



**ANNUAL REPORT of the PRESIDENT
2015-2016**

INTRODUCTION

The Chung Wah Society was established in 1946, a social and sporting club for Darwin's burgeoning Chinese population. Before the Society and prior to World War II, the two main groups serving the Chinese community were the Wah On Society (predecessors to the Chung Wah Society) and the Kuomintang (supporting the Nationalist Party in China).

Today, the Chung Wah Society is a community-based, non-political organisation which has approx. 380 members and their families, the majority of whom reside in the Darwin area.

The Society strives to achieve its aims and objectives through active participation within the wider community. Keen to encourage a broad based membership, the Society arranges and sponsors a number of events and activities including sporting, seniors, youth, cultural, fund-raising, historical and general social activities. Many of the committee and board members are descendants of the founding members back in 1946.

I would like to thank the following Office Holders of 2015-2016:

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

Subcommittee Co-ordinators

Building and Maintenance
Temple Officer
Co-Temple Officer (with Mervyn Chin)

Ms Mikayla Chin	Lion Dance Sub Committee Member
Mr Desmond Yuen	Special Projects – Air Condition Upgrade
Ms Jade Schembri	Special Projects
Ms Tina Griffiths	Chinese New Year / Major Events
Ms Natasha Yuen	Jade Dragon Dance Group and Children's Christmas Party
Jonathan Quan	Youth Group
Mr Nathan Tam	Senior Lion Dance Troupe
Mrs Lyn Tam	Special Projects
Ms Quen Foo	Moon Festival (with Daryl Chin)
Dr Randall Chin	Royal Darwin Show Stall (with Austin Chin)
Ms Tania Fong Lim	CWS Whip
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 Neville Jones	NT Chinese Museum (with Norm Chin)
Mr Wayne Lo	Junior Lion Dance Troupe
Mr Jeremy Chin	Property Development
Mr Brad Griifiths	Property Development Adviser
Mr Paul Ho	Temple Caretaker

- As you can see being on the CWS committee appears to be a “job for life”.

Darwin All Deities Temple

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

The present Temple site dates from about 1887, the date on the original ceremonial bell. Prior to that, the Temple was located on the site of the present Christ Church Cathedral. Court House officials objected to the noise made by the bell, drum and exploding firecrackers so it was moved to its present site.

I truly believe that our Society is so fortunate because by caring for the Temple we are in return, blessed by the Gods. The main religion of our Society is Taosim which is based on Ancestor Worship. This means appreciating what our forefathers have given us through their hard work and dedication to family. We always pay our respects and they guide us in Spirit.

The NT Chinese Museum

Report Prepared by Mr Neville Jones: Museum Coordinator

The Museum was open to the public for 183 days during 2016 and hosted some 2257 visitors excluding school excursions and special trade groups. There were a number of special openings for trade and tourist delegations and school groups outside of the normal season and opening times.

Has it been a good tourist season or not? Various reports say that 2016 has been a good tourist season but Backpacker numbers are down. Visitation numbers to the Museum indicate that it has been a better tourist season with around 300 more visitors in 2016 over 2015.

The Museum does its bit to boost Darwin's tourist industry and business relations. We hosted several tour groups specialising in mainland China tourism. A mother and daughter from Johore Bahru, Malaysia, called in – taking advantage of low cost airfares, the pair flew to Darwin just for the weekend. Tourism NT sponsored Winston Ng (Ng Chun Keat), a food and travel Blogger from Kuala Lumpur to cover Darwin including the Museum and he was an interesting character! Two delegations from China port city of Rizhao in Shandong Province inspected the museum. The Northern Territory Government and Rizhao City have struck an economic development agreement for closer relations.

The Museum does its bit to foster to historical research and cultural relations. An interesting visitor was Dr David H. Lung from the Chinese Australian Historical Society which is about to publish A Comprehensive History of the Chinese in Australia. Mrs Lung (Florrie) was born in Fiji and being a Si Yap speaker quickly developed empathy with our Museum. Kormilda College, Marrara Christian School and Essington School had large groups visit and the kids were generally intrigued with the Temple - particularly as Caretaker Paul Ho allowed them to beat a Temple gong.

