



Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association Inc.

News Letter – Summer

January 2016 Vol. 89

My Message

President Jenny Lau

Dear members:

On behalf of the Management Committee Members, I wish you all a Happy and prosperous New Year!

2016 is the year of the red Monkey which symbolizes liveliness, passion and energy. To us, 2016 will be a challenging and busy year. There are many different programs and activities in the pipeline, including:

- Chinese New Year Dinner: - It is a Chinese tradition to have a big banquet at the beginning of each New Year. The name of this dinner in Chinese is 'Spring Dinner'. Family and friends have dinner together and wish each other good luck for the year ahead. Thus let us celebrate. This year's CCCA Chinese New Year Dinner will be held on 28 February 2016 at Castle Terrace Chinese Cuisine.
- Hills Lunar Festival: - We are invited to participate in this year's Lunar Festival organized by the Hills Council on 13 February 2016. We will have a stall to promote the Association and our School. Our acrylic painting class students will display their work. Hereby I have to thank the teachers, Ms Julia Tang and Mr. Fred Hau. They put in a lot of effort and their own spare time in order to make this happen. I also have to give a thumbs up to Mrs. Alice Ho for coordinating this event. Furthermore, our members will perform on that day. If you have time, come and see us at North Rocks Park and Don Moore Community Centre, North Rocks.
- Our seniors are very busy too. In 2016 they have planned to visit some retirement villages, nursing homes and INALA school. They will organize tours as well. During the 2016 Seniors' Week, the Seniors' Group will organize a lawn bowling session for members to try out.

One of the CCCA's objectives is to promote Chinese culture, education, and ethics. We seek out all opportunities to achieve this goal, and throughout the years our Chinese Language School took up this big role. In 2013, our school was selected as a Model School. We received funding from the People's Republic of China and organized painting classes. Last year, we held a Chinese water painting art exhibition, and this year there will be another exhibition in March.



Year of the Monkey New Year Dinner

Date: Sunday, 28 February 2016
 Venue: Castle Terrace Chinese Cuisine
 Cost: Member \$50,
 Non Member – \$60
 Enquiry: Daisy Wong 98753336
 Jenny Lau 0416188339
 Polly Chan 0488609225
 Patrick Ng 0420909008
 Alice Ho 0430049786

The Association is honoured to have the opportunity to host the 2016 Sydney Chinese Culture School Holiday Program. This program will be organized jointly with the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, Shaanxi Province, the People's Republic of China. Outstanding and experienced teachers from China will be invited to Sydney to teach our students. This program is for 6 to 18 years old students and the attendees will learn aspects of Chinese culture such as Kung-fu, traditional waist drum and craft. This is something your children should not miss. We will

release more details in due course.

Another project we will undertake this year is to set up a library. Since our Chinese Language School has been selected as a Model School, the Chinese Consulate-General generously donated many Chinese reference books to us. Thus, we plan to set up a library in our office so that members can come to share in the joy of reading. Hereby I have to thank Ms. Kamy Cheng to letting us use her van unconditionally. I also thank Mr. Patrick Ng for loading and unloading 64 heavy cartons of books.

The Association began as a small group of people with similar visions and aspirations. It now has over 700 financial members, and the Chinese Language School has more than 130 students. We are no longer a small, closed group of individuals and acquaintances. It is a

very different organization now and its growth inevitably means more formality is needed in the way that the CCCA is governed, right from our constitution down to how activities operate.

In December 2015, the Association received an outstanding invoice (July to September 15) for hiring the Cherrybrook Technology High School MPC used by the Badminton Group. As with previous practice, the activity group leader who collected money from group members on behalf of the Association should pay all expenses in due course and bank the balance into the CCCA's bank account. It is not our intention to control or interfere with activity groups' operations but we have to minimize any risk that the CCCA might encounter. This recent event served as a reminder that regulations in the constitution are there for good reasons.

Since the Association's incorporation, our constitution, the governing framework, has not been updated. Although it is not one hundred percent consistent with the current environment, it should still be followed until a new one is put in place. We are duty bound and committed to act in accordance with the Constitution of the CCCA especially in the area of financial management. More structured governance is required for the Association to ensure smooth operations and a strong financial position.

