

A background theme that runs through these reflections on the past is the challenge facing the Society in pursuing its goals during changing political, economic and social attitudes.

ACFSWA has promoted friendship, cultural exchange and education between the peoples of Australia and China in a non-political and respectful environment and will continue to do so into the future. The future while not being the same as the past will be based on these three threads. However, the Society will no longer be primarily responsible for them, but will work in conjunction with appropriate organisations to implement them.

Education about differences and similarities will continue to be achieved by exchange and visiting programs. Bridges of understanding between our cultures will continue to be built through:

- Student study groups visiting and living in the homes of the other culture.
- Fostering niche tours that allow interaction on specialised subjects.
- Welcoming Chinese delegations and providing delegations to China to discuss common issues.
- Supporting exchange displays of cultural artefacts and visits of entertainment groups.

The promotion of excellence in studying Mandarin by High School students will continue to be supported. This promotion will extend to the primary school students and adult learner in the future. Plans are afoot for expanding the ways in which the Society will recognise and reward student achievements. In addition to the recognition at school level it is working with the Chinese Consulate and Chinese Language Teachers Association to provide a prestigious award for outstanding students.

A new initiative by the Society for the future is to provide a platform for the recognition of individuals and corporate entities who have significantly contributed to the promotion of friendship, education and understanding between our two countries throughout the year. This is to be known as The ACFSWA Friendship Award and will be awarded annually.

Friendship is best displayed through personal contact. Through the life of the Society, it has been the willingness of members to provide fellowship with individual (and groups of) Chinese visitors that has differentiated the Society from other organisations. While formal dinners have played an important role in building relations, it has been the informal social settings provided by Society members that may give our visitors lasting memories of their stay in Western Australia.

Although the financial and human resources of the Society are unlikely to change, our key role as being a link between Chinese representative officers and the wider Australian community will continue. The friendship goal of members will allow the Society to cope with the challenges of the future as it has done in the past, but with a new outlook and attitude to find ways to promote the ideals of understanding and respect between our two peoples.