

“Northern Links: Chinese Top End Tales”

**The Eighth “no fuss” Conference
July 2-3, 2022**

**Organised by
Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc.
(CHINA Inc)**

Conference Program



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

Featuring

Pop-up book Stall: Bring your books to sell

Pre- Conference Tour

2X Speaker Bursaries

26th June – 1 July 2022

PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR

Palmer Goldfield and Maytown
Fully Booked

6.00pm – 7.00pm

TBA
Pre- conference Drinks
Meet and Greet

Then

7.30pm ‘til late!

Head to the **Bar 94**, Lake Street Cairns and

LOUNGE AT A PHAQ EVENT!

Sit back and relax
with some of Queensland’s eminent Historians as part of the
Professional Historians Association of Queensland “Regional Roundup”
For
Pizza and Pint

SATURDAY, 2 July 2022

8.30 am – 9.00 am	Registration:	Meet & Mix
9.00 am – 9.10 am	Welcome and Introduction	President Welcome
9.10 am – 9.45 am	Keynote address	Dr Neville Ritchie A Means to an End: Chinese Mining Methods in Southern New Zealand. <i>I completed my Ph.D on the Archaeology and History of the Chinese in Southern New Zealand in 1986 after nearly a decade of recording and excavating Chinese sites in Central Otago as part of the mitigation for the Clutha Valley Power Project (1977-1986). The excavated sites included the Cromwell and Arrowtown Chinese camps as</i>

		<p><i>well as many rockshelters and hut sites. The project also involved the recording of mining sites and associated features such as dams and water races. We rebuilt the Arrowtown Chinese Camp and it has become one of the most visited historic places in New Zealand with 100,000 visitors per annum (pre Covid).</i></p> <p><i>While working at Cromwell, the late Professor Ian Jack invited me to come on his Palmer River excavation on Ah Toy's garden etc in 1982 the Falklands war was going on at the time. When Gordon told me about the proposed trip, I jumped at the opportunity to go back to the Palmer. I have never been to Cooktown so going there is a bonus.</i></p>
9.45 am – 10.15am	Morning tea. 30 mins	Light Refreshments – tea /coffee
10. 15 am – 11.30 am 20 mins each 5 mins at the end of each talk for questions to speakers	<p>Session One – Business and Commercial Interests</p> <p>Chair: Hilda MacLean</p>	<p>Darryl Low Choy <i>After the curtain went Down: the Chinese in Early Bowen</i></p> <p>Janice Cooper <i>Needing fresh vegetables: Sing Noy's garden near Barcaldine.</i></p> <p>Geoff Wharton <i>The Sandalwood Trade on Cape York Peninsula, 1890s to 1920s.</i></p>
11.30 am – 11.35pm	Short break	5 min break stretch legs!
11.35 pm – 12.50 pm	<p>Session Two – Archaeology and Mining</p> <p>Chair: Noreen Kirkman</p>	<p>Jan Wegner <i>Queensland's Chinese Miners</i></p> <p>Kevin Rains <i>The Ravenswood Historical Archaeological Program</i></p> <p>Marc Cheeseman <i>Beyond Beef: Chinese and European Foodways in a Late 19th/Early 20th Century North Queensland Mining Town, Ravenswood.</i></p>
12.50 pm – 1.50 pm	Lunch 1 hr	Self-Catering Lunch at next door Dunwoody's Tavern or head into town. (See map)

1.50 pm – 3.05 pm	<p>Session Three – Performance and Ritual</p> <p>Chair: Sandi Robb</p>	<p>Hilda Maclean <i>Burnt matches, broken saucers and headless roosters: Chinese oath taking in Northern Australian colonial courts</i></p> <p>Leigh McKinnon <i>Chinese Processions In The Top End – 1881 to 1941</i></p> <p>Mary Low & CADCAI <i>Acknowledging the Past: Introducing Ching Ming to Cairns</i></p>
3.05pm – 3.20 pm	Short break. 20 mins	Afternoon tea
3.25 pm – 4.40 pm	<p>Session Four – Family and Community</p> <p>Chair: Kevin Rains</p>	<p>Christopher Cheng <i>Savouring the Taste of Home: Chinese Food Memories in Cairns and the Canton Delta</i></p> <p>Pauline O'Keeffe <i>Pioneers of Military Service: Reluctant Heroes: The Story of Two Gallant Queensland First World War Soldiers.</i></p> <p>Sandi Robb <i>Dragons Dreaming: Aboriginal – Chinese families of north Queensland</i></p>
Mingle, Chat, and Relax before Conference Dinner		

