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## Negotiating the Future by Understanding the Past

*The Australia-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry was founded in 1976 with the basic objectives of encouraging Australian business within the context of two-way trade and investment with China; promoting the Chamber and the business of its member companies with businesses and organisations in China; and developing Chamber-sponsored projects of a cultural or sporting nature, which have the principal purpose of bringing the business communities together.*

There are many ways to approach and segment the 35 years since Australia's recognition of the People's Republic of China in December 1972. Australia-China economic relations have not only both an Australian and Chinese perspective but also a regional Asia-Pacific and global context. In addition there are significant institutional histories, public and private, including that of the Australia-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New South Wales, that was established on 16 September 1976, which provide a range of interpretations of these years.

The official visit to Australia in early September 2007 of His Excellency, Chairman Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, marks another step in the complex history of Australia-China relations stretching back to the gold rushes of the 1850s.

For example, from the early 1890s the famous Australian journalist George Morrison travelled widely throughout China. In 1897 Morrison became The (London) Times correspondent in Peking, reporting the affairs of the Imperial Court and the revolutionary movement that ended the Manchu Dynasty in 1911. Subsequently he was a government advisor to President Yuan Shi-kai. In 1917 Morrison visited Australia, speaking energetically on China trade prospects.

In 1913 the foundation Governor of ACCCI, Billy Liu, was the English-speaking secretary to the first Chinese Consul in Melbourne, at that time the interim capital of the Commonwealth of Australia. In 1917 Liu helped establish a shipping line between Australia and China and in the late 1920s and early 1930s he was the very active Vice President in Sydney for the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, travelling regularly between Australia and China. The building of the No 1 Department Store in Shanghai was based on plans from the David Jones building in Sydney.

Many of the Chamber's founding businessmen first became politically active in the 1930s, and subsequently again in the 1950s in support of the growing campaign to recognise the PRC. Both my father and mother, J.C. and E.H. Jones, were such people. The original generation of ACCCI leaders in 1976 had military backgrounds during the Second World War and continued their involvement with defence and trade issues well into the 1980s. Australia-China trade continued in the 20 years up to 1972, albeit very discreetly and on a small scale.

The Whitlam Labor Government's recognition of the PRC in December 1972 was truly an historic event in Australia-China Relations. The Missions

## 理解过去 掌握未来

**澳**中工商会成立于1976年，其基本目标是推动澳大利亚商界和中国进行双边贸易和投资，促进商会及其会员公司的生意和中国的商业公司及机构之间的交流，以及开展商会赞助的文化和体育项目，以达到加强两国商界联系的主要目的。

我们可以用许多方式来探讨和分解自澳大利亚1972年12月承认中华人民共和国以来的35年历史。澳中经济关系不仅仅需要从澳大利亚以及中国角度来分析，还需要考虑整个亚太地区以及全世界的形势。再加上一些重大的公共及私人的机构性历史—其中包括1976年9月16日成立的新州澳中工商会，也为这35年提供了广泛多样的注解。

中华人民共和国国家主席胡锦涛阁下在2007年9月初对澳大利亚的正式访问标志着从1850年代淘金热至今的澳中总体关系中的又一篇章。

比如，早在1890年代初期，著名的澳大利亚记者佐治莫里森就曾经遍游中国。到1897年，莫里森成为(伦敦)泰晤士报驻北平的记者，报道了朝廷事务及在1911年结束了满清朝代的革命运动。之后他成了袁世凯总统的政府顾问。莫里森在1917年到访澳大利亚时，就曾热情洋溢地谈论中国的贸易前景。

澳中工商会的创始董事Billy Liu，在1913年时是当时中国首任驻墨尔本领事的英语秘书，当时的墨尔本是澳大利亚联邦的临时首都。在1917年，Liu协助开辟了澳大利亚和中国之间的航运线，在1920年代晚期和1930年代早期，Liu是中国商会十分活跃的悉尼副会长，经常旅行往返于澳大利亚和中国。上海第一百货公司的建筑就是按照悉尼的大卫琼斯百货公司大楼蓝图兴建的。

商会的许多创始商人是因1930年代开始活跃于政坛，之后他们又在1950年代支持承认中华人民共和国的运动。我的父母亲J.C.琼斯和E.H.琼斯正是这样的人士。1976年澳中工商会的首届领导都有着第二

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澳中工商会  
会长



Michael Jones and former presidents of ACCCI, with former Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the W.J.Liu OBE Memorial Scrolls Exhibition, 1991.

1991年麦克·琼斯及澳中工商会几位前会长与前总理霍克出席W.J.Liu OBE 纪念文献展览会

led by Trade Ministers Dr Jim Cairns and Lionel Bowen were pioneering and from their success was born the ACCCI.

During the 1980s the foundations of an enormous trading relationship between Australia and China were laid. Contacts, understandings and commercial respect were realised although there were many business failures on both sides – this was inevitable given China's previous isolation from the world.

