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Introducing Committee Member Malcolm Oakes SC:

Malcolm is a senior counsel practising at the New South Wales Bar who has a lay interest in Chinese-Australian history. He has published a paper on William Lee, who in 1938 was the first barrister of Chinese descent admitted to the New South Wales Bar ([available online](#)), presented a paper at Dragontails 2017 Conference on Otto Kong Sing, who was admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales in 1895 and is the earliest identified person of Chinese descent admitted as a lawyer in any of the former Australian colonies, and presented a paper at the CHINA Inc 2018 Conference on Lai Kam Tai, his wife’s Great Uncle and a businessman in Cooktown in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Reflecting on my research journey – Natalie Fong 鄭黎頌, PhD student, Griffith University



For the last six years, I have been researching the history of Chinese merchants in the Northern Territory ('the Territory'), 1880-1950, including my own relatives. Now that I am in the final stages of my PhD, I thought I would share with you some of my discoveries. These discoveries meant my project became more than just a localised study of one Chinese community, but rather an approach which could be applied to Chinese communities in Australia and elsewhere, and also to find connections between these communities.

- The Chinese in Australia and in many locations around the world actively protested against discriminatory legislation, often led by merchants and supported by European elites. [My project began when I was living in London](#) and decided to research anti-opium protests by Chinese. I found [a letter to the editor of the Northern Territory Times and Gazette in 1907](#) from Chinese storekeepers in Darwin responding to allegations that they illegally traded in opium. One of the signatories was 'Wing Wah Loong', the business established by my great-grandfather, Fong How (鄭修榮/Kwong Sau Wing/Fong Siu Wing). One of my thesis chapters surveys protests organised by Chinese merchants in the Territory; I have published this as a [journal article](#).
- The competitiveness of the Chinese merchants in the Territory may have influenced the formulation of the 1901 *Immigration Restriction Act* ('the White Australia Policy') – read more in [my article here](#).
- Chinese merchants often worked with other Chinese merchants, within their clans but also from other clans and in other places. Clans created networks of businesses staffed by male relatives. Through material from government archives and our family's collections, I have documented connected Fong/Kwong businesses in the NT, WA, NSW, VIC, Fiji, the Philippines. These businesses were linked to two import/export 'hubs', [Man Sun Wing](#) (萬信榮, M: *Wàn Xìn Róng*) in Hong Kong and Wing Wah (永和, M: *Yǒng Hé*) in Sydney. Another network of businesses, that of the Loueys in Victoria, was also connected to these hubs. My great-grandfather and Victorian merchant Louey Way Sun (雷維信, M: *Léi Wéixìn*) were partners in these hubs and thus of a transnational, transfamilial enterprise. Man Sun Wing also exported to Samoa, New Zealand, Peru and the US. A managing partner, Lui Leung (雷亮), was a founder of the [Kowloon Motor Bus Company](#). This research will hopefully be published as a book chapter. [Business directories held by Hong Kong University Libraries](#) list hundreds more such enterprises with links to Australia!
- The wills of several Australian-Chinese merchants are held at the [Hong Kong Public Records Office](#). Another project for another day!
- In 2018, I made my first trip to mainland China, as part of [Dr Kate Bagnall](#) and [Dr Sophie Couchman's Chinese Australian Hometown Heritage Tour](#). With their assistance, I visited the [ancestral villages of Fong How and the houses built from his profits](#), and also the ancestral village of [another great-grandfather, Lowe Dep](#), who became a market gardener in the Territory. It was great to meet relatives who still live in or near the villages.
- Many Chinese merchants were outlived by their wives in Australia who subsequently took over family businesses. Daughters of Chinese merchants and businessmen also became involved in business from the early 1900s. This research will hopefully appear in an edited collection soon!

Talking Chinese Australian History – our new Youtube Channel

COVID19 has impacted our world in many ways including the suspension of our regular live presentations. However we have successfully replaced these with our new series of zoom presentations, which have a number of advantages:

- they can be recorded for catch up viewing
- they allow presenters to present who are not in Sydney
- they allow viewers who are not in Sydney.

How can you help? When you view any of our presentations on Youtube please also become a **subscriber**. Once we reach the magic number of **100** our series gets its own link and we will be better able to reach our audience.

