



2016 Lantern Night



Date: Saturday, 22nd October 2016

Venue: Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre

Time: 5 pm to 9 pm

Entry: Free

Attractions: Performances, Lion Dance, Food Stalls



President's Message

Jenny Lau

It is my honour to be re-elected as President during the 27th Annual General Meeting convened on 27th August 2016. I sincerely thank members for their support and trust during the last ten months which meant a lot to me. I also thank my Management Committee Members for their commitment and hard work. We worked together as a team and put the Association back on the right track. Regrettably Rev Peter Chung and Edward Lam did not stand for election because of other personal commitment. However, we have three new faces joining the Management Committee team; they are Jonathan Xie, Dennis Loh and Peter Tong.

Both Jonathan and Dennis are not new to us. Jonathan was our School Principal for four years and was Management Committee Member in 2011. His mind and heart is always with our Chinese Language School. Thus there is no better candidate than Jonathan to be the School Coordinator.

I have known Dennis for nearly twenty years. He is a Certified Practising Accountant. He has his own Accounting firm in Burwood specialized in tax return for more than ten years. He was our Hon. Auditor from 2005 to 2012 and now he joins the team as our Hon. Treasurer.

Peter is our EYD active member. Although I don't know Peter for long, I know he is a versatile

person with good character. He is a badminton coach and good in table tennis as well. He has experience in organizing events and had helped out in our Lantern Night for the last two years. This year together with Alice Ho, Peter will be the coordinator and organize this year's Lantern Night. I am sure our Lantern Night 2016 is in good hands.

One Wednesday morning in the office, I received a phone call. It was a lady working in Wynyard Station. She told me that someone handed in a wallet with a large amount of money inside. The only personal information she could find about the owner was a CCCA membership card. On the card there is a name and the Association's telephone number. Thus she called the Association. I immediately looked at our records, found that member and told him to go back to the station to reclaim his wallet. This incident shows how important it is to have up to date and correct information in our membership database. This member is lucky because he carries his CCCA membership card and has his personal details updated in our database. Many members do not update their details especially our Life members who joined the Association many years ago. Thus next year we are going to update it and we need your input and cooperation.

The 2016 Chinese Culture Land – Sydney Camp (Da Le Yuan) has finally drawn the curtain on 30th September. There is another article/report on it. It was a challenging project and we had many

obstacles to overcome. It took us over seven months to plan, organize and run the program. The last few days Kevin and I had to work late through the nights to keep the program running smoothly. During that 7-days period, every day we had about 30 volunteers helping out. Our primary task was to ensure all students enjoy learning Chinese Culture in a safe and happy environment. The Closing Ceremony was amazing. We have uploaded the Opening and Closing Ceremonies to Youtube for you to watch. It demonstrated the hard work and commitment of the teachers and volunteers. It also showed the students were having a good time.

Our annual event, Cherrybrook Lantern Night is just around the corner, taking place on 22nd October. As usual we have started planning and organising this event since June. We met with the Mayor of Hornsby Council and his staff in June. We thought everything was in order and on schedule as previous years and the banners are up. However on 4th October we received the Event License regulation from Hornsby Council which prompted us to seriously reconsider holding Lantern Night at Greenway Park. After thorough discussion, the Management Committee Team decided to hold the event in the Cherrybrook Community & Cultural Centre from 5pm to 9pm as if it was raining outside. We will stage good performances and good food for the community. Hope we will see you all on 22nd October 2016.

Lastly, just a reminder to all members that this issue will be the last one to be sent out by post to members who do not have an email address. From the next issue, printed copies of the newsletter will only be available for collection from the CCCA office.

The 27th AGM

Polly Chan

The 27th AGM was held on 27th August, 2016 at Castle Terrace Chinese Cuisine, Castle Hill. About 60 members attended the meeting. Also present were the Member for Epping, Hon. Damien Tudehope, former presidents Loke Cheong Wong and Yue-yan Chan. President Jenny Lau in her speech thanked members of the 2015-2016 Management Committee, volunteers, member of staff and members of the Association for their efforts and teamwork. It was only through their tireless efforts that the CCCA could

continue to serve the community, promote Chinese culture, and harmonize different ethnic groups. Afterwards, the Hon. Asst. Treasurer Alice Ho gave a detailed financial report. After passing the minutes of the 26th AGM and its financial report, the returning officer, Dr. C. Martinic declared the ten nominees elected members of the 2016-2017 management committee. The list is as follows:



2016-17 Management Committee

President: Jenny Lau (Front Centre)

Vice-President: Stephen Lang (Front Right 2)

Hon. Secretary: Polly Chan (Front Right 1)

Hon. Treasurer: Dennis Luk (Front Left 2)

Hon. Asst. Treasurer: Alice Ho (Back Right 2)

Other committee members: Peter Tong(Front Left 1), Keng Ng(Back Left 1), Patrick Ng(Back Left 2), Jonathan Xie(Back Right 1) and Peng Lou(Back Centre).

