
TUNG JUNG ASSOCIATION OF NZ INC
PO Box 9058, Wellington, New Zealand

Newsletter

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM
THE NEW ZEALAND TUNG JUNG ASSOCIATION INC
PO BOX 9058 WELLINGTON**

Name
Address
Phone.....fax.....
E-mail.....

Please register/renew my/our membership for the year 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 by ticking in the appropriate box and returning this form with payment. Please note that senior members over the age of 70 years do not have to pay but must return this form to ensure that the names are entered on the membership mailing list.

			TICK
Membership fees	\$10	Per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$15	Husband/wife/partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$20	Family includes parent(s) and all unmarried family members	<input type="checkbox"/>
	n/a	Senior members 70 years and Over	<input type="checkbox"/>

Donations I wish to donate \$.....to assist with the ongoing activities of the Association including special assistance with the purchase of a new building.

All Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

Signature.....**Date**.....

Additional Family Members – please fill in names
Wife/husband/partner.....
Family Member.....
Family Member.....
Family Member.....

Notes:

1. **Senior members over 70 years of age do not pay but must return this form to be entered on the membership mailing list.**
2. **This form may be completed in English or Chinese.**
3. **Please return this form with payment to The Tung Jung Association of New Zealand, PO Box 9058 Wellington.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After a much delayed Annual General Meeting of the Association, I am pleased to inform you that the executive committee of the Association has been re-elected with the addition of two new members – Howard Chung and Jocelyn Choong. We welcome them into the committee and with their input, I am sure the new year will have different activities and projects.

The refurbishment of the Association's premises are now fully completed and members are welcome to attend any of our monthly meetings, usually held on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm. The Association's premises are also available to members if they wish to use it for small functions.

This year the Association is going ahead with the Jungsen emigration history to New Zealand in association with Henry Chan and any old photographs or material that we can use would be much appreciated. If you have any, please contact Allen Chang on 021 658781 or 9718084 or email: achang@paradise.net.nz. They will of course be looked after. It is our intention to have this project finished and a book printed in time for our 80th anniversary in July 2006.

We are hoping to increase activities in our premises with occasional hands on cooking demonstrations. So if you are skilled in some particular field or would like to impart some knowledge of special recipes, then we would like you to help. Feel free to contact any committee member.

In previous reports, I have asked for contributions from members to put in our regular newsletters. There must be a wealth of stories from the past that some of you would like to share with others, or a photograph of some past occasion that others might recall. We need some contributions in order to make our newsletters more interesting.

After many years of inactivity, the Association has seen a rise in membership since we started our historical projects. There are many people who would like to know their historical background and the Association will be able to help them achieve this.

Our Association, in conjunction with the other Wellington based county associations will be hosting the National Day dinner at the Grand Century Restaurant on Sunday 3 October 2004. Please contact any committee member for tickets.

The annual Chung Yeung festival dinner will be held in October. The date and venue will be notified at a later date.

We welcome new members so if you are of Tung Jung (Tung Quan and Jungsen counties) origin or are descendants of Tung Jung origin, and would like to join a large extended family, please contact any committee member for details.

Gordon Wu
President
September 2004

Membership form

This can now be printed off the Association's website www.tungjung.org.nz

Please note that the financial year for the Association began on 1 April. To ensure your membership remains current send your membership form with your payment to PO Box 9058 Wellington. We are now asking members to write down their ancestral village in China.

Senior members over 70 years of age do not need to pay but should return the membership form so that membership records can be kept up to date.

Apology

In the last newsletter the website address of the Guangdong Overseas Chinese Affairs Office was incorrect. The backslash at the end of the address was missing. We apologise to our readers. The correct address is <http://gocn.southcn.com/English/> and should now work.

Proposed Tour to China March – April 2005

The Association has decided to not proceed with this tour because of insufficient numbers. However, Janet Joe, who would have been the group's tour guide, has received a number of enquiries from others around New Zealand and is intending to run a tour as we intended in March – April.

If you are interested, contact Janet direct through:

Planet Earth Travel
Smith & Caughley Building
253 Queen Street
AUCKLAND
Phone (09) 377 1933

Association website

This has been languishing but is now up and running. The site has been designed so that people can write about their ancestral villages. We know that a number of people have visited China recently and this section provides a opportunity for people to share their experiences and talk about their village. Material in electronic form may be sent to Allen Chang, achang@paradise.net.nz.

Please help us to make the Association's website interesting and informative.

Unfolding Chinese New Zealand: Emerging Voices

In July 2004, the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies and the Alexander Turnbull Library jointly ran a two day seminar focused on the history of the New Zealand Chinese. The Tung Jung Association, along with other Chinese community groups was invited to make a presentation. Our slide presentation that traces some of the past and looks into the future will soon be available through the website www.tungjung.org.nz

Oral History Project 2003 – 2004

In 2003, the Association spurred on by the upsurge in interest in the history of Chinese in New Zealand, applied to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for a grant to conduct an oral history project. This was successful.

