

PRESIDENTS REPORT

As this is the first newsletter for 2005, I would like to take this opportunity to say *Goong Hee Fat Choy*, A Happy New Year to you all!

Time has gone by so quickly this year as it is nearly Easter and so many things have happened over the last three months.

The Association has been involved in the tsunami relief fund organised by the Wellington Chinese community and over \$31,000 was raised at a fund raising dinner at the Grand Century Restaurant. An outstanding effort by a small community.

We had our customary Chinese New Year celebrations at the Regal Restaurant and a good time was had by all.

In February, some of the committee attended workshops at the National library regarding family histories. This was very useful to us as we conducted our own workshop on the Jungsen history in New Zealand in our rooms on the 27 February. This is in preparation for the forthcoming book about the history of the Jungsen people in New Zealand. Our aim is to have this book available in time for the 80th anniversary of the Tung Jung Association in July 2006. Please pencil in this date in your diaries now! Our thanks go to Dr. Henry Chan from Sydney University of Asian studies but he is really a Sungai Chan from Wellington! His experience and expertise in these matters have motivated many of us to write our own family histories.

Our website is up and running and those of you who have access to the internet can access our site at www.tungjung.org.nz. We are endeavouring to keep the site as up to date as possible and there are some photos of our activities in it.

An historical occasion this year is the handing over to the National Library of New Zealand, the old records of the Association. The purpose of this is that the Library are able to preserve, protect and store the records which date back to the inception of the Association in July 1926. However, the records will still be available to anyone who wish to peruse them (they are all in Chinese script!) by writing to the Association for permission.

Registrations are now being called for members who are interested in improving their dialogue in Cantonese speaking. A planned adult course of 4 weeks in Guangzhou with the Guangdong Overseas Office and a tour after is envisaged.

Communication is an essential tool to the Association. To keep the Association alive and moving forward, we need your input and your participation. We have some activities planned for this year which will be notified at a later date. We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas that the Association can use. Contact can be made to any committee member listed at the back of this newsletter.

I hope to be hearing from you.

Gordon Wu
March 2005

About Cantonese

Cantonese is one of the five major Chinese languages. These are often called "dialects", but in actuality their differences are great enough to consider them separate languages.

Cantonese is spoken by about 100 million people in the southern provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi and in neighbouring areas such as Hong Kong and Macao, as well as throughout South-East Asia in such places as Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Due to the migration of Cantonese speakers from Hong Kong and the Guangdong area, Cantonese is the dominant form of Chinese spoken in the Chinatowns of many major cities in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere.

The word Cantonese comes from Canton, the former English name of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, which was once considered the home of the purest form of Cantonese. However, through years of mass media and pop culture influence, Hong Kong has now truly become the cultural centre of Cantonese.

Although Mandarin (or *putonghua*) is the standard and official language in Mainland China, it has only been around for about 700 or 800 years, compared to the 2000-year history of Cantonese. Cantonese, not Mandarin, is the dominant language in overseas Chinese communities. This comes from the fact that, around the world, the largest flow of Chinese immigrants originates from Hong Kong.

Cantonese is mainly an oral language. People in Hong Kong use standard Chinese (*putonghua*) when they read and write. They speak Cantonese in their daily interactions with people. As a colloquial language, Cantonese is full of slang and non-standard usage. The language of youth is rapidly evolving, and new slang and trendy expressions are constantly emerging.

The standard written language in Hong Kong is essentially the same Chinese as everywhere else in China. The only difference is that Hong Kong and overseas communities, like Taiwan, have kept what are called traditional characters, whereas Mainland China uses simplified characters. In an attempt to increase literacy in China, thousands of characters were "simplified" in a 1950 spelling reform initiated by chairman Mao Zedong.

Adult Cantonese Language Camp 2006

Planning is well underway for this to take place in late March early April 2006.

The camp will be approximately 4 weeks long made up of three parts. The first and third parts will be around 10 days each with Cantonese classes each morning and other interest classes and sightseeing visits etc in the afternoons. Between these two parts will be approximately four or five days free time for people to visit other parts of China, make visits to their ancestral village or catch up with friends and family.