As Museum volunteers we each derive benefit and enjoyment in particular ways from our participation. Whether it is helping people trying to understand their roots, relating the history of the Chinese people in Darwin or just enjoying the interaction with tourists, it is always an enjoyable day. Most visitors are surprised and impressed – it is very gratifying to hear comments such as our Museum being more interesting than the Melbourne Chinese Museum. Attached to this report is a list of our volunteers and whose contributions are worthy of the Society's acknowledgement.

The 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin falls on 19 February 2017 (a Sunday) and it is something of a mystery, and a disappointing one at that, as to why Chung Wah has not been included in the Territory Remembers Program that culminates that day. After all, the stimulus for today's Museum was the Society's efforts to create the Chinatown '42 exhibition for the 50th anniversary. This issue will pursued with a view to a special opening around this time.

One matter to the incoming Committee needs to address is the question of publications for sale - supplies are almost exhausted. While book sales are hardly provide a large income, the availability of publications adds to the interest and the professionalism of the Museum.

Many thanks must go to the following volunteers who have donated their time.

Norm Chin

Austin Chin

Tanya Fong Lim and John Duguid

Gloria and Michael Lui

Elaine and Neil Prosser

Irene and Ian Musgrave

Joyce and Kevin Chin

Lorraine Quong

Lynette Lee

Natasha and Jason Yuen

Nen Nen Chin

Special thanks to:

Melanie Chin

Mervyn Chin

Paul Ho

Camille Fong Lim

Karli and Alexandra sohl

The CWS Seniors Group

This Group meets every second Friday throughout the year except for a break between Christmas and Chinese New Year. The Group consists of members of senior citizen status. Attendance at these get togethers vary from 40 to 80, depending on the occasion.

The Group's activities include:

Choir singing, General discussions, Mahjong, Special interest presentations by others, Excursions and Cooking.

The group also participates in the annual "Biggest Morning Tea" fund raiser for the Cancer Council and other selected community events/functions.

The Seniors Group commenced in May 1992 and continues to meet each fortnight. It brings together the senior members of our club once a fortnight to participate in a range of pursuits. The get togethers provide the opportunity for the members to spend quality time with one another and to participate in selected community activities. They also establish a valuable rapport between the Management Committee and the senior citizen members of our Society. This is important in maintaining continuity of our culture and heritage, thus providing an avenue for members to pass on their knowledge and skills to fellow members and the younger generation.

Much appreciation to Melanie, Aunty Leila and all the volunteers

The Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe

The traditional Chinese Lion Dance has a strong and rich history that dates back to the early days of imperial China. It is believed that this tradition was brought to Darwin by the first Chinese settlers to the Northern Territory and has been passed on from generation to generation.

The Lion Dance is believed to scare away evil spirits and brings good luck, joy, fortune, and happiness. It is often performed at the openings of businesses, religious festivals, cultural ceremonies, and special occasions, but mostly can be seen during Chinese New Year celebrations.

During the 1950s and 1960s, many businesses in Darwin were owned and operated by Chinese families and a dedicated group of people would perform the Lion Dance during Chinese New Year to bless these business houses to scare away evil spirits and to bring good luck for the New Year ahead. By the late 1970s, a Lion Dance Troupe was well established and conducted blessings of businesses and homes that were owned by both the Chinese and non-Chinese people of Darwin.

Today, the Chung Wah Society Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe is made up of dedicated and energetic individuals who have learnt and preserved this traditional art. The busiest period for the Troupe is Chinese New Year where more than 400 businesses and homes are blessed.

Throughout the year, the Troupe is often called upon to perform at various functions and openings. In preserving this traditional art form, the Troupe is committed in passing on the knowledge to the next generation and has also worked closely with other Lion Dance teams around Australia and Asia to share and learn more about Dragon and Lion Dancing.

To Stephen Pearson, Nathan Tam, Warren Wong, Wayne Lo, Roland Chin and all the troupe, volunteers and supporters, we are truly grateful to you for ensuring a succession plan for the future of our Society.

Jade Dragons

The Jade Dragons have been like a breath of fresh air to the Society, the energy and dedication to training has made this latest addition to our young girls blossom with graceful fan dances and their lotus dance which fuses colour and sound into a spectacular choreographed cultural performances.

