



Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association Inc.

Newsletter – Autumn

May 2016 Vol. 90

New Year Dinner for the year of the Monkey

The CCCA held its Chinese New Year Dinner on February 28th at Castle Terrace Chinese Cuisine. There were more than 150 guests and members that attended the function. Right on the dot at 7PM, the lion dance began amidst the deafening noise of drums and gongs. The lion moved around all tables sending greetings to everyone present. The God of Fortune then made his presence. He wished everyone a prosperous new year and gave red packets to all.

In her speech, the President of the CCCA, Mrs Jenny Lau said that when she was first elected as President in 2005, the most urgent task was to organize funding of some \$150,000 for the new office. She said she had an able and hardworking team on the management committee to help her raise the necessary funding in a relatively short amount of time. Now she has once more been elected President of the Association, and again she has an able, hardworking and cooperative team on the management committee to help her serve the community, the Association and its members.



Presidents (Ex & Current) with VIPs

His Excellency, the Deputy Consul General, Tong Xuejun, was then asked to say a few words to the gathering. Mr. Tong said that he was moved by the speech of the President. He told the audience that our Chinese Language School was made a model school by the Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs, and that our school will be in partnership with the Shaanxi Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs in holding the

Shaanxi-Sydney Chinese Cultural Camp in September this year. Mr. Tong also mentioned the close relationship between China and Australia. In 2015, there were over one million tourists visiting Australia from China. He praised the Association for its contribution to multiculturalism.

Other guests present that evening included the Mayor of the Hills Shire, Cr. Michelle Byrne, Clr. Ryan Tracey, and the Liberal candidate for Berowra, Julian Leeser.

After all the speeches, the guests and the members of the management Committee sang the new year song "Gong Xi, Gong Xi". Other items of entertainment included Cantonese opera singing by the management committee members, Mr. Yu played the erhu, and our Vice-President, Mr. Peng Lou played the bamboo flute. The evening concluded after the raffle draw.

The most touching part of the evening was the harmonious atmosphere and the support for the Association so plainly obvious among the members. Many of them came shortly after 6 PM to see if we needed any help. With an able team on the management committee, and enthusiastic members willing to help, the CCCA can only grow better and better.



Chinese New Year Dinner – Gong Xi Gong Xi

My Message

President Jenny Lau

Dear Members,

Perhaps due to the fast paced lifestyle these days, I haven't noticed that time has passed so quickly. In a blink of an eye, 2016 has passed a quarter. Within these three months we successfully completed four projects, namely the Lunar Festival, the CCCA Chinese New Year Dinner, the Castle Hill Show, and the CCCA

Chinese Language School painting class teacher and students' art exhibition. The CCCA was invited by the Hills Council to participate in the annual Lunar Festival. We had a stall to promote the CCCA. We held an art exhibition and a stage performance which we haven't done for a long time. A team of 13 members learnt a popular Cantonese Opera song from scratch and practiced hard for weeks to perfect the performance. It was well received. Another well supported event was our Chinese New Year Dinner. The tickets were sold out early. The atmosphere was friendly, the spirit was high and we all had a good time.

For the past three months our team worked very hard to put the association back on the right track. We cut unnecessary expenses. The good news is that financially we are on the right track to a sustainable surplus. Some new members may ask what the point is for the CCCA to have a surplus. Some may say as a non-profit association, the CCCA need not to make profit out of organizing activities. Others may say the membership fee should cover the cost of running all activities and we should not accumulate money and let it sit in the bank. Some group leaders might think that all the money raised by their individual group belongs to the individual group and not to the CCCA. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how the CCCA operates financially.

Members may not be aware that the Association has many fixed operating costs. Each year we pay over \$4000 on insurances such as Public Liability (a pre-requisite for organizing any public activity), Office content and Workers Compensation Insurance. There are other overhead expenses such as electricity, telephone & internet access, postage, stationery, printing and renting a photocopier, wages, and associated expenses on the administrative staff. This adds up to around \$25,000 a year. The cost on our quarterly Newsletter is about \$2 per printed copy i.e. \$8 per year per member. Although we have prepaid the rent for our office for 21 years, we have to pay rent on storage for our equipment e.g. ping pong tables, badminton stand and net for EYD. We also pay hiring fees when we use the Community Centre or the meeting rooms. In 2014-15, we paid Hornsby Council over \$14,500 on hiring fees. On top of all these

expenses is the remuneration for our Chinese Language School teachers.

