



Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association Inc

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Newsletter – Winter Edition

Notice is hereby given that the 28th Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association will be held on Saturday, 26 August 2017 at 2:00 p.m., in the Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre at 31 Shepherds Lane, Cherrybrook. Light refreshment will be provided. Please RSVP by phone (98753336) or email (cccacherrybrook@gmail.com) with your membership number by 19th August.

Agenda

1. President's opening address;
2. Apologies;
3. To confirm minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held on 27th August 2016;
4. To receive and consider the financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2017, 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 2017/2018;

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

Polly Chan

Hon Secretary

11 August 2017



Treasurer's Report 2017

Dennis Loh

I have pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's report and the attached audited Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the Financial Year 2016/2017. They have, as in previous years, been prepared on a cash basis. Guidelines as to which method may be relevant are set out in Taxation Ruling TR98/1. The cash basis is more appropriate for our Association due to its size. This method requires that income is brought to account only when it is physically received. This receipt includes the situation where income is reinvested, accumulated or capitalized. However, expenses are deductible when they are incurred and not necessarily paid, provided that no further claim is made when they are actually paid.

For the financial year ended 30 June 2017 we had an operating surplus of \$62,347 compared to last year's surplus of \$24,824 (more than twofold increase) while the Balance Sheet shows that Cash at Bank and Term deposits amounts to \$293,307. The improving operating surplus do allow the Committee to focus on the longer-term strategies for the Association.

The Association is in a stable financial position and is well placed to remain so into the future. This outstanding performance would not be as sound without the Committee of Management effort in careful control of costs.

As usual, the main source of income is contributed from our Chinese Language School, total fees increasing to \$57,499 compared to \$51,703 (Year 2016), together with the successful two-week cultural program held in September 2016. This brings in an additional revenue of \$16,389.

Our Chinese New Year Dinner contributed a surplus of \$1,298 (Year 2016 \$2,187) and Enjoy Yourself Day activity contributed a surplus of \$1,893 (Year 2016 \$833). Income from our life membership fees increases to \$600 compare to \$300 (Year 2016). We continue to receive Per-capita Grant from the Department of Education NSW and sponsorship from the Consul General of People's Republic of China in Sydney and NSW ClubGrant for the 2016/17 financial year. This amounts to \$37,044 compared to \$37,376 (Year 2016). However, this may be the last year receiving the NSW ClubGrant. It is because the Seniors Group's Deputy Leader Lam sent emails to Hornsby Council and all local clubs saying they no longer require financial support.

Our expenditure for the year was \$15,426, which was reduced from \$27,298 (Year 2016). These are due to decrease in employment expenses, printing, stationery and Insurance cost. In summary, I am pleased to report a successful year with the financial position remains sound and our association continues to prosper.

Membership Update

All members: 652 Life: 418 Ordinary: 234

President's Message

President Jenny Lau

When I was asked to take up the position of Presidency again twenty-two months ago, my ultimate task was to fix the Association's financial situation. We sought clarification from the last Management Committee team about the financial management. We said we could do better. Now we have proved we were correct. I am proud to say we achieved our goal with flying colours. Please read the attached Financial Statement and our Hon. Treasurer's report. This result is not by luck or chance. This is due to the dedication and hard work of my team. We, the Management Committee Members, with the Association in mind and at heart, worked wholeheartedly for the benefit of all members.

This year's Financial Statement is designed to be more user-friendly. It shows what our income components are and the actual performance of each activity. For instance, in the past we put the Government Per-capita Grant and model school sponsorship under our Language School. We thought our School was doing well financially all the time. However, if we took these components out, the actual performance showed a different picture. The following table compares school fees collected, Government Per-capita Grant and expenditure from 2013/14 to 2016/17. I took the Sponsorship component out because it is not related to School performance.

