



ANNUAL REPORT of the PRESIDENT 2012-2013

“To appreciate our future, we must know our past.”

On the 3rd of April 1949, the Chung Wah Society held its first meeting to elect its first Executive Committee. My grandfather, Loong Tang Chin was on that inaugural Committee along with Mook Sang Chin, Ack hong Chin, Loong Pak Chin, Harry Chan, Charles See Kee, Hung Yat Chee and Ying Fai Chin.

The committee was led by Albert Fong as President, George Lim as Treasurer, Sing Noy Leung as Chinese Secretary and Charlie Fong as English Secretary.

President Albert Fong made a speech after the election was concluded. He thanked everyone for their keen participation and enthusiasm of the election, and the great insight to vote for the right candidates for the right positions of the Executive Committee. He hoped that the Executive Committee would extend the vision and follow the orders of the Society, honour their duties and responsibilities and provide leadership for the wellbeing of the Chinese community.

As I am about to stand down at the end of my third term as President of the Chung Wah Society, I have always been mindful and grateful to have had the good fortune of having wonderful committee members. Just as the people on the very first committee back in 1949, these special people that come along who are prepared to make a difference.

They drive other people forward. Advancement and reward is never an issue for these highly motivated people because they understand the power of cause and effect, and throughout the history of our Society, we have been blessed by having these people serving not only our Society but the rest of our community in the Northern Territory.

Our committee members enthusiastically learn all aspects of our “Society”. They understand they're part of something bigger and more worthwhile than just the tasks put before them. They look to learn other areas of our Society and be weary of cost effectiveness and development so they'll positively impact multiple areas of our Society. They treat the Society as if it were theirs.

Our Management Board has always been transparent in the running of our Society. The more we share the responsibility of our financials and philosophy, the easier it is for committee members to make the right decisions. You don't have to be an expert in marketing to help a society grow. Hard work and dedication from all our committee members see our Society's growth as a collective effort.

Our committee members understand the Society's value proposition and can easily identify what contributions they can make. They do this without expecting any financial rewards for their efforts except for the satisfaction of what they can do for the benefit of our members.

My favourite days chairing our monthly board meetings are when I notice positive change in procedure when I was totally unaware of the need for change.

Good committee members are always looking to improve systems proactively, and they do. As part of the executive board members we always hope to communicate a clear vision of where the Society is going and encourage initiative so people feel safe and empowered to make change and facilitate new ideas.

Our committee members understand that not saying anything when something is not right helps no one. They find kind ways to bring any uncomfortable thoughts they may have to the surface, but they do bring it to my attention, (even though I might disagree with them). They tell me what's necessary and issues are addressed accordingly.

We foster an open communication environment at our meetings. Our Sub Committee coordinators quietly drive their own high standards, they not only drive their designated responsibilities, but they inspire others to do the same. These committee members lead by example in how to advance without creating animosity or resentment. They see and create their personal visions for our Society, and also bring others along.

Good committee members make me grow as a good leader. They self-confidently get their value and help me get mine. They make me want to be worthy of working with people of such high ethics.

I would like to thank the following Office Holders of 2012-2013:

EXECUTIVES

Mr Richard (Dick) Griffiths	Patron
Mr Adam Lowe	Vice Patron and Past President
Mr Alfred On OAM	Vice Patron
Mr Daryl Chin	Vice President
Tiffany Rinaldi	General Secretary
Mr Roland Chin	Treasurer and Public Officer
Mr Daniel Chow	Chinese secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subcommittee Co-ordinators

Mr Andrew Chin	Building and Maintenance
Mr David Quan	Alice Springs Chinese New Year Blessings
Mr Dennis Low	Temple Officer (with Mervyn Chin)
Mr Desmond Yuen	Special Projects – Tennis Court
Ms Jade Schembri	Newsletter Editor
Ms Jennifer Yuen	Project Support
Ms Natasha Yuen	Jade Dragon Dance Group and Children's Christmas Party

Mr Nathan Tam	Senior Lion Dance Troupe
Ms Pauline Ah Toy	Adults Christmas Party
Quen Foo	Moon Festival (with Daryl Chin)
Mr Randall Chin	Royal Darwin Show Stall (with Austin Chin)
Mr Richard Quan	Museum (with Adam Lowe)
Mr Roger Lowe	IT Support, Membership and Car Parking
Mr Shaun Pearson	Senior Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Stephen Pearson	Senior Lion Dance Troupe

Other Posts

Mr John Hetherington	Auditor
Ms Melanie Chin	Seniors Group (with Aunty Leila)
Mr Adam Lowe	NT Chinese Museum
Mr Wayne Lo	Junior Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Jeremy Chin	Property Development
Ms Susan Lay	Community Support Worker
Mr Paul Ho	Temple Caretaker

Although the above office holders have been mentioned, it is the volunteers that support these activities that make everything happen.

“Our Chung Wah Committee members and all our volunteers quietly roll up their sleeves and get the job done.”

The Year of the Snake has been “steady as she goes” for the Society. As of my report last year, in order to keep the rest of my report as short as possible, I will again refer the members to revisit our comprehensive newsletters of the past year. I must mention the fantastic efforts of our Newsletter Editor, Ms Jade Schembri who has produced a most professional community newsletter that is integral in keeping our members informed. I would also like to acknowledge the support of the NT Government Multicultural Affairs for their invaluable support to our activities.

The following is a brief overview of future developments and proposals.

The Society over the past several decades has progressed in leaps and bounds and in my term as President we have been busy just in maintaining the status quo.

As a Society we must remember the main objective and purpose of the Society which is still to honour our duties and responsibilities and provide leadership for the wellbeing of the Chinese community.

As most people are aware the cost of building and maintenance has been “Sky Rocketing” in the past several years and we have been faced with decisions on how we wisely spend the funds which belong to our members.

We must always look to make prudent decisions about expenses and opportunities with the long-term future of the Society in mind. As a committee we readily assess risk vs. reward for the members of our Society when making decisions which is why some of our projects seem to take some time to happen.

In the past we have saved a lot of expenditure by doing a lot of work with volunteers and their expertise involving many hours of work and personal time, especially in the area of project management.

Times have changed and people now have much less time away from their day jobs which now have higher demands. They have much more responsibility to their employers and commitments to their business which pays the bills and they seem to have much less time to spend with their families. I have mention this very real issue in past reports in our newsletters.

However, I am pleased to report that the restoration of the tennis and basketball court has nearly been completed. The tender for the replacement of our aging air conditioning system is about to be handed over to a contractor. However the many quotes for the replacement of the memorial plaques on our Commemorative Wall has been extremely expensive and we have struggled to justify the cost and where best to spend the money.

The Building committee has recently investigated a potential way to fund the building of our front wall and gate which includes the enhancement of the Temple grounds and access.

We are continuously trying to genuinely resist and control the tendency to put things off by looking at the underlying causes of the delay.

As our main objective as a Society, we have continuously excelled in promoting good relations between Chinese residents in the Northern Territory and people of other nationalities and we continue to promote the cultural, educational and social interests and welfare of our members. Over time we can lose sight of what we first set out to do. There is great tension every day in being successful in growth and what it means in terms of the financial health of the Society.

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other” – John F. Kennedy

In closing, I would like to thank all our volunteers, supporters and members for making Chung Wah Society the success it truly is.

Austin James Chin

President
27th October 2013

