

“Northern Links: Chinese Networks and Nation”

The Fifth “no fuss” Conference

February 22-23, 2014.

Organised by

Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc.

(CHINA Inc)

Conference Program



**Venue: the Hotel Sheridan Plaza,
295 Sheridan Street, Cairns, QLD, 4870.**

Pop-up book Stall: Bring your books to sell

Exhibitions

Hap Wah Plantation:

with video Hap Wah Plaque unveiling

Overland Chinese: Display & catalogue sale

2x Conference Tours

2x Attendee Bursaries

SATURDAY, 22 February 2014		
8.30 am – 8.50 am	Registration:	Meet & Mix
8.50 am – 9.00 am	Welcome and introduction	President welcoming
9.00 am – 9.40 am	Keynote address	<p>Dr Joe Leong</p> <p>Dr Joe Leong, recounts his personal experience growing up in Hong Kong in a family where his father was absent for most of his childhood. Living in North Queensland but supporting his wife and family via remittances back in Hong Kong, this forced separation and lack of presence, impacted on the relationship which later developed between father and son. While many attempts were made by his father to reunite the family to North Queensland, this information was not made available to Dr Joe until after his father's death. This is a story of reflection.</p> <p><i>Born in Hong Kong, Dr Joe Leong arrived in Australia in 1947 at the age of thirteen, where his father had been running a general store, Hong Leong & Co., in Ingham, since the 1930s. As a young man the bright and determined Joe Leong was invited by the Australian government to train in western medicine and he went on to become a resident medical officer and registrar at the Townsville General hospital before he started his own practice in 1967. Always interested in traditional Chinese medicine, Dr Joe visited Taiwan in 1979, to undertake an acupuncture course and he continued to practice Chinese medicine until his retirement. Dr Joe is a master of Taijiquan (太極拳: Tai Chi) and advocates the importance of looking after one's health and wellbeing – with a little dash of humour, to enjoy life.</i></p>
9.40 am – 10.00 am	Morning tea	Light refreshments – tea and coffee

10.00 am – 11.30 am	<p>Session One – Networks and Nation</p> <p>Chair: Sandi Robb</p>	<p>Michael Williams <i>The View from the Village</i></p> <p>Darryl Low Choy <i>Chinese Merchants at the Settlement Frontier</i></p> <p>Stephen Gapps <i>Chinese watercraft in northern Queensland and the Pacific region 1870-1910</i></p>
11.30 am – 11.40 pm	Short break	Stretch the legs
11.40 pm – 1.10 pm	<p>Session Two – Community and connections</p> <p>Chair: Jan Wegner</p>	<p>Jonathon Richards <i>‘Chinese Exhumations in Queensland’</i></p> <p>Gordon Grimwade <i>An Endangered Species: Chinese temples in regional Australia</i></p> <p>Melissa Dunk <i>“Left Behind: Chinese material culture in nineteenth century Queensland”</i></p>
1.10 pm – 2 pm	Self-catered lunch	Nearby café, Tavern or bring you own lunch
2 pm – 3.30 pm	<p>Session Three – Family ties</p> <p>Chair: Kate Bagnall</p>	<p>Richard Martin <i>Researching Mixed Ancestries in Northern Australia’s Gulf Country: the politics of identity, indigeneity and race</i></p> <p>Claire Faulkner <i>Exhumation – the Final Journey – Yung Sing and Yung Doong</i></p> <p>Carol Chong <i>The Chong Family: Aboriginal-Chinese Kinship in Mungana.</i></p>
3.30 pm – 3.40 pm	Short break.	Book launch: <i>China Inc Rediscovered Past</i>

3.40 pm – 5.10 pm	<p>Session Four – Fitting In</p> <p>Chair: Darryl Low Choy</p>	<p>Christopher Cheng <i>Two Generations of Overseas Chinese Emigrants: On the lives of a Chinaman in Australia and an Australian in China</i></p> <p>Kate Bagnall <i>Family Politics: Chinese wives in Australia, 1902 to 1920.</i></p> <p>Sandi Robb <i>A Question of Identity: Re-entry requirements for Queensland born children returning from China</i></p>
<p>Conference Tour - hosted by CADCAI - walk around former Cairns Chinatown</p> <p>***GOLD COIN DONATION***</p> <p><i>Commence 6.00 pm corner of Grafton and Shields Street, Cairns arrive at restaurant by 7.00 pm. Tour includes interpretative walk through former Cairns Chinatown and viewing of culturally significant collection - Lit Sung Goong Temple artefacts.</i></p>		
<p>7.00 pm - Conference Dinner at the Golden Boat Restaurant. The restaurant is licensed and the cost is \$33 per head. Booking and pre-payment required by 12.00 pm, 22 February 2014.</p> <p><u>Banquet \$33</u> Prawn Crackers Spring Roll Chicken and Sweet Corn Soup Deep Fried Fish in Special Sauce Szechuan Pepper Chicken Beef in Black Bean Sauce Crispy Skin Pork Belly Stir Fried Mixed Vegetable with Garlic Sauce Special Fried Rice Fruit Platter</p> <p>Hot Chinese Tea</p>		
SUNDAY, 23 February 2014		
8.45 am – 9.00 am	Registration	
9.00 am – 10.30 am	<p>Session five – Chinese Australian perspectives</p> <p>Chair: Michael Williams</p>	<p>The Townsville Chinese Club: <i>Creating networks and bridging the divide: a north Australian Chinese community</i></p>

