



ANNUAL REPORT of the PRESIDENT 2017-2018

INTRODUCTION

2018 was quite a significant year as it celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of Mak Sai Ying, the first Chinese Settler to Australia in 1818.

In the Northern Territory, 56 years later the Vidar arrived in Darwin on the 5th August 1874 with 187 Chinese on Board. The new arrivals were quick to acclimatise. Within a few days they had discarded their Chinese dress and startled European shopkeepers by bargaining over each item of local clothing.

The government selected 24 to work on the Overland Telegraph Line and despatched the rest to the various mining companies. They walked to the mines carrying their goods on bamboo poles and when they arrived, built their own huts from paperbark and local bamboo. They did their own cooking from rations supplied and within a few weeks, had mastered the skills necessary to mine and crush ore. In the following years with the further arrivals of more Chinese, some 3000 Chinese were employed on the remarkably successful rail link. In 1887, with the continued inflow of more than 1000 Chinese migrants which bought the total to more than 6000, at least three times the size of the European population. And by now Darwin was the only port in the country where the Chinese were free to land. Australia and China's share a history from the goldfields to the present day. China has been an integral part of the Northern Territory from the beginning. (Robert Macklin, Dragon & Kangaroo, 2017)

However, before I continue, I must stand corrected regarding my previous reports which stated that our Society was started in 1946. In fact, Chung Wah Society came into being from the amalgamation of several smaller Chinese social and sporting clubs that existed in Darwin since the 1900's and it was on 12 December 1949 that the first Executive Committee was elected. We will be therefore celebrating our 70th Anniversary next year in 2019.

From those early humble beginnings, our Chung Wah Society has continued to grow into one of the most respected and successful ethnic community groups in Darwin. Many of the committee members are direct descendants of the founding committee. A majority of our current committee members have been serving the Society for many years. Such passion and dedication by so many must show that we are doing something right.

From our Community, we are proud to have had the first Chinese Mayor, Harry Chan, the first Chinese Lord Mayor, Mr Alex Fong Lim and the first female Chinese Lord Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim, (daughter of Alex) not to mention that our General Secretary, Tanya Fong Lim is currently a serving Magistrate.

Several of our members have been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) and Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE). I have deliberately not mentioned any names should I may accidentally forget someone as these people are the very quiet achievers that we all admire.

I would like to thank the following Office Holders of 2017-2018:

EXECUTIVES

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Andrew Chin
Mr Dennis Low
Ms Mikayla Chin
Mr Desmond Yuen
Ms Jade Schembri
Ms Tina Griffiths
Ms Natasha Yuen
Mr Jeremy Chin
Mr Nathan Tam
Mr Roger Lowe
Mr Stephen Pearson
Mrs Lyn Tam
Ms Quen Foo
Dr Randall Chin
Ms Tiffany Chin-Rinaldi

Subcommittee Co-ordinators

Building and Maintenance
Co-Temple Officer (with Mervyn Chin)
Senior Lion Dance Troupe
Building and Special Projects
Special Projects Support
Major Events Project Management
Jade Dragons and Event Management
Building and New Woods St Wall Project
Senior Lion Dance Troupe
IT, Membership, Car Parking Administrator
Senior Lion Dance Troupe
Special Projects Support
Special Projects Support
Special Projects Support
Special Projects Support

Other Posts

Mr Eddie Lai	Auditor
Mrs Melanie Chin	Seniors Group (with Aunty Leila)
Mr Neville Jones	NT Chinese Museum (with Norm Chin)
Mr Wayne Lo	Junior Lion Dance Troupe Development
Mr Dennis Low	Temple Officer
Mr Paul Ho	Temple Caretaker
Mr Jeremy Chin	Property Development
Mr Brad Griifiths	Property Development Site Manager

FACETS of Chung Wah Society

- **Darwin All Deities Temple**

As per the later report on our Wall & Temple Gates Project, our Temple is about to have a new entrance from Woods Street. This will enhance the Temple for our regular worshippers and visitors. The new entrance has been designed especially in terms of “Feng Shui”.

