



Chinese
Heritage
Association of
Australasia

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,

We are living in troubled times with COVID-19, unprecedented supermarket images and behaviour that we could never have imagined, social distancing and massive job losses due to the economic flow-on effect, although there may be some relief with the Jobkeeper Allowance due to kick in next month. For some there is also either self-isolation or quarantine. Now that numbers have been severely limited for gatherings, many of us have lost that familial and/or social connection that comes with being together.

Please keep in touch with family and friends – whether by phone or through social media.

Ignore any of the false information that has been doing the rounds. Some of it is ridiculous but some is downright dangerous and able to easily lull people into a false sense of safety which doesn't exist if you follow the supposed "advice". **No** – just because hand sanitiser has alcohol in it, drinking lots of alcohol **will not protect you**. **No** – drinking lots of hot water to raise your core temperature **will not protect you**. **No** – eating lots of ginger and chilli **will not protect you**. These are just some of the crazy statements that have been doing the rounds. Already we have seen unnecessary deaths related to a misguided announcement about certain chemicals and self-medication in the US.

Of course, you already know that there are only two safe things to do. One is to wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds (that's the rubbing the soap time) – equal to two rounds of *Happy Birthday* although there are apparently lots of posts of celebrities washing their hands and singing popular songs that last for 20 seconds. Here's just a couple of sites:

<https://people.com/health/coronavirus-hand-washing-songs-celebrities/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/coronavirus-celebrities-shared-videos-washing-hands-singing-own-songs-2020-3>

The other thing, as you know, is to keep away from others. We have seen images of the police moving people on because they had been sitting on park benches. We have seen the images of groups in the eastern suburbs ignoring the social distancing rules before the largest hostel closed.

For all advice please go to <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert#symptoms-and-when-to-get-tested>.

Please take care and keep well, whether social distancing, self-isolating, or being in quarantine.

Cancelled talks

As you know, all three Chinese associations (Chinese Women's Association, Chinese Australian History Society and CHAA) cancelled their talks well before the government-imposed limits on gatherings. Although our audiences would have been well below the 100-person limit for indoor gatherings that was first announced just after we all cancelled, the health risk for people travelling into the city was too much for us all to ignore, even at that early stage. With the new announcements, keeping 4m² between audience members would have been even more difficult, especially when only two people are allowed to gather together.

When we are able to have talks and presentations again, we will let you know.

Membership Renewals

After discussing membership fees with Dr Kathie Blunt, our Vice-President and Treasurer, it has been decided to hold over membership renewals until 2021, i.e. no renewals will be asked for this year.

Valette – Violet Lee

Violet Lee (nee Cumines) was Margaret's and my great-aunt; she was the youngest daughter of Young Cumines, the founder and proprietor of King Nam Jang, and she was the last of her generation. She was also the widow of a fruit and vegetable market figure, Bill Lee – at her funeral, two of her granddaughters said they could still accurately pack a kilogram of either onions or potatoes without having to resort to using scales. Aunty Violet passed away at the age of 95 at the beginning of March.

Heritage listing of the Lambing Flat “No Chinese” Banner

The Young Historical Society has put in place plans to apply for the heritage listing of the Lambing Flat “No Chinese” Banner with a view to its ongoing preservation. They have linked it to the Carrington Park Precinct, the site of the 1886 Courthouse and the archaeological remains of the Gold Commissioners Camp. Those members who went on the joint trip with the Chinese Women's Association to Young some years ago might remember seeing the banner, and those who went to the inaugural Lambing Flat Chinese Festival in 2014 might remember seeing a replica of the banner during the day's proceedings.



Re-enactment of a protest that took place sometime before the Lambing Flat Anti-Chinese Riot
Photo: C. Cumines 12th April 2014

I have made a submission to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage on CHAA's behalf.

Finally,

I want to reference the Queen's own reference to Vera Lynn's wartime song in her address to the British nation and the Commonwealth – we definitely will meet again. Keep well. Keep safe.

Cheryl Cumines

President