		Kevin Rains <i>Finding the Gold (Coast) Dragon</i> Sophie Couchman <i>Photographing the North: Chinese Australian Perspectives</i>
10.30 am – 10.40 am	Short Break	Stretch the legs
10.40 am – 11.40 pm	Session six: Speaking to the past Chair: Kevin Rains	Melissa Dunk <i>Researching Chinese-Australian archaeology and history: current research and future directions</i> Heather Burke & Gordon Grimwade <i>Digging up the Dirt: Chinese Settlement archaeology in NE Qld</i>
11.40 pm – 11.50 pm	Wrap up	Darryl Low Choy

12.15pm Yumcha at **Café China at Spence Street: 32 – 40 Spence Street, Cairns**
Tel: (07) 4051 0423 Fax: (07) 4051 0425

CHINA Inc has made a tentative booking for approximately 60 conference participants, who will be seated at tables catering for various numbers of diners. Each table pays \$25.00 per person for a set menu. *Café China* is a licence restaurant, and Chinese tea may be purchased.

*****Please advise the volunteers at the conference registration table of your name/s, if you wish to be part of the yumcha lunch. This is a pre paid cash event with monies collected at the time of conference registration. The total number of diners has to be communicated to the restaurant before 11.00 am on Sunday.**

YUM CHA \$25

Har Gow (Steamed Prawn Dumpling)
Shao Mai
Steamed Scallop and Prawn Dumpling
Crispy Spring Roll (Vegetarian)
Steamed BBQ Pork Buns
Crispy Fried Won Ton
Steamed Pork Rib with Black Bean Sauce
Chicken Fried Rice
Chinese Green Oyster Sauce
Sweet Sesame Ball

Hot Chinese Tea

Sunday 23 February

Conference Tableland Tour – Atherton Hou Wang Miao Temple
Janice Wegner, Gordon Grimwade, Melissa Dunk and Rhonda Micola.

*****GOLD COIN DONATION*****

*“No Fuss” conference registration to be paid for on the day at the conference venue.
Receipts issued at conference.*

Whole conference	AUD\$55.00
22 nd Saturday single day - AUD\$35.00	23 rd Sunday single day - AUD\$20.00

Conference dinner and lunches are pre pay-as-you-go **CASH ONLY**

Optional Extras:

Conference Tour 1 – Cairns Chinatown - CADCAI

*****Gold coin donation to help maintain the collection*****

Conference Tour 2 - \$ 20

Hou Wang Miao Temple Tour – leaves **1.30 pm sharp** from Café China Restaurant
Return 6.30 pm. Please note Temple is located on the Atherton Tablelands and takes about 1 ½ hours to get there. But worth it! Numbers are limited. Bookings at time of registration.

*****Gold coin donation to help maintain the Temple*****

Conference details can also be found on the CHINA Inc website:

<http://www.chinainc.yolasite.com>

Abstracts and Presenter Details



Michael Williams

The View from the Village

A comprehensive history of Australia's Chinese heritage is not possible without an understanding of the villages and districts of origin in China. Before the middle of the 20th century the overwhelming majority of 'Chinese' people arriving in Australia came from the single province of Guangdong and the overwhelming majority of these, from a handful of 10-12 counties, clustered around the Pearl River Delta. Even among and within these counties, the numbers of travellers were not evenly distributed, with chain migration sending and resending people from specific districts and villages in China to specific places in Australia. For New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory, the county of most significance was that known as Xiangshan, now Zhongshan and within this county the two districts of Long Du and Liang Du.

Some research into the significance of these links has been complete, mainly in relation to Sydney and New South Wales, as well as on Zhongshan links with Hawaii and San Francisco. However, little has been researched in distinguishing these links in other parts of Australia. This paper provides a background to the significance of the county, district and village links both to Australian and the Pacific's Chinese history and seeks to highlight the need to do more to bring this perspective to further research and exploration of the Chinese history and heritage of Australia's north as well as elsewhere.

Michael Williams completed his doctorate in 2002 at the University of Hong Kong with a thesis entitled - Destination Qiaoxiang: Pearl River Delta Villages and Pacific Ports, 1849-1949. The theme of this work was the need to include the home villages in making sense of the history of the Overseas Chinese. In more recent times he has researched in a number of areas of Australian history including a social history of a 100-year old cinema in rural NSW. Michael is currently researching a comparative history of Chinese and Italian return migration.

Darryl Low Choy

Chinese Merchants at the Settlement Frontier

The expansion of the settlement frontier in Far North Queensland during the latter half of the 1800s and the early years of the twentieth century was facilitated, to a large degree, by merchants from a range of backgrounds. Many of these vendors were Chinese sojourners who arrived on Australian shores as part of the migration of Chinese miners to the gold discoveries, including those of the Palmer River in Far North Queensland commencing in the 1870s.

A number of these merchants traded in partnerships and cooperatives with many of short durations and changing partnership arrangements. Others operated as sole operators and developed integrated systems that saw them engaged in agricultural pursuits in support of their merchant activities. They also had interstate and overseas

trading interests and connections. Yet others quickly saw the commercial benefits of embracing the transport technology of that time, including the Cooktown-Laura railway.