7.00 pm - Conference dinner at the **Yum Sing Restaurant**. The restaurant is licensed and the cost is **\$40** per head. **Booking and pre payment required by 12.00 noon, 2 July 2022 to CHINA INC registration team.**

Plated Entrée:

Prawn Crackers*
 Chicken and Sweet Corn soup
 Crispy Vegetarian Spring Roll
 Deep Fried Pork Won Ton
 1 other

Mains served Banquet style:

Sweet and Sour Port
 Beef and Black Bean Sauce
 Chicken with Vegetable
 Mixed Vegetable with Garlic
 Special Fried Rice
 Asian Greens* **
 Tofu dish
 Duck

Gluten Free *
 Vegetarian**

Fresh Fruit Platters* **

SUNDAY, 4 March 2018

8.30 am – 9.00 am	Registration	
9.00 am – 10.15 am 20 mins each 5 mins at the end of each talk for questions to speakers	Session five – Records and Revisions: a new look at North Queensland Chair: Darryl Low Choy	Noreen Kirkman <i>Chinese Student Passports and Northern Western Australia during the 1920s and 1930s</i> Jonathan Richards <i>“China Camp Revisited”</i> Michael Williams <i>Queensland: Is it as unique as it thinks? The case for comparative studies.</i>
10.15 am – 10.30 am	Short break 15 mins	Tea /coffee

10.35 am – 11.05 pm	Session six: Top End Tales	Gordon Grimwade <i>Recap of the Palmer River and Cooktown Tour</i>
11.05 – 11.15am	Wrap up	Kevin Rains
<p>11.30 am – 1.00pm</p> <p>Early Lunch for Travellers from afar in need to catch a flight as well as tired Conference Attendees!</p> <p>Golden Boat Restaurant 34-40 Lake St, Cairns City QLD 4870</p>		

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

Whole Conference	AUD \$100.00
2 July only - AUD\$65.00	3 July only - AUD\$35.00
<p>Conference dinner pre pay</p> <p>CASH or Efpas Prior to Event</p>	

Conference details can also be found on the CHINA Inc website:
<http://www.chinainc.yolasite.com>

Abstracts and presenter details



Key Note Speaker:

A Means to an End: Chinese Mining Methods in Southern New Zealand.

Neville Ritchie completed his Ph.D on the Archaeology and History of the Chinese in Southern New Zealand in 1986 after nearly a decade of recording and excavating Chinese sites in Central Otago as part of the mitigation for the Clutha Valley Power Project (1977-1986). The excavated sites included the Cromwell and Arrowtown Chinese camps as well as many rockshelters and hut sites. The project also involved the recording of mining sites and associated features such as dams and water races. His team rebuilt the Arrowtown Chinese Camp and it has become one of the most visited historic places in New Zealand with 100,000 visitors per annum (pre Covid).

While working at Cromwell, the late Professor Ian Jack invited Neville Ritchie to come on his Palmer River excavation to Ah Toy's garden etc in 1982. At the time the Falklands war was going on at the time. Neville resides in New Zealand and recently enjoyed the CHINA Inc tour of Palmer River and Maytown.

DAY 1.: SESSION 1: Business and Commercial Interests

Darryl Low Choy

After the curtain went Down: the Chinese in Early Bowen

In 1916, Bowen hosted one of the ten Kuo Min Tang (KMT) branches in Australia and was one of only three outside a major city or regional centre. Eight of these cities and towns at this time had sizeable Chinese populations, hence it can be assumed that Bowen also had a sufficient number of Chinese residents to warrant the establishment of a KMT branch.

However, the public historical record is silent on the existence of a Chinese community and the involvement of Chinese in early agriculture in Bowen and surrounding district. This paper attempts to lay a foundation for further research into the early Chinese community in Bowen and district based on the scant information currently available through newspapers, historical society records and one published piece of work on early farming in Bowen. The research leading up to this paper has been conducted in relation to family history inquiries of the author.