In late May 1994 the Chamber signed in Beijing a cooperative agreement with the Beijing Sub-Council of the CCPIT from which many commercial activities developed. Similar agreements had been previously signed with Shenzhen Municipality and Hubei Province, and many others were to follow later in the decade.

By 1995 there was a new commercial momentum and Australia China two-way trade had reached approximately AU\$5 billion. However, when I predicted in The Australian newspaper that trade would pass AU\$20 billion by 2000 there were only smiles. Twelve years later at the end of March 2007, China passed Japan as Australia's biggest trade partner with a miraculous AU\$52 billion in two-way trade. At current growth rates it is not inconceivable that in another 15-35 years Australia China trade could be in excess of AU\$250 billion or even approaching AU\$500 billion per annum. However we all know history does not walk or run in straight lines.

As the third President of Chamber (1989-2007) I would like to pay tribute to the founding Governor, William J. Liu OBE, the founding President (1976-89), D.C Carter OAM, and the second President (1989), as well as twice-loyal Vice President to Darcy and myself, R.J Torrington. Also to the many retired men and women who have served over 31 years, some of whom have now passed away. Among others, I refer to Roy Dissmeyer, Laurie Smith, Bo Liu and Greg Burns. Nevertheless the Chamber is fortunate that both the foundation Senior Vice President, Arthur Chang, and Second Vice President, Richard Liu, are still members of the ACCCI Board along with 1980s executive members Harry Pang and King Fong. The 1990s "trade sanctions and beyond" leaders, John Zerby, Marilyn Walker, John Wang and David Odewahn also remain active, giving their expertise and time voluntarily to the Chamber.

ACCCI will continue its traditional leadership role in Australia-China economic relations and looks back with pride on the generation of approximately AU\$40 billion in two-way trade between our countries during the period 1976-2002.

Over the next 35 years, as China's global power grows economically, politically, and militarily, the Australia-China diplomatic relationship will face many challenges, and business will have to respond determinedly. ACCCI will be at the forefront.

次世界大战的军事背景，他们一直到1980年代都还在积极参与国防和贸易事务。澳中贸易在1972年前的20年里，一直在小规模、谨慎地继续进行。

1972年12月惠特拉姆工党政府承认中华人民共和国是澳中关系中具有重要历史意义的事件——那也是澳大利亚历史上仅有的几次真正发挥全球领导作用的事件之一。由贸易部长吉姆凯恩斯博士和拉诺包温率领的代表团是先锋队，从他们的成功中诞生了澳中工商会。

庞大的澳中贸易关系的基石是在1980年代奠定的。那段时期双方增进了联系、了解和商业尊敬，当然双方也经历了不少的业务失败。考虑到中国此前同世界的隔绝，出现这样的结果也是不可避免的。

在1994年5月底，工商会在北京同贸促会北京分会签署了一份合作协议，众多商业活动由此展开。在这之前工商会已同深圳市和湖北省签署了类似的合作协议，接下来的十年里又签署了不少这样的合作协议。到1995年，澳中贸易出现了一个新的商业强劲增长期，双向贸易额达到50亿澳元左右。当我在澳大利亚报纸上预言澳中贸易额将会在2000年超过200亿澳元时，大家看了只是一笑。可是12年之后的2007年3月底，中国超过日本成为澳大利亚最大的贸易伙伴，双向贸易额高达520亿澳元。按目前的增长速度，再过15年或35年，澳中贸易额超过2500亿澳元或每年接近5000亿澳元也不是不可想象的。当然我们也知道历史并不是按照直线行走或奔跑。

作为澳中工商会的第三任会长(1989 - 2007)，我愿对下列人士表示敬意：创始董事William J. Liu(获英帝国勋章)、首任会长(1976 - 1989)D. C.卡特(获澳大利亚勋章)、第二任会长(1989年)及分别为达西和我本人作副会长的R.J. 托林顿。我还要向许许多多在过去的31年里为工商会工作、现已退休的男士和女士们致以敬意，他们有的已经去世了。我特别要提到罗尔·蒂斯梅尔、劳丽·斯密斯、Bo Liu和格雷戈·布恩斯。不过，工商会感到欣慰的是首任高级副会长Arthur Chang、第二任副会长Richard Liu、1980年代常务会员Harry Pang和方劲武依然是工商会董事会成员。1990年代“贸易制裁及其后”领导成员约翰·泽毕、玛丽莲·瓦克、John Wang和大卫·欧德万也依然积极自愿向工商会贡献他们的知识和时间。

澳中工商会将继续发挥其在澳中经济关系中的传统领导作用，回顾1976至2002年期间我们两国的双向贸易额达到400亿澳元，对此我们不无骄傲。

在今后的35年时间里，随着中国在全球的经济、政治和军事力量的增长，澳中外交关系将面临许多挑战，商界必须要下定决心应对新挑战。澳中工商会将站在第一线。