Catch up

Talking Chinese Australian history
Presented by the Chinese Australian Historical Society

With: Dr Karen Schamberger
Topic: *Conflict at Lambing Flat: Memory, Myth & History*
When: *Thanks everyone who attended*
Zoom: Well done Karen



A series of discussions with prominent researchers.
For previous talks see: www.chineseaustralianhistory.org

Talking Chinese Australian history
Presented by the Chinese Australian Historical Society

With: Professor Darryl Low Choy
Topic: *Sun Kum Ty: Qing warrior to mysterious colonial Sydney merchant*
When: Saturday September 5th – 2pm
Zoom: <http://eventbrite.com.au/e/117619546229>



A series of discussions with prominent researchers.
For previous talks see: www.chineseaustralianhistory.org

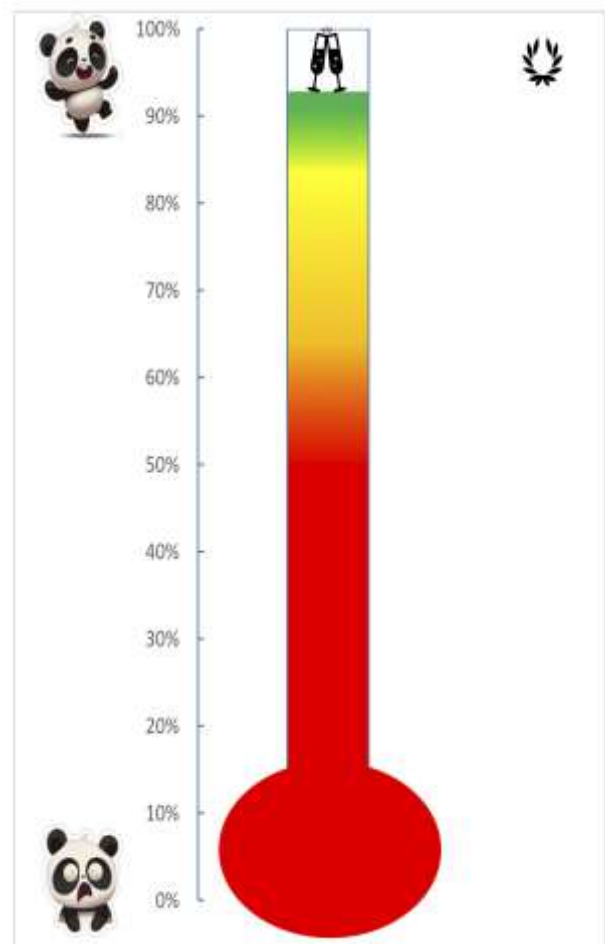
We have many more exciting Talks on Chinese Australian History planned but we are happy to [hear from you](#) any suggestions as to people or topics you'd like to hear about.

Thank you for your generous donations

We recently made an appeal for donations to help us continue to work of the CAHS and were very pleased at your generous response. As you can see from our funds thermometer we have made tremendous progress in covering our annual expenditure – 93% in fact!

As we are so nearly there we look forward to some more generosity to not only allow us to cover our costs but perhaps even begin to expand our activities – please see [Once & Future](#) for a run down of what we have been doing and plan to do.

Name	date rec'd	\$
Shan Zou	16/08/2020	\$ 28.00
Gunther Hang	16/08/2020	\$ 150.00
Malcolm Oakes	21/07/2020	\$ 239.60
Alan Tang	25/07/2020	\$ 10.00
Gordon Mar	6/08/2020	\$ 30.00
Dawn Wong	19/08/2020	\$ 119.00
Noreen Kirkman	26/08/2020	\$ 88.00
Shaw/Eastment	26/08/2020	\$ 119.00
GW Chan	1/09/2020	\$ 22.00
Karen (Kaz) Ross	24/08/2020	\$ 50.00
Anonymous	18/08/2020	\$ 88.00
Anonymous	17/08/2020	\$ 100.00
Taryn Young	17/08/2020	\$ 88.00
Peter Trist	17/08/2020	\$ 88.00
John Young	24/07/2020	\$ 20.00
Gordon Mar	7/09/2020	\$ 300.00



Appeal for information for the forthcoming publication of an exciting new work of Chinese Australian oral history.

Do you know anything about these people?

Albert Leong

Albert Leong (also known as Albert Lee On) was born in the gulf country of North Queensland in 1916 but came to live in Sydney prior to the second world war and worked in Sydney as a waterside worker or 'wharfie' from 1950 until his retirement in 1977. While doing general labouring work loading and unloading cargo ships he worked for many years at White Bay with passenger ships for the P&O line in particular. His brothers Fred and Arthur Leong also moved to Sydney after the war. Albert never married and lived with a married cousin named George Liao at Arncliffe from the 1960s onwards. He was closely involved with the Chinese Youth League from the 1940s and the trade union movement supporting the Chinese Seamen's Union as well as acting as union delegate on the wharves. It is understood he would have nieces and nephews and their children still living in Sydney.