Major General (Emeritus Professor) Darryl Low Choy, AM, MBE, RFD, KSJ (retd), PhD, MBlt Env (City & Reg Plan), Grad Dip Urb & Reg Plan, BA, GCert Higher Ed, RPIA (Fellow), FEIANZ.

Darryl is a professional town planner, Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and Fellow of the Environmental Institute of Australia & New Zealand. He is Professor Emeritus and former Head of Planning at Griffith University.

From a parallel career he is a retired Major General, having commanded the Army's 7th Brigade and held the three most senior Reserve appointments in the Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Born in Innisfail, Far North Queensland as a fifth generation Australian with Chinese and English heritage he has developed a strong interest in genealogy. 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.

Janice Cooper

Needing fresh vegetables: Sing Noy's garden near Barcaldine.

Fresh vegetables grown by Chinese gardeners were appreciated by the Europeans participating in the construction of railway lines through Queensland. This talk will examine the circumstances surrounding an 1885 petition supporting the establishment of Sing Noy's garden for the new terminus at Lagoon Creek/Barcaldine.

Janice Cooper, BA B Ed Stud M Litt. Loc&Appl Studies

Janice is a local historian of the Alpha and Jericho districts of central-western Queensland. After a long career as a teacher-librarian teaching high school students how to research and to enjoy reading; Janice turned to her long-held interest in the history of the area in which she grew up, as well as to history of her family in Australia since 1791.

MPHA

Geoff Wharton

The Sandalwood Trade on Cape York Peninsula, 1890s to 1920s.

Wild harvesting of Northern Sandalwood (*Santalum lanceolatum*) was conducted by Aboriginal people on Cape York Peninsula during the 1890s to the 1920s, working for small-scale non-indigenous businessmen (known as sandalwood-getters) and mission stations. The trade was stimulated by demand from Chinese markets for the timber's aromatic properties. Northern Sandalwood was used to make joss sticks for spiritual purposes, small caskets and sculptured fans, as well as sandalwood oil extract to make perfumes, soaps and medicinal products. This paper examines aspects of Indigenous sandalwood harvesting and sale of Northern Sandalwood to Chinese traders at Coen, Cooktown and Thursday Island.

Geoff Wharton OAM is a member of the Professional Historians Australia (Queensland Division) and has been involved with a wide range of cultural and historical projects on Western Cape York Peninsula for over 40 years. His paper is based on research conducted in 2005 for the Indigenous Economic Support Unit, Queensland Department of State Development and Innovation.

SESSION 2: Mining and Archaeology

Jan Wegner Queensland's Chinese Miners

Of all the Occupations carried out by overseas Chinese, mining was probably the least 'hidden'. However most of what is known about Chinese mining is stereotyping by European writers. This paper looks at mining and prospecting by Chinese and reviews the technology used and evaluates their methods.

Jan Wegner is a historian of regional Queensland history and mining history. She lectured in History at James Cook University until her retirement in 2019 and is currently an adjunct senior lecturer there. She now volunteers as a researcher for the Cairns Historical Society and holds various volunteer positions for CHINA Inc., the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Australasian Mining History Association among others.

Kevin Rains

The Ravenswood Historical Archaeological Program

Gold was discovered in Ravenswood in North Queensland in 1868, initiating various phases of gold mining activity which peaked in the early 1900s but still continues. What exists now is the remnant township and a complex archaeological landscape relating to 150 years of gold production and domestic activity, including Chinese occupation. Recent expansion of existing gold mining operations has resulted in archaeological works being undertaken by Niche Environment and Heritage to document and salvage critical sites as part of a broader program of managing heritage values. This paper builds on one delivered at the 2018 CHINA Inc conference by recapping some of the main finds relating to Ravenswood's Chinese quarter, as well as presenting new and existing material relating to early Chinese market gardens.

Kevin is an historical archaeologist and heritage manager with experience coordinating and delivering a wide range of heritage projects for State and local government, and currently works as Senior Heritage Consultant for Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd where he has been involved in the heritage components of a variety of large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Brisbane Cross River Rail. He holds a PhD in archaeology from the University of Queensland and his thesis topic is the Overseas Chinese social landscape of early Cooktown. He has produced various academic papers and presentations on the historic archaeology of the Chinese community of Queensland and is a founding member of Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc (CHINA Inc). Kevin has also worked, researched and published on projects focussing on early mining and agricultural landscapes, cemeteries, Australian South Sea Islander communities and the built environment of the late nineteenth century to post-war period.

