



Chinese  
Heritage  
Association of  
Australia

澳洲華人歷史文物會

Exploring and Sharing  
the History and Heritage of  
Chinese who have come to Australia

PO Box 1136  
Campbelltown NSW  
Australia 2560

Dear Members and Friends,

### **Christmas Island: At the Crossroads**

In 2013 Christmas Island historian Helene Bartleson joined us to tell us about Christmas Island's Chinese heritage. Christmas Island has just celebrated its 60th anniversary as an Australian territory and Helene joins us again on 3rd November at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts to bring us an update on what's been happening there. For more information, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

### **Annual General Meeting**

CHAA's 16th AGM was held on 10th October. Following the tendering of reports the 2018 Committee stood down for the election of the new Committee. Man-Yee Leanfore did not seek renomination; her contribution to the Committee and to CHAA over the last two years is much appreciated.

The 2019 Committee is:

President – Cheryl Cumines

Vice-President – Kathie Blunt

Secretary – Margaret Cumines

Treasurer – Kathie Blunt

Committee – Doug Blunt, Brad Powe

Following the AGM, an excellent dinner was enjoyed by all who attended.

### **Vale: Barry McGowan**

On 1st September the eminent Chinese Australian historian Barry McGowan lost his battle with cancer. Barry was a pillar of the Chinese Australian history community and his valuable input and research will be sadly missed. CHAA sends its sincere condolences to his family.

### **Chinese Garden of Friendship – Heritage Listing and 30th Anniversary**

Earlier this year CHAA was asked to contribute a letter to the Chinese Garden of Friendship's submission for heritage listing on the NSW Heritage Register. I am pleased to say that heritage listing has now become a reality.

The listing was just in time for the Garden's 30th anniversary which was celebrated on 4th October at an evening reception in the Garden. Although the weather was abysmal, the company was convivial. Simon Chan, from of the Chinese Garden Advisory Committee, was the emcee and speeches were made by the Hon. Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Finance and representatives of the University of NSW, the 2019 sponsors of the Garden. New caterers and the hiring of a horticulturalist as a member of staff were among the announcements.

## **Gold Miners Memorial Anniversary**

A number of Chinese organisations were present at Rookwood Cemetery on 14th October for the anniversary of the Gold Miners Memorial, including CAHS, ACFS and CHAA. Daphne Lowe Kelley, Margaret Yung Kelly and I made speeches as part of the ceremony which included Buddhist chanting to bless the Memorial. Daphne spoke about the history of the Chinese, Margaret spoke about more contemporary Chinese and I spoke as a gold miner descendant. Although the weather was bad – rainy and quite muddy – it was good to see so many people attending.

For photos of the ceremony, see the Photo Gallery at the end of this newsletter.

If you would like to visit the Memorial, it is on Oliver Avenue, near the East St (Lidcombe end) entrance/exit to the cemetery, near the Quong Sing Tong monument.

## **Chinese New Year**

CHAA will be continuing the series of talks based on the animals of the Chinese zodiac with Marilyn Sue Dooley presenting *The Yin and Yang of the Pig*. Chinese New Year will run for 10 days from 1st February 2019. I am currently preparing our application for inclusion in the City of Sydney's program. More details as they come to hand.

## **Art Gallery of NSW 2019 Program**

A major Chinese exhibition is coming to the Art Gallery of NSW next year. *Heaven and Earth in Chinese Art: Treasures from the National Museum in Taipei* will open on 2nd February, in time for Chinese New Year, until 5th May.

From the Art Gallery's website:

*The National Palace Museum, Taipei, holds one of the finest selections of Chinese art in the world. The treasures of the National Palace Museum are rarely seen outside Taipei.*

*Drawing on this exceptional collection, Heaven and earth in Chinese art celebrates the rich heritage of Chinese cultures through the ancient Chinese concept of tian ren he yi — unity or harmony between heaven, nature and humanity. The exhibition presents over 80 artworks of outstanding beauty including paintings, calligraphy, illustrated books, bronzes, ceramics, jade and wood carvings.*

*This is the first exhibition from the National Palace Museum, Taipei to come to Australia and the Art Gallery of NSW is the exclusive venue.*

The exhibition will be located in the Lower Asian Gallery and will be by ticketed entrance. I visited the National Gallery many years ago with my parents and sisters; the artworks held there are absolutely stunning and we are truly fortunate to be able to see some of them here.

That's all for now.

*Cheryl Cumines*  
President

## Photo Gallery

R – the entry of the lions marked the beginning of the official proceedings at the Chinese Garden of Friendship

BL – dramatic lighting enhanced the Dragon Wall

BR – the view from one of the pavilions



L – The Buddhist blessing  
R – Cheryl Cumines speaking as a gold miner descendant

BL – The attendees  
BR – Margaret Yung Kelly, Peter Hack, Cheryl Cumines, Daryl Gelham AM, Daphne Lowe Kelley, Susan Leong, King Fong, Margaret Cumines





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# CHRISTMAS ISLAND: AT THE CROSSROADS

In the 5 years since the tiny community of Christmas Island put its Chinese heritage preservation plan into practice, it has been buoyed by a growing list of achievements. In 2016, these included an award-winning Heritage Cemeteries Restoration project, an SBS News feature and a dedicated focus document in the National Trust of WA's Christmas Island Heritage Policy & Strategy commissioned by the Commonwealth. In 2017-18, specific aspects of the Island's unique Chinese heritage have been focus themes in a series of conferences and initiatives, including the One Million Stories project currently under development.

However, despite such progress, recent events have left Christmas Islanders once again asking what the future holds for them and for the indelible Chinese heritage footprint they have worked so hard to preserve.

Helene Bartleson first introduced us to the Chinese heritage of Australia's Christmas Island in 2013. In this update, she shares the achievements and the ongoing challenges faced by this resilient little community, and asks the question "Where to from here?"



*Direction Stone, Phosphate Hill  
Photo: courtesy Helene Bartleson*

DATE: Saturday, 3rd November 2018  
TIME: 2.30 – 4 pm  
VENUE: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,  
Mitchell Theatre,  
280 Pitt St Sydney NSW  
COST: \$10 members, \$15 non-members  
BOOKINGS: Kathie – 4861 3078 or [dblunt@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dblunt@bigpond.net.au)

Light refreshments included