



ANNUAL REPORT of the PRESIDENT 2014-2015

INTRODUCTION

2015 is the Chinese Year of the Goat. The Goat comes 8th in the Chinese zodiac. People born in a year of the Goat are generally believed to be gentle mild-mannered, shy, stable, sympathetic, amicable, and brimming with a strong sense of kind heartedness and justice.

People born in the year of the goat prefer to work in a team. They are not crazy about status and power. Unless asked, they won't ever volunteer for anything and act as leaders. Good career choices for goats are actor, day care teacher, interior designer, florist, hair stylist, musician, editor, illustrator, and art history teacher.

Born in 1955 under the sign of the Goat and as it happens, Darwin's first post-war community hall known as the "Chung Wah Hall" was built. You may well ask, according to the above description, if Goat people don't act as leaders then how did I become President of Chung Wah Society. The answer is simple ... "I was asked !"

In short, I was approached by the "Faceless Men" of Chung Wah to stand for President at the 2010 AGM because the then President, the late Adam Lowe had announced his decision not to seek re-election as President.

Adam was a natural born leader as shown by all the achievements he made for the betterment of our Society during his 11 years of dedicated service. Adam stood down because of an on-going personal situation and sadly felt he was no longer able to offer the Society and its members the amount of time and dedication he felt necessary to be an effective President, ... such was the passion of Adam.

I said to these faceless men, there was no way I could follow the deeds of Adam and the answer I received was simple ... they said, "We needed a rest".

Well, as a Goat, I may have not have had the leadership skills, but I can say that I survived 5 Prime Ministers in the past 5 years, perhaps the fact that Goat comes 8th in the Chinese zodiac had some luck attached to it.

I have now reached the end of my 5 year term as CWS President.

As per Clause 33.5 of the CWS Constitution, "The position of President, shall not be held by a member for more than five (5) consecutive years, provided always that if there is no other willing nominee for the position the person holding that position may continue to hold that position for a further year."

As President, I have had the opportunity to meet many interesting people and have managed to make many new friends and associates. As like Adam, I have found my journey personally satisfying and a memorable one.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 5 years at the helm of a management board that has been capable, extremely hard working, passionate and focussed on the tasks at hand.

As this is my last report as President, I am proud to say that I truly feel that our Society is held in the highest esteem by the people of the Territory, community leaders, our valued sponsors and those in government.

I would like to thank the following Office Holders of 2014-2015:

EXECUTIVES

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Andrew Chin
Mr Mervyn Chin
Mr Dennis Low
Ms Mikayla Chin
Mr Desmond Yuen
Ms Jade Schembri
Ms Tina Griffiths
Ms Natasha Yuen

Subcommittee Co-ordinators

Building and Maintenance
Temple Officer
Co-Temple Officer (with Mervyn Chin)
Lion Dance Sub Committee Member
Special Projects – Air Condition Upgrade
Newsletter Editor
Chinese New Year / Major Events
Jade Dragon Dance Group and Children's Christmas Party

Jonathan Quan	Youth Group
Mr Nathan Tam	Senior Lion Dance Troupe
Ms Elizabeth Law Tam	Lion Dance Sub Committee Member
Ms Quen Foo	Moon Festival (with Daryl Chin)
Mr Randall Chin	Royal Darwin Show Stall (with Austin Chin)
Mr Roger Lowe	IT Support, Membership and Car Parking
Mr Stephen Pearson	Senior Lion Dance Troupe

Other Posts

Mr John Hetherington	Auditor
Ms Melanie Chin	Seniors Group (with Aunty Leila)
Mr Norm Chin	NT Chinese Museum
Mr Wayne Lo	Junior Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Jeremy Chin	Property Development
Mr Paul Ho	Temple Caretaker

Most important of all, I would like to thank all our members who make the Chung Wah Society the great family that it truly is.

In Memory of Adam Lowe

Adam Lowe as a Life Member, Vice Patron and Past President of the Chung Wah Society, Adam was a great leader and inspiration to all who knew him.

The committee and members of the Chung Wah Society shall miss you dearly, however your Spirit shall live forever.