Members at the AGM also passed the appointment of Daisy Wong as Public Officer, Keith Chow as Hon. Legal Adviser, and Edward Yeow as Auditor.

Chinese Language School Translation: YY Chan

The 2016 Chinese Cultural Camp in Sydney was organized by the Chinese Language School of the CCCA, and on 30th September 2016 came to a successful end amidst cheerful applause. The Chinese Consulate General in Sydney, the Shaanxi Overseas Chinese Affairs Council, and the local government, witnessed an impeccable performance given by the Australian Born children who took part in this Cultural Camp. The performance was spectacular and we see that the magnificence of Chinese Culture has germinated and will continue to grow in strength.

On behalf of our Chinese Language School, I extend heartfelt thanks to the group of highly professional teachers from Shaanxi province. In a short space of seven days the students enjoyed and were immersed in an atmosphere of Chinese Culture, they were able to stretch their imaginations and greatly demonstrate their understanding and knowledge. It is due to the hard work of the teachers and the respect they have for their professions, along with their vast knowledge and experience that our local students can appreciate Chinese Culture in all its rich and colourful profundity.

The Chinese Language School must also thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Every day they were the first to arrive and the last to leave, ate in a rush, and shouted until their voices were hoarse in order that they could be with the students wherever they were. There were also some elderly volunteers supporting us during this program, delivering food and water, and managing props. By way of words and deeds, these volunteers also demonstrated other aspects of Chinese Culture including care, tolerance, sharing, and a spirit of teamwork.

At this Chinese Cultural Camp, a white-haired senior could be spotted everyday -- this was our former President Yue-yan Chan. Mr. Chan has a profound knowledge and an absolutely sincere respect for Chinese Culture as well as rich teaching experience. Every day he held the hand of the children and taught them Chinese calligraphy. In a matter of a few days, these kids, who had never come in touch with calligraphy before, all wanted to get into the calligraphy lessons. To an untrained westerner, Chinese calligraphy may be illegible but this old gentleman was able to attract the children to share his love for the art with the soft tip of his brush.

In this Chinese Cultural Camp, our President Lau fully deserves the title of a warrior. From the beginning to the end, from organization to contents, from reception to arrangements, she attended to every minute detail. During these seven days, nearly every day, she worked up until the small hours of the morning. Her tiny body gave out tremendous energy and only such a remarkable leader could lead such a remarkable team to accomplish such a remarkable task.

The outstanding accomplishment of this project on the part of our Chinese Language School has left a

deep impression on the parents. Some parents already want to find out more about next year's cultural camp. Children learnt and experienced Chinese culture through various activities in the camp. They also learnt about mutual respect and team spirit. The training was really tiring, but the children persevered with the task, and gave play to their talents.

The Chinese Cultural Camp has come to a conclusion, but the seed of Chinese culture is already sown in Australia. If the chance comes along, our school will definitely seek to be the organizer of such an activity again, for spreading Chinese culture is the aim of our school.

Our students achieved very good results in this year's Chinese Composition Competition held by the Chinese Language Education Council and The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office. In the 15-16 year group WenBin Fu won first prize. In the 11-12 year group Wendy Fu won first prize and Jo Ee Ng won a merit certificate. In the 9-10 year group Jo El Ng and Jo En Ng each won a certificate.



Composition Competition 1st prize winners

2016 Chinese Culture Land – Sydney Camp

Translation – SC Lau

The 2016 Chinese Culture Land – Sydney Camp lasting 7 days has come to an end. We have invited twelve experts in Wushu, Waists Drum (North Shaanxi), Mimic Tang Dance, Chinese Painting & Calligraphy, Erhu, Clay Sculpture, Shadow Play, Chinese Poem Recitation to come to Sydney for a cultural exchange program. This program was highly praised and well received by all concerned.



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on 24th September. Among the many guests present were: Vice-Consul General of the Chinese Consulate General in Sydney, Tong Xuejun, Chinese Consul General in Sydney Consul Sun Yantao, Australian federal MP for Berowra Julian Leaser, Director of Department of Chinese Education, Wang Mengli, Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, Deputy Director of Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Shaanxi Province – Manager of the teaching envoy, Yao Jinchuan and many leaders of Chinese ethnic groups. Performances started after the VIP guest speeches. Performances included Erhu solo by Zhong Shan (Horse Race), Poem Recitation, Singing, Tai Chi and Wushu demonstrations. The superb skills and engaging performances pushed the opening ceremony to the climax.

After the opening ceremony, 325 students aged from 6 to 16 years old started their wonderful and miraculous journey of Chinese culture. This year the following topics were on offer: Calligraphy, Wushu, Waist Drum, Mimic Tang Dance, Chinese Dance, Folk Song, Chinese Painting, Erhu, Clay Sculpture, Shadow Play and Chinese Poem Recitation. Students chose one of these topics for concentrated training. The teachers were strict and patient in teaching and the students were happy, open and serious in learning. In just a few short days, the students already had a firm grasp on the basics.

