



Notice of the 27th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 27th Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association will be held on Saturday, 27 August 2016 at 12:00 noon, at Castle Terrace Chinese Cuisine, 19-21 Terminus Street, Castle Hill.

Agenda

1. President's opening address;
2. Apologies;
3. To confirm minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held on 29 August 2015;
4. To receive and consider the financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016, together with the Statement by Members of the Committee and Hon. Auditor's Report;
5. To appoint Returning Officer;
6. To elect Management Committee Members for 2016/2017;

7. To appoint Public Officer of the Association;
8. To appoint Honorary Auditor of the Association;
9. To appoint Honorary Legal Adviser of the Association;
10. Any other business.

By order of the Management Committee

Stephen Lang

Hon Secretary

5 August 2016



AGM 2016

Nomination of Management Committee Members 2016/2017

Members are hereby invited to nominate persons to the Management Committee for the year 2016/2017 by completing the Nomination Form enclosed to reach the Association by 12 August 2016.

President's Message

Jenny Lau

Dear Members,

This year has been a challenging year for me as President. When I knew I have to take this presidential position, I had asked myself whether I was capable and had the energy to do it. With the support from my family, I am happy with the result. I hope I did not let members down.

Since the new Management Committee team took over on 30 October 2015, we have been committed to rebuilding CCCA financially and operationally so our association will continue to enrich our community for decades to come.

Rebuilding the operating surplus

The first priority of the new Management Committee is to return the association to a financially secure position by cutting unnecessary expenses. I am therefore pleased to report that we have achieved an operating surplus of \$24,824 for the year ended 30 June 2016.

This result, which is due to the hard work of our members and the new Management Committee, represents CCCA's return to the fiscal responsibility and good stewardship seen in the years before.

The highlights from this financial year include:

- A significantly improved financial performance from our Chinese Language School which contributed an operating surplus of \$30,833 (2015: \$3,842 loss), discussed further below.



- Our Enjoy Yourself Day activity contributed a surplus of \$833 (2015: \$696 loss) due to increased word of mouth referrals from members who are more confident in CCCA.
- A significant decrease in printing and stationery costs of \$2,983 to \$3,855 (2015: \$6,838), primarily due to cutting unnecessary colour printing on marketing materials and shifting most of our newsletter distribution to email and online.
- A significant decrease in wages of \$2,305 to \$57,288 (2015: \$59,593), due to the re-structure of classes and termination of a staff who was employed at an above market rate salary. Should that staff be not employed at all, another \$8,000 would have been saved.

Chinese Language School

The most significant contribution towards our operating surplus in 2016 was the turnaround in the performance of the Chinese Language School. This was primarily due to:

- A significant growth in the number of students with total fees increasing to \$51,703 (2015: \$44,728)
- Increase in confidence of parents in School management team
- The implementation of stronger spending controls which resulted in a significant reduction in unnecessary expenses, particularly:
 - ✓ A decrease in employment expenses
 - ✓ A \$3,010 decrease in text and exercise book expenses to \$315 (2015: \$3,325)
 - ✓ A \$2,157 decrease in printing, stationery and postage costs to \$189 (2015: \$2,346)
 - ✓ A \$5,159 decrease in other administrative and general expenses across the Chinese Language School

Rebuilding the Association – put things back in order

In November 2014, the previous Management Committee authorised the opening of a separate Dancing Group bank account which included the Group leader and a member as an authorised signatory, in contravention to the CCCA Constitution. One of the first actions of the new Management Committee was to remove all authorised signatories from the account who were not office bearers of CCCA and put in place controls to ensure the account would be operated in accordance with the requirements of the CCCA Constitution. In February 2016, the Dancing Group leader decided he would no longer continue to run the CCCA Dancing Group. After his resignation, the remaining funds of \$4,706 in the separate Dancing Group bank account were transferred to the CCCA Main Account and the Dancing Group bank account was closed.