Marc Cheeseman

Beyond Beef: Chinese and European Foodways in a Late 19th/Early 20th Century North Queensland Mining Town, Ravenswood.

Despite mining being a key feature of the economic landscape in Queensland since the 1860s (Mate 2014:21), and thus an early impetus for population growth in remote regions, most archaeological interest in gold rush sites in Queensland has focussed on

equipment, infrastructure, and historical detail, resulting in an underrepresentation of socially informed studies (Mate 2014:33; see also Harvey 2013). Furthermore, though exceptions exist (e.g. Blake 2010; Bowen 2012; Byrne et al. 2019; Gibbs 2005; Howell-Meurs 2000), relatively few studies have employed faunal analysis to explore dietary, economic, and social patterns of colonial and post-federation Australia; and topics such as the archaeology of food and social diversity are particularly uncommon in these Australian historical contexts (Twiss 2012:361, 378).

This presentation explores how group identity was expressed through past food choice and consumption practices in both the European and Chinese settlement contexts at Ravenswood, using historical documents and zooarchaeological methods.

Marc is an archaeologist and PhD candidate at the University of Queensland. His research focusses on food choice and group identity at two locations in Late 19th Century Queensland; Ravenswood, and Brisbane City. With an interest in 19th Century Chinese diaspora foodways, and emerging ideas of European/Australian "Colonial cuisine", his research looks at how identity was performed through food consumption at these sites.

SESSION 3: Performance and Ritual

Hilda Maclean

School of Social Science, University of Queensland

Burnt matches, broken saucers and headless roosters: Chinese oath taking in Northern Australian colonial courts

Court reportage was voraciously consumed by the readers of the colonies' newspapers. The more salacious the detail and exotic the participants, the greater the number of column inches published for a seemingly insatiable audience. The court scribes were particularly descriptive of cases involving the Chinese and their oath taking rituals. As the curious observers described the minutiae of these rituals, they could be categorized into three main ritual forms and observable regional differences emerged over time.

Contemporary British China 'experts' voiced their opinions of the origin and authenticity of these rituals and the degree that they bound the oath takers, if at all. It was broadly their belief that the concept of oath taking in a court of law did not exist in China at the time. Their interpretation of Chinese ritualistic behaviour evoked a range of responses from mirth to fear and distrust. It was to colour the knowledge of newspaper readers of the Chinese in the antipodean colonies for decades as fallacious stories were republished at intervals.

This research not only brings to the fore the archival record, but also the ability of the North Queensland court system to incorporate culturally diverse rituals to secure the court process from the mid-1870s. It also highlights the role of the colonial press as both entertainment and exposure to and construct of who was seen as the 'other'.

Dr Hilda Maclean is a professional historian, genealogist and archival researcher with over thirty years' experience researching family and local history. Hilda

regularly presents workshops on genealogical and archival research methodology. Her interest in Northern Australian Chinese settlement has broadened since her first participation in a CHINA Inc. conference in 2016. Hilda is still compiling the Queensland Chinese Death Index (1855 – 1985) which has expanded to 8500 entries.

Leigh McKinnon

Chinese Processions In The Top End – 1881 to 1941

Darwin's Chinese community has a strong and continuous festival and associated processional tradition, particularly centred around the Lunar New Year, which stretches back approximately 140 years. While comparable in many ways (while differing in others) to the history of Chinese processions in my home town of Bendigo at the other end of the Australian continent, I will be largely leaving aside in this paper the potentially interesting comparisons to be made between the Chinese processions and communities of these two towns and looking instead at the development and characteristics of Darwin's parades in the boom to bust decades before the Second World War. The different cultural, religious, and civil contexts in which parades took place in this period, their size and scale, and the groups behind their organisation and funding, will be examined as far as the available sources allow. Less well documented processional celebrations in outlying communities such as Pine Creek will also form part of the broader survey of this presentation.

Leigh McKinnon has been Research Officer at Bendigo's Golden Dragon Museum since 2011, and has spent the past decade researching and writing on the Chinese heritage of the Victorian Goldfields region. He is particularly interested in Bendigo's rich processional traditions and parade regalia collection, and has been conducting ongoing research into comparable histories and collections throughout the Chinese diaspora.