Presently, we have over 600 financial members with roughly 420 life members. On average we get about 200 new or renewed memberships each year. As you can see from the above, the membership fee collected is not enough to cover our yearly operation costs. Previously, the Association's main source of income was from organizing activities. The Association organized various events such as dinner parties, the November Dance, Gala Day, Mahjong Competition, concerts, youth concerts and our iconic event, the Lantern Night. In 2010, the net income from Lantern Night was over \$9,900. During the good old times, we managed to raise around \$5,000 on average. The Association also ran different classes and sports activities such as tennis, table tennis, Yoga, line dancing, singing, Chinese Language School classes, painting classes, and computer courses to generate income.

The other income source is from grants and funding that we received from Federal, State and local governments. In 1995, we received our first grant from the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW to perform community development works. Since then, we received funding from the NSW Department of

Education, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, and the Club Grant for the Seniors Group. We rely heavily on big and small sponsorships. In the past 25 years Singapore Airlines, HSBC bank, Telstra, Bing Lee, and C21 Joseph Tan Real Estate were our big sponsors.

In 2010, we lost the \$80,000 funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. In 2015, Century 21

Joseph Tan Real Estate withdrew its sponsorship completely. Unlike others grant and sponsorship may come and go, bank interest on the Association's term deposit is more predictable. This is why we are very concerned if our emergency fund drops or if it doesn't have sustainable growth.

The CCCA is a COMMUNITY association. We do not just organize activities to make a profit. We also carry out community works and provide services which do not generate any income but they do incur expenditure. We should act as one and cross-subsidize each other as required. I respect the view of



some members who do not share this view. I wish them good luck in running their own groups independently. I want to state openly that from 2016 onwards, all our activities and programs will be organized by the CCCA Chinese Language School, the CCCA Seniors Group and the CCCA Management Committee.

Message from the Principal of the Chinese Language School

Guo Xiaohong

The first school term is about to end. Under the guidance of the new management committee, steady progress has been made in the school this term. The enrolment of this term surpassed that of last year. More than 20% of our student population came from new enrolments, and a significant number of new students are of a non-Chinese background. All teachers recruited this year have a good education background and high proficiency in English. We stress the importance of good communication between teachers, students and parents. This enhances the learning process among students. The high attendance in our first term also reflects this point. Emails are sent to parents each week by our teachers to ensure that the parents know what is going on in our classrooms, and we seek the cooperation of our parents in supervising their children's homework.

This year we see nearly 30 students participating in individual and group events in the National Chinese Eisteddfod. This is the largest team we have had in recent years. I sincerely thank our parents and teachers for their effort in encouraging and training our students for this national event.

The second term begins on the 30th of April. We will take new enrolments on that day. One of the aims of our school is to cultivate a lasting interest in Chinese culture and the Chinese language among our students. A working knowledge of the Chinese language will offer our children better opportunities and will broaden their choices in the future.

Our Chinese Language School is planning for more diverse courses in its Chinese classes. At present, we have an adult class and a class for teenagers who know practically nothing of the Chinese language and Chinese culture. We know there are many people who want to learn Chinese and who wish to sit for the HSK (the Chinese Proficiency Test). A person who passed a certain level of HSK can study and work in China.

In September this year during the term break, the Chinese schools will jointly run a Chinese Culture camp with a group of teachers from Shaanxi. We will let you know more about the camp in Term 2.

Seniors Group

Group Leader Peter Chung

In the first quarter of this year, the Seniors Group have had a day trip to Hunter Valley, visited The Inala school and the Elderly Australian Chinese Home, and arranged a Lawn Bowling activity.