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.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the reopening of the Temple after it was completely destroyed by Cyclone Tracy in 1974. It was eventually rebuilt on the original site in 1978. It was designed and developed by local Architect Peter Dermoudy from photos and old plans of the original temple.

The religion practised in the Temple is a combination of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Although this is unusual in China, it is common in overseas Chinese communities. This demonstrates the unity and harmony within those communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to make special mention of our temple caretaker Paul Ho, who feels after many years of opening the Temple 8.00am (and closing at 4.00pm), 7 days a week for our Society, that it's time retire and enjoy all that life has to offer in his later years of life. He also wanted to concentrate on looking after his health.

As noted by Darwin Life magazine journalist Rachel Cotton, Paul wasn't just our Temple caretaker, he was one of Darwin iconic characters that really don't desire anything more than to share his passion for our Chinese culture. The Zen of his job was obviously soothing. Over the 26 years, Paul has spent a total of twenty odd years on and off as our Temple caretaker. Paul's, 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon gave great guidance to all those who attended the Temple. He passionately shared his knowledge of the temple, Chinese history of Darwin and the different religious beliefs of those who frequented our Temple as a place of worship.

His stronghold of his native Chinese language has been beneficial to the Temple Ceremonies as the offerings and prayers are scrolled in traditional writing. Paul also spent

many long and late hours in assisting in the many religious festivals celebrated by the Temple, not to mention his help with the Seniors Group at the Friday "Get Togethers".

He told us that he will be standing down at the end of this year and conveyed his great appreciation for the experience and honour to have been able to serve the Temple.

Our Society can't thank him enough for his long and dedicated service and he will be sorely missed.

We also wish to thank our Temple Custodian Dennis Low, and all the helpers, especially Aunty Leila, for organising our many festivals and the successful upkeep of the Temple as a place of worship.

• **The NT Chinese 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 2018 'Museum Season' started on Tuesday 6 March and closed for the season at the end of October. Museum visitation remains lower in comparison with the previous two years, however we have had many notable visitors throughout the year.

To mention a few:

- Hong Kong actor and director Eric Tsang Chi Wai 曾志偉
- The Administrator, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AM
- Beverley (Chin) Leong + 8 including 5 CHIN Toy descendants
- Dr Michael Williams, and his wife Mei-Su Chen, Adjunct Fellow, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University and Research Adviser to the Chinese Australian Historical Society
- 40+ members of the Kwong Sue Duk Foundation
- The Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency CHENG Jingye
- Nicky Barrell from UK ITV Documentary
- Solomon Gaturu and Greg Bond from Department of Housing and Community
- Stephanie Zilman from ABC TV
- Fong Lim family group including USA guests
- Devon Turner: Population Researcher, Charles Darwin University.

Once again, we would like to thank all our Invaluable Museum Volunteers:

Norm Chin, Austin and Melanie Chin, Tanya Fong Lim and John Duguid, Elaine and Neil Prosser, Irene and Ian Musgrave, Joyce and Kevin Chin, Lorraine Quong, Lynette Lee, Nen Nen Chin, Julian and Teresa Jong, Camille Fong Lim, Donna Quong, Marie-Louise and David Pearson, Ros and Andrew Chin.

A delightful lunch was enjoyed by all as a "small thank you" from management on 18th November at Hingston's Restaurant.

Museum Coordinator, Mr Neville Jones will be submitting a brief report at the AGM

• **The CWS Seniors Group**

After another successful year, the Seniors Friday Lunches will be closing on the 14th December (when they will be holding their Christmas Party) and reopening on the 8th February 2019.

- The 2018 BIGGEST MORNING TEA was held on Friday 15th June and was another great event to raising funds for the Cancer Council. Our Seniors have been raising funds for ABMT for the past several years.
- The Administrator, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AM came to the Seniors Lunch to learn how to play "Mah Jong" and with the help of her expert instructor, Dennis Low (and a bit of "Beginners Luck") she won her first game against some of our best players. Her Honour kindly donated a delicious cake baked by the Chef from Government House for desert.

