten in the west, China played a major role in the allied victory in World War II. Up to 20 million Chinese died during the conflict and 100 million were made refugees. While the importance of the conflict is finally getting recognised in the west, in North Asia history refuses to stay in the past, writes Alex McClintock

In 1937, a British banker in Shanghai described Japan's invasion of China as 'a fight between the natives'. The banker, who might have reconsidered his words by the time he died in a Japanese internment camp, reflected the prevailing European view at the time. In fact, the role of China in the second world war continued to be ignored in the west until Iris Chang's *The Rape of Nanking* hit best-seller lists in 1997.

'The west really forgot about China's contribution to the war very, very quickly after 1945, despite the fact that millions of Chinese troops fought against the Japanese, just as millions of Americans, Britons and of course Australians did,' says Rana Mitter, professor of the history and politics of modern China at Oxford University.

More than five million Chinese, including both the Nationalist and Communist armies, and four million Japanese fought in China and both sides incurred heavy losses. Chinese civilians bore the brunt of the suffering; though estimates of the number of deaths vary from 14 to 20 million.

From 1937 to 1945 Japan made extensive use of chemical and biological weapons against civilians in China and these practices, along with massacres, human experimentation, sexual slavery and the torture and execution of prisoners of war have led some to use the label 'the Asian Holocaust'.

'China is the forgotten ally, the one member of the allied powers who has really had its history slip out of memory,' says Professor Mitter, who is also the author of *China's war with Japan, 1937-1945: The struggle for Survival*.

Mitter argues that if China had simply surrendered to the technically superior Japanese forces, the allies would have had a much more difficult time winning the war. The fighting in China soaked up Japanese money and manpower and stopped Japan from exploiting China's resources.

Eri Hotta, author of *Japan 1941: Countdown to infamy*, says that Japan simply hadn't thought through what would happen if the war in China became a prolonged conflict. 'They thought that Chiang Kai-Shek would give up and surrender and everything would go the Japanese way, in which case they wouldn't really have to do anything: they'd be the dominant power in China.'

'They didn't realise they were being bogged down in a quagmire. They didn't have an exit plan for what to do if Chiang Kai-Shek didn't surrender,' she says.

Perhaps China's role in the victory would have got greater acknowledgement in the west if the country hadn't immediately slipped back into civil war in 1945. When the Communists under Mao came to power in 1949, China's status as a one-time ally was largely forgotten.

'It fell, from the western side, into a sort of black hole created by the Cold War,' says Rana Mitter. 'And once the western world was essentially isolated from China, that shared war history between the two sides disappeared along with it.'

In Japan and China, though, the history of the war has never been far away. In Japan, the current right wing government has been pushing for Japanese to be more proud of their history.

'I'm afraid they [Japanese youth] don't understand it [Japan's role in the war with China] at all,' says Eri Hotta.

'I think they really get a confused picture of victim and victimiser and they don't see Japan as the aggressor and initiator in world war two, which is really the essential problem.'



A FLYING VISIT to South Australia ACFS by members of CPAFFC



澳中友好協會

ACFS-SA members Graham and Helen Bennett and Brian and Pat O'Riley met a friendly CPAFFC delegation from China in December as the group passed through the Adelaide Airport on their way to a Sister-City conference at Broken Hill

CPAFFC is a national organisation in China and is engaged in people-to-people diplomacy. The aims of the Association are to enhance people's friendship, further international cooperation, safeguard world peace and promote common development

The group discussed the desirability of working together to develop joint projects that might involve the youth of our respective countries.



A two day visit to South Australia was made from February 17th –18th by Ms Qingrui Li, first secretary from the cultural section of the Chinese embassy in Canberra. Ms Li enjoyed breakfast at the Murrayland's development board with CEO Brenton Lewis and Tourism Manager Candace Torres, before visiting the Murray Bridge Gallery to view the "Nostalgia in Blue Exhibition" where she was welcomed by Mayor Arbon, Gallery Manager Melinda Rankin, State MP Adrian Pederick, ACFS members and invited community leaders.

Federal MP Tony Pasin who was unavailable for the reception arranged a private viewing later in the day.