Kitty Chang has now completed the project. Her write up and summation raises a number of interesting issues. This will be available on the Association's website www.tungjung.org.nz

The audio tapes of the interviews and abstracts have been lodged with ministry for Culture and Heritage and following due process will be available through the Alexander Turnbull Library to researchers of early New Zealand Chinese history.

Association records and 80th

Now that the alterations to the Association's new premises have been completed (and a huge thanks to people like Howard Chung, Willie Wong and Peter Kohing who gave up much of their time to sand, scrape and paint) and all those members who have and continue to make special donations to our building fund, the committee is very keen to ensure that all of the records of the Association are collected and stored in one place (Except for those housed in the Alexander Turnbull Library).

Could members and former members please check that all records belong to the Association are returned? These may have been stored in garages, studys, under beds, in old boxes etc. We will come and collect. We are especially keen to gather back meeting notes, records of decisions taken, photographs and any other items that will help record the history of the Association since it was founded in 1926.

Looking ahead to the celebration of the Association's 80th, as with the very successful 65th and 75th anniversaries, it is intended that a book will be written recording the events and history of the past 80 years. To make it more meaningful the book needs to contain stories and photographs. Stories about families and their involvement with the Association are especially welcome. We know that many people/families have been working on the family histories that would be of general interest to all. If you can help with this project, please contact Allen Chang.

Changes of Address

There have been some instances when the newsletter has been delivered to an incorrect address because people have moved. The membership committee would be grateful if when members change their address, they are notified so that postings of the newsletter are sent to the correct address. Often we are unaware of changes and this leads to embarrassing situations, at first beyond the committee's control. Please assist us to keep our records up to date.

Chung Yeung Festival

It is hoped that the Chung Yeung Festival Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 31st at a venue to be decided. Please write this date in your diary. The social committee will inform members and other in the near future as to where the dinner will be held and at what time.

Suggestion Letters

The Committee is always open to suggestions as to how we can improve our service to the members of our community. If you have any suggestions, criticisms (of a positive nature), or other matters we would welcome them. All you would need to do is to write us a note, send it to our secretary or to any member of the committee and you can be assured that due consideration will be given to them. The Association needs input from others if we are to make progress in all aspects. Please give it some thought and give your ideas as to how we can improve the affairs of the Association..

Subscriptions

These are due. If you have not paid your subscription for this year, please give this matter your attention. The fee is not onerous but it is necessary. This newsletter costs some money to produce. It is hoped that in the not too distant future, most will have email and it will be viewed on our website.

Moon Festival Dinner

A very successful Moon Festival Dinner was held at the Regal Restaurant on Sunday, September 12. It was very pleasing to see some new faces and the comments made by them were very positive. Dinners of this nature, both in the food and the company are proving very popular.

A short note concerning the origin of the Moon Festival is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Christmas Function

December will soon be upon us and the Social Committee will be able to inform us shortly as to what they have in mind for this year. Father Christmas has always been a welcome visitor at this function.

Zhong Qiu (The Mid-Autumn/Moon Festival)

The moon festival in the traditional Chinese Calendar occurs on the 15th day of the 8th month. The Autumn season occurs in the 7th, 8th and 9th month of the Chinese Calendar and on the night of the 15th day of the middle month, the moon is thought to be brighter, fuller and more beautiful than at any other time, hence the mid-autumn festival is known as the moon festival.

The moon festival is celebrated in different ways in different parts of China, though the most common type of celebration is by way of a family reunion dinner. Myths and legends abound in Chinese culture about the moon, hence the popularity of this festival.

Perhaps the best known myth is that of Chang Er flying to the moon.

According to the Chinese folklore, the earth had 10 suns circling over it, each taking its turn to illuminate the earth. One day all 10 appeared together and began to scorch the earth. An archer named Hou Yi saved the earth by shooting down all but one of the suns. Because of this, the people of the earth made him king. His pride soon got the better of him and he became a tyrant, drinking, womanising and killing people at will. He became much disliked by the people and seeing that his days were numbered, he went to see Wang Mu the Fairy Queen in search of the "Elixir of Life". Hou Yi's beautiful wife, Chang Er, drank the elixir before he did in order to save the people from his tyranny. After drinking the elixir, she became light and floated upwards to the moon where she still lives. Hou Yi loved his wife so much that he did not shoot down the moon and so ended his oppression. The moon festival has been celebrated since that time in honour of Chang Er.

Moon cakes were made popular during the Yuan dynasty when China was ruled by the Mongolians. Rebels, knowing that the Autumn Moon Festival was drawing near, ordered the making of special cakes and inside each cake was a message outlining a plan of attack against the Mongolians. On the night of the Moon Festival, the rebels attacked and overthrew the Mongolians, establishing the Chinese Ming Dynasty. Moon Cakes are still served at this time to commemorate this victory and the restoration of Chinese Rule. The round "moon cakes" are also symbolic of family unity and closeness.