



## **ANNUAL REPORT of the PRESIDENT 2013-2014**

### **Preamble:**

In short, the outgoing Management Committee has achieved most of our Aims and Goals for the past year. In conversation with many other Community Leaders and Government Officials, we continuously hear nothing but praise and admiration for the respect we have in the community and for the ongoing contribution to the very Multicultural Society that is the Territory.

We are proud to say that we have been able to continue the work done to promote good relations between the Chinese residents in the Northern Territory and the people of other nationalities. We have successfully promoted the general, cultural, educational and social interests and welfare of our members. We are especially proud of our efforts with our youth group and the care and involvement of our senior members.

As per my past reports, I will not take up your time by listing and reading out all our achievements and activities throughout the past year. I will again leave that for our members to refer back to our comprehensive monthly newsletters.

As you will see from our Treasurer's Report, we have continued to utilize the funds of our members in a frugal manner. We have managed to do this through hard work and effort by the committee and our volunteers.

Furthermore in this report as the outgoing President of the Chung Wah Society, I wish to take the privilege to digress from the conventional reports of the past and touch on my personal thoughts for the Chung Wah Society.

### **“In Order to Appreciate what we have, we must know what we have”**

The other day whilst I was helping out at the Museum, two visitors, a man and his wife from Hong Kong came in to see our Museum. After about twenty minutes they came out and commented on how impressed they were with our Museum. The man then asked if we knew how valuable the Mah-jong sets were that we had on display.

I asked him what he meant and he told me that they were extremely valuable because they were made of real ivory and handcrafted with bamboo backing. To me they were just two old sets of mah-jong that were donated to us.

Mah-jong has been a popular game played by both Chinese and non-Chinese Territorians. The sets were originally owned and much used from the 1920s by prominent Territory Journalist and public figure Jessie Litchfield and her daughter Chrissy. On inspection I found that he was correct and tried to lock the cabinet because of this new found information.

My point is this, how many of our members realize how valuable the Chung Wah Society actually is. This value is not only in regards to Real Estate and Assets which are obvious, but

more importantly in Social Capital for our members and our rich inheritance of Culture and sense of family.

As mentioned in my previous reports, Chung Wah Society was established in 1946 and its' first formal committee was elected in 1949. To gain a full understanding of the reasons behind the formation of the Society, we need to take a trip back in time to when the first Chinese arrived in the Territory.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August early this year, under the guidance of our Chinese Museum co-ordinator, Mr Adam Lowe we held our inaugural History and Cultural Day for Seniors.

The event was an unqualified success which was attended by over 100 local and interstate senior citizens. The event was subsidised under the NT Government's Senior Month Grants Program with a grant of \$1,000, which was matched in cash and in kind by our Society.

The event was headed up by a presentation entitled "The Dragon Descends on Darwin" by local historians, Peter and Sheila Forrest. They spoke about importance of the Chinese contribution to the early settlement and development of the Northern Territory from the 1870's.

The Forests made specific mention of the fact that the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014 was the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the SS Vidar which brought the first boatload of Chinese labourers to the Northern Territory. Peter strongly suggested that the Chinese community should prepare for some form of commemoration and celebration of that historical event which will fall in ten years' time in 2024. The management committee feels that this suggestion has a lot of merit and would be a very viable event which would be indeed worth sincere consideration.

I encourage our members, especially our younger members to learn more about the development of Chung Wah Society. In doing so I hope our senior members will make a concerted effort to pass on their stories to their children and their children's children so that they will have some appreciation of "what we have."

## **The Chinese Temple**

As part of our constitution under the objects and purposes of our Association, Clause 2.2 states that we are to provide and maintain the Chinese Temple as a place of Worship. The Late Loong Tang Chin held the important post of Temple Custodian in the 1960's. As my Grandfather, he taught my father many of the customs and beliefs associated with the Temple who in turn taught me and in turn, Melanie and I have taught our children.

It is not necessary for our children to follow these customs and beliefs, however I strongly feel that they should know the importance of the Temple to the Chinese family and understand the rituals and festivals that are associated with the Temple.

I have specifically mentioned this as I have found that the attendance at the Temple Festivals have been noticeably dwindling which I have found quite sad. I don't believe that this is a sign of disrespect, but more so that it is a sign of the times. We are going through times of rapid change mainly due to the advancement of technology and all that it offers.

## **Acknowledgement of the following Office Holders of 2013-2014:**

### **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
Mrs Tiffany Chin- Rinaldi	General Secretary
Mr Roland Chin	Treasurer and Public Officer
Mr Daniel Chow	Chinese Secretary

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr Andrew Chin  
Mr David Quan  
Mr Dennis Low  
Mr Mervyn Chin  
Mr Desmond Yuen  
Ms Jade Schembri  
Mr Jonathan Quan  
Ms Natasha Yuen  
Mr Nathan Tam  
Ms Quen Foo  
Mr Randall Chin  
Mr Roger Lowe  
Mr Shaun Pearson  
Mr Stephen Pearson

### **Subcommittee Co-ordinators**

Building and Maintenance  
Alice Springs Chinese New Year Blessings  
Temple Support  
Temple Officer  
Special Projects – Tennis Court/Air Conditioning  
Newsletter Editor  
Project Support  
Jade Dragon Dance Group and Children's Christmas Party  
Senior Lion Dance Troupe  
Junior Lion Dance, Moon Festival (with Daryl Chin)  
Project Support  
IT Support, Membership and Car Parking  
Senior Lion Dance Troupe  
Senior Lion Dance Troupe

### **Other Posts**

Mr John Hetherington Auditor  
Ms Melanie Chin Seniors Group (with Mrs Leila Chin)

Mr Adam Lowe	NT Chinese Museum
Mr Wayne Lo	Junior Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Jeremy Chin	Property Development
Ms Susan Lay	Community Support Worker (Retired)
Mr Paul Ho	Temple Caretaker

## **The Future of Chung Wah Society**

Our future is bright as long as we are prepared to work hard and to work as a community for the community. The future of any organisation is its ability to inspire and invest in its young. Our greatest strength is our sense of family, friendship and sense of community in Society. Our mantra is in helping others and being helped in return.

As a Society we will continuously learn and grow, we must adapt to change, true change for the better and not just for the sake of change itself.

## **Summary**

Chung Wah Society owes its' ongoing success to the high Ethical Values within its DNA. It has been a great honour and pleasure to have been in a position of guidance rather than leadership for the past four years. I have had the privilege to work with people on the committee who have continuously inspired and motivated me.

Although I sadly regret that as the President, I may not have reached the Pinnacle of some of those who have come before me, I must admit that I had only originally planned to hold such an auspicious post for two years. I hope that those who had shown support and initially encouraged me into the leadership role for the past four years have not been too disappointed. In return, I hope that I have been able to have provided some influence and motivation to those who serve our members.

I hope that I have been able to lead by example and motivate the next generation of leaders to lead. In my position of President, I have met many inspirational leaders and have tried to follow their example. The most important lesson I have found is to be honest and true to oneself.

In closing I would like to thank all the members of the management committee for all their hard work and passion, all our volunteers and coordinators, our supporters and sponsors and each and all the members of Chung Wah Society.

Austin Chin

President

26<sup>th</sup> October 2014