Leung Pui

Leung Pui, born in China in 1914, came to Sydney in after the second world war and worked as a waiter in various restaurants around Chinatown. We understand he liked to talk to many of the 'old timers' in the Chinatown area to learn about their lives. He passed away in 1996 and was survived by at least one son Leung Kit Yun and his three children Edmund, Edna and Edwin Leung.



Lee Sing

Lee Sing was born in China and came to Brisbane in 1909 as a teenager before moving to Sydney in 1911 to work as a carpenter. He travelled back to China many times before the second world war. After his first wife died in China he married again and was able to bring his second wife to Australia after the war. He moved from carpentry work into the fruit and vegetable business in the 1930s then ran a fish and chip shop in Harris St later in his life in the 1950s and 1960s. He lived in Kirk St Ultimo and had six



Please email Richard Horsburgh: richard.horsburgh@bigpond.com

In January 1911 the Commonwealth of Australia took formal charge of the Northern Territory from South Australia.

This was reported in the *Chinese Times*:

Racial boundary divides in the northern part of South Australia, now merged under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth government. The official document was read as the national flag was raised, but the flag was newly made by the Chinese because there is in Port Darwin no Westerner who made flags. The Chinese have lived in Port Darwin for decades.

Naturalized, but officials refuse to use the national flag made by the Chinese. According to them, yellow and white races are divided for a long time. Today the national flag is made by the yellow people, rather not be used.

What is discrimination of the races? Why this consolidation of its national ideology? My yellow race does not deserve this shame.

Chinese Times (Melbourne, Vic. : 1902 - 1922), Saturday 7 January 1911, page 9

○他非則一鴻溝 南澳省北地地方 今始歸併聯邦
政府管轄 現擬撥打雲地方官宜讀公文 俾眾週知
當時并豎本洲國旗 但該旗為華人手製 因學中無
製旗之西人故也 該華人已旅居撥打雲數十年 故能經
入翰 而土人以國旗製日噴人之手 卒不肯豎 仍用
舊旗云
按黃白種界。久分畛域。今以國旗製自黃人之手。寧
弃毫不用。其種界之歧視為何如。其國家思想之固結
為何如。吾黃人也無愧然。

[Feel free to provide a better translation.]

For an account of the 1911 flag incident see:
[Ultra-White Australia Faddists and a Qing Consul](#)

The full text can be found here:
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/168949970>

Welcome to new and renewing members

New Members - Welcome

1. Life Members

Valerie Lee	Justina Lui
Mark Seeto	Hilda MacLean
Mei-Su Chen	Joanne Real

2. Annual Member

Neville Jones	Denise O’Dea.
Gilbert Chan	Laurence Lock
Jo Henwood	Lee.
Kam Louie	Noreen Kirkman
Shan Zou	Jon Kehrer
Kristy Davidson	Gunther Hang
Shirley Lum	Alan O’Neill
Karla Whitmore	
Peter Wong Wing Kee	
Angela Dep-Powell	
Deborah Armenante	
Linda Williams	

Renewing Members – thank you

Juanita Kwok	Kevin Shaw
Natalie Fong	John Young
Alan Tang	Marilyn Sue Dooley
Christine Yeats	Richard Horsburgh
Gerald Mah	Rosemary Elliott
Janice Eastment	Marie Chan
Megan Neilson	Vivienne Lock Lee
Phillip Emery	Gordon Mar
Peter Trist	Julie Lim
Rose Boutin	Malcolm Oakes
Karen Schamberger	Colin Lum
Kerry Choy	Wing-Fai Wong
Man-Yee Leanfore	Barry Li
Cheryl Cumines	

Apologies if we have missed anyone –
 you will appear in the next newsletter
 as we update our records.

Appeal for expressions of interest in being a committee member

All the talk of new members, donations and the new *Talking Chinese Australian History* series is the public face of what is happening with the CAHS. Behind the scenes the committee is thinking about the future, ideally bringing onto the committee **younger members** and members who are **not Sydney based**. Since Covid-19 we have all had to “tech-up” to mastering videoconferencing (Zoom). Zoom for our committee meetings is an opportunity to make the CAHS fully “Australian” in more ways than one.

Moving into the future involves renewal and people willing to take an active organisational role on the CAHS committee. If you feel you would like to contribute to the ongoing work of the CAHS and would like to know more please don’t hesitate to contact us on:

contact.cahs@gmail.com

What might being a committee member involve?

- Willingness and time to response to emails and discussion - perhaps once a week.
- Willingness and time to attend a zoom meeting - perhaps once a month.
- Willingness and time to be involved in at least one ongoing task or project.
- And of course an interest in Chinese Australian history and learning how the CAHS is hoping to promote and research this in the future.