Mary Low & Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc (CADCAI)

Acknowledging the Past: Introducing Ching Ming to Cairns

Ching Ming is a much loved day of ancestral celebration held in early April each year, in the Chinese calendar of events. However, it was not practiced in Cairns in the 19th or early 20th Century, unlike another key event the Bar-Lun Sui-Yee Wui or Barron River Memorial Festival which coincided with the August festival for Hungry Ghosts.

This year, the Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc. introduced the first celebration to the community to honour those who lived, worked and are buried in cemeteries around Cairns. It was attended by a modest number of members from the Chinese and broader community. Mary Low Heritage Manager of CADCAI Lit Sung Goong collection will provide an overview of Ching Ming 2022 marking the introduction of acknowledging early settler ancestors of Cairns and district.

SESSION 4: Family and Community

Christopher Cheng Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University.

Savouring the Taste of Home: Chinese Food Memories in Cairns and the Canton Delta

There now seems to be a Chinese restaurant in every corner of the world, and everyone knows Chinese food. My impression of Chinese food was based on what I tasted, growing up in Cairns in the 1990s and 2000s, but after travelling to China, I realised how my understanding was inadequate. My presentation today challenges us to rethink our understanding of Chinese food. It focuses on memories of Chinese food in Cairns and the Canton Delta, primarily from the perspective of Cantonese-speaking immigrant-chefs. As a son of a Hong Kong chef, with family, relatives, and their friends whose working lives are associated with food production in Cairns, my paper builds on my family history research and extends to a broader study of the Cairns Chinese community. The paper provides a brief overview, documenting how successive waves of migration brought a newer appreciation of Chinese food to Cairns. Since its introduction, Chinese food has diversified from an improvised southern regional style influenced by Australian tastes to a more authentic Hong Kong style. However, this transition is incomplete, and, in many ways, so is our understanding of Chinese food. More research is still needed to understand the changing foodways and the customers' attitudes that accompany its diversification and evolution.

Christopher Cheng knows firsthand the double pains of being disconnected from his Chinese roots, while at the same time not being firmly grounded in his parents' immigrant country of Australia. For not quite a decade since 2008, he has been privileged to further his education in Hong Kong and Guangzhou after completing his architectural degree in Brisbane. When not studying, he has been wandering around his ancestral land in south China. In 2017, he joined the China–Australian Heritage Corridor team as a doctoral student at Western Sydney University and has been researching and publishing his field observations in academic and popular outlets, so that other “children in the diaspora” can also benefit. When he's not researching, Christopher writes poems in Chinese, chanted in Cantonese to rhyme.

Pauline O'Keeffe

Pioneers of Military Service: Reluctant Heroes: The Story of Two Gallant Queensland First World War Soldiers.

During World War 1 only five people the Australian Forces were awarded the rare combination of Distinguished Conduct Medal and Bar and Military Medal. Two of them, both of Chinese descent, came from Far North Queensland. Both men did not hesitate to enlist to defend their country of birth although the Defence Act of 1909 required enlistees to be substantially of European descent and origin. This paper highlights new research on their Chinese origins and traces their wartime exploits and outlines their homecoming and post war life.

Pauline O'Keeffe has spent a lifetime working in education and libraries. She has for many years volunteered as Manager of the Cairns Historical Society's significance Imaging Collection. She has a particular interest in World War One and how it affected Far North Queensland.

Sandi Robb

Dragons Dreaming: Aboriginal – Chinese families of north Queensland

There is no doubt that Aboriginal –Chinese Queensland relationships were complex social affairs which bore the brunt of racist and miscegenatic Colonial attitudes and restrictive legislation. It was no great feat then that intimate relations and family formation was still able to prevail against the backdrop of frontier wars, separation and removals which disrupted the majority of mixed heritage unions. Across north Queensland, Aboriginal- Chinese families form a rich part of the Chinese Diaspora story of which researchers are only just starting to understand. This is their story.

Sandi Robb is a practicing historian, cultural heritage consultant and current Collections Manager of the Cairns Historical Society and Museum, Cairns. She Lives and works in north Queensland and specialises in marginalised and migrant history and heritage. She is best known for her work regarding Queensland's Chinese family Landscape of the 19th and early 20th century. She is a founding member and past President of CHINA Inc.

