

Members' Newsletter – May, 2017
澳洲華人歷史協會會訊
<http://chineseaustralianhistory.org>

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Edited by: Michael Williams

The State Library of NSW Foundation
in collaboration with the
Chinese Australian Historical Society Inc
are delighted to invite you to

**The UNESCO World Heritage Diaolou Towers of Southern China and their
Australian links**

Presented by Associate Professor Dr Jin Hua Tan, Guangdong Qiaoxiang Research Center,
Wuyi University, People's Republic of China



WHEN

6.00 for 6.15pm
Friday, 16 June 2016

WHERE

Friends Room,
Mitchell Library Building
State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney

RSVP

See CAHS website
<http://chineseaustralianhistory.org> for
booking details or contact Ann Toy on
0403 006 028 by Monday 12 June

Dr Tan's lecture will focus on the history and culture of the Sze Yap (Wuyi) and the UNESCO World heritage architecture of Guangdong Province built in the late 19th-century and early 20th-century and their Australian links.

IMAGE: A view of the towers and mansions in Kaiping, Guangdong Province, PRC.

Beyond the New Gold Mountain

**A conference hosted by the
Chinese Community Council of Australia (Victoria Chapter)**

Date: Saturday 24 June 2017 (Full day)

Venue: RMIT University, Melbourne

This conference is part of a larger CCCAV project which includes “The Great Walk from Robe SA to Victoria” (in remembrance of the 160th anniversary when many Chinese walked from Robe to the Victorian goldfields (May 6-25), and an exhibition “Chinese Fortunes, A Bilingual Exhibition” at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE) Ballarat (Jan 28- June 25) and later at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne.

The conference keynote speaker is Associate Professor Selia Jin Hua Tan, of the Guangdong Qiaoxiang Research Centre, Wuyi University, China. Professor Tan’s address will be followed by five sessions, each with a panel of speakers from academia and the community:

- Session 1 The New Gold Mountain: 19th Century Colonial Australia
- Session 2 Federation and the Immigration Restriction Act 1901
- Session 3 Beyond the White Australia Policy
- Session 4 Chinese Australians: Contributions and status
- Session 5 Looking Ahead: Action and Challenges

The Conference fee is \$50 or \$30 for students/concession. This fee is waived for interstate or overseas attendees. As CCCAV resources are currently maxed out with the Walk from Robe and the registration form is not yet on their website, if you are an interstate or overseas attendee, please provide me with your name(s), address, phone number and email address and I will ensure you are registered. For local attendees the registration form should be on the website by the end of the month.

www.cccavic.org.au

Conference Convenor: Daphne Lowe Kelley

lowekelley@bigpond.com

0417 655 233

The Chinese Walk from Robe

A very significant event took place in May 2017, a re-enactment of the Chinese walk from Robe in South Australia to the Victorian goldfields 160 years ago. In Australia, the discovery of gold in New South Wales in 1851 sparked a major gold rush for the next half century. Men from all over the world flocked to the goldfields and to the Chinese, Australia and New Zealand was known as the 'New Gold Mountain.'

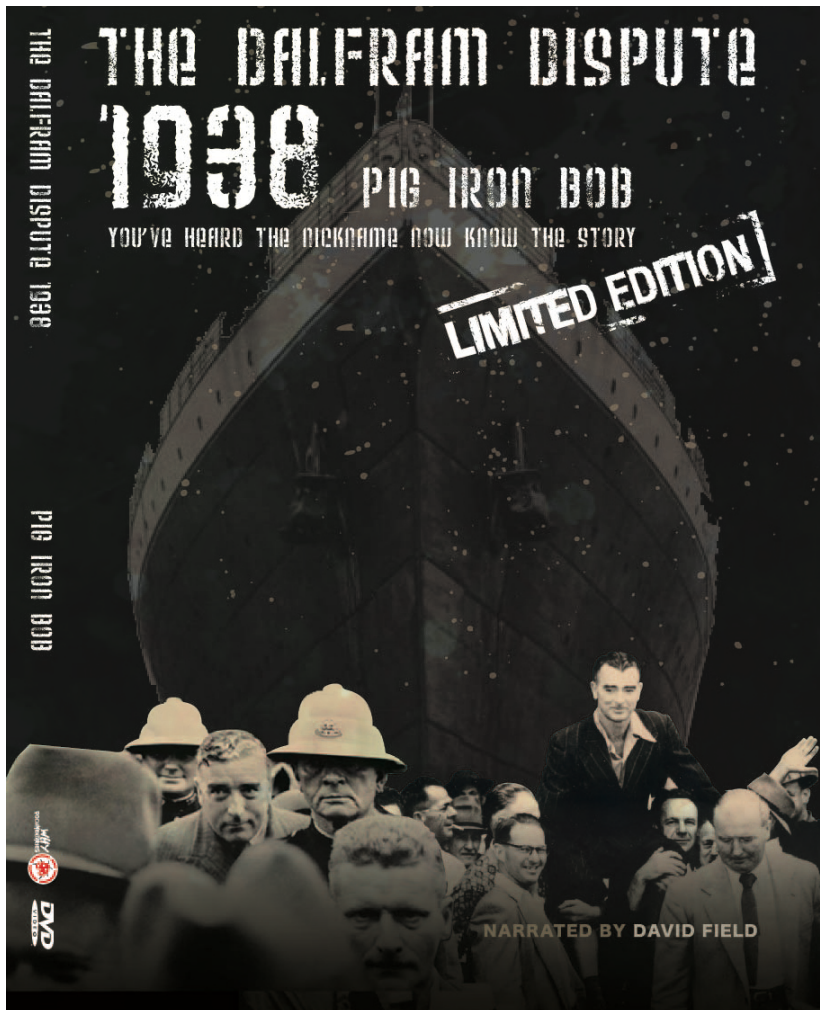
As animosity between the Europeans and Chinese increased, anti-Chinese legislation was enacted to restrict their numbers. The government of colonial Victoria was the first to enact such legislation in 1855 by restricting the number of Chinese a ship could carry and placing a head tax of £10 on Chinese arriving at Victorian ports. In order to avoid this head tax, which was roughly equivalent to the fare from China to Australia, the boats sailed to South Australia and the Chinese then walked hundreds of kilometres to the Victorian goldfields.