From now on, the CCCA Constitution will be diligently enforced, especially regulation 15.4 which requires all monies received by the Association to be deposited into the Association's bank account promptly. In other words, leaders of all activity groups within the Association who collect money from their group members on behalf of the Association must bank all the money received. During the past two years, only the Seniors Group had been submitting financial reports on a regular basis.

Finally, I hope you would help us to do the right thing – save the environment. Every quarter we print more than 500 hard copies of our newsletter. Although we have limited the number of pages to less than 16, on average we use four A3 pages for each copy of the newsletter. In other words, every three months we will use at least 4000 sheets of A4 paper and 16,000 sheets a year. A few years ago we encouraged members to receive the newsletter by email. Being a responsible Association, from the next issue we will email a link to our newsletter to those members who have given us their email addresses. We understand some members are not used to the electronic copies and thus hard copies will still be posted to them and made available in the office for members to pick up.

Treasurer's Report Hon. Treasurer Edward Lam

For the months of July to December 2015 (the account for the month of December was prepared up to 10 December as Daisy Wong was then on leave), the Association received (1) a grant of \$11,634 from the Department of Education and Training in October and (2) bank interest of \$6,649 from the maturity of \$184,700 one-year term deposit in early December. The operating surplus (after adjustment) was \$2,202.92.

After the transfer of funds for daily operations into the bank accounts of the Association and the Chinese Language School, the amount for the term deposit renewal is \$165,000, a reduction of \$19,700 as compared with last year.

In today's low interest environment, we need to work hard to maintain funds for normal operations.

Lantern Night 2015

The income from various food stalls at the Lantern Night held on 25 September 2015 was \$8,261, which was less than half of the sales (\$18,188) in 2014.

The cost of goods sold, for every dollar of sales, was 47 cents for 2015, compared with 35 cents for 2014.

The ex-treasurer advised her laptop was damaged, and thus she could not provide the records for the confirmed sales figures for each food stall at the close of business. Therefore, we can only accept that the records in the accounting system were correct.

The operating result of Lantern Night 2015 was a deficit of \$335. This included the cost of purchasing a few hundred T-shirts for volunteers at a cost of \$825. Only a few volunteers wore the T-shirts on the night of the event.

It is uncertain whether the ex-committee was also disappointed with this result. They should review their decision for the use of the valuable reserve of the 700 members, in a total amount of \$12,045 (from 13 May to 2 October 2015) for the employment of an ex-staff Ms Chan, one of whose major duties was to organise the Lantern Night. It is debatable as to whether the decision was a waste of valuable resources and whether or not this employment was essential.

Result of Bank Enquiry re a \$6,000 cheque

Following from the report in the 2015 Spring Newsletter, there has been some further investigation with respect to the \$6,000 cheque. In early November, our President and our Secretary approached ANZ Bank to enquire about this cheque. The copy of the cheque held by the bank indicated the

name of the payee was ex-president, Ken Yap, not the name of the printing company.

On 22 October 2015, after the current committee's endeavour to follow up, \$5,074 was refunded to the Association. The balance of \$926 was spent on the making of two banners for the Chinese Language School. Unfortunately, some of the information printed on the banners was incorrect and thus they could not be used. The amount of \$926 that the Association spent on making these two banners was ultimately wasted.

Another issue relating to the 2014-15 financial statement

In the financial statement (for the year ending 30 June 2015) presented at the 2015 AGM, held on 29 August 2015, it indicated that the \$6,000 referred to above was "Cash On Hand" held by the Association. In fact, it was temporarily held by the ex-president, Mr. Ken Yap since 13 May 2015.

A group of people have criticised the current Committee for being too strict and picky. The current Committee's query of the last few years' accounts of the Association reflects the lack of trust in the operation of the ex-committee.

