



## Chung Wah Society Incorporated

### President's Report

It is my pleasure to present my first report as President after many years serving as the Treasurer of Chung Wah. I wish to acknowledge my predecessor, Austin Chin for his long years at the helm and the handful of those who served before him, as most would have qualified for long serve leave, if this was not an honorary position. Austin continues to be engaged as the Vice Patron and as a member of the Chinese Museum Subcommittee.

### Management Committee

It is heartening to see that our Committee and the Subcommittees continue to promote and observe Chung Wah activities and customs, whilst adhering to the new normal of living with COVID19. There are countless hours behind the scenes by our volunteers and most are co-opted as family and friends of our management committee and subcommittees.

The powerful sense of community engagement and extension of good family values are instilled in our younger Committee members, who are taking on more leadership roles and representing Chung Wah in the greater community. This is reflected in the recognition given to the Society by the NT Government via the grant's programmes and attendances at our popular events such as Chinese New Year Festival, Lion Troupe Chinese New Year Blessings and Moon Festival.

During the year, the Management Committee undertook a review of a strategic plan and formed the conclusion that Chung Wah's purposes as set out in the Constitution meets the future needs of the Society and no changes to the objects are required. The next process for the incoming Management Committee is to develop business plans by functions/subcommittees and/or major events for the next 3-5 years.

Chung Wah has secured a further CBF grant from the NT Government to hold the Chinese New Year Festival for a further three years from 2022 to 2024. The grant funding has been significantly reduced compared to the prior three year NT Government CBF Grant from 2019 to 2021. Additional sponsorship is being sought to supplement the NT Government Grant and prior years surpluses from the Chinese New Year Festivals from 2019 to 2021 will be applied to cover any shortfalls.

A separate report titled "Report by the Management Committee for the year ended 30 June 2021" lists the elected Executives and elected ordinary committee members as well as summarising the principal activities of Chung Wah.

### Patron and Vice Patrons

Thanks to Dick Griffiths for his support as patron during the year and the in kind and financial support from Bradlaw Agencies. Thanks also to Alfred On as vice patron in support the Chung Wah events and supervising the annual preparation of the mixing of the famous Chung Wah

Sartee recipe for the Chung Wah New Year Festival. Also mentioned earlier, Austin Chin as vice patron and supporter of Chung Wah events.

### Building and Capital Works

The building subcommittee lead by Daryl Chin and Andrew Chin have completed most capital works to the building and grounds that has been supported by grants matched by contributions from Chung Wah. The male and female toilets in the hall near the kitchen have been completely refurbished and a new kitchen storeroom added. An additional upstairs storeroom accessible from the Boardroom has been completed. The capital works has enabled the hall to be readily accessible for hire. Chung Wah has received a Federal Government Grant for the purpose of improving the hiring facilities and provide hall partitioning to enable smaller or concurrent hires and quotes are being arranged for works to be carried out by 2022.

The automated secured gates to the driveway which was also supported by a NT Government Grant has provided better after hours security by limiting after hours public access to the grounds.

### Chinese Museum

The Chinese Museum has been closed for most of the year due to COVID safety concerns for the museum volunteers who are mostly seniors, and this has impacted on the museum opening hours to the public. Hence the museum fees and sales are significantly down compared to previous years. However, museum visits can be arranged by appointment and some schools have taken advantage of this opportunity to learn about the long and rich history of Chinese in the NT from the guided tour of the Chinese Temple and Museum.

Neville Jones as the Honorary Museum Director has nonetheless been busy with enquiries on family trees and liaising with other historical groups and museums in Australia. The Chinese Museum has received a generous donation from the Chinese Language and Cultural Centre for the purpose of providing a Chinese translation of the Museum exhibits and artifacts on display.

The Chinese Museum also received an NT Government grant which has been applied to upgrade the computer and IT systems and install two new glass display cabinets for the fragile museum exhibits.

### Finances

I thank Iain Macpherson for taking on the role as Treasurer and he has taken on the finances and treasurer's duties seamlessly. Iain's extensive commercial knowledge as a qualified accountant has added further depth to the skill sets of the Management Committee. Chung Wah has achieved a surplus of \$196,948 for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 and this was largely due to the Grant funding and continued financial support of Chung Wah general and temple related activities.

### Jade Dragons Dance Troupe

On a similar trend to the Lion Troupe, the JD Dance Troupe has recruited new junior members to replace the senior members who leave to study interstate or have a break from the troupe.

Thanks to Natashia Yuen, Madeleine Chin and Georgia Chin for co-ordinating and coaching the JD Dance Troupe at their weekly Saturday training days. The hours of coaching and practice is reflected in the graceful and exact movements in their recent performances at the Moon Festival.

### Lion and Dragon Dance Troupe

I am comforted to see, that as our senior lion troupe members move on to other non-performing (red polo shirt roles), such as supporting or co-ordinating events and blessings, that the intermediate group are advancing not only in age but in skills, to the extent, that our Lion Troupe will be as strong and/or stronger than those in the past. As a former Lion Troupe member of the 70's to 90's, I am proud to see and acknowledge that the teams of today are more skilful than we ever were. It is evident from the applause received by the Lion Troupe performing at the Chinese New Year Festival, Street Blessings, Moon Festival, and other performances, that Chung Wah Chinese Lion Troupe are both skilful and entertaining. The reformed Dragon Troupe have now been performing for over three years and are developing new tricks and routines for future performances.