The four weeks will be structured but there will also be plenty of flexibility to cater for people's individual needs. This will be an enjoyable trip allowing people to improve their Cantonese, see and enjoy the sights of Guangzhou and to experience life and travel in a fast developing Chinese city.

Specifically the programme will include the following:

- Cantonese language classes each weekday morning focused on conversational Chinese. This is likely to be based on the Cantonese spoken in the city (bak wah) not on any specific village dialect. Lessons will be carefully organised to cater for people whatever their level of ability.
- Cultural activities in the afternoons/evenings such as Chinese history, visits to museums and other historic places, cooking classes/demonstrations, cultural shows, visits to ancestral villages, shopping, free time (the afternoons will be organised around participants requests and interests)
- Opportunities to practice Cantonese language in the market place and shopping
- Costs will cover things like airfares, accommodation, internal travel, tutors, teachers, and guides. As far as possible these will be paid before departure.
- Hotel accommodation
- Lessons taught by University tutors

As with the very successful China tour in 2004, Janet Joe has been asked to make up an itinerary or timetable and to work out indicative costs for the camp. She will deal with all travel and visa arrangements and depending on people's wishes arrange for tours around the city and to other places of interest in and around Guangdong and of course, visits to the villages in Zengcheng (Jungsen). By using Janet's contacts and services, participants will not have to worry about these matters and they can focus on the lessons, enjoying each other's company and having fun!

Please contact either Peter Kohing phone 04 478 5865, email kohing@actrix.gen.nz or Allen Chang phone 04 971 8084, email achang@paradise.net.nz for further information and to register your interest. Written information will be sent/emailed when it becomes available.

For practical reasons the numbers will be restricted to 20 adults. Participants must be financial members of the association.

A number of people have already indicated interest, so please let Peter or Allen know as soon as possible.

Workshop on Resources for the Study of Chinese New Zealand Family and Community History hosted by the Alexander Turnbull Library

Recently the Alexander Turnbull Library held a workshop for interested Chinese on the resources available to help them with researching their family histories. The workshop was co-organised by Henry Chan, National Library of NZ Research Fellow 2004 and Nigel Murphy well known for his excellent work on researching Chinese New Zealand history.

A number of committee members and members of the Tung Jung Association attended this two day workshop.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- Introduce Chinese New Zealanders interested in Chinese New Zealand history and family history to the resources of the Turnbull and National Library*,
- Provide a forum for people to share their experiences about how people have gone about their research, what sources of information they have used, the way they did it, the successes they had and the difficulties encountered, and

- Create an opportunity for Chinese people and the library to talk to each other about what is needed to further enhance Chinese New Zealand history and family history research by way of resources and guides.

Participants at the workshop were treated to:

- Guided tours to the various sections of the Alexander Turnbull Library,
- A session on using oral history to record family memories and how to organise and preserve family and organisational documents, archives and photographs,
- A discussion on Chinese language sources and how to access them, and
- A number of Chinese community and family historians talking about how they have gone about researching their family histories and how they have used the resources available in New Zealand. These people included Philip Chong, Diana Young, Dr James Ng, and Allen Chang.

Eva Ng, Helen Wong, Nigel Murphy, Kitty Chang and Anne Thorpe talked about the oral history projects they have been involved in and Peter Kohing, Robert Ting, Kai Luey and Anne Thorpe shared their experiences in documenting the history of Chinese business and market gardens in New Zealand.

Peter writes:

Researching the History of Chinese Economic Activity in NZ.

During this second session of the Saturday afternoon, Robert Ting, Kai Luey (deputising for Michael Chong) and Anne Thorpe, described the work in which they had been involved in researching and documenting some of the history of Chinese businesses and market gardening activities in Wellington, Auckland and Otaki.

