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Message from the President

We have entered the Society's twenty-first year on a very optimistic note. My President's report (dated 28 November 2022) which was sent to all members, outlined not only our achievements that year but our expectations and aspirations for this and future years.

The headline for this newsletter is our extremely exciting news of CAHS's success in gaining a major grant from the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations for our "Scattered Legacy" project- please see article below.

The new Management Committee is settling into their role and it is encouraging that CAHS, a national organisation, now has representatives from four states and territories. Moving forward we have embarked on a strategic planning process to map out our next twenty years. We are also confirming the membership of our Sub-Committees and are calling on members to assist.

2023 is shaping up to be a very busy but productive year for the Society and we look forward to sharing the rewards with you.

Darryl Low Choy
 President CAHS
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Meet the 2023 CAHS Management Committee

Darryl Low Choy (President)

Darryl Low Choy is a qualified town planner, a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Fellow of the Environmental Institute of Australia & New Zealand. After a career of 35 years, he retired in 2017, as Head of Planning at Griffith University and was made Professor Emeritus. His parallel military career commenced as an Army school cadet before enlisting as a Private and rising to the rank of Major General in the Reserves. He retired in 2007 after 43 years of service.



A fifth generation Australian with Chinese and English heritage, he has developed a strong interest in genealogy. His family history research has embraced China, England, New Zealand and Australia. He is a Board Member and Director of the Society of Australian Genealogists, President of the Chinese Australian Historical Society and Patron of the Queensland Military Historical Society.

Malcolm Oakes (Vice President)

Malcolm is a senior counsel practising at the NSW Bar who has a lay interest in Chinese-Australian history. Currently Vice President, he has served as Treasurer and Committee Member. In 2019, Malcolm co-led with member Dr Juanita Kwok the Society's Fong Lee's Lane Excursion to Wellington. He has published on William Lee, the first barrister of Chinese descent admitted to the New South Wales Bar. Malcolm gave the Society's NSW History Week presentation in 2018 on Otto Kong Sing, admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales in 1895 and the earliest identified person of Chinese descent to become a lawyer in any of the former Australian colonies. He also presented a paper at the CHINA Inc 2018 Conference on Lai Kam Tai, a businessman in Cooktown in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 2021, Malcolm was co-presented in the Society's History Week presentation - *A Chinatown Building Worth Saving*.



Kevin Tang (Secretary)

Kevin Tang is the secretary of CAHS and is based in Sydney. Kevin takes an interest in local and regional Chinese history. His family origins derive from the Pearl River Delta in Southern China. He is an active participant in the promotion of Australian Chinese culture and identity locally in Sydney. He is also a barrister.



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Susan Leong (Treasurer)

Susan is a Chinese Canadian and migrated to Sydney in her early teens. She is a Certified Practising Accountant and worked for the Commonwealth Public Service. She has a keen interest in the history of the Chinese diaspora.

Susan is a foundational member of the Chinese Australian Historical Society. She is also Vice-President of the Australasian Art and Stageworks, a committee member of the Australian China Friendship Society of NSW Inc and the Moving Forward Together Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competition for school students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Susan was the founding Treasurer for the Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA).



Kam Louie (Member)

Kam was born in China and joined his father in Sydney in 1959. He has spent most of his life studying China and published 18 books on Chinese culture. Recently, he has been looking into the Chinese diaspora, especially those in Australia. Currently Honorary Professor at Hong Kong University and UNSW, Kam was Dean of Arts at HKU and Professor of Chinese at UQ and ANU. He has also taught at Nanjing, Auckland and Murdoch Universities. He has studied at USyd, CUHK and PekingU, and held professorial fellowships at the Center for Chinese Studies, Taipei and NTU, Singapore.



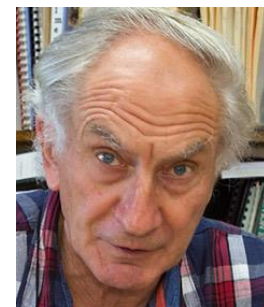
Noreen Kirkman (Member - Western Australia)

Noreen is a librarian with a PhD in History. Her historical research interests in Chinese Australian history include women, students, indentured labourers, miners, wartime evacuees and the 7 Employment Company (Chinese).



Gordon Grimwade (Member - North Queensland)

Gordon is a north Queensland historical archaeologist with forty years involvement in Chinese Australian heritage. Key interests are in the conservation and presentation of our multicultural heritage. Gordon was project manager for major conservation and interpretation of Australia's only remaining rural temple, Hou Wang Miao, Atherton. A prestigious John Oxley Award provided the opportunity to research the 19th century overland migration of Chinese from the NT's Top End to Queensland. Gordon has published widely on Australian history and archaeology and is Adjunct Senior Lecturer at Flinders University and the University of New England.



Neville Jones (Member - Northern Territory)

Living in Darwin, Neville has worked in the regional and remote areas of the Northern Territory for more than 50 years and is married into the Fong Lim family. Serving on the committees of the Genealogical Society of the NT and the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (NT Branch), Neville is the Director of the Chung Wah Society's NT Chinese Museum. Neville holds a Diploma of Family History and manages the Society's Family Tree Project.



