

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

> 1 October 2009 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

> ACC Alumni events are in progress. To register your interest see page 3

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Lunch for ACC Alumni located in Adelaide 4

Welcome to the Australia-China Council Alumni



'Year in China 2007-08'
Georgina Day's
class photo

Welcome to the first newsletter for the newly created 'Friends of the Australia-China Council'. We have been overwhelmed by the response for ACC Alumni members and inspired by some of the stories of how ACC exchanges have impacted on different peoples lives. We would like to thank you for providing your contact details and if you are aware of any other former recipients of ACC funding please forward this newsletter on. We would also like to include your stories in our future newsletters. If you are interested in sharing your experiences, please email the ACC Secretariat—contact details are on the back page.

Changes to ACC Board Members

2009 has seen many changes to the ACC Board membership. July saw the departure of the highly active and enthusiastic former Deputy Chair, Dr Claire Roberts. Dr Roberts has relocated to Washington.

Following Dr Roberts departure, the Minister for Foreign Affairs appointed Mr Peter Cleary, President of North West Shelf Australia LNG. To the ACC board he will provide invaluable experience in the areas of resources and business.



Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown,
ACC Deputy Chair

Long-standing ACC Board Member, Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown has been nominated as the new ACC Deputy Chair commencing September 2009. Kevin will bring his legal and business expertise to the role, as the Group Executive and General Counsel at Sino

Gold Mining Ltd and immediate past Chairman of the Australia China Business Council.

September also marked the farewell of Professor Vivian Lin. Professor Lin's knowledge in health issues has helped guide the ACC in its strategic theme of science and technology.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has appointed Mr Chris Clark, General Manager, Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific for Visa, who we welcome as the ACC's newest board member.

AUSTRALIA-CHINA COUNCIL 106TH BOARD MEETING



Left to right, top: Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown, Prof Wai Fong Chua, Mr John Lantry, Mr Peter Cleary, Ms Joanna Capon, Ms Mignon Bleach.

Left to right, bottom: Prof Vivian Lin, the Hon Stephen Smith MP, Prof Mark Wainwright, Prof Susan Street

On September 9, 2009 the ACC held its 106th board meeting at Parliament House, Canberra. The venue enabled the Council to meet with a number of distinguished guests including the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade.

The Council had the opportunity to meet with Ms Jennie George MP, Senator Kate Lundy and Mr Jim Turnour MP from the Australia-China Parliamentary Friendship Committee and Senator Steve Hutchins and the Hon Roger Price MP, Chief Government Whip representing the Australia-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Committee.

'2010 should turn out to be an invigorating year in the Australia-China bilateral relationship'

DFAT Representatives briefed the board on Australia's participation in forthcoming promotional events to be held in China. Including discussions about the Shanghai World Expo and the Australia International Cultural Council's cultural program in China.

The discussion resulted in the formation of an Australia-China Council sub-committee to focus on ACC supported projects suitable for these exciting events.

2010 should turn out to be an invigorating year in the Australia-China bilateral relationship.



Left to right, top: Ms Rachael Cunliffe, Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown, Mr John Lantry, Prof Vivian Lin, Ms Joanna Capon.

Left to right, bottom: Mr Peter Cleary, Prof Wai Fong Chua, the Hon Simon Crean MP, Prof Mark Wainwright, Prof Susan Street

Askar Grey Wolf Tour to Australia

Askar Grey Wolf, the path-finding Chinese world fusion band, had their first-ever Australian tour last month. Their debut Australian appearance was as a headline act in a Darwin Festival World Music concert on the night of Saturday 29 August 2009. In Sydney, they performed at the Manning Bar at the University of Sydney on Friday, 4 September as part of the Verge Arts Festival. They also attended a welcoming reception hosted by the Hon Henry Tsang at NSW Parliament House on Tuesday 1 September, and were booked for special school performances in Darwin and at the Verbrugghen Hall, University of Sydney.

An Askar concert is a wild ride through the guitar heroics of Deep Purple, the exuberant rhythms of the Gipsy Kings and the exquisite tones of stringed instruments like the *tambur*, a traditional

long-necked lute, and the *ghijak*, a four-stringed fiddle held on the knee.