Robert described how a group of Tung Jung Association members started by compiling a list of sites of Chinese businesses and interests in the CBD area of Wellington for a Tung Jung Association bus tour of Wellington – how this small study evolved into a more complex exercise requiring greater in-depth research through referencing old telephone directories and street directories to exactly locate the actual sites in the present CBD area which had changed drastically over the past 60 years.

The information compiled by the TJ group led to suggestions that there is a need to compile a more detailed study of the history of the Chinese businesses in Wellington particularly during period up to the late 1950's in which the Chinese community had contributed quite an influence and impact on the local and national economy through the 'industries' in which they were involved. (Fruit shops, laundries, restaurants, groceries, dairies, market gardening (Lower Hutt), importing...)

Kai briefly described the work done to date by Michael Chong in Auckland. Michael has compiled a list and located as many Chinese business sites throughout the Auckland city area that he could remember or find. He has also located these sites on enlarged sectional street maps, giving each site he has identified its name, address, and a colour coding as to whether it was a fruit shop, restaurant, or other business.

Anne, whose husband Peter was a former President of the Otaki Commercial Growers Association, described the changes in market gardening styles over the past 50 years; with the market gardening industry moving from small family based units in the past to the now much larger commercial business units owned, managed, and operated by a new generation

of Chinese growers well versed in business management and with a much greater knowledge and background of modern agricultural practices.

She also mentioned several market gardening families, which had made significant contributions to the wider Otaki district, the influence of which is still evident in the area today.

In thanking the speakers for their contributions to this session, Peter observed that throughout the discussion and questions put to the three speakers – it was evident Chinese businesses and market gardening interests had made a substantial influence and contribution to both the local and national economy at the time. Peter also noted that the changing face and styles of Chinese businesses and market gardening over the years was also a reflection of the changes in lifestyles, aspirations, and expectations of the different generations of Kiwi Chinese New Zealanders.

*In 2003 through the efforts of Robert Ting, the Tung Jung Association organised a successful tour of the National Archives in Wellington.

The National Archives records are mainly those that stem from Government actions – acts of parliament and regulations such as immigration, births, deaths and marriages, naturalisation, aliens, NZ entry records etc, while the Alexander Turnbull Library is “a storehouse of words, pictures, and sounds about the activities of people in New Zealand and the Pacific”. The National Library holds the nation’s collection of books, (manuscripts, some newspaper records), photographs, letters, drawings, maps, music, and sound recordings that document the history of this part of the world.

So, researchers, look to the Archives for “government material”, and the Alexander Turnbull and National Library for “non government” material. The staffs of both organizations are very helpful and access to resources is easily obtained.

Tung Jung Association “donates” it’s records

At the Chinese history workshop held at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Gordon Wu, President of the Tung Jung Association formally donated the records of the association from its inception in the 1920’s to the middle 1990’s to Margaret Calder, the Chief Executive and Head Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library.



These records include the founding document of the association, indexes of members and other documents related to the running of the association have been donated to the library because of their historical value to researchers and to ensure that the records of one of the longest standing Chinese organization will be preserved in a safe, secure, temperature controlled environment in perpetuity. The records, which are all in Chinese, are available to researchers and members of the association on request to the Alexander Turnbull Library with approval from the President or his/her delegate.

This decision by the committee is farsighted and precedent setting and will hopefully encourage other Chinese organizations to consider preserving their records in a similar manner.

Tung Jung Association's 80th anniversary celebration

Planning is for this to be held in late July 2006.

A major part of these celebrations will be the launch of a book written by Henry Chan on the migration of Chinese from Jungseng to New Zealand. The book will include a chapter on the history of the Tung Jung Association (coordinated by Harry Moon working with a number of former Presidents and Committee Members of the Association) and chapters detailing village and family histories. These chapters are to be coordinated by "village coordinators" and edited by an editorial committee comprising Gordon Wu, Allen Chang, Gilbert Wong, Helene

Wong, Arthur Loo, and Kitty Chang. Henry Chan as the editor in chief will have the final say and will accept the final responsibility for the material published in the book.

The book is to be launched at the association's 80th celebration.