As discussed previously, the current committee has concerns about the employment of a staff member at a cost over market pay, particularly given the Association did not have an operating surplus at the time and the members' reserve had to be used. We must consider what the effect would be to the Association if the members' reserve is used without any proper control. The future of the Association is of great concern to the current committee and we want to ensure that the Association is acting in accordance with normal business practice. In particular, we want to ensure any use of the members' reserve is carefully considered. We are only dealing with the facts and have nothing to do with attacking anyone.

My role in the Association

Subject to the advice from my cardiologist and endocrinologist re "the importance of enjoying a relaxed retirement", I recently had a discussion with Alice Ho, the Assistant Treasurer about reducing the number of tasks I undertake. I would like to thank her for her assistance in taking over a number of tasks that are currently part of the Treasurer's role.

From the Editor's Desk

The year of the Ram finally comes to an end in a couple of weeks' time. It has been a turbulent year for the CCCA. With heavy losses financially up to and including the Lantern Night event of 2015, and a mass resignation of members of the management

committee newly elected in the 2015 AGM, the CCCA was in crisis. Fortunately, the remaining members on the management committee were able to co-opt five very able and experienced members into the management committee.

The new management committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Jenny Lau, is taking up the arduous task of setting the office, the records and the accounts right. I have every confidence that they will achieve what they set out to do. I have good reason to expect the CCCA will again be run with the help of volunteers as envisaged by the founders of the association twenty-seven years ago.

In consideration of ecology, from the next issue on, this newsletter will only be posted to members who have not registered an email address with us. Members, whose email addresses are registered with us, will be sent a link to the newsletter via email. I urge all members to give us their email addresses as soon as possible. We must do our part to reduce carbon emissions.

Our Chinese Language School, together with the Shaanxi Provincial Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs, will be holding the "Chinese Cultural Big Playground" camp during the Term 3 vacation in late September this year. Interested students should ask your teachers in our Chinese Language School.

The year of the Monkey will usher a new way of serving the members in the spirit of the founders. May I take this opportunity to wish our members and readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

Message from the Principal of the Chinese Language School

Guo Xiaohong

We have come to the year 2016, and the Year of the Monkey is just around the corner.

The time has come for us to bid farewell to the year past and welcome in the new year. On behalf of the management team of the CCCA Chinese Language School, I extend my well wishes to the teachers, parents, and students for a happy new year.

As in the past, we have always insisted upon the Confucian way of thinking that any surplus energy one has after completing their duties may then be directed toward further studies. Our school aspires to the learning and spreading of traditional Chinese culture. Our ultimate goal is to run the school through the learning of Chinese characters, Chinese culture and civilization; and the practice of Confucian courtesy and humility. Throughout the past few years the school actively organised and encouraged students to participate in various activities and

competitions so that they could better learn and experience Chinese culture. Through their participation in these activities, students may understand the depth and breadth of China's long-standing civilisation, and also know the Chinese tradition of filial piety and of respecting one's teachers. This allows children raised in Australia to directly witness and share in these Chinese traditions.

By continuing in our persistent ways we will make our Chinese Language School into an outstanding one in 2016. The new school year brings new students to our school, and we will select even more suitable kindergarten teachers to make the learning of Chinese more lively, interesting and creative. In September of 2016, our school will hold the event "The Big Chinese Cultural Playground" with the main purpose of allowing students who missed out on the "China Trip" events to directly learn and experience the elegance and beauty of Chinese culture in Australia.

The new school year will start on the 30th of January and we hope more students will come so we can help and support each of them, and that we may create a good and more lively learning environment for them. We will utilise online learning materials to raise the standard of our teaching. We adopt a humble and grounded attitude to continue our mission of carrying forward our cultural heritage as time progresses.