Financial Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Fees collected	\$37,610	\$44,728	\$51,703	\$57,499
Expenditure	\$63,144	\$78,713	\$57,423	\$51,869
Differences	-\$25,534	-\$33,985	-\$5,720	\$5,630
Government Grant	\$11,593	\$8,364	\$11,634	\$13,196

You can see how well the School was doing during the last twenty months. At the beginning of the second semester 2017, our student's number was about 160. I must give credit to our Principal, Ms. Guo Xiaohong and the teachers. The School Committee members focused on encouraging our teachers and principal to have on-going learning and training. We nominated Principal Ms. Guo Xiaohong and a senior teacher, Ms. Nancy Li to attend an overseas conference. Seven teachers, Kye-Ling Low, Maggie Yu, Hui Chen, Yokpa Chen, Jun Wu, Maixin Cui, Ping Xu (not in the picture) and I



At the 2nd Asia Pacific Chinese Conference

attended a two-day workshop, 2017 CLTFA National Conference - The 2nd Asia Pacific Chinese Conference. We learnt so much information and teaching techniques during these two days. Our students will eventually benefit from these activities provided to teachers.

The Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association (CCCA) was established by a group of volunteers as a not for profit organization to serve the community and promote Chinese culture. "Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association, Inc." is the only registered legal entity. The Association's phone number, email and postal address are the official channels for all external correspondence, communication and application for grants. Recently some Seniors Group members privately and repeatedly contacted the Hornsby Council staff responsible for the NSW Clubgrant claiming to be the only authorized representative to apply for NSW Clubgrant. This is incorrect and inappropriate.

Any activity using the Association's name by any subgroup is organized under the umbrella of CCCA. At the end of each financial year, all operating surplus or loss will go back to CCCA Consolidated Fund (Members Fund). All assets and money belong to CCCA, not any individual group. The Management Committee (sometimes called the 'Committee of Management' or 'board') is responsible for managing the affairs of the association, in accordance with its constitution and the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (the Act). The role of the Management committee includes:

- managing the association's financial affairs and maintaining its financial viability
- ensuring the association acts in accordance with its objectives or purposes
- meeting all legal requirements.

(Quoted from Management Committee, incorporate association - NSW Fair Trading Fact Sheet September 2016)

The Association receives funding and sponsorship from time to time. We act on behalf of all levels of government and sponsors to organize activities that are beneficial to the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. After receiving grants or sponsorship, the Management Committee may delegate a subgroup or a subcommittee to execute projects. As elected and entrusted by members, the Management Committee Members have the duty of care, and should be socially and ethically responsible in spending.

The cost for the previously mentioned two-day workshop was \$350 per person. We would not ask our teachers to pay a cent. We said it was a very good and meaningful activity to sponsor thirty seniors to play 'Lawn Bowling' for free. We should encourage seniors to do mild physical sports. Unfortunately this good activity was not promoted vigorously, consequently only 13 people turned up. Instead of saving the unused money for future use, the Seniors Group Leader, the Deputy Leader Lam and the Treasurer **on the spot** decided to throw a free lunch to the ten participants including themselves and their spouses. Although the total amount was only \$143, it is a matter of principle and it is inappropriate.

In 2015, the Seniors Group spent \$700 in buying cash gift cards. These cash gift cards were distributed among 59 people

including the Seniors Group committee members themselves in the Seniors Group AGM. In the 2016 Seniors Group AGM, they did it again. They bought \$700 cash gift cards and distributed to 49 participants. This year the Management Committee turned down the Seniors Group's request. To us, this practice of distributing cash gift cards is not ethical.

It is the Management Committee's responsibility to ensure proper use of all funds received. As President, I have to ensure that every cent is spent wisely and fairly. In 2015 around \$600 was spent in holding a Seniors Lunch. In 2016 \$1,000 was subsidized to the Seniors Lunch. This year Seniors Group Leader decided to throw a banquet lunch demanding the Management Committee to pay \$1,550 for their lunch. In other words, other CCCA members had to contribute 3/4 of their lunch bill. The Management Committee is not a rubber stamp. It is hard for us to justify the spending. Sometimes, hard decisions had to be taken which might displease some members. Fairness and prudence have always been in the forefront of my mind when spending members' fund as well as Government funding.

In accordance with the Constitution, the Management Committee has absolute authority to decide how the members fund is used. This is why members need to consider carefully when electing Management Committee members.