This paper will demonstrate these various merchant arrangements through the stories of the author's paternal and maternal families who had various and diverse merchant arrangements on the settlement frontier of Far North Queensland during the expansion of the gold and mineral fields and the sugar industry.

Darryl Low Choy is Professor of Environmental and Landscape Planning in the School of Environment, Griffith University. He is currently researching values-led planning and indigenous landscape values; resilience and peri-urbanisation of the landscape; and climate change adaptation for human settlements. He chairs the Queensland State Government's Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee and is a member the CEOs Committee for Natural Resource Management. He is an advisor to the NSW Natural Resources Commission on planning for natural resource management. He is the National President for Toc H Australia.

Darryl Low Choy has also had a distinguished military career. Major General Darryl Low Choy commenced his military career as an Army cadet with the Innisfail State High School Cadet Unit. He enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Private in 1964 and rose to the rank of Major General before retiring in 2007 after 43 years of service. He is a qualified military engineer and he commanded the Queensland 7th Brigade from 1993 to 1996. From 1997 to 2004 he held the three most senior Reserve appointments in the Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Stephen Gapps

Chinese watercraft in northern Queensland and the Pacific region 1870-1910

When the Federation of Australia was celebrated across regional Australia in 1901 there were some surprising variations to the standard parades, pageants and civic speeches. None more so than in Far North Queensland, where a fleet of reportedly 400 illuminated sampans were the centre-piece of celebrations.

While the night-time illuminations on the waters of Trinity Bay, Cairns were an expression of the north Queensland Chinese community's stakes in the formation of the new nation, the display also reflected the fact that locally manufactured Chinese watercraft were a prominent feature of northern Queensland coastal waterways – and beyond.

In fact, a fleet of junks and hundreds of sampans were the backbone of maritime trade in the region, and in other frontier areas such as Port Darwin. Sampans were also a regular sight in other Colonies including Victoria and South Australia, and were introduced into the Western Australian pearling industry. Some junks built in Queensland by Chinese shipwrights entered the bêche-de-mer trade and traversed the seas around New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The paper will focus on 'one of the most respectable men in New Guinea waters' Captain Ah Gim, who led Chinese forays into the bêche-de-mer industry in the 1870s

from Cooktown out into the Coral Sea – surviving shipwrecks, storms and attacks by islanders.

While there is limited historical and archaeological information about this period of predominance of Chinese watercraft, this paper presents initial research that suggests a more complete picture may be revealed. It also raises questions about a lasting influence of Chinese boat building technologies on Australian watercraft, and suggests sampans and junks should not be excluded from the pantheon of European vessels in the national maritime story.

Stephen Gapps' history of the multicultural community of Fairfield won the NSW Premier's Award for regional and community history in 2011. Stephen is a public historian who has worked extensively in the heritage field and is currently a curator at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Jonathon Richards
'Chinese Exhumations in Queensland'

The exhumation and repatriation of the Chinese who died in Queensland were common practices in nineteenth and twentieth century, and in other overseas destinations of the Chinese diaspora. Remains, carefully shipped from Australia and other places to Hong Kong, were then taken back to the village of the deceased person for final interment. This paper, which discusses surviving records relating to these events, focuses on the Queensland stage of the process. Sufficient archival material has been found to enable a preliminary statistical analysis of this practice, allowing us to gain valuable insights into regional, local and familial participation in repatriation.

Jonathan Richards, an archive research-addict who mainly works on records relating to death and violence, particularly in frontier and colonial periods. He was once, long before he discovered the dusty archived files and the rusty spikes that hold them together, a postman, gardener and school groundsman. Jonathan has learned that 'doing' history is not so different from caring for plants - luck and experience play a huge role in both.

Gordon Grimwade
An Endangered Species: Chinese temples in regional Australia

Research on the distribution of temples across regional Australia and New Zealand has shown that of over 100 such structures around the end of the 19th century the Atherton temple is the only remaining, intact example. The form of those temples differed from larger temples built in several capital cities and while reflecting elements of village temples in China they suggest a notable adaptive expertise.

The rarity of the Hou Wang Miao is such that it is deserving of far wider support for its conservation and presentation than has hitherto been evident. This northern link to

a far wider heritage indicates the need to have northern resources more widely recognized.

Natural species, when reduced to comparable levels result in widespread public outcries and politically motivated support programs. Such is not the case when it comes to human heritage. If our Chinese Australian heritage is to be retained we need to ask ourselves if we are doing sufficient to bring the plight of iconic structures to the wider community.

Gordon Grimwade is a north Queensland based archaeologist and historical geographer whose primary interests are in Chinese Australasian settlement in north Australia. Gordon is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Flinders University, an Adjunct Researcher at the Sustainability Research Centre, University of Sunshine Coast and a regular contributor 'Dig' a US based magazine for young people interested in archaeology.

