



2015 New Management Committee



Left to right: Stephen Lang, Patrick Ng, Keng Ng, Alice Ho, Jenny Lau, Polly Chan, Edward Lam, Peng Lou and Peter Chung

The 26th Annual General Meeting was held on 29 August, 2015. Fourteen members were nominated and elected to serve on the Management Committee. Office bearers were elected as follows: Ken Yap (President), Peter Lai (Vice-President), Yvonne Fok (Vice-President), Kandy Wong (Hon. Secretary), Michelle Chan (Hon. Treasurer). The other members elected to the Management Committee were Stephen Lang, Peng Lou, Bob Waller, Cindy Wu, Jenny Lau, Polly Chan, Cathy Bedwell, Cynthia Murray and Angela Voon.

Due to queries from association members on administration practices and financial issues in the past two years, the President Mr. Ken Yap called a Special Meeting for members on 9 October, 2015 for a question-and-answer session. In the meeting Ken admitted that there were several irregularities

in the management of the association during his terms of presidency in the past two years.

Not long after the meeting, the newly elected President, the Vice-Presidents, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, and five committee members resigned. Before his resignation took effect, Ken kindly offered to assist the four remaining committee members to co-opt new committee members in accordance with the CCCA constitution.

New Management Committee members for 2015-2016 are as follows:

Jenny Lau (President); Peng Lou and Peter Chung (Vice President); Stephen Lang and Polly Chan (Hon Secretary), Edward Lam (Hon. Treasurer); Alice Ho (Hon. Assisting Treasurer); Keng Ng and Patrick Ng (Activities Coordinators)

2016 Year of the Monkey

Chinese New Year dinner for the year of the Monkey will be held on Sunday 21 February, 2016 at Castle Terrace Chinese Cuisine. Details will be in the next issue of our newsletter.

Membership - At the end of October 2015, there are 724 financial members of which 415 are life members. If your membership expires at the end of 2015, please renew your membership.

President's Message

Jenny Lau

2009 was a significant year for me. It was the twentieth anniversary of the incorporation of Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association. During that year we got the keys to our brand new office. It came closer to my vision that CCCA was founded in response to a need for a “home away from home” for ethnic Chinese in the Cherrybrook and surrounding areas. It provided a warm and welcoming community for those new to the area, educated the local community about Chinese culture and helped members to integrate into the wider community.

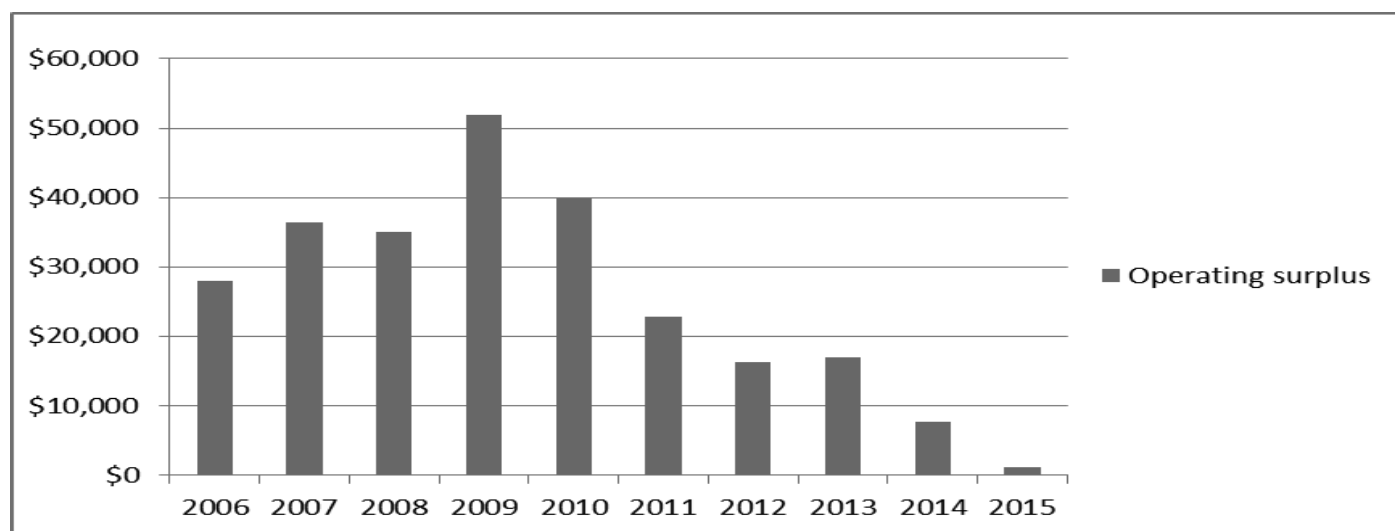
I have had the honour and privilege of serving the CCCA as Hon. Secretary, Event Co-coordinator and President from 1998 to 2009. During this time, CCCA focused on building a strong surplus and raised fund for the CCCA office. At the end of my Presidency, I was confident that CCCA was strongly placed to continue to serving our community long into the future, at least to the year 2030.