Scattered Legacy

It is always exciting news to be successful in a grant application and when this long-standing concept receives \$150,000 it is also most gratifying.

The CAHS application to the **National Foundation for Australia - China Relations** has been accepted and work will soon begin on this innovative and foundational project.

What is “Scattered Legacy”?

A core element of Australia’s national, as well as local and regional, history remains hidden and inaccessible. The historical marginalisation of Chinese people in Australia has meant their material heritage has also been marginalised, making it comparatively rare, and difficult to find or access. Yet a remarkable amount of historical and heritage material related to Chinese Australian history is scattered around its many museums, historical societies and other institutions, not to mention what is in family collections yet to be discovered. Most of this heritage is not widely known, much is mislabelled or misinterpreted, while some is rare and valuable both historically and monetarily.

The aim of this project is to increase community visibility and knowledge of Australia’s Chinese heritage. This will be achieved through establishing a wide-ranging contextualised archive and database of Chinese Australian material heritage that is as accessible to the wider community as possible by integrating it with a virtual museum interface.

Through this combined archive/virtual museum approach the project will bring the Chinese element of Australian history into focus and assist in removing it from its marginal or ‘exotic’ position. This marginalisation being a remaining legacy of the White Australia period and the whitewashing of Australian history that went with it.

Michael Williams



This is an example of what we believe to just one of thousands of objects, items, artifacts and documents in private hands. Often, as this one was, of uncertain use or origin.

Literally as we were on our way to Broome airport Doug Fong, son of a Broome Pearl merchant, presented us with not one but two long brass pipes which he had no idea about.

Standing in the blazing midday sun of Broome our examination was perhaps more cursory than it might otherwise have been. Nevertheless, sufficient images and some desktop research by the wonderful Mei-Su Chen (in the relative cool of Sydney) soon revealed it was a late-Qing or early Republican 滅火銅槍 or fire extinguishing gun.

While there is more to learn, these, and we hope many more such objects, entered into the *Scattered Legacy* database and made publically accessible will greatly enhance our knowledge and appreciation of the history and heritage of Chinese Australia.

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CAHS 2023 advocacy thus far....

Late 2022/early 2023 was an extremely busy period for the Management Committee in terms of calls for the Chinese Australian community to make submissions on plans and proposals of a historical and heritage nature. It is disappointing, but a common practice for many authorities, to make calls for public comment over the busy Christmas–New Year period, in the name of so-called public consultation. Never-the-less CAHS has been able to respond so our position on these matters is on the public record. During this period CAHS responded with the following submissions:

- Rejection of the current Dixon Street Improvements report before Sydney City Council as it failed to acknowledge and deal with the history and heritage aspects of Dixon St and its wider Haymarket context (November 2022);
- Rejection of the draft Thematic History study for Sydney Chinatown commissioned by Sydney City Council (January 2023);
- Response to the Young High School/Lambing Flat riot site draft Heritage Interpretation Plan and process (January/February 2023).

In addition to these issues which have arisen thus far, we have also had watching briefs across a number of other legacy matters, including:

- Proposal by the Cook Shire Council in Far North Queensland to relocate the currently prominently located Chinese Pioneers statues and memorial to a relatively hidden location off the “tourist route”. CAHS made a submission during 2022 opposing this proposal and suggested an alternative site adjoining the site where the pioneers would actually have set foot on Australian soil on their journey from China to the Palmer River Goldfield;
- Proposal by Croydon Shire Council to redevelop the heritage site of its former “Chinatown”;
- Proposed names for 2 lanes at 180 George Street Sydney by Sydney City Council;
- Heritage Protection for the Kwong War Chong (KWC) building at 82-84 Dixon Street, Haymarket, Sydney; and
- Loss of a dedicated Chinese history and heritage section (and display) in the now renamed Cooktown Museum of the Queensland National Trust.

As you can see, there are many Chinese Australian history and heritage issues at threat across the country. In order to maintain this degree and pace of advocacy, CAHSs Management Committee will need assistance from its members. Members wishing to assist are requested to contact the us at: contact.cahs@gmail.com

Envisioning the next twenty years for CAHS

Last year we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Society. During 2022, reviews of the past twenty years identified many positive initiatives that successfully supported the Society’s principal aim of promoting Chinese Australian history and their contribution to Australia. These reflections naturally turned to the question:

What of the next twenty years for the Society?

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We are all aware that our world is rapidly changing around us and that we are now increasingly being called upon to rethink how we do business. Whilst this future is highly uncertain and no one can predict it, we can observe some definite trends and changes which are impacting now on how we do business, how we as a volunteer Society engage with our members and the general community, how we protect and preserve our history and heritage, and how we facilitate and further research into the contributions that Chinese have made, and continue to make, to the development of Australia.

To these ends, the Management Committee has embarked on a strategic planning process designed to map out a long term plan of operations into the future. By now all members should have received a Discussion and Background Paper which highlights some of the many changes we are experiencing and likely to witness in the future, This Paper will provide some context to the Questionnaire which accompanied it which has been designed to engage all members of the Society, thereby giving them an opportunity to comment and to have their say on the future of CAHS.