The first activity was hosted on 15th January 2016 (Friday). We went to the Hunter Valley. The Valley is about 120 km north of Sydney in New South Wales. The total area is about 29,145 square kilometres. The local wine industry is comparable with Ba Luosha Valley in Western Australia. The Hunter Valley has an Eastern Mediterranean climate. On the Northern side of the Valley, there are mountain ranges blocking the moist air from the ocean, creating an environment like the Napa Valley in the United States. Widely planted were Syrah, Semillon in the region, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and other varieties of grape. There are about 120 wineries in Hunter Valley. On that morning, in spite of the rain, the temperature was about 18-20 degrees, but the day before it reached 40°. At about 8 o'clock, 53 members boarded a luxurious 53-seater coach, heading for the Hunter Valley. There was small rain.

We first arrived at "Norah" (Norah Heads) and had a short break. Norah Head is on the New South Wales Central Coast, Cape Town. It is a haven for this magnificent National Park, surrounded by a beautiful beach of the surf zone. Nora Lighthouse is an historic landmark and is famous for its beautiful location. Built in 1903, it was one of the last lighthouses in New South Wales. It is considered the icon of the central coast of New South Wales, popular for travel, weddings and other events, and is even a famous tourism resort.

At about 11:30 A.M. we arrived at the East Maitland Bowling Club Billabongs Family Restaurant. We enjoyed a rich lunch buffet.

After lunch, we proceeded to the Hunter Valley Wine Park. On the way, we passed a 200 year old ancient town - Maitland. At two o'clock in the afternoon, we arrived at the Hunter Valley Village, the weather was clear. We took group photos. Then we started to visit the area and enjoyed wine and cheese tasting. At about 3:15 P.M. before the return trip, we had afternoon tea. After the break, we began the return trip. We had the lucky draw, and sang Karaoke during the journey. We returned to Cherrybrook about 6:30 P.M. and completed a nice day trip. Participants were very satisfied with the low-cost, but high quality trips. We hope that the Seniors Group can organize a number of different day trips in the future.



15th of January 2016 at Hunter Valley

Forthcoming Events:

- Thursday, 28th April, “Motor vehicle maintenance & how to handle traffic accidents” seminar, speaker: Peter Chung, JP; Other seminars under arrangement: “How to use a multifunction mobile phone” and “A seminar about Superannuation”
- In May or June, an excursion for 3-4 nights’ cruise (Under arrangement)
- In June “Seniors Lunch” .

Acrylic Painting Exhibition

Ms Julia Tang and her students



Opening Ceremony

Our acrylic painting teacher, Ms Julia Tang, held an exhibition of her works and those of her students in March at the Chinese Cultural Centre, Chatswood. The opening ceremony was held on the 12th of March, 2016 at 2 PM.

Born in Hong Kong, Julia studied in the UK to become a Stated Registered Nurse in 1985, migrated to Australia in 1990, and then pursued a Fine Art degree course at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), graduating in 2004 with High Distinction in painting.

Among numerous previous exhibition experiences, one of Julia’s solo painting exhibitions which is significant to note was held at Taikoo Place in Hong Kong in 2005. The theme was “Cantonese Opera – Yam and Pak”, a collective and commemorative subject to the Hong Kong viewers. The solo exhibition was successful as works were collected by various collectors and the event was recorded in the Asia Art Archive.

In terms of style, mixed painting techniques are employed, such as painterly brushstrokes as well as graphic colouring, with special fondness for using lines to express forms, ideas and emotions. Her favourite theme, besides Cantonese opera performers, Yam and Pak, are palatial maids, and the horses of Tang Xuan Zong. She is able to teach her students according to their aptitudes and ability, and guides them in various ways. Consequently her students are suitably developed in their artistic talent. One of her students, Master Nigel You, won a Highly Recommended Painting Award in the painting competition held by the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools last year.

Honourable guests for the Opening Ceremony included Mrs. Cindy Xu, the President of the Australian Oriental Calligraphy Society, Mr. Yue-yan Chan and Dr. Jonathan Xie. Many artists and parents were present for the ceremony too.