I was unpleasantly shocked when CCCA reported a net surplus of only \$1105 for the year ended 30 June 2015. Without the Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs' grant of \$19,390 received in FY2015, CCCA would have had a net deficit. A review of CCCA's financial affairs over the last four years shows both financial performance and position have declined significantly (see table and chart below), more than could be explained by the recent economic environment. The situation became even more desperate when I learnt that the out-going executive committee had employed a staff member at a cost of \$500 for 12 hours work per week (Management Committee Meeting Minutes 242) since May 2015.

The following table shows the operating surplus for the last four financial years. The next chart shows the operating surplus over the last ten years.

CCCA operating surplus – last 4 years comparison

Financial Year	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Operating Surplus	\$16,222	\$16,907	\$7,732	\$1,105
% of movement	-	+4%	-54%	-85%



A number of members, including myself, raised these concerns at the Annual General Meeting of CCCA convened on 29 August 2015, but did not receive satisfactory explanations. As a result, we began the task of reviewing CCCA's books and records for the last two years in the hope of understanding how the current situation came about. The more we looked, the more questions we found:

- There was evidence of lack of proper financial planning and monitoring. Besides the annual financial reports, the out-going Hon. Treasurer did not table any financial reports or analysis for discussion throughout FY13/14 and FY14/15. She was absent from March to July 2015, continuously for four Management Committee Meetings. This demonstrates the Management Committee's failure to prepare budgets, monitor actual income and track expenditure during each fiscal year.
- Instead of prudent financial stewardship of CCCA funds and finding the best way to maximize the community impact of every dollar, there was careless unchecked spending without regard to whether the expenditure was necessary, priced at market rates and whether CCCA had the ability to pay.
- An errant cheque of \$6,000 dollars had been approved and signed by the out-going President and the out-going Vice President (Mr. Lai) from the CCCA School bank account for “Expenses for CCCA 25 year

anniversary publication”. There was no record of Management Committee Members’ approval in the minutes prior to the cheque being issued. Furthermore, the work on the 25 year anniversary publication has barely begun and no formal quote has been obtained.

- Furthermore, there were numerous instances of failure to implement and follow proper operating procedures in the use of CCCA funds, including use of Chinese Language School funds to pay for non-Chinese Language School expenses, inaccurate keeping of records and minutes, improper employment procedure and the summary dismissal of the Chinese Language School principal.
- There were numerous cases of the FY14/15 Executive Management Committee not following the rules set out in the Association’s constitution. According to CCCA Constitution, only the President, the Vice President(s), the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be the authorized persons to operate CCCA’s bank accounts. However from December 2014, there were nine authorized signatories (including two whose existence was disclosed by the ANZ Bank). Four of the nine authorized signatories were not office bearers as required under the Association’s Constitution. On 5 Nov 2015, the ANZ Bank also disclosed that only one of the authorised signatories is required to operate the Association’s Term Deposit which is of significant concern.

All these things indicated a failure by the former Management Committee to act in the best interests of CCCA. If the irresponsible and reckless behaviour were not stopped, there is a risk that CCCA would no longer have the funds to operate in less than 10 years’ time.

After communicating these additional findings and concerns to the former Management Committee, we met with them to seek information about the situation. In response, ten members of the former Management Committee resigned from their positions.

Although this was an unexpected turn of events, we have a number of very committed individuals who have stepped up to the challenge of running CCCA. A new Management Committee was formed on 30 October 2015.

In closing, I would like to share with you my personal story of what CCCA means to me. I joined CCCA in 1994 because of my mother. She lived with my family and looked after my daughter. Same as many families, my mother did not speak any English. She was lonely during the day when my husband and I were working and my daughter was at school. Because of CCCA, she met new friends and enjoyed herself by joining the activities organized by the Seniors Group and the Women’s Group.

I know my story is not unique and that for many of you, CCCA has had a remarkable impact on your lives. I believe that CCCA does vitally important work in our community, and without CCCA, our world would be a poorer place. And so, I ask that you give our new management committee all of your support and encouragement, as we begin the difficult task of rebuilding CCCA so that it will continue to enrich the community for at least another sixteen years.