Melissa Dunk

“Left behind: Chinese material culture in nineteenth century Queensland”

The study of overseas Chinese Archaeology in Queensland has surfaced since the 1980s with a study on ‘Ah Toy’s Garden’ on the Palmer River Goldfield. This work was the start of many targeted studies on the remains of overseas Chinese settlements across Australia which involved merchants, mining, market gardening and trade. Chinese migrants were present in Queensland in the latter half of the nineteenth-century and historical research informs the movements of Chinese people across Queensland during this time. The archaeological record is limited compared to the historical research due to several factors; time constraints, lack of further research and modern development limit the ability that material culture can potentially reveal. Looking at the material culture holistically will contribute towards our understanding of Chinese people in nineteenth-century Australia. This paper will compare and overview previous archaeological assemblages of overseas Chinese sites discovered across nineteenth-century Queensland.

Researching Chinese-Australian archaeology and history: current research and future directions

There has been a marked increase in the volume of Chinese-Australian heritage conferences and publications within the past ten years. The first archaeological study on a Chinese site in Australia was conducted in the 1980s on the Palmer River Goldfield. A review on current historical and archaeological approaches to Chinese-Australian research is noteworthy in establishing what has been achieved. Examining the differences and similarities of these two approaches would determine the areas that would benefit from further research.

Archaeological research has been heavily focused on Chinese site based work across Australia. Although this reveals information about the Chinese living at these sites there is a lack of research that ties these places together. The Chinese material culture found across sites and museum collections has also been a subject of research. Only

recently has the work taken a multi-disciplinary approach and analyses social community, identity and narratives of the Chinese people.

This paper will address the disciplinary approaches of both overseas Chinese history and archaeology by examining the differences and similarities and determining the areas that would benefit from further research.

Melissa Dunk is an MPhil candidate at University of Queensland and is currently studying overseas Chinese Archaeology specifically the relationship between the overseas Chinese and their material culture in maintaining Chinese identity. She studied her Bachelor of Archaeology (Honours) at La Trobe University on the artefact assemblage of Atherton Chinatown. Melissa works as a cultural heritage advisor for a national gas pipeline company. She is also passionate about Chinese history and heritage as well as Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Richard Martin

Researching mixed ancestries in northern Australia's Gulf country: the politics of identity, indigeneity and race

Northern Australia's Gulf country is home to people from a variety of different cultures, with Aboriginal, European, Chinese and Afghan ancestries common amongst contemporary residents. However, discussions of the region's social history are often drawn in terms of a vernacular opposition between 'Whitefellas' (i.e. non-Aboriginal people) and 'Blackfellas' (i.e. Aboriginal people), with an additional category of 'Yellafellas' (i.e. those of mixed Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal descent) sometimes proposed. These identities 'Whitefellas', 'Blackfellas', and 'Yellafellas' reflect the foundational discrimination of colonialism, which creates and sustains the idea of Indigenous cultures as existing literally beyond the pale, at different points of chromatic gradation, as well as post-colonial thinking, which has tended to reify the distinction between those construed as settlers and the Indigenous, ignoring or actively marginalising those with more complex backgrounds. Drawing on ethnographic research across the Gulf country, we argue for closer attention to the diversity of residents' ancestries in accounts on contemporary social life in the region, reflecting on how such diversity – particularly amongst those with mixed Chinese and Aboriginal ancestors – is understood in terms of the politics of Gulf identity, indigeneity and race.

Richard Martin is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Consulting Anthropologist in the School of Social Science at the University of Queensland, with a PhD in Anthropology and Cultural Studies from the University of Western Australia focused on the Gulf country. David Trigger is Professor of Anthropology and Head of the School of Social Science at the University of Queensland, with an extensive record of publication focused on the Gulf. Richard and David are presently collaborating on Australian Research Council Discovery Project Number 1201 00662.

Claire Faulkner

Exhumation – the Final Journey – Yung Sing and Yung Doong

Australian Government records and historical press reports sourced to date validate the death, burial and exhumation of Yung Sing (William Young Sing) and Ah Goon (Yung Doong). In 1856, according to his death registration, Yung Sing, a Chinese merchant, emigrated to Sydney. Published Commercial Reports from 1858 to 1866 confirm he exported substantial gold consignments to Hong Kong and bulk quantities of preserved fish from The Rocks, New South Wales, to a network of fellow Chinese merchants and storekeepers on the goldfields, until he relocated to Crocodile Creek Diggings, Queensland in 1866. Queensland Hotels and Publicans' Index (1843 - 1900) reveal he was licensed from 1866 until his death on 06 June 1886, at Jericho, a Central Western Queensland Railway terminus community. Four years later, Yung Doong, a close associate and clan member applied for a license to exhume Yung Sing's remains with the local Police Magistrate in Barcaldine. It is believed the exhumation was performed shortly thereafter in preparation for the long and final journey of repatriation to Yung Sing's original family in Guangzhou, China.

In 1900, Yung Doong, Chinese storekeeper died of a perforated bowel. Five years later, in 1905, historical press articles report the arrival of a group of Chinese in town, members of a reputed "Secret Society". Their sole purpose was to exhume the remains of Yung Doong (Ah Goon). It was reported they had travelled from Sydney especially for this important task. The article reveals the reluctance of the local undertaker and includes a candid description of the subsequent events and proceedings by the Chinese contingency. Yung Doong's remains were privately exhumed under the cover of nightfall. From there, it was reported they travelled the lonely and dangerous roads by cart from Barcaldine - Aramac - Muttaborra - Hughenden to the port of Townsville where it was assumed, Yung Doong's remains were personally escorted to China by sea journey. Is it probable that Yung Sing's bones travelled the same route? Who escorted them?