Under the CCCA Constitution, activities and sub-groups operate under the auspices of the main CCCA organisation. Any funds raised are effectively funds raised by the main CCCA organisation and belong to CCCA members and should be passed to the CCCA head office. Any expenses incurred should be claimed from the CCCA head office.

A person or some members leaving the group; does not mean those activities would stop. They will be organised by different people perhaps in a different format. Every Wednesday morning, we have Tai Chi 24 forms, Qi Gong, badminton, table tennis and dancing inside Cherrybrook Community Centre. We are planning to have ballroom dancing next year.

Greater transparency around financial matters

We have also pledged to provide members with more transparent reporting on CCCA's financial affairs so

that members are informed and able to hold the Management Committee accountable for the operations of CCCA. The first part of this undertaking involved providing detailed updates through the Treasurer's Report in our newsletters.

The second part has been completed through the improved presentation of our annual financial report. This new user-friendly format allows members to see how each sub-group or activity contributes towards the association's operating surplus and to what extent each sub-group or activity's losses are subsidised by the members' reserve accumulated over the years.

In preparing the 2016 financial statements, we have restated the total income and total expenses for the 30 June 2015 year in order to clearly separate the financial performances of sub-groups and activities from the overall income and expenses of the CCCA main organisation.

Although the \$24,824 surplus is a good financial result, we must continue to be prudent in our spending. The income from bank interest of members' fund will decreased since the interest rate is at record low. According to the lease agreement, we have to refurbish our office in 2020 and it will cost a lot of money.

The responsibilities that come with a Management Committee role are extensive; and fulfilling these responsibilities is not an easy or comfortable task. Our association has grown significantly from its humble beginnings and there are many challenges ahead as we work to put in place the more formal governance structures and controls that CCCA needs in order to continue to grow successfully.

Many of these challenges are financial. We do not have a million dollars in our bank accounts, nor do we receive regular sponsorship to run most of our activities. Our continued prosperity and survival depends on our Management Committee's ability to run the CCCA's operations in a financially responsible manner. We face tough decisions every day and must always act in the best interests of the members of the association.

Just as an example to illustrate the above. For the project of 'Chinese Library', we bought six bookcases and re-arranged the layout of our office. We cleaned the carpet ourselves!

There are other challenges. As a community organisation with limited funds, our programs and activities rely on the dedication of our volunteers. We will always need talented and committed individuals willing to step up and volunteer their time, knowledge and skills in order to meet the needs of our community.



Peter Chung & Alice Ho cleaning the carpet

Together, we have already overcome a number of challenges in our recovery from the poor financial results in recent years. Your continued support and encouragement will be vital to ensuring that we can work together to overcome the challenges ahead.

Membership Update

Total: 664 Life: 419

Hon. Secretary's Report

Polly Chan

2015 – 2016 has been a year of renewal. Our president Jenny Lau has led our members in reviewing the CCCA's work over the past twenty or so years and in looking ahead to the future direction and plan for the Association. The committee has taken up a very challenging task. Meanwhile, we are fortunate to have the continued support, participation and selfless contributions of our members. This has allowed our work to be carried out smoothly. This is another shining example of CCCA's team spirit.

Last year's AGM was held on the 29th August 2015, 14 committee members were elected, 10 of whom resigned not long after (for further details please refer to the 88th issue of our newsletter). In accordance with the CCCA Constitution, we co-opted five new committee members. The new management committee is as follows:

President:	Jenny Lau
Vice-Presidents:	Peng Lou, Peter Chung
Hon. Treasurer:	Edward Lam
Hon. Secretaries:	Stephen Lang, Polly Chan
Assistant Treasurer:	Alice Ho
Activity coordinators:	Keng Ng, Patrick Ng

I would like to point out here that the committee in 2014-2015 led the Association to face a large financial loss and thus the new committee members had to find timely solutions to these problems. From November 2015 to June 2016, the committee members worked hard to raise money and also to limit the spending of existing funds in order to restore the financial condition of the Association. Within seven months, CCCA's operating surplus has exceeded \$24,000.

