

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has gone by very quickly and this report will be the last one for the year.

The Association has been very active this year in preparing and collating material for our forthcoming 80th anniversary celebrations next year in the form of a commemorative book about the history of the Jungsen people in New Zealand, their ancestral villages, their aspirations, their obstacles and their achievements. This has been a huge task and our apologies to those if the editorial committee have left out some people whom you think should have been mentioned in the book. We have publicly asked for nominations and information to help our village co-ordinators, but we can only work on information received and the final draft is in the hands of the editorial committee chaired by Henry Chan. This book should be of great historical value to those studying Chinese history sometime in the future and a copy will be stored in the archives of the National Library of New Zealand. It is anticipated that there will be a copy for every person registered to come to the Association's 80th celebrations on the 5th August 2006. Please make an entry in your diary now!!

It is with regret that we had to cancel our proposed Adult Cantonese Camp to Guangzhou and tour of China in March 2006. Owing to the withdrawal of some interested parties at the last minute and other unforeseen factors like the avian flu' and the sudden rise in fuel prices, the organizers decided that with the small numbers interested, it would not be economical for the tour to proceed. It is hoped that we could look at it again in the next year. The idea behind the camp was for New Zealand born Chinese to go back to a Cantonese speaking environment and improve their skills in the dialect in order that they may teach their own children or grandchildren their heritage. It was not to be a classroom study camp but the programme offered to us included visits to cultural sites, teaching Chinese calligraphy, Chinese painting, tai chi and the martial arts. So bear this in mind should we call for registrations next year!

I am concerned that there are not many members coming forward to be in the committee. We have an organization that has been in operation for almost 80 years, its members pay their subscriptions regularly but tend to leave all decision making to a chosen few. You receive this newsletter because you are a member and you are entitled to have a say in all matters pertaining to the Association. The current committee still need about five members to fill the vacancies left by those who have retired or gone. Please contact me or Allen Chang if you are interested in joining the committee.

This year the committee has again decided not to hold a Christmas function owing to the number of other functions that happen this time of the year but that we will concentrate to hold a Chinese New Year function on the 29th

January 2006 at the Regal Restaurant in Courtenay Place. Please make a note in your diaries to attend this function.

The committee sends its condolences to Rita Lowe and family on the sudden death of Charlie Lowe. Charlie was a member of the committee for many years and retired from the committee because of ill health a couple of years ago. He was a dedicated committee member and his knowledge of Chinese customs will be missed by us New Zealand born Jungsen Chinese. His wife and family will be comforted to know that they can turn to the Association for help in time of need.

As Christmas is fast approaching and we all have our own personal problems to attend to, please remember that there are others in this world who are worst off than you. So please take care, think of others, enjoy your holidays and be forgiving.

On behalf of the Tung Jung Association, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Gordon Wu
November 2005.

ADULT CANTONESE LANGUAGE CAMP March – April 2006 – cancellation

A decision has been taken to not proceed with this language camp. Factors influencing this decision were the rising fuel prices, the floating dollar and recent publicity about the bird flu, now rapidly spreading through Asia. The numbers of people intending to go on the camp made it uneconomic and too expensive.

Perhaps at some later stage a further effort will be made to run such an activity. Hopefully people will appreciate the wider concept of the idea and not view it as simply sitting in a classroom for a couple of weeks. The idea was to integrate language learning with the opportunity to practice with native Cantonese speakers, take part in social and cultural activities, visits to places not normally visited by tourists to China and enjoy the company of others in the group.

The Association would like to thank Janet Joe for her planning and preparation, liaising with officials in China and Jinan University, making plane and hotel bookings and the like. Janet has been a great supporter of the Association's activities.

Janet's expertise and knowledge of travel though China (and other parts of the world) is extensive. She regularly arranges tours for individuals and groups traveling from New Zealand. Janet's contact is email janet.joe@xtra.co.nz.

DONG GUAN OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS OFFICE CAMP FOR YOUNG CHINESE

Judy Cheung President of the Auckland Tung Jung Association has asked us to publicise the summer camp being run by the Dong Guan Overseas Chinese Affairs Office for young Chinese aged between 17 and 25 years. The weeklong camp runs in December, departing December 27. All expenses and accommodation are paid but participants would need to pay the airfare to and from China and any additional travel accommodation and expenses after the camp.

This is a great opportunity for young New Zealand Chinese to meet other Chinese and learn more about the Dong Guan province in China. Judy's email is ajcheung@paradise.net.nz. Contact Judy direct for more details

Note: the name Tung Jung is derived from a combination of Jungsen (Zengcheng) and Dong Guan provinces in southern China.

80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – VILLAGE COORDINATORS AND NOMINATIONS

Thank you to all the village coordinators for communicating, collecting and writing material for the book to be produced in conjunction with the celebrations planned for 5th August 2006. Given that all material has to be edited by the editorial committee it is really important that it is with Henry Chan by 1 December 2005. The timeline for proofing, editing etc and ensuring the book is available to all registrants for the 80th celebration is becoming very tight. (Names of people mentioned in the write ups should be in Chinese and English)

So far we have only received a few nominations of “Jungsen achievers” and yet we know that within the Jungsen community there are many people who have “achieved” according to the criteria set out in the nomination form. The book gives us a real opportunity to showcase these achievements. All nominations will be checked against the criteria. Although a few may be declined it is really important that names are put forward for the committee to consider. Nominees will be kept confidential to the committee until the person nominated has given permission.

We are also looking for photographs and other material that could be used for either the book or for display on the 5th August. If you have any suitable materials please contact any member of the Tung Jung committee.

MERRY CHRISTMAS