

Winter Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

<https://tungjung.nz/newsletters/>


新西蘭東增會館

Tung Jung Association of NZ Incorporated 1926

Presidents Update:

Welcome to our Winter 2025 newsletter, and thanks again to our temporary editor Lucinda Chiu, who has kindly stepped in while we search for a new newsletter editor.

Behind the scenes, we've been busy preparing for our regular calendar of events—National Day celebrations, Mid-Autumn Festival, and looking ahead to our 100th anniversary. We're pleased to share that the dates for our Centenary Celebrations have been set for Labour Weekend, 24–26 October 2026. Planning is underway, and we encourage all members to mark their calendars.

We're also in the early stages of developing the Centenary Book Project (working title: TBC), which will capture stories, images, and history from the past century of Tung Jung Association. See page 4 for how you can contribute to this landmark publication celebrating our centenary of struggles and successes.

As always, we welcome more helpers—whether that's joining an event subcommittee or assisting with membership and newsletters. Every bit of support helps us continue to build a strong and connected community. Many thanks to Felicity Wong for her guest article.

And if you're curious about my recent travels through China with a three-year-old in tow, you can read more on page 7!

Dr Graham Chiu
President

PS: Local body elections are being held in October. We have 2 candidates who are Tung Jung. Please vote!

In this newsletter:

Social Events
Update

100 Years
Celebration and
Photo Book

Travels in China
with a Toddler

Illiteracy in a
Chinese world

Community
Updates

AGM and
Constitution

Chinese Mission
Hall

Upcoming Social Event - Mid Autumn Festival 2025

Mid-Autumn Festival, a time for family reunion and enjoying the harvest moon! We would be delighted to have you join us for a banquet filled with delicious food, mooncakes, and festive cheer.

Date: Sunday, October 12, 2025

Time: 6 p.m. be seated.

Venue: Dragon Restaurant, 25 Tory Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Non-Members \$55 pp

Subsidized Rates:

Members \$40 pp

Senior Members (age ≥ 80) \$30 pp

Child Under 1.3m \$30 pp

Children Under age 5 Free

Cash or Internet Banking to Account

01-0505-0178453-00

Ref: Moon Fest with initial, surname

RSVP by Sunday, October 5 using the Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/Qj6S4LyLHGSMfHLV7>

For ushering purposes, please provide the names of the people at your table when you RSVP.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Peter Moon,
Social Convenor



Menu

Soup

Chicken Sweet Corn, Hearty & Comforting

Mains

Sautéed **Chicken** with Cashew Nuts Served in a Noodle Basket
Sweet and salty flavour

Peking Duck (Sig)

Crispy Duck slices with pancake wraps
Rich, savoury flavour.

Steamed Fresh **Blue Cod** with Ginger & Spring Onions
Slightly sweet, and delicate flavour

Crispy **King Prawn** with Salt Pepper with Shells
Mildly sweet and buttery seafood flavour

Braised **Seasonal Vegetable** with **Shiitake Mushroom** Combo
Meaty Taste & Crispy Veg

Chinese Crispy **Roast Pork**
Savoury & Sweet

Dragons' Special **Fish Patties**, Vermicelli & Vegetable Casserole
Salty and sweet flavours.

Orange Beef

Sweet lemon zest with a tangy punch

Beverage

BYO, Orange Juice, Jasmine Tea

Dessert

Miniature Mooncakes (Reflections of the Moon)

Sago with Coconut Cream (Sweet and tangy)

Fresh Fruit Platter

Raffle: 3 Tickets for \$5*

Winter Solstice 2025

Despite the winter weather we had great turn out for our annual winter Yum Cha. This popular social event was a great opportunity for our members to catch up with family and friends over hot Chinese tea and yummy selection of dumplings.



Christmas Yum Cha

Wednesday 3 December.
Venue: Dragon Restaurant.

Put this date in your calendar so you don't forget.

If you have behaved yourself during the year Santa Claus might give you a present?

Look forward to seeing you all there...