They did us proud when performing in front of massive crowds down in Bendigo and won the hearts and admiration of many of the spectators and other performers.

To see so many families and friends getting involved with making costumes and helping out with fund raising reminds us of what our society is all about.

Congratulations to Natasha Yuen and all the team and thank you to all the families and friends.

Some Highlights of 2015-16

- **2015 Trivia Night** - On a balmy build-up night in late November last year, a good crowd of over 220 gathered at the Chung Wah Society Hall to test their trivia skills against each other and the quizmaster Frank Schembri. In all, 24 teams filled up the hall to compete over ten challenging rounds that explored all areas of the brain and often beyond.
- **Temple Talk** - held a informal introduction to the younger and not so young members of our Society to the workings of the Chinese Temple. There was a big

turn up at the "Talk" and the interest shown by everyone who attended was excellent, with Aunty Leila, Dennis Low and Paul Ho explaining all the religious and cultural aspects of the Temple.

- **Parliament House** - A reception was hosted by the NT Government for the Chung Wah Lion Dance Troupe and Jade Dragons Cultural Dance Group at Parliament. A send off to the teams about to represent the Territory and the Chinese community of Darwin at the Bendigo Easter Festival in Victoria.
- **New Lions** – Last February, we welcomed 8 new lions to the pride with a special awakening (eye dotting) ceremony at the temple. This was a very auspicious event.
- **New Sponsors** - Chung Wah announced SilkAir as our latest partner/sponsor for 2016. A prosperous and joyful partnership with Qing Yi Chen (Manager) and Sara Sarib (Sales Executive) and all their team at SilkAir. once again held a reception for the Chinese community at
- **Parliament House** - to celebrate Chinese New Year. The Lion Dance Troupe and Jade Dragons were invited by the NT Government to put on a performance for guests to welcome in the New Year of the Monkey.
- **Australia day** - Chung Wah Society celebrated Australia Day this year by holding a Open Day with a free sausage sizzle and entry to our Museum with guided tours of both the Museum and Temple. Our Society is very proud of the part played by the Chinese in the development of Northern Australia
- **2016 Chinese New Year Banquet** -This year saw around 380 members and guests once again enjoy the hospitality of the Darwin Turf Club to celebrate the Year of the Monkey.
- **Bombing of Darwin** - Chung Wah Society was invited by the Lord Mayor, the Right Worship Katrina Fong Lim to attend the 74th Commemorative Service of the Bombing of Darwin at the Darwin Cenotaph on Friday 19th February. This was followed by a reception at Parliament House hosted by the NT Government.
- **Ching Ming Festival** - Ching Ming is also known as "Remembrance of Ancestors Day" or 'Grave Sweeping Day'.
- **Bendigo In 2016-** This year, the lion, dragon, Jade Dragons dance troupe and a large contingent of supporters (approx. 60 members) made their way to Bendigo for the 2016 Easter Festival. The spectators were especially thrilled by our new LED lit Lions. We would like to take this opportunity to commend the Bendigo Chinese Association (BCA) on the wonderful promotion of Chinese Culture in association with the Bendigo Easter Festival. The amount of work, effort and thought put in by the BCA organizing committee was once again outstanding. The atmosphere that the Festival creates, especially with the cultural costumes, traditional Lion and Dragon Dancers and regalia is absolutely superb. I would go as far as to liken the Easter Parade to "Rio de Janeiro" however with a Chinese Cultural aspect. The thousands of tourists and children with their parents lining the streets to watch the Easter Parade is a sight to behold in itself, it must make all the hard work by the Bendigo community so worthwhile during the long Easter Weekend. I understand any money raised was all donated to charity. We are indeed privileged for the opportunity created to have such strong and mutual relationships with the many other Chinese Community Groups throughout Australia, we truly believe that Bendigo Chinese Association has somewhat embodied the Festival as the "Chinese Cultural Festival of Australia." The camaraderie and the passion of all the participants and volunteers created is something of "days gone by" which is indeed to be treasured. The Bendigo Easter Festival is no longer "Australia's Best Kept Secret" as it has to be one of the most significant Festivals on Australia's calendar. Involving hundreds of Australian Born Chinese families whose ancestors played such an important part in our country's history.
- **Temple Lion returned to the Territory** - during our visit to Bendigo, we went to meet Darren Wright and Michael at the Bendigo Joss House where a "Wooden

Lion" was handed to them, apparently it was looted from Brocks Creek Temple during the War. It was officially handed back to Chung Wah Society to "return it home" ... back to the Northern Territory where it belongs.

