



澳洲華人歷史文物會

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

Dear Members and Friends,

You may have noticed that CHAA did not have a July talk. Although one was planned, an unexpected illness meant that it had to be cancelled. Our History Week talk, presented by Dr Kathie Blunt, will take place in the first week of September.

Chinese Women's Association 65th Anniversary

The Chinese Women's Association recently celebrated their 65th anniversary with a lunch at Zilver. This was an important milestone for a very special group of women and it was well attended. The Association's banner, originally presented by the Kaw family, was displayed for the first time. Although it had been present at the 60th anniversary celebration, that restaurant did not have the facilities to display the banner.



Vale Stanley Hunt OAM

Long time CHAA member Stan Hunt passed away on July 7th at the age of 93. Stan was a well-respected member of the Chinese Australian community and played an important role in the hospitality industry in NSW. He presented *The Stan Hunt Story: Original Boat People* for CHAA in May 2005 and *Chinese Australian Family Stories*, with Kay Lin Simpson Lee, in February 2007.

Stan came to Australia in 1939 and lived in Warialda where his father had a shop. His family later owned and ran a fruit shops in Merrylands and Auburn. The family later went into the motel industry, with Hunts Motel at the Crossroads, Liverpool, being the best known of the family's holdings.

At the Chinese Women's Association anniversary, President Leanne Tam referred to Stan's providing a box of chocolates as a door prize each year. In honour of his memory, a box of chocolates, purchased in his name, was offered as the door prize this year.

Oxley Museum, Wellington

Earlier this year Juanita Kwok wrote to make known the plight of the Oxley Museum in Wellington. At the time there were plans by the Dubbo Regional Council, into which Wellington Council was subsumed, to move the Museum from its present location to the old police station. This could well mean that the Museum's exhibits, including the largest collection of historic Chinese clothing in NSW, might not be able to be displayed.

Juanita wrote:

Of greatest interest ... is the Chinese room, which displays merchandise and clothing from the W. S. Ling & Co. department store. The store dates back to 1879 when Hong Wong, trading as Kum Yoon Fong, advertised that he had opened the large, new, two-storey building nearly opposite Woodley's Royal Hotel with a splendid stock of new goods.¹ In the 1880s, the store was run by Kum Sing Lee and it was known as Fong Lee & Co. and was one of only two stores in Wellington at the time. In 1896, Melbourne-born William Suey Ling took over management of the store. He took a trip to China in 1903, bringing back a Chinese bride, Alice (Sing Ying Ean born 1888).² Ruby Chun Tye, one of two orphaned sisters brought up by the Ling family in Melbourne married market gardener Joseph Ah Yook.³ The Lings, the Ah Yooks and the Loo Sicks, together with the Mow Funns, the Coons, the Bows and the Sing Lees formed the nucleus of a community of Chinese-Australian families in Wellington. Many of the families came from Jang Seng and are related to the families of current CAHS President Daphne Lowe Kelly and founder and past President Henry Chan.

In the 1960s when David Ling was cleaning out the Fong Lee warehouse, he found fifteen trunks, containing mostly new ticketed items that would have been sold in the store and clothes belonging to the Ling family including a trunk of forty-six Chinese style garments belonging to Alice Suey Ling. The items in the trunks were donated to the Museum to form what Carole considers to be probably the largest collection of clothing in any country museum. A highlight of the Chinese collection are the traditional Chinese wedding garments worn by Eva Cheuy Hoo and George Loo Sick at their wedding in 1905. A range of merchandise in the trunks now on display in the Museum, shows the store catered for a broad customer base. In December 1916, it was stated that at Fong Lee & Co, there was "not a want of the housewife that could not be satisfied."⁴ During the depression years William Suey Ling was known to give extended credit to families, which may be one of the reasons the store went bankrupt in 1935. William Suey Ling died the following year. Carole Gass recalls "I was not allowed to keep the extremely large ledger books as they recorded the names of those owing the business money. The ledgers were consigned to the town's rubbish tip as instructed by David."⁵ The Chinese books on display in the Museum are order books for the store.