DAY 2.:

SESSION 5: Records and Revisions: a new look at North Queensland

Noreen Kirkman

Chinese Student Passport-holders: Broome and Roebourne, 1920-1930

In 1920, lifting the age restriction on applicants increased submissions by Chinese students to study in Australia. The Chinese Consulate in Melbourne certified the passports. The Department for Home and Territories was responsible for issuing and extending Certificates of Exemption depending on school reports and the ability of sponsors to pay tuition and other fees.

This paper describes the students who received approval to attend schools in Broome and Roebourne in northern Western Australia, including their ages and hometowns. This study also investigates the students' relationships with their sponsors, most with successful businesses in various northwest towns and ports. Records held by the National Archives of Australia, including passports, were the primary sources of information on these students and their sponsors. This paper examines the Guangdong origins of Chinese families in northern Western Australia and a regional study of educational exemptions under the Immigration Restriction Act.

Noreen Kirkman currently lives in Western Australia but grew up in north Queensland. She is returning to historical research after a long career as a librarian. Noreen's previous research included a thesis on the history of the Palmer River Gold Field from 1873 to 1883.

Jonathan Richards

“China Camp Revisited”

China Camp, located in the isolated and rugged McDowall Range between the Daintree and Bloomfield Rivers of North Queensland, was the first place that I knew about which had a connection to the Chinese in Australia, and was the subject of my first paper on Chinese history. In 1999, I wrote: ‘Some of the most important Chinese tin-mining areas in North Queensland were Mt Windsor north of Mareeba, Cannibal Creek on the Palmer mining field and China Camp, on the headwaters of the Bloomfield River’.

I knew that the Crown Lands Ranger from Cooktown reported after a visit to China Camp in 1886 that ‘a party of Chinamen were preparing to wash the creek but were notified by me to quit the ground not being able to hold mineral licenses’. I knew that Cooktown butcher Robert Baird had selected a block of land (called “Connemara” by Kuku-Yalanji people) there in the early-1880s. However, I did not know at the time how the place was given its name.

Twenty-three years later, I see a very different history of China Camp. I no longer rely on published sources, and semi-fictional embellished accounts, instead using original records, aware of their limitations and inherent bias. Comparing my two accounts serves as a useful exercise in the evolution of my own historical practice, and of the slow emergence of a richer understanding of Chinese historical experiences in Australia.

Johnathon Richards is a professional Historian, specialist in records about death, frontier violence and the experiences of Indigenous people under the States criminal justice system. He is always looking for new material that will assist his knowledge and understanding of the past.

Michael Williams

Queensland: Is it as unique as it thinks? The case for comparative studies.

Drawing on the history of the Dictation Test this paper seeks to highlight some of the Queensland specifics of the history. Ranging from shipping scams to sugar plantations, and from treaties with Japan and the Commonwealth’s first international negotiations, it will be argued that yes Queensland is as unique as it thinks. Though maybe not for the reasons it thinks. This paper will also make the case that more comparative research conducted in parallel with local research would assist in determining the impact of racism, discriminatory laws, culture and environment on the history of Chinese Australia.

*Michael Williams is an Adjunct Professor at Western Sydney University and a graduate of Hong Kong University. Michael is a scholar of Chinese-Australian history and a founding member of the Chinese-Australian Historical Society. He is the author of *Returning Home with Glory* (HKU Press, 2018), which traces the history of peoples from south China’s Pearl River Delta around the Pacific Ports of Sydney, Hawaii and San Francisco. Michael has taught at Beijing Foreign Studies and Peking Universities and is currently writing a history of Chinese Australia in *88 Objects* as well as a history of the Robe walkers of 1856-57. His latest book is *Australia’s Dictation Test: The test it was a Crime to Fail* (Brill, 2021).*

SESSION 6:

Gordon Grimwade

Top End Tales: Regales of the Palmer River and Maytown Adventure, 2022

Through his laconic and laid back approach to storytelling, Gordon will provide an overview through images of the Palmer River and Maytown Adventure, 2022.

Lunch Venues

Within walking distance to the Sheridan Hotel Cairns is Dunwoody's Tavern which has just expanded with an al fresco deck restaurant and Smith Street Café.