A special luncheon was enjoyed at Mt Barker where Ms Li and ACFS executive members met with Mayor Ann Ferguson and Development Board CEO Mr Terry Lee, before members Graham, Helen and Chris took the visitor on a scenic drive back to Adelaide.



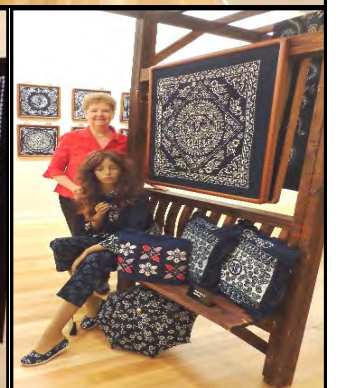
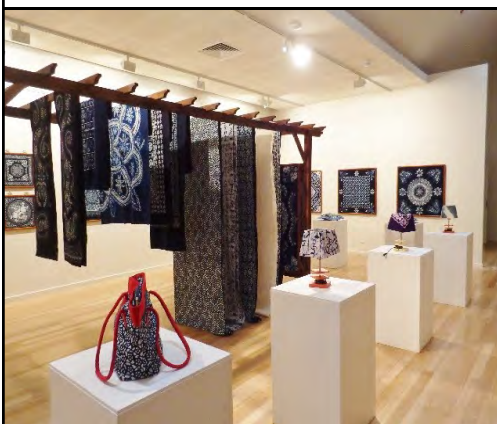
Brenton Lewis and Candace Torres flank ACFS members with Ms Qingrui Li



Pat O'Riley, Melinda Rankin, Chris Mutton, and Ms Qingrui Li, with exhibits from "Nostalgia in Blue"



Graham Bennett, Mr Terry Lee, Pat O'Riley, Mayor Ann Ferguson, Ms Qingrui Li and June Phillips enjoy a luncheon at Mt Barker



The Magnificent "NOSTALGIA IN BLUE" exhibition will remain at the Gallery in Murray Bridge until March 23rd. by Courtesy of the Peoples' Republic of China, through the Chinese Embassy in Canberra

DON'T MISS IT!!



In May 2013 we were advised of this opportunity for an applicant from Australia by Wu Fei [Scott] our friend and close contact in Shanghai PAFFC. The deadline for applications to be received in China was 10 June 2013. This was seen immediately as a wonderful opportunity for this year and hopefully beyond, so branches were advised. A number of other branches commented that it was a pity that the deadline made the process very difficult – we all agreed!!

In South Australia we were fortunate to have two very serious expressions of interest via contacts in schools and Adelaide University. They turned out to be the only expressions received from throughout Australia. Both of these young people completed applications and the process selection was clarified during very close and frequent exchanges with Scott. The two applicants were:

Rachel Ho - [commenced studies in 2012] Bachelor of Health Sciences & Diploma of Languages (Chinese)
Daniel Ho - [commenced in 2008] Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) and Bachelor of Science double degree & Diploma of Languages (Chinese)
 Daniel was selected by the Shanghai University as the 2013–2014 scholarship recipient and is acting as an “ambassador for the Society” by keeping us informed through a regular blog. <http://iwantalotofbaozi.tumblr.com/> He has also resolved to make a handbook for others who may follow him on future scholarships.

While Rachel was disappointed she immediately indicated her intention to apply again next year if the scholarship is available again. We share her hope that this scholarship continues and perhaps expands to form part of the strong long term relationship which is being redeveloped between ACFS and Shanghai PAFFC. This will fit well with our intentions to engage a younger membership with a range of involvements.

We welcome enquiries from young people wanting to learn about our Australia-China Friendship Society

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP — 2013



Reports from SA delegates
Skye and Jesse

An Overview from Skye

I was very nervous in the anticipation of my trip to Shanghai, but as soon as we landed my fears went away as we were greeted by Maggie, who was very welcoming. We didn't check into the hotel until 1:30 in the night, but a lack of sleep didn't ruin our first day in Shanghai as we were too excited.