As before, the committee is working hard to promote cultural and community based activities, the annual highlights still being the Lantern Night Festival and the Chinese New Year dinner. This year we also participated and raised funds in the following:

- Cherrybrook Technology High School International Day: Food stall and Chinese calligraphy demonstration
- Hills Lunar Festival: Art Show, and performances
- Castle Hill Show
- The Red Shield Appeal

Our acrylic painting class teacher, Julia Tang, and her students held an exhibition of their works at the Chatswood Chinese Cultural Centre in March this year. It was well received.

Renovation of the office has been done as a new library will be set up for CCCA members.

Chinese Language School

- Xiaohong Guo was appointed as the new Principal.
- Students participated in the 2015 National Eisteddfod, as well as other inter-school activities such as an essay writing competition. Satisfactory results were achieved.
- 64 cartons of Chinese books were presented to our Chinese language school by the Chinese Consulate General in Sydney. A library is being set up in the office.
- The Chinese painting class held a successful exhibition of the works of its teacher, Mr. Zi Delong, and his students at the Chatswood Chinese Cultural Centre in October 2015.

A Chinese Culture School Holiday Program will be held during the forthcoming school term break in September. All preparations are underway.

It is noted that the Chinese Language School is expanding quickly this year. The principal, teachers, school committee and volunteers put in much effort and worked closely for the well-being of all students.

Senior Group

- A number of day trips, talks and lawn bowling were organized during this period.
- Visits were paid to Inala Special School, Pennant Hills Home for the Aged, and NSW Aged Home for the Chinese.

- Grants were received from the Hornsby RSL Club and the West Pennant Hills Sports Club, totalling \$4000.
- In response to the members' request, a luncheon was served after the Senior Group meeting on Wednesday. Lunch will be organized on a regular basis if there are enough volunteers.
- \$900 was raised for the Cancer Foundation during the EYD session on 18th May 2016.
- The Hundred Seniors Lunch was held on 15th June 2016 at Lee Central Park Chinese Restaurant, Thornleigh.

Women's Group

- Friday: Talks, Cooking demonstration, English class, Floricultural class
- Tuesday: Chinese Opera Singing Class (The opera singing group performed at the Hills Lunar Festival and at the Pennant Hills Home for the Aged)

Women's Group members serve as volunteers in most of the CCCA activities together with the Senior Group members. They do the cooking, coordinating, organizing, planning, desk work and much, much more.

Newsletter

Lastly, I would like to thank the editorial board and volunteers who involved themselves in all the editing, interpreting, IT work, and mailing etc.

Due to the increase of postage charges and also in efforts to keep green, members are now encouraged to read the newsletter on the CCCA website.

Chinese Language School Report

Xiaohong Guo (Translation by Y. Y. Chan)

Half a year has gone by. This is a year of change for the Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association. Among all other changes, the School Board has also made some alterations. All changes were made in order to provide better services to our Chinese community.

In Cherrybrook we see a congregation of Chinese migrants coming from mainland China, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Macau. Our Chinese Language School was established to provide our students with a harmonious environment for learning.

We have just finished two school terms and the third term has now started. Pupils in kindergarten and the newly enrolled students can already feel their teachers' care and patience. Through word of mouth about our school, our student numbers are continuing to steadily grow and our teaching staff have prepared themselves to serve more students who wish to learn Chinese.

The teachers in our school adhere to the concept of progressive learning and their students do not only become interested in the Chinese language but actually come to love learning Chinese. In the first term, our teachers created an environment of Chinese culture for

their students, some did origami, some told Chinese stories, some did Chinese calligraphy for students to experience the beauty of the art, and others showed Kungfu films. In other words, our teachers put in a lot of effort to prepare their lessons, bringing students into a good environment for Chinese learning.

At the end of the second term, students sat for their examinations. For junior class students, this might be their first examination in Chinese. With parental encouragement, they completed their examinations very well. For students to do well in their examinations, teachers need to seriously analyse homework done by their students each time, and to carefully explain to students their mistakes. Thus teachers can understand the progress of their students, and adjust their teaching techniques accordingly.