The table on the next column shows the Operating Surplus and Consolidated Fund from the financial years 2013/2014 to 2016/2017.

Financial Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Operating Surplus	\$7,732	\$1,105	\$24,828	\$62,346
Consolidated Fund	\$204,743	\$205,848	\$230,672	\$293,022

The Association is well placed financially. With the current setup, if there are no major unexpected expenses, it is envisaged that the Association can carry on for at least another thirteen years until 2030 when the lease of the office with Hornsby council runs out. I did what I had promised to do.

Finally, I would like to thank my team for their hard work and their support. Also I sincerely thank Mrs. Georgia Lee. She teaches our Cantonese Opera Singing Group for free. She gave the Group members opportunity to perform on stage. Last but not least, I would like to thank Mrs. Daisy Wong for her contribution to the Association for the past 10 years. She was employed as a Settlement Services Office Assistant from 2007 to 2009. When the office was established she was reemployed as our Administration Officer. She is pleasant, hardworking and does not mind receiving the minimum wage as she understands the Association cannot afford paying too much. During busy time, she even brought unfinished work home. She is someone I can trust and rely on. Also I know she is well-liked by all members.

Hon. Secretary's Report

Polly Chan

Main events of the year included the Lantern Night, the Chinese New Year Dinner, and the Hills District Lunar New Year Fête. All these activities were achieved with the help of volunteers.

The Chinese Language School

Under the leadership of the Principal, Ms, Xiaohong Guo, and the tremendous effort of teachers, the Chinese Language School was highly regarded by the community. The enrolment exceeded 160. After every lesson, teachers would send email to parents telling them what their children had learned that morning. So parents understood well what was going on in the school. There were still many enquiries about new enrolment.

The Chinese Cultural Camp jointly held by the Shaan Xi Provincial Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs and our school in September, 2016 was highly successful. (Details appeared in our last issue of the newsletter.) The event left very good impressions on the parents and guests of honour.

Outstanding results were achieved by our students in the Chinese composition competition held by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in Sydney in September, 2016. Our students were awarded First Prize in the 11-12 years age group and in the 15-16 years age group. One student in our school was awarded with a Certificate of Merit in the 11-12 years age group.

The Seniors Group

The Seniors Group organized talks, tours, visits, donation for charity, and dinner parties. All these activities were proven popular. In the year past, the Seniors Group increased the number of visits to elderly homes, and performances given by the group were well received.

The Women's Group

The Women's Group held regular talk on various topics. Mr. Stephen Lang's horticulture lessons were proven extremely popular. The Cantonese opera singing class had a busy year. The class added karaoke time in their programme. Member of the class held a performance in July. Their success was due to the voluntary work of the female members.

Cantonese Opera Singing Class

Alice Ho

July 16 this year was a big day for a number of students of the Cantonese opera singing class, we had our first opportunity to perform Cantonese opera singing at the Hurstville Civic Centre. We received a lot of positive feedback and encouragement.

I would like to thank the Association for inviting Mrs. Georgia Lee to teach us how to sing Cantonese opera and Mr. Yue Yan Chan for explaining the background story of the song thus enhancing our understanding of the song so that we can memorise the lyrics more easily.

The ten classmates often encouraged and supported each other. We have established a very good friendship. In addition to entertaining ourselves, we have also been invited to participate in performances to audiences from INANA (a special school), homes for the elderly and community groups.

We agreed wholeheartedly with the "10 benefits of Cantonese opera singing", an article by Professor Andrew Chan of the Chinese University of Hong Kong published in the last issue. We welcome other members who are interested to experience Cantonese opera singing to join us on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:30.

Chinese Language School

Principal Xiaohong Guo

Over the past two years, our school has strengthened the contact and communication between teachers and students, teachers and parents, parents and schools, schools and teachers. Consequently, the teaching quality has improved significantly.

