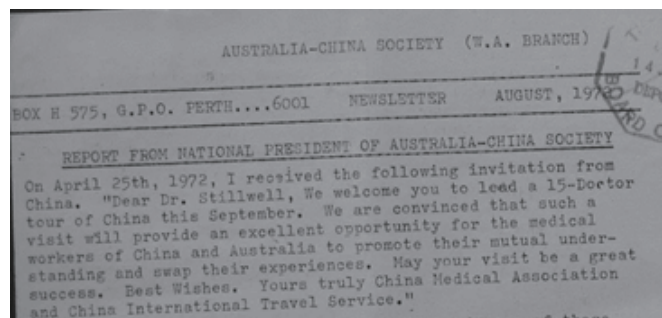


An important part of the Society's activities has been to issue invitations to organise or participate in the welcoming of visiting delegations to Western Australia. It has also organised reciprocal visits and supported delegations in conjunction with the National body.

Early visits to The People's Republic of China were highly controlled, and ACFS nationally was the body responsible for co-ordinating them. The PRC government mainly sanctioned visits by groups reflecting industrial or social interests.



## Delegations to WA included:

A team of 12 table tennis players and 9 officials visited Perth in August 1972. Members of the Society entertained them and exchanged gifts. However, when commenting on the visit in the newsletter, while admiring on the dexterity and skill of the players, it noted additionally that a "significant part of the visit was the trade talks held with the W.A. State Government."

In 1973 a party of 15 people from the China International Travel Service (known as the Chinese Friendship Group) visited Australia (including Perth) to familiarise themselves with the lives and conditions of the Australian people. A feature of the tour was a visit to Scarborough beach. This was the first time the visitors were able to walk on a white sandy beach.

In 1978 there was a visit by Chinese Scientists under the auspices of Academia Sinica of Shanghai.

In 1985 the Society entertained Chinese wind surfers from Qinhuangdao who completed in events on the Swan River, winning two gold medals.

In 1993 a delegation from Gansu Province was hosted.

In 1997 the Society entertained a delegation from Zhejiang Provincial People's Association led by Mr Xu Deren, Vice President and Secretary General. On the second day of their visit, a trip was organised to Caversham Wildlife Park where hand feeding kangaroos was a unique experience. This was followed by a relaxed Australian buffet lunch at Wally and Ann Frick's home. The itinerary for other days included visits to WAIT (Curtin University) and Edith Cowan University campuses, afternoon tea with the Honourable Diana Warnock at Parliament House and a trip to the Fremantle markets.



## DELEGATIONS

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In 2000 another delegation from Zhejiang Provincial Peoples Association was hosted. On this occasion representatives Mr Xu Xuezheng, Mr Wang Jun and Mr Shen Xiuhe signed a Memorandum of Understanding which was agreed between the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association and ACFSWA.

While there were formal occasions with dinner at the Emperor's Court and a Teacher's Tea hosted by the Chung Wah Association, there was still time for a tour of Perth and an informal dinner at Les and Anne Greive's home.

In 2002 the Society hosted a visit by Professor Wang of Suzhou University. The ACFS National Council had supported his work in developing a ground breaking Chinese translation of the Macquarie Dictionary. It is one of the most complete English-Chinese bilingual dictionaries in the world, and has more headwords and definitions than any similar dictionary.



In 2003, Perth welcomed the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Jia Qinling. The State Government arranged a dinner in his honour with over 200 guests including the Society's President Les Greive. Chairman Jia Qinling referred to Perth as the 'City of Sunshine'. The purpose of his visit was to deepen the friendship between the two countries. He said that *'We should draw on each other's comparative strength and broaden areas of practical cooperation. This should be achieved by extensive exchanges. While bearing in mind global stability and prosperity, China would be improving its people's well-being and continuing its building of a moderately prosperous society.'*

2010 saw the Society hosting Mr Qing Boming, Deputy Director of the Department of Canadian and Oceanic Affairs of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and his colleague Ms Ye Zi during a three day visit to Perth. From Perth they went on to attend the National ACFS Biennial Conference in Adelaide.

Whenever our friends come to visit us here in Perth from China, we are confronted with, “What can we show our visitors; as they come from a country so ancient, alive with people, colour and activities?”