In the first few days we went to the Shanghai University of Sport to watch a performance and learn martial arts, which was one of my favourite activities within the camp. My other favourite organised activity was the orienteering competition, I've never done anything like it before and it was so much fun.

I was most anxious about home stay, but I met Crystal; who I would be staying with, and we got on straight away. Home stay turned out to be the highlight of the whole trip! It was so interesting to see the differences between how an average Chinese family lives, compared to how I live in Australia.

I got to experience new food and go to some of the places Crystal and her family go on the weekends. Crystal is one of the most wonderful people I've ever met and I am very thankful for the opportunity to have stayed with her.

Shanghai is a very big and busy place, it made Adelaide seem so tiny. Everywhere is crowded, the streets are busy, the architecture is beautiful and I absolutely fell in love with it all. But the number one thing about my time in Shanghai was getting to meet all kinds of interesting people from all over the world. Everyone there was so friendly and open, and I miss them an incredible amount.

The Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp has honestly been the best experience of my life and I am incredibly thankful to everyone involved. I learned a lot, not just about the city or the people I met; but also about myself. You don't realise it until it is all over, but the experience makes you grow as a person. I will truly treasure these memories I have of this trip, and I hope I can one day return to Shanghai again.

Skye

Comments from Jesse

I wasn't sure what to expect for my trip to Shanghai, as I had never been outside Australia before.

From what I knew, China was a foreign country with customs which I might have found odd and unusual. However, after only a few days, I found that there were many similarities between Australia and China.

In terms of lifestyle, the single biggest change to me was my diet. Although I expected this to change, I didn't realise that in China, it's common to eat a large breakfast, then have your meals grow smaller as the day progresses. In Australia, the opposite is true with a small breakfast and a larger dinner.

My expectations, whatever they may have been, did nothing to prepare me for the great experience. I will never forget it.

I have kept in contact with both my Home-stay family and Bob my roommate. Since coming back to Australia, I've told and retold everything about China to my friends and family and I don't see myself stopping for quite a while, it was so impressive.

Jesse

The 10th Shanghai International Youth Camp will be held from July 15th—24th
 Australia ACFS is currently interviewing youth plus 1 chaperone or (teacher) to participate in this camp.
email : acfssatours@gmail.com Box 1351 Murray Bridge 5253 Phone 08 85 324871



ACFS 2014 Tours to CHINA

This year ACFS has organised a flexible options tour for people who have not been to China or spent sufficient time to get to know some of the major scenic and historical sightseeing experiences that are available. After 5 days in Beijing, the tour will proceed by train to Datong – a historic city with Buddhist religious sights. Datong was a dynastic city during the periods (AD 386-534) and (AD 907-1125) and sightseeing will include : the Yungang Grottoes, Hanging Temple, and Yinxian Wooden Pagoda

After DATONG you may choose to travel to either XIAN or SHANGHAI

An optional Yangtze River cruise extension is then available .

We welcome your tour enquiries : acfssatours@gmail.com.

If you have an interest in a
Future ENVIRONMENTAL TOUR

The Shanghai and Beijing Friendship Associations are assisting ACFS to design an itinerary, and details will be provided when that is finalised.



Tour 1—MELBOURNE TO XIAN or Tour 2—MELBOURNE to SHANGHAI

21 Oct 2014 Tue Arrive Beijing

Upon arrival, met & transferred to your hotel. Stay at Presidential Hotel for the next four nights. Rest of the day free at leisure to relax.

22 Oct 2014 Wed Beijing

Start at Tiananmen Square, take a stroll on this largest public square, visit Mao's Mausoleum. Explore the magnificent Forbidden City with hundreds of halls and galleries. This afternoon visit the National Museum of China(B/L/D)

23 Oct 2014 Thu Beijing

Experience the highlight of your holiday as you climb the Great Wall, one of the seven wonders in the world. Visit the Ming Tombs and its exhibition halls. (B//D)

24 Oct 2014 Fri Beijing

Wander in the Summer Palace, the summer retreat for the Emperors, with the largest imperial garden, Explore the old residential areas , known as Hutong when your rickshaw winds through the small alleys. (B/L/D)