Treasurer’s Report

Hon. Treasurer Edward Lam

As the new CCCA Treasurer, I have examined the quarterly Financial Report, for the period of July to September 2015 prepared by the previous Treasurer Miss Michelle Chan. It showed a nominal operating deficit of \$797. However, this figure is incomplete, as it did not include some of the yet unaccounted for expenditure for the Lantern Night event. If these are included, the deficit would have been much higher. I found some of the reasons for the deficit as follows:

1. The previous Committee erred in not taking into consideration our dire financial situation to employ an additional paid staff, at a weekly wages of \$500 for 12 hours work. During the period, a total amount of \$6,000 in wages was paid to her.
2. This year the annual Lantern Night event was shifted and held at the Cherrybrook Technology High

School. As this is a private property where the NSW Police could not carry out their usual patrolling duties, the association had to hire a private security company for the task at a cost of \$3000.

3. The cost for performances in this year’s Lantern Night was \$1,700, much higher than previous years. We will endeavour to find new sources of income and cut unnecessary expenses to maintain the existing term deposit of \$184,710, and cash flow of \$18,500.

We will thoroughly examine an errand cheque (\$6,000 approved by Mr. Yap and Mr. Lai), the books and records for the past two financial years to identify the cause for the decline in operating surplus. Watch this space for the outcome of the investigation.

Seniors Group

Group Leader – Peter Chung (JP)

With the support of Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association (CCCA), our members and various organisations, we accomplished the following activities during the last quarter (July to September 2015):

20th Annual General Meeting Lunch

On 18 July, Seniors Group held the 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election of officers for the following year at Lee Central Park Chinese Restaurant, Thornleigh. 60 members and their family members attended this function. Mr Ken Yap, President of CCCA and Mr. Damien Tudehop, MP for Epping also attended.

Peter Chung, group leader, reported on the various activities, including five excursions, seven seminars, visits to old age homes and Inala School, held during the last twelve months. He also thanked members for their full support during the year.

Edward Lam reported on the healthy financial situation of the group and outlined its surplus for the year. He advised that he will resign from being the treasurer for the coming year because of health issue and busy personal affairs. Irrespective of his resignation, he will continue to support the group in the future.

Mr. Ken Yap supervised the election and Mr. Peter Chung (J.P.) ran through the nominations. There being no alternative or additional nominations, the following office bearers were elected unopposed: Group Leader – Mr. Peter Chung (J.P.); Treasurer – Patrick Ng, Amenities Officers – Joe Wong and Freddy Chung; Committee Members – Edward Lam, John Chih, Clement Yee, Norman Yiu, Chau Chan, Cheong Ming Kwan, Albert Yeung and Ping Wai Yu.

Lunch was held after the election. During the lunch, Peng Luo played two well-known Chinese songs with his flute. There were lucky draw for 61 supermarket gift cards (including one for \$50, six for \$30 and six for \$20). Everyone got one gift card. CCCA President Ken Yap got the big one for \$50. The AGM was concluded about 2:10pm in happiness.



Peter Chung, JP Group Leader and Mr D.F. Tudehop present the first prize gift card to lucky winner CCCA President Ken Yap

2015 Club Grant

We successfully applied for the 2015 / 2016 Hornsby



Edward and Esther Lam, John and Lisa Chih, Freddy and Judy Chung, Chan Chau and Ada Chan Together with Richard Hickey, President of West Pennant Hills Sport Club At the presentation ceremony

Council Club Grant. There were two award ceremonies. Senior members George Ing and Freddy Chung attended the presentation for a \$2,000 cheque on 18th August 2015 at Hornsby RSL Club.

Mr Edward Lam, Vice Group Leader of Seniors Group attended the presentation on 24th August at the West Pennant Hills Sport Club. Committee members of the Seniors Group also attended this event. They were Edward and Esther Lam, Chau and Ada Chan, John and Lisa Chih, Freddy and Judy Chung. With this award, Seniors Group plans to hold more health topic seminars, excursion activities and a lawn bowling sport in the 2016 Seniors Week. It will provide opportunities for the seniors to meet new

friends for various functions.

Canberra Floriade Flower Show.

On 18th September, we went on an excursion to the Canberra Floriade Flower Show. Canberra is the capital and is the largest inner city in Australia. The population is about 367,000. It is situated about 260 kilometres from Sydney and 660 kilometres from Melbourne.

The weather was fine on that day, 52 members gathered in Cherrybrook at about 7:50am to board the coach. We arrived at the Burns Club Star Buffet about 12:00 noon. The menu was good and everyone was happy about the

quality of the foods including various choices. After lunch, we went to the Commonwealth Park to visit the flower show. It is being held every spring from mid-September and early October. About 400,000 visitors from every State and overseas.

After taking a group photo, people walked around the show in small groups of their own. Before we finished the tour, we had afternoon tea including cake and bottled water. We arrived back at Cherrybrook at about 7:20 pm and everyone enjoyed this tour so much. Members were also very happy that this excursion is a good value one as it was only for \$35 including luxury comfortable coach, driver's tips, delicious lunch and afternoon tea. They expect the Seniors Group would hold more such excursion in the future.