The Seniors had hoped to organise a sarteer stall/ food fair this year, however due to the ongoing refurbishment of the Kitchen, the project has now been put onto the back burner until March next year when the new kitchen is hoped to be finalised. The Seniors Cookbook Project focusing on the Traditional family recipes and all members are encouraged to make a contribution, further information can be obtained by contacting Melanie at the Seniors Group.

The Management Committee wish to thank the Senior's Group Coordinators, Melanie and Leila Chin and all the valued volunteers who have made the Senior's Friday Lunches such a great success.

We are proud to support and acknowledge our Seniors who contributed so much to the development of our Chung Wah Society.

• **The Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe**

As we rapidly reach the end of the year of the Dog and with the approach of the New Year of the Pig, the Lion Dance Troupe will be busy preparing for another hectic time for the blessing of the Darwin Shops, restaurants and homes.

2018 has been another busy year for the Chung Wah Society (CWS) Dragon & Lion Dance Troupe. In February, an "Eye Dotting Ceremony" was performed to welcomed 4 new lions to the pride replacing some ageing lions used in the traditional street shop blessings. It was a hectic period during the 2 weeks following Chinese New Year, which saw in the Year of the Dog, with many performances and blessings carried out. The annual shop blessings once again saw great camaraderie and team work with CWS members of all ages pitching in and helping out in any way they can and making Chinese New Year 2018 another success, with all donations going back to our Chinese Temple.

Since the last AGM, fundraising activities ramped up in an effort to raise enough funds to send the troupe down to Bendigo to participate in the Bendigo Easter Festival. Due to the hard work put in with the fundraising, the troupe were able to travel to Bendigo and represent CWS and the Northern Territory by performing in the Bendigo Easter Festival for the fourth time (previous times in 2008, 2011 and 2016). Together with the Jade Dragons and family members, CWS was well represented in Bendigo with over 90 people from CWS in attendance. Bendigo is the home of Sun Leong, believed to be the longest Imperial Dragon in the world. It is a great spectacle to see Sun Leong in action and a great honour for our troupe to perform alongside other lion dance troupes from around Australia . With a new dragon set to replace Sun Leong in 2019, it is hoped the troupe can once again travel to

Bendigo to witness the changing of the guard with the new dragon, named Dai Gum Leong, to take over from Sun Leong at the Bendigo Easter Festival - a once in a lifetime opportunity.

At the conclusion of the Bendigo Easter Festival, the troupe travelled back to Melbourne and participated in the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne's (CYSM) 50th Anniversary celebrations. The troupe was privileged to be invited to perform at CYSM's 50th Anniversary concert held at the Melbourne Convention Centre. CYSM and CWS have maintained a strong relationship over the many years the Societies have known one another (since 1996), and

the troupe were honoured to perform alongside them and all the other groups involved in celebrating CYSM's 50th anniversary .

The troupe continue to be engaged with many performance requests throughout the year, with an increasing demand for performances at new business openings, wedding s, and birthday celebrations. Fundraising activities continue to occur in an effort to once again send the troupe down to Bendigo in 2019 to witness the welcoming of the new dragon, Dai Gum Loong.

On behalf of the CWS Dragon & Lion Dance Troupe sub-committee, we would like to thank the on- going support provided to us by the CWS committee and all the dedicated volunteers who devote their time to train and perform with the troupe. Families of troupe members also provide invaluable support and without this, there will be no troupe to carry on this very important tradition.

We are so lucky and proud to have so many of our younger generation keeping this age old tradition alive and well. The troupe provides our Society with a extremely high profile in the community. We truly appreciate that it is achieved by a lot of hard training and time in perfecting their skills and continuously amazing us with their extraordinary new choreographed performances.