With commercial and family presence in North and Central Queensland this paper seeks to make analysis and connect the dots before and around these exhumations, and examines the connection between Yung Sing and Yung Doong. According to death records Yung Doong had no registered marriage or children. But what emotional legacy did the exhumation and repatriation of Yung Sing's remains to his original family in China imprint in the hearts and soul of his Australian born wife Emma (nee Mann) and Australian born children? Did the repatriation of Yung Sing contribute to the 'cloud of secrecy' hovering over his memory for his bloodline?

This paper considers the attempt to extinguish the brittle threads connecting Yung Sing to future descendants and their Chinese heritage. This paper seeks to imprint the names of Yung Sing and Yung Doong (Ah Goon) on the radar maps of Chinese-Australian research in the hope that future studies uncover archival references related to the repatriation and possibly leads to the location of their remains in Guangzhou, China.

Claire Faulkner completed Printmaking (BA - Fine Arts) at Warrnambool College of Advanced Education (Deakin University Campus) in 1988 and is a retired Psychiatric Nurse and small business proprietor. Since 1990, Claire's interest in Chinese-

Australian heritage was initially fuelled by her father's family research and has conducted her own detailed studies on their brittle thread of Chinese heritage. In 2013, Claire self-published this research and pictorial history in Conquest - An Inside Story, which traces in detail, eight Chinese-Australian marriages and their close connections. Conquest is a true story which examines the historical context of these early settlers amid nineteenth century social injustices in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland through Government archival records. Claire currently resides in North Queensland.

Carol Chong

The Chong Family: Aboriginal-Chinese Kinship in Mungana.

The Chong family are a Chinese-Aboriginal family from the Mungana area, near Chillagoe. They are descended from Billy Chong, a market gardener, and his European wife Grace and Mick McTavish, a Wakaman man whose daughter Jessie married Billy's son Bobby. Bobby carried on market gardening but was also a miner who was on the sidelines of the Mungana mining scandal with Queensland premier Ted Theodore. He later became a stockman and his sons moved between mining and stock work. The Chong family history demonstrates many of the themes of Chinese and Aboriginal history in northern Australia but fortunately it escaped the interference of the Protection Act.

Carol Chong is the great-granddaughter of Billy Chong. She was born and raised in Mareeba and is a Wakaman woman through her great-grandfather Mick McTavish and a Muluridji woman through her great-grandmother Annie Green. She is currently finishing a Bachelor of Arts Degree through James Cook University.

Christopher Cheng

Two Generations of Overseas Chinese Emigrants: On the lives of a Chinaman in Australia and an Australian in China

Throughout history, there has been a tradition of migration, but there is a much longer legacy of permanent settlement. In fact, the Chinese belief is that one can only find peace at home. The saying goes, *A thousand days can pass smoothly, but once one leaves, constant trouble abounds* (在家千日好, 出外半日難). It is no surprise that adult children are expected to remain at home tend to their parents in their old age, and it would be unfilial otherwise. Confucius, the Master, said: "When your parents are alive, do not travel afar" (Analects IV, 18). For all the cultural reasons and importance that entrenches people to a particular setting, why then should somebody voluntarily choose to leave and emigrant to a faraway place? Moreover, unlike the first generation, it is understandable why successive generations of overseas born Chinese may have weak ties to the homeland; their ideas of homeland obviously differ to that of their migrant forefathers as the emotional attachment should not be as intense. At most, these descendants will only visit China as short family visits or as a sort of "enforced pilgrimage". In other words, their homeland is outside China, the place they were born and grown up. Then, why should somebody born and raised overseas, such as Australia leave the familiarity of home and go unaccompanied to China? Common to both of these cases address a fundamental and underlying

questions of how does life conditions and family circumstances result in one's decision to leave home. In this presentation I examine the lives of two generations of overseas Chinese emigrants. One is a Chinese naturalized Australian, the other is an Australian born Chinese. The life history approach is adopted to give an inside view of the lives and times of these emigrants and explore what life at home was like and also what it was like to leave the familiarity of home, and how did one's upbringing and young adult experiences shape their ideas and ultimately influence their decision to leave. In essence what I am doing is using stories of people to describe "persons of history and a history of persons" (Skinner et al. 1998:3). Based on oral history, ethnographic readings as well as personal encounters and reflections, the life histories of a Chinaman in Australia and an Australian in China offer a unique way to look at what it may mean to become or be an overseas Chinese in a certain time and place in history. The cross-generational lives of the oldest male in the family and pioneer emigrants add to our understanding of the diverse variety of experiences and nuanced sets of actions that people encounter in realizing their migratory trek out of and back to China as well as to and from Australia.

Christopher Cheng was educated in Australia, China and Hong Kong. He holds degrees from the University of Queensland (B.Des.St., 2005) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (M.Phil., 2012). He speaks Cantonese and Mandarin as well as English, and is now working freelance on a variety of projects in Hong Kong.