Due to the participation of poetry recitation, the work load of our teachers increased tremendously. In spite of their heavy work load, teachers still did a good job in opening up the vision of students. They make their students appreciate the beauty of the Chinese language. This year, many students participated in the National Chinese Eisteddfod Competition which increased the students' enthusiasm for learning Chinese. More and more parents approve our way of teaching. Our result in the Eisteddfod Competition this year is great. In the non-background group, one of our students won first prize, one second prize, and one third prize; in the native speaking group, two students won first prize, and another won second prize. This is the best result of our school so far. While achieving awards is good, the main objective is to encourage our students to actively participate in external activities. Students already see this as a way of training. I am grateful to our parents who see our teaching method in a positive way. They collaborate with the school in letting their children take part in many various cultural activities. We shall work even harder to reciprocate the parental trust bestowed on us.

Last year we started revamping our pedagogical method. Our aim is not just teach students read and write Chinese. We want our students to learn more about the Chinese culture, to understand the importance of China in today's global stage, and to know the embracing attitude of Australian culture. Our school provides an efficient way to our students to learn both Chinese and English well.

Last year we started the Teenage Class. Each week the teacher chose a theme for the lesson, and combined the four elements of language learning, namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing, to guide students in comprehension of the theme, and discussed with students matters derived from the theme. Students were taught to think and debate in Chinese, and to write down their understanding gained the classroom. They also did role play. Students were asked to translate what they

learned into English. Students liked this way of teaching, and they made considerable progress. We tried, as far as possible, to cater for the mainstream Australian school requirement in the learning of the Chinese language and examination requirements. We trained our students to think in both languages, to consolidate the knowledge of Chinese, to broaden their understanding of Chinese culture, and to master the use of Chinese in their everyday life. All these would help laying a solid foundation in the Chinese language if they want to choose that as one of their HSC examination subject in Year 12. This way of teaching increases the students' interest in, and arouses their enthusiasm for the learning of Chinese. Looking at the student attendance record, we found that there were hardly any students took leave from school. This is a great achievement, particularly for students in senior years.

With experience gained from last year, we added a Youth Class this year. Even though students in this class do not have a big Chinese vocabulary, their power of comprehension meets the requirement of their teacher. Thematic teaching not just making it easier for students to memorize new phrases, it enables students to master quickly the correct usage of phrases they just learned, and to remember them for a long time. We keep on raising our standard of teaching. We ensure that all students can put into practice what they have learned from our school.

We will mobilize all social resources to widen our teaching vision. We will make our students interested in the language, and develop a passion for Chinese as well.



From the Editor's Desk

Yue-yan Chan

The winter issue of our newsletter, like in previous years, is dedicated to our AGM. The main item in the agenda is the election of members for the Management Committee. Members might ask what things are looked after by the Management Committee.

Many of you may not know that the idea of forming CCCA came about half a year after the establishment the Chinese Language School. The founders of the school in 1989 considered the education of our children in the Chinese language and culture was of paramount importance. Today, the management of the Chinese Language School is still the top priority of the management committee. In the past year or so, the school under the leadership of the principal, Ms. Guo Xiaohong and the support of the President, Mrs. Jenny Lau, has grown from about 80 students to over 160 students. The accuracy of these figures is best established by tallying it against the Per-capita Grant given by the NSW government. This significant increase in student number is solely due to our group of dedicated, well-qualified and caring teachers. They worked out a programme that relates well with students' daily living. Students were no longer learning a language which had

little use outside the classroom. The Management Committee is to give teachers all the support, including moral support, they need to do their job well.

I expect members of the Management Committee to have vision for the future of the association. The association lasted 28 years so far is due to the solid foundation laid down by the founders who dedicated themselves altruistically to the service of the community without ever thinking of any personal gains, material or otherwise; and the Constitution drafted by them. The Constitution clearly spells out the goals of the Association which is to promote Chinese culture. The Constitution also stops any person who wants to make the Association his own by limiting the period of presidency. The Constitution also states that all sub-committees are subordinate to the Management Committee. This is to stop possible fragmentation of the Association.

When we vote for members of the Management Committee, we want them to be not only persons with ability. More importantly, we want them to have a strong feeling for, and dedication to the Association, and not for personal advancement.