Welcome New Museum Members

We are very pleased to welcome our new Museum Members, who joined between February and May 2015.

- Mr Chung Kim Fung (Travis) - Life Membership
- Ms Silvia Ercole - 3 Year Membership
- Mr Chris Shai-Hee - 3 Year Family Membership
- Mr Anthony Ahpee - 1 Year Membership
- Mr Steve Eather - 1 Year Membership
- Mrs Jennifer Firestone - 1 Year Membership
- Mrs Wong Siew Foong - 1 Year Family Membership

2015 Annual General Meeting

The Museum held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 20 May, which was well attended. Several resolutions were passed among which is the decision to apply to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission for the Museum to become a Company Limited by Guarantee with a new constitution. Exciting times are ahead!

We congratulate the following who will form the Trust for 2015-2016.

- Bill Au
- Maurice Leong
- Stanley Chang
- Christine Liao
- Vincent Chow
- Lily Ong
- David Chu
- Keir James Reeves
- Sunny Duong
- Lucy Tan
- Allan Kevin Kemp
- Luisa Teh
- Michael Harold Lanyon
- Henry Thai
- Clement Lee
- Mark Wang

Staff News

The Trust has appointed Ms Lucy Tan as Acting CEO while a new CEO is recruited. The Museum would like to thank Mr Marcus Schutenko for the service and dedication rendered since January 2012. We wish him all the best as he takes up the position of Director at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

The Museum is saddened to farewell our Communications Coordinator, Charlene Wu, who has taken up a position with IG Australia as a Digital Marketing Specialist. In a caretaking position, the Museum has appointed Joan Chuang to oversee communications for the Museum. Joan brings with her 5 years of experience in public relations and media communications.

Museum at National Conference


Janel found the conference inspiring and the themes provided provoked thoughts and insights. One of the main topics of this year’s conference was advancing museum management via digital technologies for small and medium museums as well as using innovative programming to reflecting the ever-changing role of museums as education centre to places of storytelling. One particular workshop she enjoyed was: “How to activate museums using food.” – Presented by Sydney Living Museums.

It was great opportunity for the Chinese Museum to make an appearance in the National Conference, to reflect on our position in Museum sector and to also compare and learn from other museums as well.

Save the Date

The Museum turns 30 this year!

Celebrate with us at Happy Receptions (199 – 203 Union Road, Ascot Vale) on Friday, 6 November.

Further details will be announced in the coming months.

Mark it in your diary now!
Chongqing exhibition

At the request of the Australian Consul-General in Chengdu and in partnership with the Chongqing Office of Foreign Affairs, the Museum curated the bilingual exhibition, *Chungking Legation – Australia’s Diplomatic Mission to Wartime China*. The exhibition opened on 29 March by the Australian Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Chongqing Vice Mayor Chen Lüping during the Governor General’s recent State visit to China.

It will be on display in Chongqing till the end of the year. It tells the story of the establishment of the Legation and the extraordinary lives and work of the people employed there.

Book Launch

On 24 April 2015, Ms Nancy Gordon, Australian Consul-General in Chengdu, China launched *Chinese Australians: Politics, Engagement and Resistance* at the Chinese Museum. Edited by the Museum’s Curator, Sophie Couchman with Kate Bagnall, the book was the outcome of the Dragon Tails conference held at the Chinese Museum in 2011. Congratulations, Sophie and Kate, on the publication of the book.

From the Collection

Chinese or Western?

This photograph of the 1928 Hong Kong marriage of Violet Tock & Lam Chik Shang shows the wedding party in a fascinating mix of 1920s Western fashion and traditional southern Chinese attire.

*The Hong Kong Daily Press* reported that Violet’s gown was ‘a compromise between the fashions of the East and West being made in a semi-Chinese fashion’. The bridesmaids and flower girls wore 1920s Western short dresses and shoes while the groom and groomsmen wore loose ‘Oxford bag’ trousers, black top hats, patent leather Oxford shoes and white pocket squares.

In contrast, other men in the wedding party wore Ma Kua 馬褂, short jackets over Cheung Sam 長衫 while many women wore Qun Kua 裙褂, wedding jacket and skirt sets.

Violet Tock was the daughter of Chinese-Australian furniture maker Leong Chuey Tock and his first wife, Chun See. Violet was not the first Chinese Australian to be married in white with some Chinese Australians choosing white weddings from the 1890s and earlier, according to newspapers and photos from the time.

Do you have a white wedding dress with a Chinese-Australian story that you would like to donate to the Museum? Get in touch at curator@chinesemuseum.com.au

Violet Tock & Lam Chik Shang’s wedding photograph (c. 12 August 1928) Donated by Shirley Millard (2015.02.69)
The following donations have been received:

- Chandler, Jennifer, 'Chinese sojourners in Victoria: A collection of artefacts from the Upper Ovens goldfields', BA(hons), La Trobe University, 2015 (donated by the author).

- Esposito, Virginia, 'Beyond the total: Identifying inter- and intra-site variation through ceramic artefacts at Chinese goldmining settlements in southeast New South Wales, mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries', PhD, Australian National University, 2012 (donated by the author).

- Thompson, Peter, Shanghai Fury: Australian heroes of revolutionary China, William Heinemann, 2012 (donated by Vicki Harrison)

- Pearl, Cyril, Morrison of Peking, Angus and Robertson, 1967 (donated by Vicki Harrison)

- Golden Dragon Museum, Chinese Footsteps, Golden Dragon Museum, 2000 (donated by Vicki Harrison)

- Couchman, Sophie and Bagnall, Kate (eds), Chinese Australians: Politics, Engagement and Resistance, Brill, 2015 (donated by S Couchman)

Please drop us an email at collections@chinesemuseum.com.au if you have any books you would like to offer to the Museum.

If you hear a booming voice in the Museum, do not be alarmed. It is only Denning Rajit, Tour Guide and Travelling Museum Instructor for the Museum.

Denning graduated with a Master of Teaching in 2010 and has been involved in the education sector in various roles ever since. Originally from Malaysia, what led Denning to the Museum was his desire to understand his own “hidden” heritage.

Denning is half-Indigenous Malay (Dayak) through his father, and half-Chinese through his mother. Growing up, he had little exposure to his Chinese heritage. Curiosity led him to learn the Fut San 佛山 and Hok San 鶴山 styles of lion dancing, and eventually into the Museum as a Tour Guide.

On your next visit to the Museum, do not be surprised if you come across Denning entertaining his tour groups with his multifaceted talents.