The Chinese Room also contains a collection of artefacts and from the Loo Sick and Ah Yook families, such as large ceramic urns, displayed with a description by Carole Gass of how her grandmother, Ruby Ah Yook used the urns for pickling vegetables. Photographs of artefacts from the Museum and family stories about how the items were used feature in Janis Wilton's Golden Threads book.⁶ The outdoor collection of the Museum contains farming tools and machinery and a rice grinder which belonged to the Ling store.

For more information about the Museum, check its website – <https://www.oxleymuseum.org.au/>

Wellington was awarded event of the year for the Fong Lees Lane festival in 2018 by Dubbo Regional Council; the 2019 festival is due to be held on October 25. Juanita is hopeful of running a weekend tour to Wellington for the festival.

Concerns about the Museum may be addressed to the Council or to the Federal Member Mark Coulter.

¹ Robert Porter, *The History of Wellington: A Record of the Growth of the Town and District from Earliest Days*, (Sydney: W. C. Penfold & Co Printers), p. 20.

² *Wellington Times*, 9 April 1903, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/137889657>

³ Carole Gass, *A brief family history*, unpublished manuscript.

⁴ McGowan and Mott, p. 275.

⁵ Carole Gass, "A Brief Family History", unpublished manuscript.

⁶ Janis Wilton, *Golden threads : the Chinese in regional New South Wales, 1850-1950*, (Armidale, New England Regional Art Museum in association with Powerhouse Publishing, 2004).

Chinese Australian Museum

The idea of a Chinese Australian Museum in NSW has been brought up before. This is the text from Hansard of an adjournment speech made by the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC, the Opposition Whip, in the Legislative Council in June.

MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AUSTRALIA

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (00:32): I recently had the opportunity to meet with Daphne Lowe Kelley, a friend of many years. She was excited about a proposal to establish a Museum of Chinese in Australia in New South Wales—a project that I think is long awaited. From the first recorded Chinese free settler who arrived in New South Wales in 1818, the number of Chinese in Australia has grown and they are now a major part of modern, multicultural Australia. Two hundred years after that first settler arrived, there are now more than 1.2 million Chinese Australians—Australian born, China born and from every part of Asia and the world where Chinese people have settled over several centuries.

Theirs is a remarkable story in the history, settlement and make-up of Australia. But that story has no central repository or display in Sydney or in New South Wales. It is time that a museum of Chinese history is established to celebrate a people who have contributed so much to Australia. The Museum of Chinese in Australia [MOCA] proposes to address that omission by establishing a centre as a focus for the discovery, preservation and promotion of the history of the Chinese in Australia. I congratulate the MOCA committee: president Dr John Yu, vice-president Dr Stephen Fitzgerald, secretary Ms Ann Toy, assistant secretary Mr Peter Hack, treasurer Ms Susan Leong, members Ms Cheryl Cumines and Mr Brad Powe, and public officer Ms Daphne Lowe Kelley.

The PRESIDENT: The time for the adjournment debate has expired.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals fell due on 1st July 2019. If you have not yet renewed, you may do so by post, using the attached renewal form, or by direct deposit, using the details on the attached form. If you are paying by direct deposit, please email the Treasurer, Dr Kathie Blunt, to let her know. If you joined during the current *calendar* year, your first renewal will be due on 1st July 2020.

That's all for now.

Cheryl Cumines
President



Chinese
Heritage
Association of
Australia

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewals must be received by September 30 2019

Name:.....

Address:.....

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Occupation:

Phone ().....

Fax ()

Mobile:

Email:.....

Membership category:

- Individual \$30
- Senior, pensioner, student \$20
- Family (household) \$40
- Corporate \$60

I/we wish to renew my/our membership of the Chinese Heritage Association of Australia Inc.

Signature:

Date:.....

Please mail with your payment to
The Treasurer
Chinese Heritage Association of Australia Inc
PO Box 1598
BOWRAL NSW 2576

OR

Direct deposit
BSB: 032-716 Account No: 435583
Reference: your name – MRL
and email the Treasurer – dblunt@bigpond.net.au