The Chung Wah Society

The Chung Wah Society was established from the amalgamation of several smaller Chinese social and sporting clubs that existed in Darwin since the 1920's and probably earlier and on the 12th December 1949, the first executive committee was elected.

It is our responsibility to these forefathers to further enhance and project the Society for generations to come.

Darwin All Deities Temple

I wish to thank Mervyn Chin and Dennis Low for their dedicated management of the Temple.

The first Temple on this current site was built in 1887, the date inscribed on the original ceremonial bell.

The Temple was damaged by cyclones in 1897 and 1937 and partly damaged during the bombing of Darwin in 1942. In 1974, the Darwin Temple was completely destroyed by Cyclone Tracy. It was rebuilt on the original site and reopened in 1978.

The religion practised in the Temple is a combination of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. This demonstrates the unity and harmony within those communities.

The NT Chinese Museum

To Uncle Norm, Gloria and all our volunteers, we owe our deepest gratitude for their continuous promotion the Museum.

The Museum aims to encourage greater awareness and understanding of the history of the Chinese in the Territory. The Museum is open to the public and other institutions, for general interest, research and education. The Museum is a stimulus for families and individuals to research and document their histories and serves to remind present and future generations of their heritage.

The CWS Seniors Group

To Melanie, Aunty Leila and all the volunteers, you have been truly invaluable in the providing a wonderful opportunity for old friends to stay in touch and enjoy sharing a wonderful lunch.

Our Senior members who have been coming over the years says the hall is like a second home with a big dining room.

The group has been meeting every second Friday except on Public Holidays since 6 May 1992. Closed over the Christmas break and resumes the following year during the Chinese New Year period.

The Lion Dance Troupe

To Stephen Pearson, Nathan Tam, Warren Wong, Wayne Lo and all the troupe you truly inspire us. You have ensured the next generation of leadership for our Society.

The Lions are used by the Chinese community in the Northern Territory for cultural and religious festivals. Our largest festival is Chinese New Year where we use the Lions to bless over 300 businesses, homes and Government offices, including Parliament House.

Jade Dragons

To Natasha Yuen, you are a truly amazing lady, we are truly blessed to have you and all your girls showing us what can be achieved when you have a vision.

The Jade Dragons is an all-girls dance group that perform traditional/modern Chinese dancing, including things such as umbrella, lantern, fan and ribbon dances.