Peter Moon

Events Calendar

- 24 Aug: AGM
- 12 Oct: Mid-Autumn Festival
- 2 Nov: Cheung Yeung
- 3 Dec: Christmas Yum Cha
- Mid Dec: Senior Visits

<https://tungjung.nz/calendar/>

Send us Your Images for the Tung Jung Association Centenary Book Project

It's time to look through your photo albums and send in your photos for the Tung Jung Centenary Book Project.



Willie Wong's General Store in Utiku, 1940s. Copyright is held by Helene Wong, from the collection of Helene Wong and family (Sa Tau 沙头). Helene Wong, Willie Wong's daughter, recalls: From 1937 to 1951 we were the only Chinese family in this small rural service town straddling the Main Trunk Railway Line. Willie drove the truck into the backblocks to deliver mail and collect milk from the dairy farmers, while my mother Dolly looked after the general store, drapery and gasoline pumps. The family were made an integral part of the community and their memories of Saturday night dances and picnics at the Rangitikei River were some of the fondest of their lives.

The Tung Jung Centenary Book Project is aiming to capture the lives and everyday experiences of Jung Seng and Tung Goon families from the late 1800s to recent decades. This will be the story of our community told in pictures.

We are looking for a range of photographs that are visually striking, symbolic, and create questions for the viewer. Images that tell the story of the wider community at work and play, candid shots, workplaces and homes, and formal moments. We want photos from our earliest times 100 years ago right up to the present day.

We are especially looking for photos across the following themes:

- **Work** – Trades, businesses, professions
- **Family & Domestic Life** – Home, family life and domestic activities
- **Recreation** – Social gatherings, hobbies, leisure and fun
- **Places** – cities, towns and rural areas across New Zealand, and buildings and other places that were important to our community
- **Community** – Celebrations, special events, festivals, volunteering, Tung Jung and other community groups
- **War & Service** – Military participation (eg WWI and WWII, Sino-Japanese War) and wartime activities (eg 1937 Sino-Japanese War fundraising, lobbying and resistance)
- **Migration** – life in China, migration, people left behind and visits back

Our editorial process

We know that your photos are precious and every image we receive will be treated with the greatest respect. The editorial committee managing the process is: Tiana Marshall Wong (author, Gwa Leng and Bak Shek), Lucinda Chiu (project manager, Shek Ha), and advisers Rita Chung (Hok Hoi and Peng Di), Liz Ngan (Sun Gai and Sha Tou), Gilbert Wong (Sha Tou), Helene Wong (Sun Gai and Sha Tou) and Kirsten Wong (Bak Shek and Sai Jow).

Sadly our book will be limited in the number of photos we can include. However, with your permission, all the photos we receive will be shown at the Tung Jung centenary events and a copy saved in a project record for future researchers. Contributors will also have the choice to opt out of the centenary slideshow and the record for future researchers.

Submit your photos!

We are receiving contributions via Google Forms. Please use this link:

<https://forms.gle/a16U4UC7FRpLRUqL6>

You will need to have a Google Account to fill out the form. If you need help filling it out, and your family is unable to help, please contact centenarybook@tungjung.nz.

Our deadline for submission is **30 August 2025**.

For more information (<https://tungjung.nz/book>)

Mark your Calendars: Centenary Celebrations 24-26 Oct 2026

Join us in Wellington for our Centenary Celebrations from 24 to 26 October 2026.

Stay tuned for details.

Vote for **SENSE^{IN} THE CITY**

 **ZERO RATES INCREASES**

 **BACK TO BASICS**

 **NO PARTY POLITICS**

 **ACCESS BRINGS BUSINESS**

 **A SAFER CITY**

RAY CHUNG
FOR MAYOR



vote for it. nz

vote for  **independent together**

Authorised by Paul Heffernan, 8 Chaffers St, Wellington

Travels in China with a Toddler

By Graham Chiu

As I write this, I'm sitting in a stifling apartment in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. The Gobi and Taklamakan deserts are not far away. While I'd rather be in Jengsen/Zengcheng enjoying peak lychee season, even here, street sellers are offering them at around 10 RMB per kilo—a bargain compared to \$80/kg back in New Zealand!