Seniors Group

Group Leader Peter Chung

Visit to Retirement Village/Home



The Seniors Group visited the Anglican Donald Coburn Centre for the aged in Castle Hill and the Home for the Aged in Pennant Hills on the 19th of December, 2015. The

twenty participants in attendance were:

The President, Jenny Lau, and her husband, Kevin Lau, the Vice-President and Leader of the Seniors Group, Rev. Peter Chung, J.P., Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lam, Mr. & Mrs. Kwun Fat Chung, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lau, Mr. George Ing, Mr. & Mrs. Cheong Ming Kwan, Mr. & Mrs. John Chik, Mr. & Mrs. Kwun Ming Ng, Mr. & Mrs. Ping Wai Yu, Mr. & Mrs. Kam Wing Wong. At 2pm they visited the Donald Coburn Centre dormitories, but it happened that there was a resident infected with a gastrointestinal virus and thus the Centre took emergency precautions to avoid the spreading of this virus and did not allow any visitors. The Seniors Group could only take photos of their trip from outside the building.

At 3pm they visited the Pennant Hills Home for the Aged, and Rev. Peter Chung led the group in singing Christmas carols in Chinese and in English. At the request of some of residents present, the President, Mrs. Jenny Lau, Mrs. Kwun Ming Ng, Mrs. Edward Lam, and several others sang a few popular Cantonese Opera songs. Residents were also given Ferrero Rocher Chocolates.

Their happy faces, the way they not only listened but joined in with singing the songs, and their overall involvement deeply encouraged the Seniors Group. Though our contribution was small, it still served a purpose. We felt the truth of the saying "It is more blessed to give than to receive". We hope that in our future activities, you will also join in and experience the joy of giving.

On the 15th of January, 2016, a one-day trip to Hunter Valley was organised, and a coach of 53 seats quickly filled up. Please keep an eye out for future events and programs, and please register early so as not to miss out.

We are arranging a visit to the Inala Special School and to the NSW Aged Home for Chinese on Saturday morning, 20th February, 2016 during the Chinese New Year period.

Chinese Opera Singing Class Enrolment

Chinese Opera Singing Classes for 2016 will commence on the 16th of February. Classes will be held every Tuesday from 10:30am to 12:30pm inside a function room at the Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre. Our teacher, Georgia Lee, an experienced Chinese Opera singer, voluntarily teaches our class. Course content includes Chinese Musical Rhythm and Vocal practice.

Fees:

5 sessions	CCCA members	\$40
	Non-members	\$50
Single lesson	CCCA members	\$10
	Non-members	\$12

(including course notes and music sheets)

Anyone interested should please contact Mrs. Daisy Wong at the CCCA office for enrolment details. Telephone number: 98753336 or Mrs. Polly Chan on 0488609225.

The CCCA Chinese Opera Singing Class has been running since March 2012. One of our teachers, Sincere, is leaving us this year due to personal reasons. Over the past three and a half years, she worked as a volunteer receiving no monetary awards or any other form of allowances. She was always passionate in sharing her expertise with the students and was always ready to provide them with practical

experiences on stage whenever such opportunities arose. The Association extends its thanks to Sincere for all her efforts to make the class possible and popular. Also, we wish her all the best.

Note from the Editor: Since the association was founded in 1989, all activities have been run by volunteers (The only one exception was an instance that happened during May to October, 2015. Please refer to the Hon. Treasurer's Report.). Ms Sincere was not the only volunteer of the Association over the past 27 years, so is Ms Georgia Lee and so are many other members.

Members' News

At the end of November last year, Mr. Chan Yue-yan was invited by the local government of Nanhai County to participate in the third quinquennial event of Homecoming of Overseas Nanhainese. The event attended by more than 500 people was held at the slope of Xiqiao. Mr. Chan was also invited to participate in the exhibition of Overseas Nanhainese calligraphers and painters. Some of his works are now collected by the Nanhai Museum.

Traditional Chinese Painting Exhibition

Translated by Richard Chung

An exhibition of traditional Chinese brush paintings presented by Master Zi Delong and students was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Chatswood in October 2015. The event was organised through the CCCA Chinese Language School.

It was an honour for the opening ceremony on October 17th to have the presence of His Excellency Tong Xuejun, Deputy Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Sydney; Mr. Wang Can, Consul of the People's Republic of China in Sydney; Ms. Michelle Sloane, Deputy Major of Willoughby Shire, and a good number of invited guests.