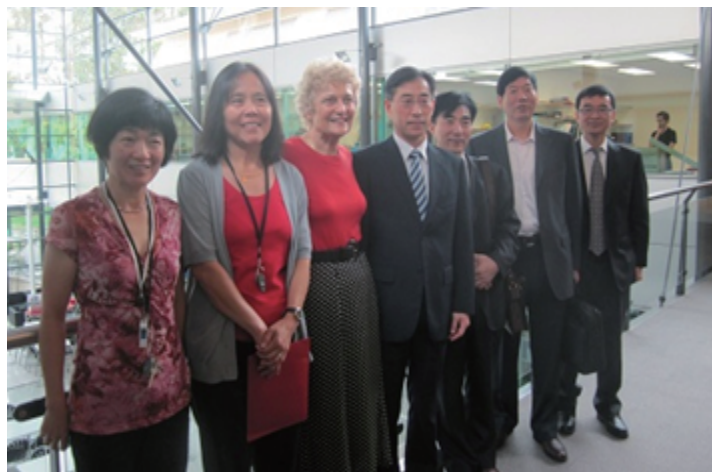
Vice President, Fran Kininmonth’s reply was: *“We too can show them a country that is also ancient. Maybe not alive with many people, but nevertheless, having colour and a variety of natural activities.”*

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been living in this country for well over 40,000 years. By comparison, European impressions on this country, unlike those of the Chinese on their landscapes, are very recent- only just over 250 years. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to have a little of this, combined, right here in the Swan Valley.



2011 Delegation visiting Yagan Memorial Park

It was around the Swan Valley and into the hills around Mundaring that we decided to take our visitors in 2011, a delegation of six officials from Zhejiang Province, who accompanied 25 students of English from their schools. The students were winners of the English Language competition held in Zhejiang. The students were hosted in the homes of students from the state and private schools.

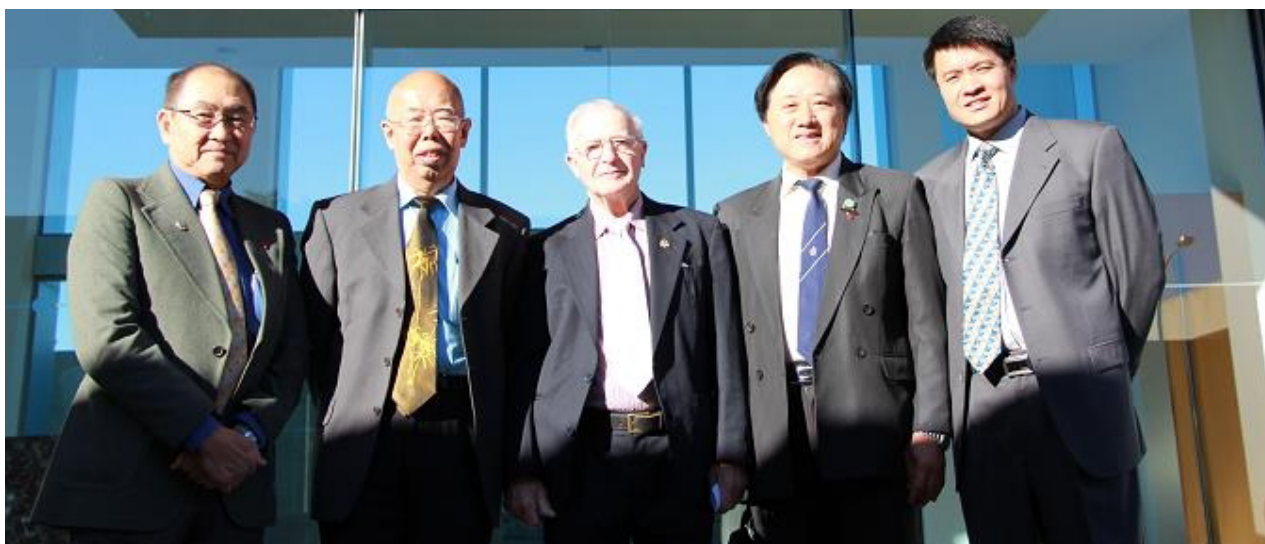


Dr Jianghong Li, Dr Merci Kusel, Professor Fiona Stanley, Mr Wang Xiaoshu, (SPAFFC delegation leader), Mr Cheng Jianhua, Mr Li Linyan, Mr Song Cheering.



Dec 2013, ACFSWA introduce Mr Xie Yuan Vice President of CPAFFC and Ms Wang Lidan to Dr Mike Nahan MLA, Minister for Multicultural Interests.

In November, 2011 ACFSWA was partly responsible for hosting a visit from the Shanghai People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries. The group was in Perth for two days and visited the Institute of Child Health Research, Subiaco; Canning and Aranmore Colleges. They also met with the Perth's Lord Mayor and visited Parliament House. During the delegation's visit to the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Professor Fiona Stanley AC, the Director of the Institute, gave an inspiring presentation on the aims, philosophy and work of the Institute.