As we move forward, we will use the results of the questionnaire survey to develop the content for the Society's Strategic Plan. It will be aimed at positioning the Society to take advantage of opportunities that it encounters in an uncertain future world. Essentially it will guide CAHS through the next twenty years whilst meeting the aspirations of the members.

Hence it is imperative that members have their say and return the completed questionnaire to d.lowchoy@griffith.edu.au by **21 April 2023**.

Get involved in your CAHS

It is vital Society members become involved in the affairs and events of the Society. We extend an invitation to you to join a portfolio subcommittee:

No	Portfolio Subcommittee	No	Portfolio Subcommittee
1	Cultural Heritage & Archaeology	6	Archives and CAHS history
2	Family History Special Interest Group (with the Society of Australian Genealogists)	7	Publications and CAHS Newsletter
3	Strategic Planning	8	CAHS Facebook
4	Events (talks, seminars, history week activities, walks etc)	9	Web site management
5	Grants		

If you would like more information or wish to volunteer, please email us at: contact.cahs@gmail.com

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Great response to the Chinese Australian Research Interest Group's first meeting

The Chinese Australian Research Interest Group recommenced in 2023, with Kam Louie as group leader. In partnership with the Society of Australian Genealogists, this year's first meeting was held via Zoom on 25 March 2023 and attended by thirty people. Alex Mountain, the Society's archivist, introduced the session and emphasised the importance of interest groups such as the Chinese Australian Research Interest Group.



Kam Louie

Kam can trace his male ancestral line back over 1,000 years (or over almost 30 generations) through genealogy books or *Jiapu*. He singled out Lei (Louie) Caoyuan in the 15th century, who moved to Guangdong from Kaifeng, and whose great-great-grandson Lei Zhitang established the Louie clan in Dutou Village in Zhongshan. Kam's paternal grandfather Louie Hock-Low (Louie Gin), born in Dutou in the 1880s, arrived in Australia during the early 1900s. Louie Gin was a market gardener in Sydney for around 50 years but made several visits back to China to visit his family.

Kam's father, Louey Hong Kin (Louey Sun), was born in 1918 during one of Louie Hock-Low's visits. Louey Sun completed his secondary education at the Shekki School and became a teacher for a year or two. He was a chef and cook in Australia and worked at Chequers and the Mandarin Club. Louey Sun worked hard and lived in the Wing On warehouse until his wife and family joined him during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Kam hopes to learn more about the women in his family, especially his paternal grandmother (nee Lau), who died in July 1973. He concluded by saying that "ordinary people can have extraordinary lives."

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Chinese Australian Family History Research

Picnic to celebrate the founding of the
Republic of China, Melbourne, 21 February 1912,
Australasian, 24 February 1912, p. 64



Dr Kate Bagnall
Senior Lecturer in Humanities
University of Tasmania

Society of Australian Genealogists
Chinese Australian Research Interest Group
25 March 2023

Kate Bagnall

Dr Kate Bagnall is an acclaimed researcher of Chinese Australian history and the course coordinator of the [Diploma of Family History](#) at the University of Tasmania. She gave an impressive and absorbing talk covering several topics, including an in-depth overview of Chinese Australian history from 1803 to 1949, the home countries of early Chinese immigrants, a fascinating account of the many languages reflecting rich cultural diversity and the variations in the pronunciation of clan/family name. Kate identified the primary records to locate information about individuals and families and the challenges of tracing Chinese names in English sources. When roots-searching in China, she advised family historians to have the details of the clan or family, the county, and the village or sub-village. Kate concluded that while researching Chinese Australian family history might be working with different records, the techniques are the same as for other family histories.

The many questions posed to Kate and Kam and the positive vibe in chat conversations reflected the event's success. Alex Mountain concluded that Kate gave an incredible overview of sources necessary to undertake Chinese Australian family history. Alex also commended Kam for showing the importance of ordinary people to family and Chinese Australian history.

The Chinese Australian Research Interest Group will have two further meetings on **22 July 2023** and **7 October 2023**. CAHS members and others interested in Chinese Australian family history are most welcome to attend.

Family history resources

Kate Bagnall

Below is a useful list of resources to assist with your Chinese Australian family history research:

- Kate Bagnall, *Chinese Australians and the Immigration Restriction Act in New South Wales: A Guide to Finding Records* ([download here](#))
- Roots Village DB: 'Index of Clan Names By Villages' published by the American Consulate General in Hong Kong in the 1970s ([web link](#))
- US Army topographical maps of Guangdong: These maps correspond to the map references in the Roots Village DB ([web link](#))
- Chinese Genealogy: A community-run forum for Chinese family history, especially locating ancestral villages ([web link](#))
- *Family History for Beginners and Beyond*, 16th edition, HAGSOC, 2020 (available from [Family History ACT](#))
- Danielle Lautrec, *The Good Genealogist: How to Improve the Quality of Your Family History Research*, SAG, 2022 (available from [SAG](#))

Future newsletter suggestions

CAHS encourages members to share their stories and research interests by submitting short articles to the

CAHS Newsletter.

Please send your submissions to:

contact.cahs@gmail.com