In 1857, nearly 15,000 Chinese disembarked in the small South Australian township of Robe and walked more than 400 kilometres from there to the Victorian goldfield at Ballarat and beyond. To commemorate this epic walk, the Victorian Chapter of the Chinese Community Council of Australia organised 20 walkers, young and not so young, who set off from Robe on May 6 and walked over 500 kilometres to Melbourne where the Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews will welcome them on the steps of Parliament House on May 25.

Premier Andrews then offered an historic apology to the Chinese community of Victoria.

[\[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-25/victoria-apologises-to-chinese-for-racism-during-gold-rush-era/8558998?pfmredir=sm\]](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-25/victoria-apologises-to-chinese-for-racism-during-gold-rush-era/8558998?pfmredir=sm)

Robe is a small historic town on the Limestone Coast of South Australia about 320 kilometres from Adelaide. Today it has a population of about 2,000 but this swells to over 20,000 in the summer months. To set the scene, the population of Robe decorated the town and organised a wonderful Chinese Festival with lion dances, dragon boat races, entertainment, food and drink stalls and a parade with local children and adults taking part.



The first CAHS event this year was the screening of the documentary film *The Dalfram Dispute 1938: Pig Iron Bob*, on Saturday March 18, followed by an informative Q&A session with the film's director Sandra Pires.

Sandra also about talked about her new project *Yesterday Stories*, a history gathering online tool. *Yesterday Stories* proposes to create a tourist app of Chinese cultural landmarks in Sydney and focused on stories associated with Sydney's Chinese community in the Haymarket.

The CAHS is looking forward to collaborating with Sandra on this exciting project success is dependent on collaboration with the Chinese Australian community.

Sandra is seeking funding support from the Australia-China Council, and from interested individuals and businesses.

For further information about Sandra's firm Why Documentaries, please look at her website - www.whydocumentaries.com

Will Sydney get a museum of Chinese-Australian history?

While a motion to form a working party to look into this question was defeated at a City of Sydney council meeting early this month at least the issue has been raised publically.

The former Haymarket Library building as a perfect site for such a museum was perhaps the catalyst but it looks doubtful anything will happen fast enough to take up the opportunity this allows.

Nevertheless any discussion and proposals concerning the long overdue establishment of a museum of Chinese-Australian history in Sydney is welcome.

Any ideas? Donations? Leadership? All is potential at this stage.

Mr Robert Ho OAM, former CAHS President, passed away in China recently.

Robert Ho was a well-known Chinese community leader who was actively involved in fundraising for charities and assisting many community groups. He was also given a "Lifetime Achiever" award by the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association in 2011 for his outstanding commitment and service to this industry. He was a teacher in the TAFE Ryde Catering College. In addition he also held cooking courses for Chinese students in Australia for them to be qualified to be granted PR status in 1989 after the Tiananmen incident in Beijing.

Robert was elected as a Councillor to the City of Sydney Council in 1999. He was a former Chairperson of the Australian Chinese Charity Foundation, and President of the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, and Chinese-Australian Historical Society, and also acted as honorary advisors to numerous organisations.

Robert was awarded an OAM in 1995 for services to the community and international trade.



Family History Group

Dawn Wong's talk at our April meeting was an excellent explanation of what Probate documents are and how they can be used by family historians in their research. The examples from her own family history research made the topic all the more interesting. Thanks Dawn for an excellent afternoon!

Continuing a theme of practical family history our next meeting's headline thought will be

"What would I do differently if I were starting out again in family history?"

More than just a reflection for old hands, this session intends to present helpful tips for beginners and provide encouragement to all of us to continue to do good family history research. If you haven't started doing your family history yet, come along, bring your questions and we'll help you get started.

Meeting details to be confirmed but pencil in Saturday 29th July, 2:00pm.

For those that have missed it:

"Heads I Win, Tails You Lose: The Test it was a Crime to Fail"
will be presented at the WSU Parramatta campus on June 6th at 11am.

Bookings:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-talk-heads-i-win-tails-you-lose-the-test-it-was-a-crime-to-fail-registration-34682493271>