Participants and Supporters

From the Editor's Desk

Yue-yan Chan

In her message, the President explained in detail about the expenditures of the association. The income from the members’ annual subscription can hardly cover the postage and printing of the newsletter, let alone anything else. When I was at the helm of the association, I always aimed to increase the savings by 10% to offset inflation and to save some money for another lease of the office after the present lease expires in about fourteen years’ time. To achieve this goal, members have to do two things: firstly, voluntary work for the association when called for; and secondly, monitor how the management committee spends our funds. A volunteer, by definition, is someone who does work without being paid for it, because he or she wants to do it. Payment is not necessarily made in terms of money. Let me give you an example, the association made close to \$2,000 profit for the Chinese New Year dinner this year, but practically no profit was made for the same event last year. The reasons is that at last year’s dinner, many ‘volunteers’ were given free dinner

tickets valued at \$50 each. The monitoring of funds by our members is, therefore, necessary.

On March 6, a lunch was held immediately after EYD at the Community Hall. Members paid \$6 each for the lunch cooked by volunteers. Members on the Management Committee had a chance to socialize with the members. I consider communication between members and the Management Committee to be very important. After all, the Management Committee is to serve the members and thus it needs to know what the members want. The lunch was a huge success and members are looking forward to the next one.

At present the editorial board urgently needs translators, from Chinese into English, and vice versa. If you have the time, please come forward and offer your expertise. If interested, please contact Y Y Chan on 9980 6319. You will only be required to translate one or two pieces of work each quarterly issue.

Members' News

Three of our members participated in the Oriental Calligraphy & Painting Competition held by the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show. They all achieved enviable results:

Cindy Wu took First Prize in the Open Oriental Calligraphy event; Michelle Chan took First Prize in both the Novice Oriental Calligraphy and the Novice Oriental Painting events; Su Ling Liu took Third Prize in the Novice Oriental Calligraphy event and Second Prize in the Novice Oriental Painting event. Congratulations to all three of them!

Cindy will be holding her solo Chinese calligraphy exhibition in August this year at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Chatswood. Two years ago, she held a solo exhibition in Foshan, Guangdong Province. One of her works is among the collection of that exhibition hall.

Kids Can Cook:

Sesame Crackers

Ingredients: 1 cup of black sesame seeds, half cup of white sesame seeds, 1 egg, 3 tbsp. of castor sugar

Method: Preheat oven at 160°C, combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix well. Spread mixture in a thin layer on baking paper. Place tray into preheated oven and bake for 15 minutes. Then take it out of the oven and it is ready to serve.

Make sure you have adult supervision when you take the tray in and out of the oven!

Fujian 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Youth Tour

During my travels around China in July 2015, I became aware of a recurring advertisement being displayed around the metros, on-board the bullet trains, and along sidewalks. No it was not the widespread advertisement of Korean certified cosmetic surgery but rather, something more relevant and more significant to the global world; a poster with four Chinese characters – “一帶一路” (the Belt and Road-- The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road). However, at that time I was not aware of the agenda of this initiative nor did I realise its importance.

A few months later, I was encouraged to apply to be one of the youth ambassadors for the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative in Fujian, without having the slightest idea of what this initiative might be about. Upon further research about this initiative, I realised that it was a part of the Belt and Road Initiative; the initiative I saw advertised around China. Though I was not quite certain about what being a youth ambassador entailed, I still went ahead to China not knowing that this trip would turn out to be something more than I expected.