This year our school asked all teachers to communicate to the parents what is going on in the classroom each week, so that the parents know the progress made by their children and hence can better help them participate in various activities at school. The number of participants in the National Chinese Eisteddfod this year is higher than in any of the previous years. This is the result of good communication between teachers and parents. The students were the biggest winners. We will persist in this form of communication.

In the second semester, our school will hold even more cultural activities. On top of our normal lessons, we will hold competitions in Common Knowledge about Chinese Culture, in Chinese History and Chinese Geography, in Chinese composition and in Chinese penmanship. These competitions will widen the vision of students, not just in the learning of Chinese, but in other learning areas as well.

As we are a model Chinese language school in NSW, we will jointly hold the Shaanxi - Sydney Chinese Culture School Holiday Program during our third term break with the Shaanxi Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs, sponsored by the Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs under the State Council. Renowned teachers from Shaanxi will come to teach in the Holiday Program. They will show local students who have not had the opportunity to visit China the best of Chinese culture. This is a rare opportunity. The Association has started enrolling students for the Program.

With the support of the Association, our Chinese Language School will soon have its own library. In multicultural Australia, we cherish such an environment, one in which we merge into mainstream culture, whilst also respecting other cultures.

Seniors Group

Peter Chung

The Seniors Group, with the support of its members, accomplished the following activities in the last quarter (April to June):

Application of Club Grants

On 10 April (Sunday), the Seniors Group submitted an application for the 2016 Hornsby Council Club Grants for an amount of \$4,800. We were just informed of details of cheque presentation to the Seniors Group:

1. The Asquith Rugby League Club will present a cheque of \$1,800 on Wednesday the 17th of August, 2016 at 10:30 am.
Venue: 11-37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara, NSW
Morning tea will be served.
2. The Hornsby RSL Club will present a cheque of \$1,000 on Wednesday the 17th of August, 2016 at 2:15 pm.
Venue: Waratah / Acacia Room, 4 High Street Hornsby, NSW
Afternoon tea will be served.
3. The West Pennant Hills Sports Club will present a cheque of \$2,000 on Monday the 22nd of August, 2016 at 2:00 pm.
Venue: 103 New Line Rd, West Pennant Hills, NSW
Afternoon tea will be served.

Seminar

On 28th April (Thursday), Mr Peter Chung, Seniors Group Leader, Justice of the Peace, presented a talk about "Basic car maintenance and how to handle a traffic accident" Seminar.

Raising funds for charity

On 18th May (Wednesday) during the EYD session, the Seniors Group held a "Morning Tea Fundraiser" for the "Cancer Council". Donations from this event raised \$900 and the funds were sent to the "Cancer Council" in full. In addition to the contribution of food from generous members, the Seniors Group paid \$71.50 for miscellaneous items.

Hundred Seniors Lunch

On 15th June (Wednesday), the "Hundred Seniors Lunch" was held at Lee Central Park Chinese Restaurant, Thornleigh. There were nine tables organised this year.



Hundreds Seniors Lunch

Wollongong Excursion

On 24th June (Friday), we held an excursion to Wollongong. There were 53 participants. We visited the Nan Tien Temple in the morning and afterwards, we had our lunch at the Julianna's Buffet Restaurant. The menu was good and everyone was happy about the quality of the food including the variety of choices. After lunch, we went to Kiama. The famous Blowhole

which is the largest in the world. Unfortunately, there was no plumes of water running from the holes. Then we visited an abalone farm. Members were very happy to visit this farm and most of them bought both the frozen and canned abalone.

Seniors Group AGM

The Seniors' Group AGM was held on 23rd July (Saturday) at Lee Central Park Chinese Restaurant, Thornleigh. There were lucky draws, everyone got at least a gift card.