25 Oct 2014 Sat Train Beijing - Datong

Tour the HE iconic Temple of Heaven, visit the Cultural Community Centre and School, then transfer to the fast train to Datong for 2 nights. (B/L)

26 Oct 2014 Sun Datong

Visit Yungang Grottoes, a masterpiece of Chinese Buddhist Caves, Tour the incredible Hanging Temple with a history more than 1,500 years, it features Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. (B/L/D)

27th October - Oct 30th : CHOOSE your preference from the following :

27 Oct 2014 Mon Datong –Xian

This morning visit Yinxian Wooden Pagoda, then proceed to the station and board the overnight train to Xian. Overnight on board, 4 berth soft sleeper. (B/L/-)

28 Oct 2014 Tue Xian

This morning arrive in Xian, transfer to your hotel for fresh up, then continue to tour the iconic Wild Goose Pagoda, walk on the ancient city wall. Stay at Garden Hotel for two nights. (-L/D)

29 Oct 2014 Wed Xian

Today marvel at Terracotta Warriors, one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in 20th Century. Visit the Provincial Museum. Tonight enjoy a spectacular Tang Dynasty Dinner/Show. (B/L/D)

30 Oct 2014 Thu Fly Xian –Melbourne

Enjoy free leisure time until transfer to airport for flight home. (B)

31 Oct 2014 Fri Arrive Melbourne.

Optional Extension –Yangtze River Cruise

30 Oct 2014 Thu Fly Xian—Yichang via Chengdu

Transfer to airport for flight to Yichang . Arrival transfer to your hotel for overnight stay. (B)

31 Oct –3 Nov 2014 Fri –Mon

Free until transfer to board Victoria Cruises. Visit the Three Gorges Dam, sail through the breathtaking Three Gorges, tour the City of Ghost(No lunch or dinner on 31 Oct) . (B/L/D)

4 Nov 2014 Mon Fly Chongqing - Guangzhou-Melbourne

Disembark and transfer to the airport for flight home. (B)

27 Oct 2014 Mon Datong -Taiyuan

This morning visit Yinxian Wooden Pagoda, then drive to Wutai Mountain, one of the four sacred mountains in China. Stay overnight in Wutai Mountain. (B/L/D)

28 Oct 2014 Tue Taiyuan -Shanghai

Visit the Buddhist temples and discover the natural beauty of this UNESCO site. Later fly to Shanghai, transfer to Holiday Inn Zhaibei. (B/L/D)

29 Oct 2014 Wed Shanghai

Stroll along the Bund, appreciate the art-deco build-ings. Walk in the backstreets of the old town, wander in the classic Yu Garden. Browse the fine Shanghai Museum and visit the Jade Buddha Temple. Tonight watch the acrobatic show. (B/L/D)

30 Oct 2014 Thu Fly Shanghai –Melbourne

Enjoy some free time at leisure until transfer to the airport for flight home. (B)

31st Oct Arrive Melbourne

Optional Extension –Yangtze River Cruise

30 Oct 2014 Thu Fly Xian—Yichang via Chengdu

Transfer to airport for flight to Yichang . Arrival transfer to hotel overnight stay. (B)

31 Oct –3 Nov 2014 Fri –Mon

Free until transfer to board Victoria Cruises. Visit the Three Gorges Dam, sail through the breathtaking Three Gorges, tour the City of Ghost (No lunch or dinner on 31 Oct) . (B)

4 Nov 2014 Mon Fly Chongqing - Guangzhou-Melbourne

Disembark and transfer to the airport for flight home.

5 Nov 2014 Tue Arrive Melbourne

Prices based on twin share:

Tour 1 —Beijing– Xian

: Group size 6-9 \$3,120 pp; 10 people or more: \$2,880 pp Single room supplement: \$450
Plus optional **Yangtze River Extension** (Yichang-Chongqing): \$1,200 per person from Xian

Tour 2—Beijing—Shanghai

: Group size 6-9 \$3,300.00; 10 people or more : \$3,050.pp Single room supplement \$490
Plus optional **Yangtze River Extension** (Yichang-Chongqing): \$950per person from Shanghai

Inclusions: Return airfares with taxes, domestic flights & (train tour 2), twin share accommodation, sightseeing tours, entrance fees, English speaking guides, daily breakfast, 8 lunches, 6-7 dinners, Chinese visa fee, local air-conditioned coach transport,, Shore excursions and 4-5 nights superior cabin for Yangtze cruise

for bookings o further enquiries, please contact : acfssatours@gmail.com.