On 27 February, at the Association clubrooms, more than 30 people from around New Zealand met to discuss the proposal.

As Henry Chan wrote to the village coordinators recently:

First, thank you to you all for coming to the Workshop on 27 February and contributing to its success.

Secondly, I should like to reassure you all that we are not expecting you to do the impossible for the Jungseng History Book. What is being sought from you are not any where near comprehensive histories requiring extensive research generating substantial research material that will need conservation storage! However, the Editorial Committee, and especially I hope that the Jungseng history project will stimulate you, and others, to take an interest in and continue to research and write about your village and family histories long after the History Book is out and has become a best seller! Some of your village and families histories may also be published in a more comprehensive manner, and become best sellers in one way or another! But lets do one thing at a time! The Jungseng history first, please!

*What we are looking for, are village and family histories together, each of no more than a couple of thousand words.
All the village and family histories together are expected to take up less than 20 000 words, or no more than 30 pages in the Jungseng history book.*

It is hoped that the Jungseng history book will show the diversity of the experience of Jungseng people in New Zealand, both in the past and in the present.

Keep an eye of this space. Mark on your calendars July 2006 the 80th anniversary of the Tung Jung Association. Support your village coordinators as they contact other village families and contribute to the book. Each village coordinator will be acknowledged (in the book).

Ching Ming

Arrangements are 1.00pm April 3rd at Karori cemetery and then 6.30pm at the Regal restaurant. Cost per person \$25.00. Contact any committee member if you would like to attend the dinner.

Please join members and friends of the Association as we celebrate this important occasion. Like Chung Yeung, Ching Ming is one of the most important events on the Association's calendar.

Association's photographs and memorabilia

Following the shift from Webb Street to Torrens Terrace and the substantial work put in by the committee and other members, the framed photographs and display material now need to

be rehung and put on display in the clubrooms. This is a once only activity but it is important that it is done correctly. If you can assist with this and also with some minor tidying up in the clubrooms please contact Gordon Wu.

Charitable Tax Status of Tung Jung Association Inc

Inland Revenue has confirmed the Charitable Tax status of the Tung Jung Association. This means that the association is exempt from income tax on non-business income derived by the association and is also exempt from gift duty in relation to gifts to association.

Rebates for donations by individuals for income tax purposes are also allowed to individuals for donations of \$5.00 or more up to a maximum of the smaller of 33-1/3 percent of the donation made or \$630.00. To qualify for a rebate on donations made to us you must produce a receipt from the Tung Jung Association, officially stamped by the organization and show the date the gift and/or donation was received signed by a member of the Tung Jung Association Executive.

Any donations received in the last financial year have had receipts issued and sent out with the newsletters. We will continue to carry out this practice in the future.

Robert Ting
Treasurer

Cooking Demonstration – ‘Ju Cheung Fung’

The Tung Jung Association in conjunction with the Wellington Chinese Sports & Cultural Centre has arranged another Cooking Demonstration for members to be held in the Kitchen at the Wellington Chinese Sports & Cultural Centre on Sunday 1 May 2005 at 1.30 pm.

The demonstration on Sunday 1 May 2005 at 1.30 pm will be on making ‘Ju Cheung Fung. Mrs May Young has kindly agreed to lead this demonstration

There will be an opportunity for people to have ‘hands on experience’ in the making of *Ju Cheung Fung* at this demonstration, and also be able to sample the *Ju Cheung Fung* we make on the day.

A Bring & Share Afternoon Tea will follow the demonstration – please bring along a plate of your favourite dish to share (and discuss with others!)

We have had requests for demonstrations on making– *Mah Fah, Toons (Noh Mai Chih)*, and if they can be arranged, the dates will be announced when they are finalised.

We have also had requests for demonstrating the making of ***Fish Balls, and Shek Kee Mah***, if anyone can help with these demonstrations please ring either Harry Moon or Peter Kohing.

Or if you are willing to demonstrate making other Chinese dishes or Chinese ‘cakes’, please also contact either Harry Moon, phone 4783225, Or Peter Kohing, phone 4785865.