

ANNUAL REPORT of the PRESIDENT 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

This is my second report as President of the Chung Wah Society and I will be attempting to keep this as short as possible. I was informed by our Vice President that a good report is a short report and I have always believed in following good advice.

Once again, I have been fortunate enough to have had an excellent hard working committee behind me which has made my task a happy and productive one.

Chung Wah Society today is a strong and vibrant community group in one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

I have lived here all my life and have seen many people come and go. I have had many visitors to our Museum come and ask me where Chinatown is located in Darwin and I tell them we don't have a "Chinatown" as such. We don't have a "Greektown", or "Indiantown" or any such ethnic town because Darwin is one big town for everyone, we all mix, appreciate and respect each and get on with life.

Why do we all get on in Darwin? for me the answer is simple, if you live in Darwin and you can put up with the "Build Up" to the Wet Season, then you will be able to tolerate anything and that is what it is all about, the people who live in Darwin are the most tolerant people in the world, and it doesn't get any more simpler than that, although we don't suffer fools.

Ask anyone who visit Darwin, what is the biggest thing that they like about the place, and besides the "Dry Season" or "catching a barramundi", it is the "people". Our hospitality, friendliness and "Layback" attitude is what they love about the place. The "Build Up" helps get rid of the rest, and the people of Darwin look after the place until the tourists return next Dry Season.

Late last year, our Society lost one of our strongest stalwarts. Jan MacPherson was one of the most conscientious and dedicated person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and working with. Although she may have been small in stature, she was someone who everyone looked up to. Jan was one of those people who lived life and worked with a passion and we all miss her dearly. Our Society was blessed with her invaluable contribution and she will always remain in our hearts.

Once again I would like to thank the following members of the 2011/2012 CWS MANAGEMENT Board for their time and dedication to making our Society one of the strongest and most respected community groups in the Territory.

These people are the quiet achievers who find the time to help others.

OFFICE HOLDERS

Mr Richard (Dick) Griffiths	Patron
Mr Adam Lowe	Vice Patron and Past President
Mr Alfred On OAM	Vice Patron
Mr Daryl Chin	Vice President
The Late Ms Jan MacPherson	General Secretary and
“	Public Officer (Oct-Dec 2011)
Ms Camille Fong Lim	General Secretary (Jan 2012 to date)
Mr Roland Chin	Treasurer
“	Public Officer (Jan 2012 to date)
Mr Daniel Chow	Chinese secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subcommittee Co-ordinators

Mr Andrew Chin	Building/Maintenance
Mr Bradley Griffiths	
Mr Dennis Low	Temple Officer (with Roland)
Mr Desmond Yuen	
Ms Jade Schembri	Newsletter/Membership
	(with Camille, Natasha and Roger)
Mr Michael Lui	
Ms Natasha Yuen	Jade Dragons
Mr Nathan Tam	Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Randall Chin	

Mr Richard Quan	Museum (with Adam)
Mr Roger Lowe	Computer / IT Support and Car Parking (with Michael and Daniel)
Mr Shaun Pearson	Lion Dance Troupe
Ms Tiffany Rinaldi	Youth / Hall bookings
Ms Tanya Fong Lim	
Mr Warren Wong	Lion Dance Troupe

Other Posts

John Hetherington	Auditor
Ms Melanie Chin	Seniors Group (with Aunty Leila)
Mr Adam Lowe	NT Chinese Museum
Ms Susan Lay	Community Support Worker
Mr Paul Ho	Temple Caretaker

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011-12

The Year of the Dragon for our society has been of Business as usual. In order to keep the rest of this report as short as possible, I will refer the members to go back to our Newsletters for a more comprehensive report on our activities however, I will touch on some of the following items.

Building and Site Works:

- Due to our aging and deteriorating air conditioning system, we have received a Grant for \$50,000 from the NT Government – Office of

Multicultural Affairs to help replace the units which are becoming extremely expensive in continuous repairs.

- Repairs to the Memorial Plaques on the Litchfield Street wall have been investigated, however the quotes received have been quite high, Andrew Chin to discuss options with Jeremy to ensure we get better value and quality product.
- Repairs to the Tennis Court are currently in progress, most of the cracks have been primed, grinded and filled with epoxy and non-hardening mastic, the committee has due to cost saving to leave as bare concrete. Other information provided by the contractor is being investigated for other options.
- Front Gate (Woods Street entrance) to be discussed with members as this will be a major project requiring substantial funding

Senior Citizens' Group

- The Senior's Group celebrated their 20th Anniversary this year. Congratulations to Melanie Chin and all the volunteers
- Recently held an event with Alzheimer's group which was such a great success that the Alzheimer's group donated a \$200 Cheque in appreciation.
- As per previous years, the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea fund raiser for the Cancer Council was a great success.