A Brief Look at China's Government

from an article by Eric Lu



A Bit of Background

You probably already know that China has a system of annual university entrance examinations, taken by about 10 million students each year. This set of examinations is quite stiff and perhaps even harsh, covering many subjects and occupying three days. The tests require broad understanding, deep knowledge and high intelligence, if one is to do well. Any student whose results are near the top of the list, is in the top 2% or 3% of a pool of 1.5 billion people. Getting a high mark qualifies a student to enter one of the top two or three universities, which will virtually guarantee a great job on graduation, a high salary and a good life. Moving down the scale of results, the prospects become increasingly meager. You may not know that China also has a system of bar examinations which every graduate lawyer must pass in order to practice law in China. For these, we can bypass "stiff" and "harsh" and go directly to "severe". Out of about 250,000 graduate lawyers who sit for the exam, only about 20,000 will pass and obtain qualifications to actually be a practicing lawyer in China. Once again, the exams require broad understanding of all matters legal, deep knowledge of the laws, and high intelligence. So if you happen to meet a Chinese lawyer, you can be assured you are dealing with someone from top 1% or 2% of a pool of 1.5 billion people. I mention these two items only to introduce a third - the Civil Service Examinations.

Becoming a Government Official in China

The Imperial examinations were designed many centuries ago to select the best administrative officials for the state's bureaucracy. They lasted as long as 72 hours, and required a great depth and breadth of knowledge to pass. It was an eminently fair system in that the exam itself had no qualifications. Almost anyone, even from the least educated family in the poorest town, could sit the exam and, if that person did well enough, he or she could join the civil service and potentially rise to the top. The modern civil service examination system evolved from the imperial one, and today, millions of graduates write these each year. And for these, we can bypass "severe" and go directly to "brutal", because out of the millions of candidates only about 10,000 will get a pass.

The Chinese Have High Standards

And that pass doesn't get you a job; all it gets you is an interview. If you meet anyone in China's central government, you can rest assured you are speaking to a person who is not only exceptionally well educated and knowledgeable on a broad range of national issues but is in the top 1% of a pool of 1.5 billion people. Moreover, China's government officials are all highly-educated and trained engineers, economists, sociologists, scientists, often at a Ph.D. level. Contrast this with the Western system where most politicians are either lawyers or those with no useful education. We should also remember that the Chinese generally score about 10% higher on standard IQ tests than do Caucasian Westerners, and couple this with the Chinese process of weeding out all but the top 1% from consideration. When you add further the prospect of doing your weeding from a pool of 1.5 billion people, you might expect China's Central Government to be rather better qualified than that of most other countries.**And it is.**

The point of this is to bring your attention to the disparity between the quality of 'politicians' in Western countries and China's government officials. The discrepancy is so vast that comparisons are largely meaningless.

Friends, Family and 'Connections'

There are some who will tell you that family connections in China can produce a government job for some favored son, a claim that may be true in some places though extremely difficult at the national level. But no amount of 'connections' will move you into senior positions or to the top of decision-making power; those places are reserved for persons of deep experience and proven ability. "Of the Communist Party's highest ruling body, the 25-member Politburo, only seven came from any background of wealth or power. The rest of them, including the president and the prime minister, were from ordinary backgrounds with no special advantages. They worked and competed all the way to the top. In the larger Central Committee, those with privileged backgrounds are even scarcer. A visit to any top university campus in China would make it obvious to anyone that the Communist Party continues to attract the best and the brightest of the country's youth. In fact, China's Communist Party may be one of the most meritocratic and upwardly mobile major political organizations in the world - far more meritocratic than the ruling elites of most Western countries and the vast majority of developing countries."