From the Editor's Desk

Yue-yan Chan

The severity of winter has passed. Nature is again brimming with vigour and vitality waiting for spring to come. Last year, shortly after the AGM, both the President and Vice-Presidents, plus a number of members on the management committee resigned suddenly. The remaining members on the committee immediately co-opted five members to sit on the committee, and Jenny Lau was elected President. Under her leadership, members of the management committee, with much effort, finally put the Association back on the right track.

In the past seven months, the financial situation has improved beyond recognition. There is a surplus of some \$24,000. Comparing to that of last year's \$1,105, I can only take my hat off to the management committee.

The Chinese Language School also did very well. Under the inspiration and supervision of Dr. Jonathan Xie and Principal Guo Xiaohong, with the tremendous effort put in by our teachers, the number of students steadily increased in Terms 2 and 3. There is a significant increase of students in kindergarten. For weekend language schools, the change in student number in a class, particularly in junior classes, reflects well on the performance of the teacher. With 40 years of working experience in schools, I know only too well that only teachers with compassion, a strong sense of duty, and scholarship can earn the respect of their students. A strong sense of duty includes lesson preparation and punctuality. As the Three-Character Ode has it, any teacher not being serious about teaching is considered to be lazy.

The Seniors Group has been very active in the past year. The group held many well attended activities. Latecomers were often disappointed. Recently, the group successfully applied for financial assistance from Magpies Waitara. A cheque for the amount of \$1,800 will be presented to the Seniors Group on 17th August, 2016.

The next AGM will be held on Saturday, 27th August, 2016. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Members' News



Julian Leeser

Julian Leeser was elected the member for Berowra, succeeding Philip Ruddock who retired from parliament after 42 years of service. Congratulations to Julian.

Cindy Wu will be holding her solo Chinese calligraphy exhibition from August 20th to 29th 2016 at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Chatswood. The opening ceremony will take place on Saturday, August 20th 2016 at 11:00 am. We wish you, Cindy, every success for your exhibition.

Consul General Gu Xiaojie assumes office in Sydney

The Consul General (Ambassadorial Rank) of the People's Republic of China in Sydney, His Excellency Mr Gu Xiaojie and Ms Guo Peihua arrived in Sydney in July. On the 4th August, 2016, a reception marking his assumption of office was held at the Consulate General in Sydney. The President of the CCCA, Mrs. Jenny Lau and Mr. Kevin Lau, Dr Jonathan Xie and Mr. Yue-yan Chan attended the reception.

Community Tribute Dinner to honour Philip Ruddock

Y. Y. Chan

On the 29th of July, a community tribute dinner to honour Philip Ruddock was held at le Montage at Lilyfield. Close to 500 people attended the function. Seven members from CCCA were there, three were members of the Management Committee, namely, Jenny Lau, the President, Polly Chan, the Hon. Secretary, and Alice Ho, the Hon. Treasurer. The other four were members of CCCA, namely, Yue-Yan Chan, James Chang, Kevin Lau and Cindy Wu. The former PM, Mr. and Mrs. John Howard were there too.

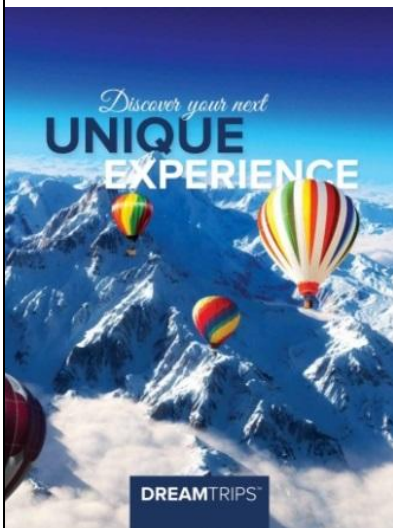
Mr Ruddock is the second longest serving MP in Australia. He has served in the federal parliament for forty-two years, and for a large part of that time, he was the federal representative of the electorate Cherrybrook was in.

He has been a strong supporter of CCCA ever since its establishment in 1989. In his twenty-seven years as our representative, he never missed our Lantern Night or Chinese New Year dinner unless he was overseas

We will miss him.



Philip Ruddock Tribute Dinner



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