Upon the second day of arrival in Fuzhou, we were given a brief overview on the origins of the Silk Road; how it was created, its significance, and the influence it had on the world back then. Trading was a trait of civilization; a basis of communication, a system to exchange goods and services, and a medium to gain knowledge and skills. However, trading outside of one's borders amicably was not common until the creation of the Silk Road. The Silk Road became a significant instigator of long-distance, political and economic relations between civilizations across China, and the Indian subcontinent, Persia, Europe, Africa and Arabia. Furthermore, it opened up a channel for cultural exchanges and for mutual advancement in civilization. While the route allowed trading to reach new heights, it is only functional if there is peace and harmony. The trade route was deemed too dangerous to travel as the political powers of the Mongol Empire rose in the Yuan Dynasty. As such, trading was alternatively shifted to the sea and the Maritime Silk Road was created. A prominent and widely documented figure, Zheng He, set sail in the 1300s and was known to have exchanged goods such as silk, paper, tea, compasses and gun powder. There was also a trading of clothes, shoes and eating utensils to developing countries in hopes of helping them become more civilized. It is with this supportive and

benevolent nature that China is currently reviving towards the One Belt, One Road initiative.

This notion of promoting peace and harmony was further observed when we visited Quanzhou; the starting port for the Maritime Silk Road and a city coined as a museum to all religious sites. It was intriguing to observe the close proximity in which different religious structures (Christianity, Protestant, Catholic, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindi, Muslim) were built, all within walking distance. In those days, religion was heavily relied upon for protection. The reason behind the construction of these various religious sites in Quanzhou was to allow traders, who travelled by sea, to have a place to pray for safety before setting off. It is not hard to imagine the difficulty for different religious structures to be placed in such close proximity if there were no peace or harmony amongst them, as such; it was fascinating to see that different beliefs and ideologies were able to coexist harmoniously. This coexistence indicates that trading partnerships go beyond religion, in effect, this notion of peace and harmony forms a vital basis for the current Century.


As mentioned above, the trading route for China was not merely to just expand on business but was also a means of exporting Chinese culture. The last leg of the program brought us into the serenity of the Wuyi Mountain to discover and learn the cultural arts of China, and moreover, for us overseas Chinese, to reconnect with our cultural roots. The introduction and demonstration of the tea ceremony shed light on tea making as an art form. We were made to kneel for one hour during the ceremony and were required to barely make any sound when placing down our teacups; this reflects the initial concept of drinking tea for its peace and calming effects and as a sign of humility and respect for nature. A session of tai chi followed after, in which our patience and focus was tested by the gentle and slow movements. Its meditative movements are practised for defence training and for health benefits. However, the benefits are not attainable without full concentration and calmness of the mind. These principles embody the Chinese lifestyle, mentality, attitudes and beliefs.

In 2015, China established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with the aim to provide funds to those countries that need it most. Furthermore, transportation infrastructure such as railways and ports in countries such as Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia are utilising Chinese technology to facilitate the Belt and Road initiative. It thus entails the government of these countries to initiate programs to equip their citizens with essential skills

and knowledge (of both language and culture) to effectively collaborate with China. The Chinese government itself has been proactive in providing educational programs such as the Confucius Institute and Confucius Classrooms, and have been providing scholarships to international students/foreigners to study in China. Trained as a primary school teacher, I have been offered the opportunity to become a Mandarin teacher in a bilingual school – a role in which I see myself nurturing the future generations with the proper mindset and the cultural, historical knowledge and understanding of the Chinese. Understanding the culture is the fundamental knowledge in being able to collaborate and to effectively communicate with China.

As overseas Chinese, we are valuable resources to this initiative. Being brought up in a Western society, we are familiar and immersed with the culture and are able to speak fluent English; and through our Chinese background, we are able to pick up the Chinese language and cultural knowledge, enabling us to become a bridge between the two cultures. We are therefore able to comfortably engage and communicate with the two cultures - minimising the potential misunderstanding or the loss of business amongst the two countries. This provides a mutual platform for both cultures to have neutral bilateral relationships.

The significance of this 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is of a global scale. For it to be truly effective, it will be partly dependant on us overseas Chinese to help promote and bridge the gap between China and the world. Not only is it easier for us to pick up the Chinese language but more so because of our cultural background, we are naturally able to build our understanding of the cultural value system and traditions in greater depth, which will allow for a more enhanced relationship with China. We overseas Chinese are hence a valuable and productive resource for Australia and it is crucial for us to grasp this opportunity to be an active participant in the growth of Australia's economy with China. All in all, it is essential for overseas Chinese, wherever they are, to prepare to play a significant role in this future, and they must start now.