Choosing the Nation's Leaders

Consider how it would be if a Western country could identify and assemble the 300 best, brightest, wisest, most educated and experienced people in the nation, men and women of great proportion whose depth and breadth of knowledge and ability were the envy of all. And consider this group selecting some to be their leaders - the Prime Minister, President, Cabinet members. That's essentially how China does it. On what basis can we tell them their way is wrong? For Westerners to refer to this as a dictatorship is offensive and merely stupid. In contradistinction to the West, China's system cannot produce incompetence at the top because in a population of 1.5 billion people there are just too many available candidates with stunningly impressive credentials.

In China's system, leaders and officials are evaluated and selected by their peers, not by the unqualified and uninformed 'man in the street' It is the only government system in the world that ensures competence at the top, because these people are evaluated on the basis of real credentials rather than public popularity or TV charisma. Leaders are selected on the basis of true leadership, on their ability to bring together all factions, to create harmony and consensus on their realisable vision for the country, to wisely control and direct the military. They have a firm understanding of the economy, of the nation, of society and its problems and the best way to meet them. They are not only admired and respected by their peers, but able to draw others to them in order to form that consensus and harmony that are so desirable and necessary for stability.

Education and Training of Government Officials

There is another factor to consider, that of education and training. In the West, senior government officials - the politicians - are seldom renowned for competence or even intelligence. For the Western politicians who exercise all the real decision power to shape a country, there is no education or training available or required. It is all a kind of 'earn while you learn' system. In China, those who will become the senior officials and civil servants have entered a lifelong career in a formidable meritocracy where promotion and responsibility can be obtained only by demonstrated ability. Once in the system, the education and training are never-ending. The system is generally well understood within China, and it meshes well with Chinese culture and tradition as well as conforming to the Chinese psyche in their Confucian overview and their desire for social order and (yes) harmony. The Western world understands this dimly, if at all, and inevitably forms incorrect and often absurd conclusions about China and its government - especially the mindless references to China being a 'dictatorship'.

Functioning of China's Government

Few Westerners have bothered to learn even the simple basics about the form of China's government, preferring instead to parrot foolish Western supremacist nonsense about China being a dictatorship. China has a one-party government. If you listen to Western ideologues, you will be told this is heresy in the eyes of the Gods of Government in 6 galaxies. But it is no such thing, and contains enormous advantages. Here, there is no forced separation of officials on the basis of political ideology. China's entire social spectrum is represented in government in the same way as in Chinese - or any other - society. There is no partisan in-fighting. Unlike the West, China's system looks for consensus rather than conflict.

Government decision-making is not a sport where my team has to win. It is simply a group of people with various viewpoints working together to obtain a consensus for policy and action for the overall good of their nation.

From everything I have seen, China's one-party system is superior in many respects to what we have in the West. This is what has produced a growth rate of over 10% per year for 30 years, compared to perhaps 3% in the West. And how can it be otherwise? China's government doesn't waste its time fighting juvenile ideological battles with 'opposition parties', but instead everyone gets down to the business of doing the best for the nation. China's government leaders manage by consensus, not by power, authority or bullying. It is their job to create agreement and unified willing participation in the country's policies to meet its goals. At this level there are no children, and there is no one person with the power to start a war just because he doesn't like someone, or who is free to alienate other nations on the basis of some blind personal ideology.

(continued Page10)



A Brief Look at China's Government (continued)

The President Goes to School

The Central Party School in Beijing has been called the most mysterious school in China, and is like no other university or college anywhere. Here is a link to an article on this university that will give you more information: . At various times, the most promising young and middle-aged officials attend this university for up to a year at a time, to expand their knowledge and understanding of all issues relating to China. The Headmaster of the school is often the President of China, and the lecturers are usually foreign dignitaries, high-level officials, and renowned experts on everything from economics and international finance to social policy, foreign policy, industrial policy and even military matters. The cornerstone of the school's educational policy is that everything is on the table. There are no forbidden topics, and even reactionary, revolutionary or just plain whacky positions are discussed, analysed and debated to resolution. All manner of planning, problems, solutions, alternatives, will be discussed, examined, debated, explained, with any number of prominent experts available as reference material. When these sessions are completed, all students will have an MBA-level or better appreciation of the entire subject. And this is only one subject of many they will encounter. When you consider that these officials entered the government with an already high level of education, and with an already demonstrated broad level of understanding and exceptional intelligence, these additional layers of training and education cannot help but produce an impressive level of overall knowledge and ability throughout the government. Nothing like this system exists in the West, which is why senior civil servants in most Western countries often look on their leader-politicians with a mixture of disdain and contempt for their lack of knowledge and ability.