- **Landbridge** – CWS President meets Chairman Ye Cheng who was part of 17-man high level delegation which included the Mayor of Rizhao, Liu Xingtai when they visited Darwin. Landbridge Group recently won control of Darwin's Port for 99 years under a \$506 million lease agreement with the NT Government in October 2015.
- **2016 Royal Darwin Show** - Our Sartee"s were the most popular food stall at the Royal Darwin Show according to a Survey held by DCIS staff. Yes, it has been a tradition to have a Dagwood Dog and a Chung Wah Sartee or two at the Darwin Show. Dagwood Dog: A battered sausage on a stick with tomato sauce : cost \$7.00 whereas CWS Sartee, Prime Quality Pieces of Marinated Rump Steak on a stick : cost \$4.50, That is the difference between a commercial enterprise and a community group fund raising. Due to the rising cost of holding a stall at the Show, we will have to decide if it is still a viable venture.
- **2016 Biggest Morning Tea** - Chung Wah Society Senior"s efforts helped raised funds again for Cancer Council "Australia"s Biggest Morning Tea". We reached the amount \$2210.50 this year. Well done again by our Seniors.
- **Pine Creek Gold Rush Festival** - On the 18th of June, the Chung Wah Society Lion Dance troupe travelled down to Pine Creek for the Gold Rush Festival held there every year. Pine Creek is an important historical location for the local Chinese community in the Northern Territory, as the Gold Rush in the late 1800"s brought many Chinese workers into the NT.
- **Lion Dance Troupe "Amazing Race"** - Members of the lion dance troupe took advantage of the wonderful dry season weather during the recent school holidays and took part in the inaugural Chung Wah Society Dragon & Lion Dance Troupe "Amazing Race". The event was organised by troupe coordinator, Nathan Tam, with help from his wife Eli, as a team bonding event setting an array of tasks and challenges of varying difficulty for the teams to complete. 4 teams took part and had to work their way through 30 different challenges which took them all over Darwin, Palmerston, and even as far as Coolalinga.
- **2016 Moon Festival** - The CWS Moon Festival function was once again a great success and a great opportunity for all members of the dragon & lion dance troupe and Jade Dragons to show off their skills in front of a crowd of over 300 people. The teams trained hard to put together some fantastic performances enjoyed by the Moon Festival crowd. Many thanks to Daryl Chin and his band of volunteers for making this event such a successful one.
- **Light the Night** - On the 7th October at the Darwin Waterfront Precinct, our wonderful Jade Dragons girls helped to raise collectively over \$9,374 towards the Leukaemia Foundation's annual fundraising walk to help more Australians beat blood cancer by improving survival rates and quality of life.

In Closing :

The Proposed Woods Street Boundary Wall Project

The CWS Management committee are pleased to announce that work will soon begin on the proposed Woods Street Boundary Wall Project.

The Wall concept and planning headed up by Jeremy Chin and the Building committee will eventually compliment the existing Centenary Wall on the Litchfield Street boundary.

Many Thanks must also go to the NT Government for their invaluable support to this project.

Also planned is the development of a Club House and new Training Area for our Lion Dance Troupe and Jade Dragon Cultural Dancers. Many thanks must also go to Mr Des Yuen and all the volunteers who have refurbished our Tennis / Basket court.

I encourage more of our members to play an active role within the Society by considering coming onto the committee or joining some of our many subcommittees.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all our volunteers and to thank all our supporters who make the Chung Wah Society the successful entity that it is.

Special thanks always to our Major supporters and sponsors, the NT Government, SilkAir, Darwin Office Technology and Alfred's.

I commend this Report to all our members, please forgive me if I should have accidentally made any omissions.

Austin Chin



President

30th October 2016