

Members' Newsletter – November 2015
澳洲華人歷史協會會訊
<http://chineseaustralianhistory.org>

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In this final newsletter for 2015 you will find

A line up of events for 2016

**A report on our fascinating visit to
North Head Quarantine Station**

What's new on the website

**Film Review – *The Change*
The Chinese Experience**

**Congratulations to CAHS member
Kate Bagnall**

**Chinese-Tasmania
What was going on?**

In the New Year

New Year lunch & AGM

Sat 16th January

All members welcome

Mid-autumn festival event

Poon Choy

Sunday February 21st

Hingara Restaurant Chinatown

All members & friends welcome

For the rest of the Year

2016 lectures series (3rd Saturdays)

- **The Dictation Test** (April 16th)
- **Chinese of Bathurst** (June 18th)
- **Cabinet Makers** (August 20th)
- September – History Week
(Theme - Neighbours)
 - **Clans/district associations**
- November 19th – TBA

Our fascinating visit to North Head Quarantine Station

With a good turn out of members the tour of the Quarantine Station, conducted by Dr Peter Hobbins and supported by history student Rebecca Sum, was a highly enjoyable and informative day. A beautiful day in fact following the scorcher for the day before and the views from North Head provided a spectacular backdrop to the long history of quarantine.

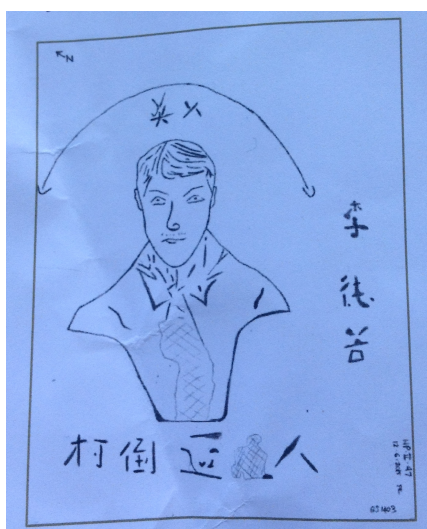
Among the many points of interest we learned that after English, Chinese are the largest number of the numerous inscriptions scattered around the site. That drain covers were a favourite for scratching out designs and words for posterity. And that accommodation at the Quarantine Station mirrored the class of ticket you had on the boat.



One of many who never left



Dr Peter Gibson explains



Drawing of a now fading inscription

Not all were happy with their situation

The inscription reads:

An Englishman
Down with this type of man!
Li Defang
(Translation: Ely Finch, 2015)

Congratulations

to CAHS member **Dr Kate Bagnall** on her becoming an ARC DECRA Fellow with the School of Humanities & Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong.

We look forward to learning about her research outcomes in the next three years and more!



What's new on the website?

Chinese-Tasmania is being featured as an area of Australia's Chinese-Australian history that has been relatively neglected. Like Tasmania in many respects it is a very different history to that elsewhere. Not least is it remarkable Chinese temple collection – certainly the best in Australia and very possibly the best outside of China.

A special feature is the **8** objects approach to history.

For more look at:

<http://chineseaustralianhistory.org/chinese-tasmania-in-8-objects/>

The Change – becoming Australian, the Chinese experience

The premier of *The Change* at Sydney's Star Event Centre heralds a fascinating new development in the presentation of Chinese-Australian history. Produced, researched, directed by and presenting Chinese-Australians the film gives us a very special perspective of Australia's Chinese history.

Largely based on the history and oral accounts of fourth and fifth generation Australian's descended from Bendigo goldminers, the film nevertheless manages to present a broadly encompassing history of the depth and nature of Chinese-Australian history. While gold mining origins are given much time, the re-walking of the Robe trek made by many Chinese gold miners in the 19th century by a Chinese migrant and his first generation Australian son brought the past and the present of Chinese-Australia into wonderful focus.

Of course there are the usual quibbles about historical accuracy to be made, with the old myth of round Chinese mining shafts trotted out yet again, and nothing said about the so many other aspects of Chinese-Australian history that has nothing to do with gold mining or Bendigo for that matter. But that being said, the film is an interesting and worthwhile presentation of a history that continues to be under-represented in the Australian communities awareness of its own history. Hopefully this film will soon be joined by other representations of Australia's fascinating and worthwhile Chinese-Australian history.