Master Zi, a native of Tianjin, started learning Chinese painting from his grandfather at the age of seven. Over these many years, Master Zi continues his painting in pursuit of excellence, and in recent years provided mentorship to a number of students in Sydney. Exhibits on display are art works selected from a range of bird-and-flower paintings which demonstrate the acquisition of painting techniques and composition by his students. Many favourable comments were received from visitors and members

of the local art community during those ten days. Encouraged by the successful response of this exhibition, Master Zi and his students plan to have more public exhibitions in the future.

CCCA Chinese Language School

Objective: to teach Chinese language and culture through Putonghua and simplified characters despite age and ethnic background

Classes: Kindergarten to Level 8, teenagers, and adult classes; traditional Chinese painting and oil painting classes

Time: 9 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Saturday during school terms

Venue: Cherrybrook Technology High School

Enquiry: visit CCCA website or call 0487001020 for details

Stop Press

Today the **Queen Cakes Bakery** in Carlingford Village agreed to offer our members 10% off in cakes and bread, excluding drinks, like coffee and tea. Members need only to present their membership card before they pay to claim the 10% off.

Membership	Total: 731
Life Member: 417	Expire in 2019: 1
Expire in 2018: 6	Expire in 2017: 36
Expire in 2016: 67	Expired in 2015: 204

Correction

In the last newsletter, it was published that the membership of ex-Vice President, Mr. Peter Lai, expired at the end of 2014. This was based on records available to the new management committee as at 20 November 2015. It is now confirmed that Mr. Lai had renewed his membership on 9 February 2015 for one year. The records have now been updated accordingly. We sincerely extend our apologies to Mr. Peter Lai for any inconvenience caused.



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Revenue	
CCCA Membership Income	\$465.00
Membership Fees - Life	\$150.00
Advertising	\$55.00
AGM Lunch	\$176.00
Senior Group Activities	\$4,275.00
Club Grant	\$4,000.00
Fund Raising	\$1,937.85
CLS Fee	\$18,916.00
CLS - Misc	\$1,609.00
CLS - Government grant	\$11,634.32
Contributions from Sub-groups	
EYD	\$2,529.20
Women's Group	\$275.00
Cantonese Opera Singing Class	\$880.00
Chinese New Year Dinner	\$160.00
Cherrybrook Lantern Night	\$16,342.10
Interest Received	\$6,649.56
Donation / Sponsorship	\$4,183.00
Total Revenue	<u>\$74,237.03</u>

Expenditure	
AGM	\$54.00
Lantern Night and performance	\$14,620.28
Advertising	\$298.00
Bank Charges	\$75.00
Senior Group Activities	\$3,578.50
Cantonese Opera Singing Class	\$579.00
Computer	\$66.00
Cherrybrook TH School Donation	\$500.00
Public Relations	\$517.70
Hire of Canon Printer	\$544.55
Insurance	\$1,538.02
Food & Catering	\$5,143.41
Postage-Main	\$31.50
Postage & Printing -Newsletter	\$849.69
Printing & Stationery	(\$2,656.81)
Rental Exp.-store room	\$660.00
Rent - Hall & Meeting Room	\$6,591.00
Equipment Supplies	\$605.81
Workers Compensation	\$623.52
Honorarium	\$1,405.00
Telephone, Mobile & Fax	\$554.39
Electricity	\$761.17
Chinese Language School	
Activities	\$87.60
Hire of Plant & Equip-Printer	\$544.60
Salaries	\$33,697.00
Superannuation	\$1,447.04
Staff Training	\$159.33
Text Books	(\$20.00)
Total Expenditure	<u>\$72,855.30</u>
Net Profit/Loss	<u>\$1,381.73</u>

Adjustment

Operating Result as at 10 Dec 2015	\$1,381.73
<i>add back</i> Printing	\$2,417.19
<i>less</i> Printing refund Chq	<u>(\$5,074.00)</u>
	(\$2,656.81)
<i>add back</i> Dance Group exp	\$3,378.00
Rent venue, Chatswrod, March	\$100.00
Adjusted Surplus / Deficit	<u>\$2,202.92</u>