Many thanks must go to our invaluable coordinators Nathan Tam, Stephen Pearson, Mikayla Chin and CWS Dragon & Lion Dance Troupe Sub Committee who donate so much of their time and experiences towards the continuous development of this facet of our society, and of course to all the performers themselves.

- **Jade Dragons Cultural Dancers**

The Jade Dragons Dance Group is one of the performing teams of the Chung Wah Society. The Jade Dragons or Bi Yu Long (碧玉龍 Green Jade Dragon) was formed in 2010 by a few girls from the former Chun Lien Dance Group, its predecessor in the Chung Wah Society. The Jade Dragons is dedicated to teaching a new generation of girls the beauty and art of traditional and modern Chinese cultural dancing.

The Jade Dragons consists of about 10 girls who train every Saturday afternoon. Since its creation, the group have produced a wide variety of dances that incorporate traditional Chinese props, including fans, lanterns, lotus flowers, ribbons, umbrellas, hats and handkerchiefs.

The dances are inspired by traditional and contemporary dance moves and encompass elements from multiple disciplines, such as martial arts, yoga and ballet.

The group performs at various Chinese festival functions, religious festivals, cultural ceremonies, and special occasions. Some of the more prominent functions that the group perform at include Chinese New Year celebrations, the Darwin Waterfront Harmony Day Soiree, Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival and the Palmerston Festival.

Congratulations to JDDG coordinators, Natasha Yuen & Jason Robertson on the arrival of their baby girl, Stella Joy, born 29th October 2018.

- **Building Maintenance and Development**

The outstanding work from last year - lighting, line marking and new basketball backboards for the tennis court has now been completed. The tennis court is now available for use for CWS members.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

New Museum Fire Exit Route has been certified. There will be alterations to internal doors, signage and Exit Lighting and new Museum entry door will be installed. Litchfield St side laneway gates will be locked permanently when works completed. Work in laneway for proposed Men's Shed to start when approved.

Damaged floor tiling in Ladies toilet and other small areas will take place when a tiler has been sourced.

Kitchen cooking equipment upgrade has been hampered due to the exorbitant quotes for an exhaust canopy. Initial costing for exhaust canopy, gas burners, oven and fryer have been quoted above \$20,000. These items were not best fit for use needed by CWS members.

Alternative recommended cooking equipment is currently being sourced for purchase. New Couplet signage for Litchfield St entry has been produced and ready for installation.

Input sought from membership on expressions of interest for Masterplan of future development of CWS property.

Many thanks to Andrew Chin (Co-ordinator), Jeremy Chin, Daryl Chi, Des Yuen, and Roland Chin.

Some Highlights of 2017-18

- **2016/ 2017 Bill Wong Award**

Every year our Society recognises annually the good deeds of a member in the community who has promoted the objects of the Chung Wah Society.

The 2017 Award went to Ms Melanie Chin who was nominated by Tanya Fong Lim and was unanimously accepted by the management board..

The following was written in support of her nomination:

“Chinatown 42” exhibition held by Chung Wah Society in 1992 was a significant “Watershed Moment” for our Society. The year 1992 was the 50th Anniversary commemorating the Bombing of Darwin during World War II.

Melanie held the post of Chairperson of the “Chinatown 42” working committee. The month long exhibition (extended by popular demand) was an outstanding and successful event that bought incredible kudos to our Society.

The exhibition was based on stories and the oral history obtained by interviewing our Senior members, many of whom have since passed on. The management committee back then wisely decided that it would be a great tragedy if these stories were only to be hidden away, filed away in obscured databases and filing cabinets.

As an offshoot to the Chinatown 42 exhibition, the NT Chinese Museum was therefore created to exhibit these stories and to showcase the Chinese invaluable contribution towards the development of North Australia,

The second significant result of the Chinatown 42 exhibition was the development of Chung Wah’s “Seniors Group”. For the past 25 years, Melanie had worked overtime at her workplace so that she can take a day off in lieu every fortnight to coordinate the Seniors Group Lunch at the Hall, with the help of her mother and all the other Aunties and dedicated band of volunteers.

- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Mr Nathan Tam was nominated by Austin Chin and was Seconded by Roland Chin.

Nathan comes from a family who are long term members of the Society and who have contributed greatly to the Society.

He has been actively involved with CWS since he was a young child. Throughout the years he has been heavily and actively involved with the lion dance troupe and in 2003 was given joint leadership duties with David Chin and Edward Tsang.

It was that same year that he joined the CWS Committee and have been on it ever since. There have been a few leadership changes within the Lion Dance Troupe over the years but he still remained as the head co-ordinator of the Lion Dance Troupe. He has been an ideal ambassador for our Society with Lion Dance Teams from all over the world.

Some of the key challenges in managing the Lion Dance Troupe were to modernise our practices and be more forward thinking and progressive with the troupe and how they conduct themselves. Allowing females to participate and have more involvement with lion dancing and seeking smaller lion dance equipment to encourage the younger generation to be more actively involved.

In the period that Nathan has served our community he has been a stalwart of many of Chun Wah's traditional events. From a young beginning like many of the young lion and dragon dancers we are blessed with having a person like Nathan in the role of mentor to the next generation of the Society.

- **2017 Children's Christmas Party**

The Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday 3rd December 2017 at Chung Wah Hall. This event has and will always be a mainstay on our Society Calendar, although the number of children has diminished a little since families don't seem to have as many children as per previous generations. Never the less, the Children and their parents once again had a wonderful time with party games, Christmas Carols, Jumping Castle and of course, Santa bringing all the presents.

An interesting excerpt from the "Northern Standard" newspaper written on the 23rd December 1949 stated : "One hundred and twenty children of the Chinese community, accompanied by their parents, attended the Xmas Tree held at the Darwin Chinese Recreation Club rooms last Sunday. Santa Clause arrived amid shouts of delight from the expectant gathering"

- **2018 Year of the Dog Chinese New Year Banquet**

Was held on the 17th February at the Skycity Pavillion. As always, the ever popular Chung Wah Society Chinese New Year Ball was a "Sell Out" again on the Darwin Social Calendar.

- **Participating with CYSM 50th Anniversary**

The Chung Wah Society was privileged to be invited to perform at the Chinese Youth Society of Melbourne (CYSM) 50th Anniversary on the 2nd of April 2018.

CYSM held their event at the Melbourne Entertainment Centre, a chronicle of the evolution of CYSM over the 50 years since founding in 1968. It featured their past and current activities, and included performances not only from CYSM's many groups, but also 7 other participating teams, many of whom had performed in the Easter Festival days prior. They teams were: Chinese Youth League from Sydney, Bendigo Chinese Association from Bendigo, Hong De, Hung Gar Yau Shu, and the Chinese Masonic Society, from Melbourne, and of course, the Chung Wah Society from Darwin.

CYSM and CWS have maintained a strong relationship over the many years the Societies have known one another, and the CWS troupe were honoured to perform alongside them and all the other groups involved in celebrating CYSM's 50th anniversary.

The exhibit was nothing short of amazing, certainly a one-in-a-lifetime event. The large CWS contingent of supporters came to watch, as the Lion Dance troupe went backstage to prepare for the main event. Due to the logistics of the trip, the only CWS rehearsal was that morning (although the performers had drilled their routine for months prior, back in Darwin).

The troupe put their best foot forward for the last set of performances in the trip, on perhaps one of the biggest stages the troupe has ever danced in.

The grand finale featured 50 Lions from many different groups, such a large number of Lions is a testament to the strong ties between CYSM and the other Chinese groups around Australia.

- **Kwong Sue Duk Family Reunion**

In late June, Chung Wah Society welcomed the families/descendants of Kwong Sue Duk to celebrate their 18th Family Reunion.

Darwin has great significance for the KSD family, as Kwong Sue Duk lived and worked here for almost 22 years - firstly, settling in the township of Southport after working on the goldfields of Pine Creek and Brock's Creek and where some of his children were born; and secondly, erecting a large building in Cavenagh St, known as The Stonehouses, in Palmerston (now known as Darwin) for his family to live and for him to operate a general store and merchandising business.