Kate Bagnall

Family Politics: Chinese wives in Australia, 1902 to 1920

This paper will consider the entry of Chinese wives to Australia in the first two decades of the 20th century, a time of significant changes to law and policy on the admission of Chinese women. For 15 months after the introduction of the Immigration Restriction Act in 1901, almost no limitation was placed on the arrival of the wives and families of Chinese men already domiciled in Australia. Alarmed by the number of families choosing to take advantage of this relaxation of restrictions, from March 1903 the Australian government removed this right and, from then on, admission of wives and families was solely at the discretion of the minister and officially for limited periods only.

Placing this history within ongoing international debate about the reasons why few Chinese women migrated overseas, in this paper I will discuss the changes to Australian law and policy, including an overview of 19th-century colonial anti-Chinese laws as they applied to women. I will then focus on several case studies of Chinese wives who arrived in Australia after 1903, including from Queensland. Their stories illustrate the political nature of family formation for Chinese living in early 20th-century Australia.

*Kate Bagnall is a historian and editor based in Canberra. She has published on aspects of women, gender and the family in the history of Australia's Chinese communities in scholarly journals, including *Australian Historical Studies* and *History Australia*, as well as in edited books, online and in historical magazines. In 2013, Kate co-edited with Sophie Couchman two special journal issues, *Chinese**

Southern Diaspora Studies (vol. 6) and the Journal of Chinese Overseas (vol. 9, no. 2), inspired by the 2011 Dragon Tails conference they co-convened at the Chinese Museum in Melbourne. In 2012–13, Kate held the National Archives of Australia's Ian Maclean Award to further explore the administration of the Immigration Restriction Act as it applied to mixed-race Chinese Australians.

Sandi Robb

A Question of Identity: Re-entry requirements for Queensland Born children returning from China

Identity shapes citizenship, with legal citizenship determined by proof of birth - the birth certificate. Australian citizenship under the White Australia Policy was determined not only by proof of birth but through parental ancestry. For Chinese Australian born children, legal citizenship hung on the proof of identity rather than the birth certificate. The burden of proof lay with the individual and their families who employed various strategies to ensure a successful re entry of an Australian Born Chinese child back into Queensland.

This paper provides an insight into the re-entry process, Commonwealth officials' attitudes and the lengths taken by families to prove identity, and therefore legal citizenship, through the examination of three case studies in North Queensland. The first reveals the cultural relationship within the Queensland Chinese community, the Chinese cultural kinship system and the value of advocacy; the second reveals the vulnerability of the Queensland Born Chinese family to identity theft and the consequence for re entry, and the third reveals that Chinese families were far from complacent when re entry denied- standing up for their legal rights in an effort to secure the re-entry of a child who was born a legal citizen of Australia.

Sandi Robb is a historian and cultural heritage consultant with a historical/ research/ cultural heritage consultancy business which specialises in Chinese family history, cultural heritage management and interpretive projects. As a PhD candidate at James Cook University, she is researching and writing her thesis Chinese Families in North Queensland, and works full time as a Senior Heritage Officer for the Qld Government. Sandi has presented at various conferences on Chinese Australian History, published articles in books and journals and recently published her first book Cairns Chinatown: A Heritage Study. An active committee member of the Townsville Chinese Club, she is also a founding member and current president of the Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc. (CHINA INC), an organisation committed to researching and promoting Queensland's Chinese history and cultural heritage.

The Townsville Chinese Club:

Creating networks and bridging the divide: a north Australian Chinese community

Representing families associated with a long settlement history of Townsville and district, and looking forward to invigorating Chinese cultural connections in a contemporary community environment, *The Townsville Chinese Community*

Incorporated (TTCCI) represents the crossroad many small community groups find themselves at when trying to remain viable and financial when faced with an ageing community membership base. This paper explores how the TTCCI aims to reinvigorate itself to emerge once again as a prominent and inclusive community based Club.

***The Townsville Chinese Club** is a not for profit community organization set up in the 1970s to advance the general welfare of the Chinese community in Townsville, promote goodwill and understanding between people of Chinese decent and other nationalities in the community and to enable the members of the club to share with each other their respective national or ancestral customs, cultures, philosophies and traditions.*

Kevin Rains

Finding the Gold (Coast) Dragon

This paper explores the role Chinese entrepreneurs have played in Australia's tourism industry. Specifically, it looks at the restaurants and other businesses that were established on the Gold Coast from the 1950s. Using family and commercial links in China, Papua New Guinea, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and elsewhere, these businesses not only played a key role in supporting Chinese migration during the tough years of the White Australia Policy, but also helped establish the Gold Coast as one of the nation's premier tourist destinations. That contribution continues today with the pending creation of a Chinatown precinct in Southport. This project raises questions about historical accuracy and cultural authenticity and ownership, but it also indicates that the Chinese Diaspora has become an integral part of our national, and global, culture.

*Kevin Rains is an archaeologist, heritage manager and history researcher. He completed a PhD in archaeology from the University of Queensland in 2005, and his thesis examined the Chinese social landscape of early Cooktown. He has worked since 2001 in the general field of heritage management and archaeological research for consultancy firms and state and local government. He has attended and presented papers at various conferences on Chinese Australian history and heritage, and is a founding member of the research association, Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc. Recently he has written a biography on one of Queensland's early Chinese Australian families, *Cedars of the West: the Ah Foo Family Story*.*

Sophie Couchman

Photographing the North: Chinese Australian Perspectives

Some of the earliest Chinese-Australian photographers identified had their businesses, not in Victoria or New South Wales, but in Queensland. This paper will explore what we know of the lives and work of Chinese Australian photographers in northern Australia, what their work tells us about being Chinese Australian and ruminates on why the first Chinese-Australian photographers appear in Queensland.