The closing ceremony was held in the afternoon on 30th September. Students' creations on clay sculpture and Chinese painting and calligraphy were on display to showcase their talent. All 325 students in turn took part in the performances. All classes took to the stage in turn to showcase what they had learnt during the last few days. The teachers again entertained the audiences with their

superb and excellent skills in their specialized area. The 600 odd crowd was deeply impressed. The 2016 Chinese Culture Land – Sydney Camp drew to an end in thunderous applause from all participants.



VIPs & Teachers

Seniors Group Report

Edward Lam

With the support of its members, the Seniors Group was able to accomplish the following activities in the last season (July to September):

Lecture

On Thursday July 14, Mr. Kevin Lau, a senior computer technology expert, gave a lecture on the use of smart phones. The response was very good and those who attended the lecture found it most enlightening. They all wanted a follow-up lecture.

AGM

The AGM was held on Saturday July 23. Fifty members, committee members and friends attended the AGM. Firstly, the Chairman, Rev. Peter Chung, J.P., welcomed those present, and then gave a report on the activities of the Seniors Group for the past year. This was followed by the financial report given by Mr. Patrick Ng. Mr. Ng reported that the financial situation of the Seniors Group was healthy, and there was a surplus of \$2,015.

Under the supervision of the CCCA President, Mrs. Jenny Lau, members elected committee members for the year 2016-2017. The result is as follows:



2016-17 Seniors Group Committee Members

Chairman: Peter Chung, J.P.; Vice-Chairmen, John Chik and Edward Lam; Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Ng; Activities Coordinators: Freddie Chung and Joe Wong; committee members: Clement Yee, Norman Yiu, Chau Chan, Cheong Ming Kwan, Albert Young, and Ping Wai Yu.

Application for Community Subsidies for the year 2016-2017

The Seniors group successfully applied for community subsidies. The amount has increased annually from \$1,800 in 2013 to \$4,800 this year.

Day Trip

On Friday September 23, a day trip was organized to go to Floriade in Canberra. It was a beautiful day. 39 members boarded a coach to Canberra. We arrived at the Star Buffet Restaurant at the Burns Club where we had a buffet lunch. After lunch, we continued our journey to the floral show, Floriade at the Canberra inner city parkland.

Events to come

1. On Friday, November 25, the Seniors Group will organize a day tour to the Blue Mountains. The trip starts at 8 a.m. sharp.

Itinerary: 52-seater luxury coach to Chang Lai Yuan Chinese Gardens, Blacktown. Lunch at Star Buffet, Penrith. After lunch a visit to the Three Sisters at the Blue Mountains, Wentworth Falls. On the return trip there will be a short break at Leura for afternoon tea. Back to Cherrybrook around 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

Charge: \$35 per member; \$45 for non-members. This includes return fares; buffet lunch; piece of cake; bottle of water & driver's tips.

If you are interested in participating, please visit EYD on any Wednesday before November 16 and ask for Patrick Ng for booking.

2. On 17th December, 2016, we will pay a visit to the Church of England, Castle Hill. Details of time and place where we will assemble will be announced at the Wednesday EYD in early December.

Membership Update

Total: 672 Life: 419

From the Editor's Desk

Yue-yan Chan

A lot has happened in the past two months. Our AGM was held on Saturday the 27th of August, 2016. Mrs. Jenny Lau was again elected president to lead the Association for another term. Prior to the AGM, the president Mrs. Jenny Lau and Dr. Jonathan Xie, had been busy working on the Chinese Cultural Camp held during the third term school break. The newly elected committee had the mammoth task of seeing this event come to fruition.

I know that there is an article in this issue especially about the camp, but as an observer I still would like to say a few words about the project. Preparations for this project began two years ago and the teachers who were selected to come to Sydney were all top in their fields. Their teaching skills left nothing more to be desired and in six or fewer days, they were able to train up students without any prior skills in these particular disciplines to deliver a reasonable performance at the Closing Ceremony.

On our end here in Sydney, the President and her husband worked tirelessly for months, firstly, on the overall planning, then on the recruitment of students and volunteers, the negotiation of the venue, timetabling, accommodation for visiting teachers, and so on, and so forth. The principal, Ms Xiaohong Guo and the volunteers, some of whom were our teachers, also did a tremendous job. It was the combined efforts of all parties involved that made the camp such a success.

Two years ago, I was told that the spirit of volunteering was a thing of the past. How wrong this was. It was evident at this camp that the spirit of volunteering is still very much alive. It is this spirit that keeps our Association going.

Members' News

On Saturday, 20th August, 2016, Cindy Wu held the opening ceremony of her Chinese calligraphy solo exhibition at the Chinese Cultural Centre, Chatswood. Honourable guests included the Special Envoy for Human Rights, Hon. Philip Ruddock, the Mayor of Willoughby, Cr. Gail Giles-Gidney, Associate Professor Shirley Chan, and Chinese painter Mr. Korn Chuen Chow. Over a hundred people attended the function and all those present were dazzled by the many beautiful pieces of work on display.

Photo Gallery - 2016 Chinese Culture Land – Sydney Camp