Kok Foo Chang, Ambassador Chen Yonglong, Dr Neville Green, William Chi, and Zhang Min

In his visit in 2011 Ambassador Chen Yonglong, the Vice President of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), spoke on the importance of people to people diplomacy. He opined that *'Public perception is often being led by the media. Overnight our view of peoples from other countries can be changed by media coverage. In most cases it is not the people who have changed, but some action of the foreign government, that the media can emphasise to increase its user base. On a day by day basis our attitude is often changed, depending on how the report of an incident is biased.'*

### **Not every visitor to Western Australia that the Society extended friendship to was 'important'.**

In May 1975, a group of 4 Taiwanese fishing vessels was arrested for fishing Australian waters and brought to Perth. Living conditions on these boats were poor, and the crew only had clothes suitable for the tropics. In conjunction with the Red Cross, ACFSWA members provide clothes, blankets and general support.

In the 1990s Chinese ships visited Fremantle and later Kwinana to load wheat. ACFSWA members visited these ships providing fellowship and showing them around Perth.



Friendship with the Chinese crew members docked at Cockburn Sound to load wheat – playing pool at the home of Anne and Les Greive.

## Out Bound Delegations

The first ACFSWA members of delegations to China occurred in 1972 when President John Thomson and Mrs Edwina Ross toured the country. This was a 24 days tour which covered some 36,000 miles and we visited a total of 39 institutions and places of interest. As well as attending celebrations, the group was looking at the ways the Chinese were tackling pollution and the environment. On his return John gave a talk on the advances China had made in these fields.

Nationally, it was also the year the first Australian Aboriginal delegation to China. On his return Mr Ken Winder a participant in the tour gave a talk to the Society. In the same year, the Society welcomed a touring Chinese table tennis association team.

### **ACFSWA has attended many delegations to China including:**

In 1984, ACFSWA sponsored two people (Mr Bod Pride and Barry Wells) to participate in the *'Influential; People's Delegation'* to China.

In 1994 Les Grieve led an ACFS National Council visit to China. In the same year Dr Wolfgang (Wally) Frick led a 6 member WA delegation to Zhejiang.

In 2002, President Ann Begg visited China to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

In 2007, President Shirley Guy and Helen Rigby were invited to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (ZPPAFFC)

In 2008 Dr Neville Green AM was the guest of the Shanghai Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC) and attended the 2008 International Conference on the Development of Old-age Programs. Curtin University funded Dr Joan Winch AM to present a paper at the conference.

Our President Dr Neville Green AM and Treasurer Ms Roz Hanley attended the Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship in Beijing, 5th to 9th September 2011.



2008 Dr Neville Green AM and Cheng Longxing Secretary General of Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

## DELEGATIONS

Dr Neville Green AM in speaking at the conference said :

*“We are here this week to discuss friendly co-operation and harmony and it is timely that we also review what we have in common? We represent 1,412 Friendship Societies and Associations. We all have objectives that we are rarely able to share. We are like travellers in time and space and if we don’t know where we are going it may well be that we are moving in different directions.*

*Should we persist with goals and activities that were successful in the past and are now outdated, or is it time to re-assess our objectives and identify areas where our friendship role is meaningful, both in our home nations and in China?”*



Deborah Rhode, Roz Hanley, Neville Green, Carol Keil, John Wong, Dave Bromwich at the 2011 Friendship Forum. Deborah and Dave are from NZ China Friendship Society. Carol and John are from ACFS (ACT)

ACFSWA member Ying Li joined the CPAFFC Friendship Forum in China in July 2016. In his own words, Ying Li reports to ACFSWA whom he thanks for the opportunity to participate.

*“This was my first visit to China within a group and I found it to be an awesome experience.*

*We first stayed in Hefei in Anhui province and the high speed train from Beijing to this destination was a highlight travelling at 300kmh which was not evident until we looked from the window and were conscious of the blurred scenery. When we arrived at the hotel we were most warmly received by our Chinese hosts and the hotel staff.*

*At the forum, members shared their experiences of past forums, current relationships with friendship associations and kindred organisations in China together with future plans and many open questions were discussed.*

*The Forum developed my thinking in so many ways. I feel encouraged to respect the differences between nations and to resist the urge to interfere. Let us all work for peace while improving the economies to help bring benefits to the masses of ordinary citizens and so make the world a better place for all."*



2016 Friendship Forum: The hosting of the ACFS delegation on a cruise of West Lake in Hangzhou. ACFSWA's old friend, Mr Zhu Xin was the escort during this excursion ( 2<sup>nd</sup> right).

ACFS was warmly welcomed to Hangzhou by Madame CHEN Aizhen, Executive Vice President and Council members from the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.