Lobbying and Influence

In China, many people and industries are permitted to present their case, but private or short-term interests will not emerge victorious in this system. Your proposals will receive support and will succeed only if they are to the long-term benefit of the country as a whole - the greatest good for the nation and for the population. That's how it works. In the US system, corporations control the government; in China's, the government controls the corporations. And those firms may often not get their way even if they are government-owned. Consider the introduction of HSR (High-Speed Rail) in China. Some Chinese airlines (especially the state-owned ones), complained like hell, and with good reason, about the inauguration of HSR. Some have had to dramatically scale back their flight schedules because many people prefer the train, but the wide HSR network was seen to be in the best interests of the entire country and it went ahead. That is also why China has the best (and cheapest) mobile phone system in the world.

The "Loyal Opposition"

China's system also has an 'opposition', but this body has two major differences from Western governments. Also, it functions intelligently, so let's make that three major differences. First, it does not function to 'oppose' but rather to consult. This body is charged with the responsibility to consider not only the government's directions and policies but also to devise alternatives and make recommendations. And the government must by law consider and respond to all these consultations - which it does. Second, this opposition group are not the marginalised 'losers' as in the Western systems but a second tier of extremely competent people who were not selected to the top governing positions. And, rather than lose this expertise, this secondary group was created to contribute to the development of their country.

The Success of Government

Probably the greatest deciding factor permitting China's rise is the political environment. China's one-party government is in for the long term; it makes no short-term decisions for the sake of political expediency. China makes decisions for the good of the whole country and, having made them, implements them. There is no partisanship, no lobbyists, no special interest groups that skew these important decisions and rob the population of what they might have had. The benefits of this system can be seen in its results. China has already far surpassed the undeveloped nations that adopted Western democratic governments, and likely has a brighter future than most of them. Why is the West so eager for China to abandon a centuries-old system that clearly works well, in favour of one designed for ideological battles, conflicts and shouting wars?

Many foreign observers are now, (finally) admitting openly that China's form of government exhibits signs of superiority over Western systems, and that it is largely responsible for China's efficiency, for its rapid development, and for its speed of response in areas like the Sichuan earthquake and the planning and deployment of its high-speed train system. **The "Free World" could learn a lot from China's government system.**

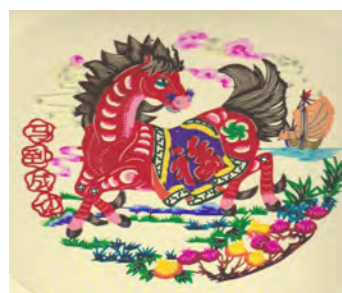
	<p>Confucius Institute conducts Awareness Programmes and tours for Principals and leaders in Australian Schools about China.</p>
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Professor Mobo Gao, Director, Confucius Institute Chair of Chinese Studies at the University of Adelaide says "There is little doubt that China's rise will affect the lives of today's students. China is already Australia's number one trading partner, but within 20 years, when our students are in the middle of their careers, China's economy is expected to be yet another four times as large. **Our students cannot afford not to know about China, Chinese people and Chinese culture if they are to fully grasp the opportunities of the future**".

As obligated in the Australian national curriculum's priority; "Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia", school principals and leaders around Australia need insight and awareness to lead their students towards a better understanding of Asia and in particular China.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide support schools in preparing for and becoming a part of the Asian Century. The next tour is in April 2014. Tours give a broad introduction to Chinese culture, education, economic development and history across three provinces and municipalities, Shanghai, Shandong and Beijing. Run in conjunction with their partner Shandong University, it is by nature a tour for educators, hosted by educators —not a standard tour. Visiting iconic sites such as the Bund in Shanghai and Beijing's Great Wall and Forbidden City, give the chance to experience authentic Chinese culture (and hospitality!) up close, visit schools, have discussions with local principals and teachers, and go to lectures on Chinese culture. **There is nothing like experiencing the dynamism and scale of contemporary China first-hand.**

ACFS also construct and promote tours to China in conjunction with "Travman" for individuals or groups
— See page 8 for our 2014 flexible options tours.