Some Highlights of 2014-15

- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**-The Society congratulates Tony Tam on his receipt of life membership. As an immigrant from Hong Kong, Tony has encouraged the participation of other Chinese arrivals to Darwin in the Society. His fluency in the Cantonese language has enabled communication between the Chinese decedents that do not speak English.
- **NEW Air Conditioning**-Our Hall has now been fitted with a brand new air conditioning system just in time for the "Build Up" and our Senior's and Children's 2014 Christmas Parties. We thank the NT Government for their support as the old system was failing and was beyond repair. Many thanks to Des Yuen and Andrew Chin for managing the project, also a special thanks to "UB Cool Air conditioning" for being so expedient and professional in completing the project in such a timely manner.
- **40th CYCLONE TRACY COMMEMORATION**-On Wednesday 3 December 2014, Chung Wah Society was invited to light joss sticks and candles at the 40th Cyclone Tracy Commemoration.
- **2015 CHINESE NEW YEAR BALL**-This year saw around 350 members and guests enjoy the hospitality of the Darwin Turf Club to celebrate the Year of the Goat.
- **MALAYSIA CHINESE NEW YEAR OPEN HOUSE 2015**-Tourism Malaysia, extending an invitation to myself as President of Chung Wah Society to attend the Chinese New Year Open House celebration in Ipoh, Malaysia on 28th February.
- **2015 CHINESE MAHJONG TOURNAMENT**-There was a total of 24 contestants comprising members of local Chinese Mahjong Club, Chung Wah Society, NT Hong Kong Club and the general public.
- **2015 ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE**-This year Marked the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC and this year as with every other past years, the President of Chung Wah Society was honoured to a wreath at the Dawn Service held at the Cenotaph on the Esplanade. The Dawn Service is a very special event and I have found it an honour and a privilege to pay our respect to the fallen, "Lest we Forget"
- **QINGMING (CHING MING) FESTIVAL**-This year the official Ching Ming Festival was held on Sunday 5th April, starting with an official service at the Memorial Chapel next to the Temple. After which the families travel to the old Chinese Memorial Cemetery down at Stuart Park on Tiger Brennan Drive. The tomb is swept, the people then all took turn to pray and make offerings to the ancestors. Hundreds of sheets of Joss Paper is then burnt along with the many joss sticks and candles which have were donated by the members.
- **2015 SARTEE STALL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS**-This year marked our 50th Anniversary for the Chung Wah Sarte Stall at the Darwin Show. Our delicious Sarte are an icon at the Show and it all started back in 1965 when the skewers were made of steel wire and the sarte's were cooked on a wood fired BBQ plate mounted on a 44 gallon drum cut in half. (No Health Regulations back then, "Hmmm funny thing that no one got sick")
- **HIS EXCELLENCY MR MA ZHAOXU**-Darwin was visited by the Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China (PRC), His Excellency Mr Ma Zhaoxu and his wife. Chung Wah President Austin Chin and Treasurer Roland Chin amongst many other Chinese Community Leaders met up with the Ambassador at a dinner function at Happy Gardens Restaurant.
- **2015 GOLD RUSH FESTIVAL**-On the 27th of June, the Senior Lion Dance Troupe headed down to Pine Creek to perform for the residents and passers-by of Pine Creek as part of the 2015 Gold Rush Festival, along with the families and members of Chung Wah. More than 50 members of Chung Wah spent the weekend with families and friends at Pine Creek.

- **HARMONY DAY SOIREE**-On a surprisingly mild and humid dry season day, the 2015 Harmony Day Soiree was held at the Darwin Waterfront. With an abundant number of people, the Soiree was a hit with lots of people coming down to get amongst all of the multicultural activities on offer.
- **NT ADMINISTRATOR VISITS MUSEUM**-On Friday the 7th August, the Administrator of the Northern Territory, His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM and his wife Mrs Marie Hardy visited our Museum where he was greeted by the Executive Committee members, our Patron and Museum Volunteers. His Honour and Mrs Hardy were extremely impressed with the Chinese contribution to the development of the Territory.
- **CAR BOOT SALE**-The Car Boot Sale was held on the 29th August 2015 from 8am to 1pm. There was a bake sale and plant stall amongst many other activities, many bargain hunters managed to score a bargain or two.
- **BIGGEST MORNING TEA**-The Seniors Group as part of "Biggest Morning Tea" this year managed to raise just over \$1700 for the Cancer Council. Congratulations to Melanie Chin and all the volunteers who make the Seniors Group such a great success. As part of Seniors Month, there was a Multicultural Lunch held.
- **2015 MOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATION**-This year's Moon Festival Celebration was another great success with just over 300 members and guests enjoying what turned out to be a very pleasant evening with a nice steady breeze all night keeping everyone cool. Add to that the performances of the Jade Dragons and the Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe (Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors), the littlies Lantern Parade, plenty of tasty food, homemade moon cakes and the warm company of family and friends, there was not much more you could ask for !

Bendigo In 2016-the Chung Wah Society Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe have proposed to head down to Bendigo, Victoria. Along with fellow dancers, the Jade Dragons will also be attending Bendigo's annual Easter festivities. To get down there, multiple fundraising events have been planned by the Lion Dance Troupe including a raffle and Gala Dinner. The raffle, which has just been launched has a main prize of a 48 inch Sony TV complete with a home theatre system set to be drawn in Chinese New Year.

CONCLUSION

I sincerely encourage anyone who wish to be a part of a wonderful organisation that is filled with inspirational community minded people, to seriously consider sitting on the CWS Board of Management.

It has been extremely humbling for me to have held such honourable post and I dearly thank you all for having such faith and trust in me.



Austin James Chin

President
25th October 2015