A bit further afield within driving distance is the Esplanade with Guyala Café and Odettes Café as well as a number of venues along Sheridan Street going into the City such as Victors Gourmet Delicatessen, Little Riccardo's and Sushi Train North Cairns. If you are desperate for a snack or chocolate, there is a Service Station next door.



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. Since then, we have grown as an organization to include a modest but dedicated group of members committed to research, write and promote Chinese History and Heritage across north Australia.

When we started the organization envisioned that CHINA Inc would host regular small “no fuss” conferences 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, a number of Biennial “No Fuss” conferences have been held with 2022 being the eighth after the 2020 conference was postponed due to Covid-19. 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 day 1 and 10.00am Day 2, 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.

This year we are able to offer Eftpos, but we still also take cash. 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, CADCAI, and the Cairns Historical Society.

The 2022 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.

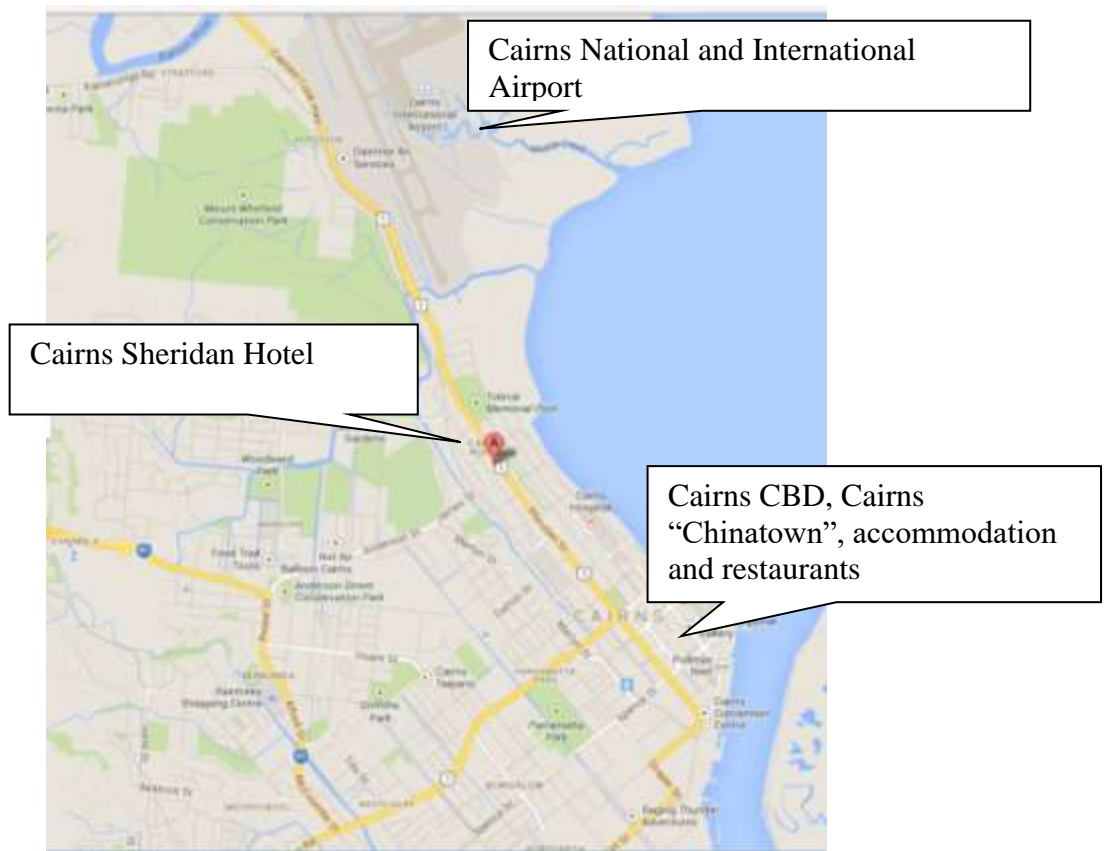
As this is a “no fuss” conference attendees are encouraged to volunteer if they see a gap which needs to be filled. CHINA Inc welcomes the generous assistance from the attendees, to make the conference a truly shared experience!

Membership of CHINA Inc can be taken out at the time of registration. Membership is a modest \$5.00 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/>

www.cadcai.org/

Enjoy!

SPEAKER	NOTES