Sophie Couchman is Curator at the Chinese Museum in Melbourne and an Honorary Research Fellow at La Trobe University. She has researched and published in the field of Chinese-Australian history for some years and has been involved in the development of a number of online Chinese-Australian historical resources.

Heather Burke and Gordon Grimwade
Digging up the dirt

Chinese settlement archaeology in NE Qld

Over the past thirty or so years Chinese Australian archaeological research in Far North Queensland has focused on a handful of core locations. Grimwade and Burke summarize those studies. An evaluation of studies based on Atherton, Cairns, Cooktown, Croydon, and the Palmer goldfield notes the need for greater analysis of the material acquired from those disparate studies and to formulate a more structured research program in a region that holds significant resources.

Archaeological studies, with a few notable exceptions, have generally been site and task specific – usually related to development pressures –offer limited analysis of the material identified. Notwithstanding that they still contain insightful information on Chinese Australian activities and offer some interesting observations in respect of acculturation, imports, and diet.

Heather Burke is based at Flinders University and has worked on Chinese historical archaeological sites throughout New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. She is currently a series editor for the Global Cultural Heritage Manuals series published by Springer, New York, and co-editor of the peer reviewed journal, Australian Archaeology.

Gordon Grimwade is a north Queensland based archaeologist and historical geographer whose primary interests are in Chinese Australasian settlement in north Australia. Gordon is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Flinders University, an Adjunct Researcher at the Sustainability Research Centre, University of Sunshine Coast and a regular contributor 'Dig' a US based magazine for young people interested in archaeology.

Additional Information which might be handy!

What is a NO FUSS conference?

If you have never been to a “No fuss” conference before, here is a little background and heads up as to what it’s all about.

Chinese Heritage In North Australia (CHINA Inc) is a not for profit organization formed in 2005 by Kevin Wong Hoy, Kevin Rains and Sandi Robb with the generous assistance and support by parents, partners and friends, to meet the legislative requirements to form an incorporated organisation. With the key focus to research, write and promote Chinese History and Heritage across north Australia, it was envisioned that CHINA Inc would host a regular small “no fuss” conference where the efforts of anyone who is interested in Chinese history and heritage could share their research in a welcoming, equal and affordable environment. Since 2006 CHINA Inc has hosted four Biennial “No Fuss” conferences with 2014 being the fifth. From humble beginnings, each conference has built upon the last, and we are proud to say CHINA Inc has grown into an active and vocal “Little Lion” of the north.

CHINA Inc is committed to maintaining a “No Fuss” conference, where the costs are kept low, everyone is equal in the room, no matter what their background, and research experience is shared, acknowledged and enjoyed by all. To keep the conference welcoming and affordable there are a few things which need to be conveyed to attendees so that we can continue to maintain the low conference fees, continue to attract a wide and diverse audience, and encourage participation in an open and friendly forum. This means goodie bags, and conference snacks are kept to a minimum, accommodation and meals are self-catered and people, papers and presentations are the main event.

It is important to note that while morning tea and coffee/ tea is provided on the first day, tea/ coffee is only available on the second day. Lunch is not provided on the first day and attendees have to organize their own lunch. There is a tavern next door and a cafe nearby. That way, conference attendees can explore, make choices according to personal budget and dietary requirements and stretch their legs before the afternoon session.

The Conference Dinner at the end of the first day it is a very popular event. It is also traditional on the second day for CHINA Inc to mark the official end of the conference with a shared Yum Cha. The price is set to the menus and conference attendees wishing to go to either or both events are required to register and prepay for the Conference Dinner and Yum Cha on the day of registration. Both are very popular meal sharing events and bookings and pre-payment are required by 11.00am on both days so that the restaurants can be notified of numbers. There is no obligation to go to either meal, but based on past years a fun time is had by all. Please note CHINA Inc does not have Eftpos facility, so Cash is the preferred method. We are trying to keep it as simple and “no fuss” as possible! Receipts are issued at the time of registration/ booking.

CHINA Inc supports local businesses and acknowledges the generous assistance of the Cairns Sheridan Hotel, Café China and Golden Boat Restaurant, CADCAI, The Hou Wang Miao Museum and Cairns Regional Council..

The 2014 CHINA Inc conference will support a “pop up” book store where researchers, academics, and writers of family history can bring along their books and sell them at the conference. Those wishing to take advantage of this must attend their own stall area and provide a written receipt to the purchaser at point of sale.