		Membership	
		Total	635
		Life	418

櫻桃小溪華協會 2016 下年度活動表 CCCA 2016 Second half year Activities Table

	<u>Time 時間/ Venue 地點</u>	<u>Activities 活動</u>	<u>Fees 費用</u>	<u>Enquiry 聯絡</u>
中文學校 Chinese Language School	週六 9:00am - 11:30am Saturday 9:00am - 11:30am 櫻溪科技中學 Cherrybrook Technology High School Term 2: 30 April to 25 June Term 3: 23 July to 17 Sept Term 4: 15 Oct to 10 Dec	本校以教授漢語聽，說，讀，寫同時介紹中國文化。並鼓勵學生參加各項校內外漢語交流活動。 課程: ✧ 幼兒班至高中班 ✧ 青少年初級 ✧ 成人普通話普及班 ✧ 國畫班 ✧ 油彩畫班 ✧ 書法班 (計劃中) Teach Chinese language and culture through Putonghua and simplified characters. Classes: * Kindergarten, Level 1 – 10 * Teenager Beginners * Adult class * Traditional Chinese painting * Oil painting * Calligraphy (pending)	學期: \$100 半年: \$190, 全年: \$350 非會員: 加收\$20 行政費 one term: \$100 half year: \$190 full year: \$350 Non-members: additional \$20 administration fee	辦事處 Office: 9875 3336 0487 001 020
友誼天地 Enjoy Yourself Day (EYD)	星期三 9:00 - Noon (學校假期除外) Wednesday 9:00 - Noon (Not on school holidays) 櫻桃小溪社區文化中心 Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre	此活動專為社區人士而設，活動: 閒談、運動、編織、跳舞、下棋、麻將、太極、茶點、講座，各適其適，也不時舉辦烹飪示範等。 Various activities including, Tai Chi, badminton, table-tennis, line dancing, mahjong, chess games, knitting, chitchat. A perfect place to meet new friends and socialize.	會員\$2 非會員\$4 Members \$2 Non-members: \$4	辦事處 Office: 9875 3336 0430 049 786
長青社 Seniors Group	請來電查詢 Please call	是高齡組織，經常舉行旅行、聚餐、講座、參觀、探訪、長者周文娛活動、及社會服務等 Organizes talks, visits, outings, community service projects and Seniors Week projects	請來電查詢 Please call	Edward Lam 98086838 Office: 9875 3336
粵曲研習班 Cantonese Opera Singing Class	星期二: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Tuesday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm 櫻桃小溪社區文化中心 Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre	由資深粵劇演唱家胡鳳貞女士義務教授，內容包括中樂音律講解及操曲。 Course content includes Chinese Musical Rhythm and Vocal practice.	會員每節\$10; 五堂\$40 非會員每節\$12; 五堂\$50 Members: \$10/ session; \$40 for 5 sessions Non-members: \$12/ session; \$50 for 5 sessions	辦事處 Office: 9875 3336 0412 519 988
怡嫻社 Women's Group	園藝興趣班; Gardening	每月第三個星期五 Third Friday of every month 講授有關園藝知識及護理	會員\$2 非會員\$4 Members \$2 Non-members: \$4	辦事處 Office: 9875 3336 0407 411 704 0416 188 339
	卡拉 OK; Karaoke	星期一 Monday 10:30 - 12:30		
	實用英語進修班 Practical English 10 am - Noon	Topics on gardening 六月開課; Starting June 實用英語、生活會話 Teach practical daily used English	會員: 六堂 \$50; 非會員: 六堂\$60 Members: \$50/ 6 lessons; Non-members: \$60/6 lessons	
Membership Fee	1 年會籍 1 year membership \$15; 3 年會籍 3 year membership \$40; 永久會員: \$150			
查詢/Enquiry	Telephone No: 02 9875 3336 Website: www.ccca.asn.au Email: ccca@ccca.asn.au Address: Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre, 31 Shepherds Lane, Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook NSW 2126 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88 Cherrybrook 2126			