2014 is the Year of the Horse— A lucky year, according to the Chinese.

Chinese New Year is celebrated not only in China but in most East Asia. Horse is pronounced "ma" in Chinese.

You are a horse if you were born in 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002 and in 2014 on or after Jan. 31.

Chinese zodiacs run a 12-year cycle with each year symbolized by an animal. Besides the exiting snake and the horse galloping toward you, the others are sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit and dragon.

Horse people may be a little untamed, but they are supposed to be popular, cheerful, talented, independent and skillful with their money. Don't forget that a horse shoe is a sign of good luck for Westerners.

Among famous horse people are Billy Graham, Nelson Mandela, Angela Merkel, Clint Eastwood, Teddy Roosevelt, Chopin and Rembrandt.

With China growing in wealth and influence, anyone doing business with the Chinese probably have learned to say "**Xin nian kuai le,**" Happy New Year, and "**Gong xi fa cai,**" May you be prosperous.

In China, the New Year is celebrated as a holiday from three to 15 days, depending where one works. The private sector is more liberal by giving employees a longer holiday. Unlike in the United States where stores offer big sales during a holiday, in China, stores generally are closed for three days during the new year, called the Spring Festival, to allow employees to go home for family reunions. Railroad stations, bus terminals and airports are invariably jammed with travellers carrying gifts for home.

CitiZen Restaurant



401 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone 08 8212 8383 Fax : 08 84107212

ABN 58145851056

Open 7 Days
Monday - Friday Lunch 11.30a—2.30p Dinner 5.45p—Late
Saturday-Sunday Lunch 11.00a—3.00p Dinner 5.45p—Late
Email : booking@citizenrestaurant.com.au

CitiZen Restaurant inside the Brecknock Hotel was the venue for our ACFS 2013 Christmas Yum Cha, where our members were treated to a delicious and varied selection of taste tempting dishes served by friendly, efficient waiters in a relaxed atmosphere in comfortable surroundings.


The spacious dining room boasted quality upholstery, ornate chairs and linen tablecloths, which were complemented with a wood-carved junk boat and an exotic water feature.

CitiZen's Peking duck, with spring onion, cucumber and hoi sin sauce wrapped in a delicate pancake was enjoyed by all, along with a variety of cold platters and steamed, fried and baked dishes with rice, noodles, buns, and tasty sweets.

The menu offered plenty for vegetarians, including a delicious salt and pepper fried tofu. Other signature dishes were the crispy chicken, flattened, deboned and marinated with spices, and popular special pork ribs in a fruity-vinegar sauce.

CitiZen caters for all types of functions, and specialise in authentic Chinese food. They offer an extensive selection of wines to compliment meal choices. — group bookings are welcome.

Why not try CitiZen for your next meal !!



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ABN: 24 003 462 439

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I /We support the Society's aims of promoting friendship and understanding between people of Australia and China

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Or bank deposit : A/C BSB 065-004 A/C number 00903840
please identify your transfer with surname – membership



Street view of CitiZen Restaurant with alfresco dining under leafy canopy



Brian O'Riley and Sharon Forrester-Jones enjoying a variety of Yum Cha

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1 Page	\$200	\$400

Contact : Bulletin editor acfssatours@gmail.com



ACFS-SA Branch co-operates with people or organizations having similar objectives for the expansion of Friendship and Understanding between the people of Australia and China

We welcome enquiries in regard to membership or details of our forthcoming value tours to China

Please email : acfssatours@gmail.com





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Photos courtesy of Ricky Yang

Batik and Blue Calico are traditional printing and dyeing arts and crafts with strong nationalistic features which are becoming more and more popular in modern urban life in China.