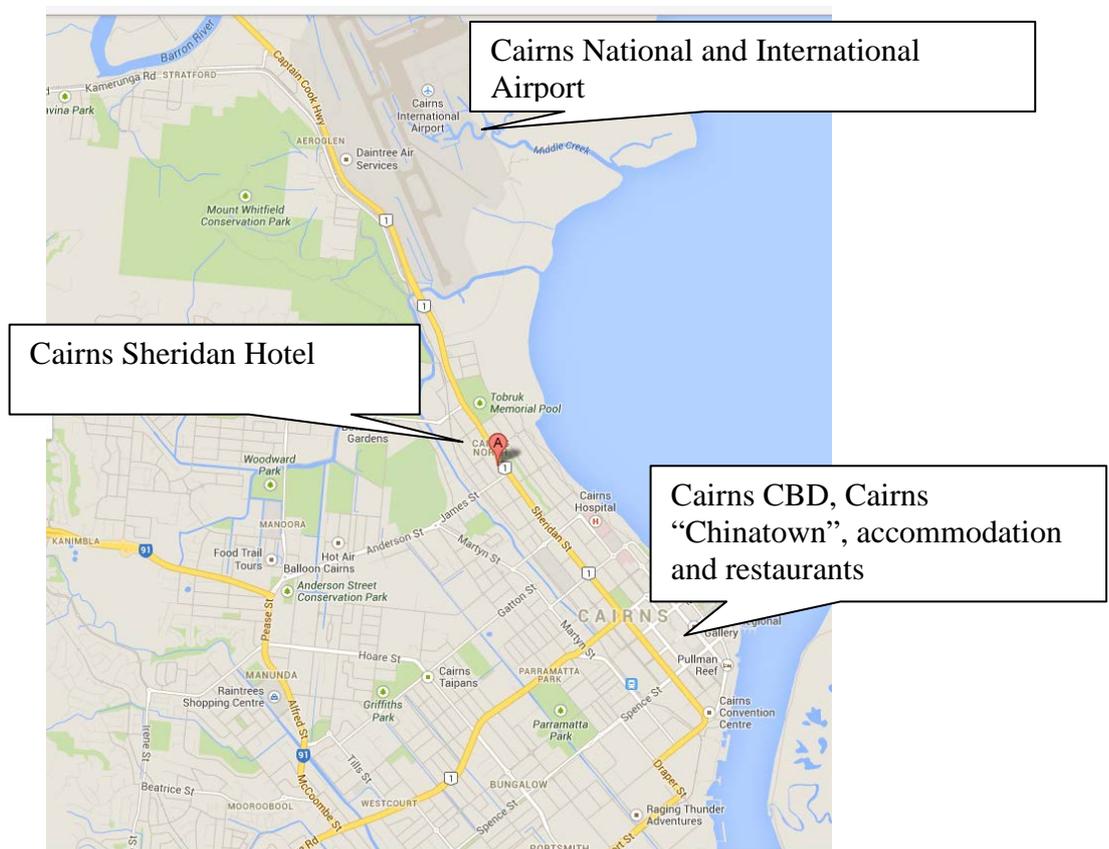
As this is a “no fuss” conference attendees are encouraged to volunteer if they see a gap which needs to be filled. CHINA Inc welcomes the generous assistance from the attendees, to make the conference a truly shared experience!

Membership of CHINA Inc can be taken out at the time of registration. Membership is a modest \$5.00 and new members are welcome to attend the second 2014 CHINA Inc meeting on Monday at 10.00am at the Cairns Regional Library. This enables CHINA Inc to remain dedicated to the promotion of Chinese Heritage across North Australia, to host a biennial conference, and continue to mature as the “Little Lion of the North”.

How to get there:

Cairns Sheridan Hotel & Conference Centre, formerly known as the Sheridan Plaza, is the closest major hotel to the Cairns Airport in the CBD, only 2-3km to the Cairns Central Shopping Centre. Entrance to the Conference centre of the Hotel is via McLeod Street with limited off street parking available.

Taxi Services are available from the airport, the venue and CBD district and there is a courtesy bus from the Airport as well as Hire Car facilities if you are staying a few days to take advantage of the glorious tropical environment.



Where to stay:

Cairns is a popular tourist destination and there is a range of accommodation options available to suit any budget of the conference attendees around the inner and outer City area. This includes a range of budget back packer style accommodation to boutique B & B along the Esplanade to 5 Star Resort Style “deluxe have a holiday as you go and live it up” type of accommodation!

The conference venue Cairns Sheridan Hotel has kindly offered a discounted rate for accommodation of \$129 including Buffet Breakfast. (max 2 persons per room) and additional foldaway beds for children can be arranged and provided. For enquiries contact *Leanne Munro, Conference and Events* from the details below.



Cairns Sheridan Hotel

295 Sheridan Street, Cairns, QLD 4870

P 07 4031 6500 | fax 07 4031 6226

E functions@cairnssheridan.com.au

W www.cairnssheridan.com.au

Cairns and Region:

Cairns and surrounding far north region offers a wonderful location to host the CHINA INC biennial conference. It is not only a beautiful part of Australia, but offer an incredibly diverse arrange of accessible attractions both natural and historical in which to explore. This is the region where the World Heritage Wet Tropics meets the Great Barrier Reef, and the cultural history of Aboriginal, European and Asian settlement fuse across the coastal plains of the rich agricultural areas to beyond the hinterland of the Great Dividing Range to the mining and pastoral districts to the Gulf country. There are many places in which to book a tour and should you stay at the Cairns Sheridan Hotel, they are happy to assist.

Further Sites to wet your whistle are:

<http://www.thingstodoincairns.com/>

<http://www.cairnsattractions.com.au/cairns.php>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/australia/queensland/cairns/things-to-do>

[http: www.houwang.org.au/](http://www.houwang.org.au/)

www.cadcai.org/

Enjoy!