When you see the age of Lion and Dragon Troupe performers ranging in age from 5 years old to those in their early 60's you would not be surprised that there are three generations performing or involved in the troupes. Chung Wah has provided support in buying new equipment and accessories, which are important in preserving and showcasing the Chinese culture in the NT that goes as far back as the 1880's when the Chinese Temple was first built in Darwin. Mikayla Chin and Nathan Tam have been busy with sourcing and ordering new lions and dragons which hopefully will be ready for the 2022 Chinese New Year. Thanks to Emily Tjung and Stephen Pearson for taking aside the new junior troupe and teaching them the basic routines to build solid foundation skills.

### Newsletter

After a COVID hiatus, a regular quarterly newsletter is sent out to members to advise them on future events and update on events held and celebrations relating to Chung Wah and its members. Thanks to our General Secretary, Jade Schembri for taking on the role as editor in chief. We are relying on our reporters (membership) to provide articles and photos to add to our regular newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to [admin@chungwahnt.asn.au](mailto:admin@chungwahnt.asn.au).

### Seniors Group

After many months in hibernation due to COVID safety concerns for our senior's group, the response to vaccinations and complying with COVID safety plans, the senior's group was able to reconvene at Chung Wah for their regular fortnightly Friday gathering. I have observed on the occasions that I attended, that the Seniors enjoy and value the gatherings as an opportunity to catch up with friends and participate in a delicious home cooked lunch and finish the afternoon with a friendly game of mah-jong. The health and wellbeing of our seniors was a primary concern for not holding the Seniors Group during previous year due to COVID, but the wellbeing of the Seniors in attending is clear to those attending the Friday gathering. Thanks again to Leila Chin and Melanie Chin for their commitment to the Senior's Group for 30 years.

## Temple Affairs

Dennis Low as the Temple Officer has been the mainstay for maintaining the Chinese Temple and in observing the many religious festivals and customs required of a place of worship frequented by worshippers and visitors to Darwin. The Temple is well supported by temple donations, Chinese Lion Blessings, and festival donations.

The temple caretakers are a husband-and-wife team who share the hours between them, and this has enabled the temple to be opened daily throughout the year, apart from NT Health COVID lockdowns.

## The Bill Wong Meritorious Award

Jan MacPherson when she was the general secretary of Chung Wah Society initiated the concept of Chung Wah Society Award be given in recognition of services to Chung Wah Society. Jan also suggested that it would be appropriate that the award should be named in recognition of Bill Wong (William CF Wong) and his great and long service to Chung Wah Society. A worthy person be named as the annual recipient of The Chung Wah Society - Bill Wong Meritorious Service Award.

Bill Wong was general Secretary of Chung Wah for a continuous period of 40 years from 1955 until 1994. Bill was also involved in the temple affairs from the time he was the secretary and later as temple officer until 2005. Bill acted with upmost integrity in representing Chung Wah Society and the Chinese community and he was granted an Order of Australia in 1996 as recognition of his great community service in Darwin. Rosemary Wong on behalf of the family of Bill Wong has kindly donated a perpetual shield to Chung Wah Society. Each committee from year to year will be tasked to formulate the criteria for which a worthy recipient can be selected. The recipient will have their name inscribed on "The Bill Wong Meritorious Award" perpetual shield.

Worthy recipients since the inception of this award are Norm Chin, Leila Chin, Robin Lawrence, Melanie Chin, Natasha Yuen and Rochelle Chin, Dennis Low and Neville Jones

It is my pleasure to announce Andrew Chin as the worthy recipient of the 2021 Bill Wong Meritorious Award. Andrew is a life member and long serving Committee member. It is his behind the scenes efforts during the year, that the Committee acknowledge his role as co-ordinator of the Building and Maintenance Committee where he is tasked with arranging for contractors to undertake capital works and general cleaning and maintenance. Andrew is often seen at the hall with his toolbox undertaking minor repairs himself. He is also present at working bees in setting up for Chung Wah events.

## Members' Recognition and Awards

### 2021 Seniors of Excellence NT Awards

Leila Chin was named as a worthy recipient of the 2021 Seniors of Excellence NT Awards for her long-standing community work her support to the Chung Wah Seniors Group for 30 years and many years of preparing the food for the festivals held by the Chinese Temple. Her proud

family and friends from Chung Wah attended the awards presentation day held during August this year.

#### Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List Order of Australia

Marie Louise Pearson OAM was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honour List for valued services to the NT Community through her professional and voluntary contributions to numerous community organisations.

I am honoured to also be named in the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List and to be appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community of the NT.

Marie and I attended the Investiture Ceremony at Government House on 10 September 2021 and received our medals from Her Honour, The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran Administrator of the Northern Territory. It was a proud moment for us, and our family members present.

Roland Chin AM

President