Lion Dance Group

- Many bookings for Lion Dance, performances continue to promote our Society to the public.
- Succession planning in place with the junior Lion Dance troupe coming up through the ranks. Many thanks to Wayne Lo and his volunteers
- Re-stocking adult size pants and ordering of smaller sizes for the juniors.
- New yellow performance shirts being ordered.
- Anniversary dinner in Singapore invitation received. Committee has agreed to contribute funding for the Lion Dance Coordinators to attend. Airfares - \$500 return each, Accommodation-\$100/person/night, Conference Fee - \$50/per person

Chinese Museum

- People have commented that our Museum is excellent, however we need better promotion of it to the tourists and general public.
- The CWS supported the Bombing of Darwin fortnight by opening the Museum for free admittance from 12th Feb to 26th Feb 2012. Many of the veterans and their families visited our Museum and were pleased to learn about our Chinese heritage, contribution to the NT's development, and war service of our Chinese men and women.
- Adam Lowe and Richard Quan were invited on Sun 19th Feb to the launch of Peter and Sheila Forrest's book "Battling" which gave the stories on how the bombing of Darwin and the war affected the civilians of Darwin, especially those evacuated and who had to battle to return.
- This year, the Museum sub-committee had agreed to continue opening the Museum to the public from March through to the normal opening month of April.
- Admittance fees were charged as normal as to cover costs of the air conditioners and other running costs.
- The Museum will be closed for the season on the 5th November 2011. Many thanks to Mr Adam Lowe, Richard Quan and all the volunteers.

Moon Festival

- This year and as always, the Moon Festival was promoted as an event where Families can come along and have a night's entertainment, celebrate with a family meal.
- It was decided this year for guests to bring their own food to be shared amongst their own group. This worked quite well as it kept the event affordable however the attendance was down from the previous year. We may consider having some food stalls available next year for those guests who may wish to purchase food on the night.
- The highlight of the night for many parents was the performance by the CWS Junior Lion Dance Troupe and the Children's Lantern Parade.
- The main Lion Dance Troupe and the Jade Dragons put on a fantastic show, with the night ending with the outstanding energy and skill of the Dragon Dancers. We have been extremely blessed by having so many

young people involved in our Society. These younger members are the Life Blood of our Future, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the night.

Newsletter

- After receiving feedback from some of our members, at the monthly CWS Committee Meeting held on the 28/02/2012, a motion was put forward and passed that newsletters will continue to be posted for those who do not have email addresses or internet access.
- For those who are unaware, our Newsletter is produced by Jade Schembri who has done a fantastic job in meeting deadlines to keep all our members informed.

Temple Affairs:

- Lockers have been installed inside the Temple due to personal property such as a backpack being stolen whilst people were worshipping.
- Temple is in the process of getting new flags as soon as the proper protocols have been adhered to.
- A plaque for the Bodi Tree has been approved and will be placed as soon as it made by the signage people.

In Conclusion

Once again, on behalf of the Chung Wah Management Committee, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Katrina Fong Lim on her “landslide” win to become our new Lord Mayor.

Katrina’s father, Alec Fong Lim was elected Darwin’s second Chinese Mayor in 1984 and the first Chinese Lord Mayor of any Australian Capital City.

Katrina’s sister, Tanya Fong Lim with over 24 years of experience as a legal practitioner became a magistrate in 2009. So with this sought of “pedigree” it was of no surprise that Katrina was to become the first Chinese Female Lord Mayor of any Australian Capital City.

We wish her luck in her new career and we know that with her father's spirit guiding her, Katrina will no doubt do a fantastic job for the people of Darwin. As I have four daughters myself, the Fong Lim girls have shown that you don't have to have sons to carry on a dynasty.

Not to forget that many other Chinese people have also contributed to the development of Darwin. In the late fifties the Chinese began to take positive action in the public life sphere and to have representation in high office within the wider community. In particular, Harry Chan was a conscientious alderman, devoting great energy to working for Fannie Bay. In 1965, he was elected unopposed as President of the Legislative Council and in 1966, Harry Chan became the first Chinese Mayor of Darwin when he defeated the incumbent, Harold Cooper.

It is clear that the Chinese played an important role in the development of the Northern Territory.

As always, we exist only with the invaluable support by our members and volunteers. If I was to thank everyone individually, it would take forever. However, I must make special mention of Nathan Tam, Shaun Pearson, Wayne Lo, Melanie Chin, Dennis Low, Roland Chin, Daryl Chin, Roger Lowe, Des Yuen, Andrew Chin, our Patrons, Mr Dick Griffith, Alfred On OAM, and Adam Lowe for their passion in all that they do for the Chung Wah Society.

Special thanks again to our Major supporters such as the NT Government, Sony, Optus Business and Alfred's Gift Shop.

Austin James Chin

President

28th October 2012