Askar Grey Wolf hail from Xinjiang in the far west of China, and their music is a blend of the old rhythms of the Silk Road with a pulse-pounding Western beat. The 8-person outfit, fronted by the wild-haired, raw-voiced Uighur singer-guitarist Askar Mamat, shot to fame in China when they put the traditional instruments of Central Asia into a Western rock line-up to produce the country's first world music act. The group, which includes both Uighur and Han Chinese musicians and sings in the languages of both cultures, embodies the ethnic diversity which has always been a source of creative energy in Chinese culture.



During their visit to Australia, Askar Grey Wolf featured in the Australian: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25942250-5013575,00.html> and on the ABC's 7.30 Report: <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2009/s2676073.htm> Askar Grey Wolf appeared courtesy of Sino Gold Mining and the Australia-China Council.

For more on Askar Grey Wolf: <http://www.myspace.com/askargreywolf>



SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO 2010

Australia will have a significant national presence at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, which is expected to attract 70 to 80 million visitors and will be the largest expo the world has ever seen.

From 1 May to 31 October 2010, Australia's visually striking national pavilion will showcase Australian innovation, creativity and achievement to some 7 million visitors mostly from mainland China - an average of 38,000 people on each of the 184 days of the expo.

Dynamic and engaging exhibits, an energetic team of bilingual staff, a rich cultural program and unique retail, food and beverage options will introduce visitors to the sights, sounds and tastes of Australia.

Targeted business promotion events in the pavilion's dedicated VIP area will highlight Australian capability in key industry sectors, help to boost trade and two-way investment, and expand institutional and people-to-people links. As a whole, the pavilion and its programs will respond to the expo's 'Better City, Better Life'

theme by focusing on Australia's cities - many consistently ranked as among the world's most liveable - and our smart solutions for urban living.

The Australian pavilion is located at the heart of the 5.28 square kilometre expo site, on the banks of the Huangpu River in downtown Shanghai. Australia is one of more than 190 nations taking part in the expo.

For more information, please visit the website <http://www.australianpavilion.com>

“expected to attract 70 to 80 million visitors and will be the largest expo the world has ever seen.”

AICC'S CULTURAL PROGRAM IN CHINA

The Australia International Cultural Council (AICC) is Australia's key cultural diplomacy body. It is chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, and is composed of leaders from government, the arts and business with a common interest in promoting Australia abroad through the arts

and culture.

Every year the AICC mounts country-specific cultural programs which aim to strengthen and deepen ties with the countries through integrated events and activities across a range of art forms, including the performing arts, visual arts, literature and film. At its meeting in February 2009,

the AICC agreed to support a major cultural promotion in China in 2010, building on Australia's reach and presence in China beyond the Australian Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo.

For more information, please visit the AICC website <http://www.dfat.gov.au/aicc>



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The Friends of the Australia-China Council (ACC) and ACC Alumni is a networking platform created to connect past and present ACC funding recipients and provide long term people to people linkages.

The Australia-China Council (ACC) was established by an Order of the Executive Council in 1978 for the purpose of promoting understanding and fostering "people-to-people" relations between Australia and China. The Chairperson of the ACC, Emeritus Professor Mark Wainwright AM was appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who also appoints the board members of the ACC. Council funding is in the form of an annual budget allocation administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Council funds projects in Australia, China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan that are in line with the ACC's goals outlined in its Strategic Plan for 2008 to 2011.



ACC Alumni Events



China Experience Group 2006

As promised, the Australia-China Council is planning to hold events to enable past and present recipients of ACC funding to share their experiences and provide a networking platform for Alumni & Friends who are working or plan-

ning to work in or with China. The first Alumni event will be held in Adelaide in November. This will be a lunch fully supported by the Australia-China Council and organised by Karen Surmon, a South Australian Alumni member. The next event will be held in Sydney following the ACC Board Meeting on 25 February 2010. Plans for another event in Melbourne are in progress. Anyone interested in attending these events will need to register their interest with the ACC by email.

Please title the email:
ACC ALUMNI EVENT - SA or
ACC ALUMNI EVENT - SYDNEY
and send your details to:

auschina.council@dfat.gov.au

If you are aware of any members who did not receive this newsletter and would be interested in attending, please let them know.

“Anyone interested in attending either of these events will need to register their interest with the ACC by email”