CWS and KSD have enjoyed a very strong relationship for many years. Rosalie Hiah, the Reunion Co-ordinator made a very generous donation to Chung Wah on behalf of KSD in recognition of our mutual friendship and assistance.

- **2018 Moon Festival**

The 2018 Moon Festival was held on Saturday 22nd September and once again it was another great success with over 300 guests enjoying a night of entertainment.

Special thanks once again to Antonio Tjung and Peter Lai from the Waterfront Bistro at the Sailing Club for the fantastic food. Also Antonio and CDU for the generous donation of the ever popular Moon Cakes which help make for a great night celebrating our Mid-Autumn Festival.

Many Thanks to our valued sponsors:

- Reward Distributions,
- Darwin City Hotel,
- Magic Wok
- Helen Menzies.

Not forgetting our Amazing Lion Dance Troupe and our Jade Dragons Dance Team.

All Kudos to Tina Griffiths, Daryl Chin and all our many invaluable volunteers for putting on a night of Cultural Festivity to be remembered.

• **Wall & Temple Gates Project**

The Wall Project is progressing well and should be completed early next year. The Building Sub Committee has been working very hard on the weekends.

Woods St Driveway and Boundary Wall Stage 1 - work is continuing on pedestrian and automatic gates and security fencing.

Woods St Driveway and Boundary Wall Stage 2 - Temple Gates has commenced, site has been excavated, Moon Gate surround framework and first landing installed.

Woods St Driveway and Boundary Wall Stage 3 - Wall to Bennett St corner has commenced with the site being excavated. Plans are yet to be passed by Planning Authority and Building Certifier before work can continue.

Once again, we would like to acknowledge the Northern Territory Government for their generous support to the project.

Many thanks to Jeremy Chin (Coordinator), Andrew Chin, Daryl Chin, Brad Griffiths and all the volunteers on their hard work on the site preparations.

VALE

The Board and Members of the Chung Wah Society express deepest sympathy and condolences to the families on the passing of two of our respected and valued Life Members.

- Phillip Mark Chen: 25.10.1922 —08.08.2018
- Riley Wing MBE : 14.02.1926 — 20.10.2018

In Closing

AS mentioned so many times before, it is the members, their families and friends that make the Chung Wah Society what we are, and who we are.

I truly believe that the people of Chung Wah have set a great example of what it is to be an Australian and why as Australians, we are so respected in Darwin. I am proud of the Australian culture of mateship and sticking up for your friends.

As per the song by the Seekers, "I am, you are, we are Australian", these words always strike a chord in my heart and as a third generation Australian Born Chinese

“ABC”, I have often thought of how fortunate I am to be an Australian with Chinese Cultural heritage living in the most multicultural city in Australia, if not the world.

We admire the quiet achievers and it is these people that we tend to choose as mentors, well at least I do. It is these quiet achievers that we all know and respect.

People like Roland Chin who must hold the record of the longest serving treasurer for any community group (over three decades), not many people know, but Roland has been for the past few year, the Chair of NT St Johns Ambulance Services and is a member of the National St John’s Board.

People like Uncle Norm Chin and his son Daryl Chin who have given so much to Chung Wah by “stealth”.

People like our Patron, Richard (Dick) Griffiths, his daughter Tina and son Brad who as successful business people, given so much of their time, knowledge and experience to Chung Wah’s ongoing development.

People like Jeremy Chin for his incredible vision, talent and creativity.

People like our Vice Patron, Uncle Alfie On OAM, who has attracted so many invaluable friends and supporters to Chung Wah.

All our Major supporters and sponsors, the NT Government, Qantas, Darwin Office Technology and Alfred’s Gift Shop who have stayed with us for so many years.

To all our volunteers for what they do, I say thank you, I say thank you very much !

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

Austin James Chin



President

25th November 2018