Forthcoming activities

In November, there will be a seminar re "How to Care for your sick family members"

Mid December visits will be paid to Anglican Retirement Village and NSW Chinese Age Home.

Chinese Language School

Words from the School Director of Teaching

The end of the school year is fast approaching. Our students and teachers are actively preparing for the final examinations and reports. We are very pleased to witness the improvement of our students' competence in their Chinese language skills. This is in line with one of our goals. We are also very pleased to see the support of parents, our members and other government organizations. We will make full use of these resources for our school.

In 2015 school management has undergone some changes. However, none of these changes will affect our school's teaching commitment to the students. In 2015, our school has performed well in the NSW inter-school competitions. Our 13-15 year old group won 1st prize in Chinese Eisteddfod; two students from our school were awarded 2nd prize in 10-12 years and 13-15 age groups. Two students received Education Minister's awards and three students participated in a

writing competition for 10-12 and 13-15 age groups and achieved good results.

Our school encourages students to take an active part in extracurricular activities to broaden their knowledge and enhance the interests. We would like to welcome more students to join our Chinese Language School in 2016.

The Australian government has recognized the importance and shortage of people with Chinese language skills. Next year, our school will introduce a new system to manage the class grade for students. This will enable the students to develop their Chinese self-learning ability, such as: looking up Chinese words in a dictionary by means of radicals and by means of Hanyu pinyin. Next year our school will have a "Chinese Cultural Land" camp. Our teachers have been sent to relevant schools to gain some insight into running the camp.

Lantern Night 2015

Gatchan

In the past twenty years, Cherrybrook Lantern Night was held in October. This year the outgoing Executive Management Committee tried something 'New'. They decided to hold 2015 Lantern Night on 26 September at Cherrybrook Technology High School and John Purchase Public School. Also they specifically employed a worker to coordinate this year's Lantern Night.

Same as in previous years, there were different food stalls providing delicious food such as satay skewers, sausages, Portuguese egg tarts, spring rolls, fried rice, fried noodles, curry chicken, dim sum and dessert. Of course there were amusement rides and many stage performances. This year, they also held a cooking competition for the first time.

Despite being widely publicized, this year's Lantern Night failed to attract as many members of the general

public to the event as anticipated. This year we experienced a loss for the first time in the history of Lantern Night and the results were very disappointing. The reason might be due to the wet weather in the evening. Another reason might be because of the spread of activities and food stalls. Next year Cherrybrook Lantern Night will again be held at Greenway Park in October.

Holders of winning raffle tickets should collect their prizes from the CCCA office before 11 December 2015 during office hours (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30 am – 12:00 noon).

The winning raffle ticket numbers are :

213, 612, 620, 631, 671, 702, 709, 715, 732, 749, 801, 925, 991, 1000.



1015 Lantern Night

Chinese Opera singing Class Enrolment

2016 class starts on 16 February.

Time: Every Tuesday 10:30am to 12:30pm

Venue: Activity room, Cherrybrook Community Hall.

Fees/Term: members -\$100; non-members- \$150

For enquiries, please contact Mrs. Daisy Wong 02-98753336 at CCCA office.

JP services available for members (free)

If you ever need a JP to witness documents and the like, one of the Vice-Presidents of CCCA, Rev. Peter Chung is a JP. He is willing to serve our members in the capacity of a JP.

Time: Wednesday 10:30am to 11:30am during EYD sessions.

Venue: Cherrybrook Community Hall.

Appointment with JP Rev Peter Chung, Vice President, can be made through CCCA office at 02-98753336.

From the Editor's Desk

The sudden resignation of some of the members of the editorial board landed me with this job.

Firstly, let me offer my thanks to members of the previous editorial board for their work in the past couple of years.

To me, the newsletter is one of the channels the association gets through to its members and to the public. Any person interested can read the newsletter on our website. As the newsletter reflects the position of the Association, articles in the newsletter must be apolitical and non-religious, since the association is disinterested in politics and religion. Articles must not contain personal attack, and they must not contain taboo language.

We do welcome teachers and students of our Chinese Language School, and members of our association to contribute to the newsletter. There is also a "Members' News" section in which we report news of our own members, such as births, obituaries, anniversaries, graduations, outstanding achievements, etc. Any members who want us to report on any of the above about themselves or members of their families, please let us know, and we will try our best to have these published, so we can all share your happiness and your achievements.

Finally, I wish our newly formed management committee every success in its undertakings.

Members' News

In October, former Vice-President Mrs. Yvonne Fok was happy to see the addition of a grandson to her family. Also in the same month, former President Mr. Yue-yan Chan's eldest daughter gave birth to a baby

boy. We are so happy for these two families. We wish them all the best.

CCCA Office Closure

CCCA's office will be closed from 14 December 2015 to 8 January 2016, reopening on 12 January 2016. Wish all members a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.