Our journey began last year, when my wife travelled to China to bring back our then two-year-old grandson. We were keen for him to spend more time with us in New Zealand and share the grandparenting load with his maternal grandparents in China. Despite applying for a six-month visa, he was only granted a three-month multiple re-entry visitor visa. When that expired, he had to leave the country to reset the visa clock. You may know that China grants NZ citizens visa free entry for a month, but the NZ government has so far declined to reciprocate claiming that Chinese visitors are at a high risk of overstaying. But do they really expect a then 2 year old to overstay? All I can say is that considerable export dollars were lost to the NZ economy by our need to leave NZ.

The easiest way to leave NZ was to go back to China using the visa free travel period. We travelled around Guangdong—visiting Guangzhou, Zengcheng, Zhongshan, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Macau—with a by now a 3-year-old in tow. He had grown heavier reaching the 95% percentile for weight, and insisted on being carried most of the time! It wasn't easy, but it was special - especially on our backs. Twenty-two kilograms is a lot of wriggling muscle and bone.

Travel within Guangzhou has become much easier than in the past. The extensive city rail system now allows one to reach ancestral villages with perhaps a taxi for the last mile. And travel within China has become much easier than in the past. Trip.com is now the premiere travel app since it's Chinese based. You can book hotels and and rail with it but be sure you enter your passport details as otherwise if they don't appear on the electronic ticket, they won't let you travel. Lesson learned!

For the second 3 month period we tried to bring his other grandparents to New Zealand so that they could take him back to China, but their visitor visa was unexpectedly declined. It would seem immigration is overly keen on profiling older Chinese tourists as potential overstayers (see above).

Luckily we managed to renew his visa without being forced to leave NZ again but the new visa was no longer renewable. A mere \$500 to change the visa. So, at the end of another 3 months he said his sad goodbyes to his kindergarten buddies and we returned to Urumqi.

Despite the headlines, life here feels peaceful and welcoming. The local Uyghur culture is vibrant—there's music and dancing in the parks at night and delicious BBQs on the street. Uyghur food is the way to spend the hot evenings as the restaurants spill out onto the street with the smell of BBQ lamb everywhere. New signage with Uyghur script appears more prominently than before showing small but visible cultural shifts, or, perhaps as a counter to western propaganda. New Zealand could learn from this thriving bicultural coexistence.

We'll soon return to NZ via Hong Kong—grateful for Cathay Pacific's stopover policy which allows a stop-over for a few days in the transit period which benefits Hong Kong's economy. There's a new zoonotic outbreak in Foshan at present with over 7000 people infected by the Chikungunya virus with Covid era protections in place but we don't expect to meet mosquitos on the plane!

Illiteracy in a Chinese world

By Graham Chiu

It might have disturbed my grandfather Chiu Kwok-Chun if he were alive today to find that almost all of his living descendants are functionally illiterate in Chinese. He was a scholar himself and edited a number of Revolutionary newspapers on behalf of the Republican movement, and was the General Secretary for NZCA from its inception for many years. In 1910 literacy was only 10-20% and the Republic of China followed by the People's Republic of China, both tried to simplify the characters thinking this was the problem. And now in the 21st Century, literacy rates exceed 95%.

But the diagnosis was incorrect as this high literacy rate exists both for using traditional characters or Fántǐzì (繁体字 / 繁體字) in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau vs the simplified characters or Jiǎntǐzì (简体字 / 簡體字) used on the mainland. It is likely that all you need to do is grow up surrounded by Chinese characters and you can then learn either traditional or simplified, whatever you are taught. Infact pinyin is first taught to children so that they can pronounce the words before they have to learn to read the hanzi.

When I was young I was taught the Bopomofo (Zhuyin Fuhao 注音符號) system used in Taiwan as our teacher was from Taiwan. This doesn't use Latin characters and thus avoids the overloading that occurs with pinyin. By this I mean for example that "u" in pinyin is pronounced differently eg. in xué (学, learn) vs lù (路, road), and there are over 4 different pronunciations for the letter "e". Zhuyin doesn't suffer with these issues but the symbols are hard to represent on a standard keyboard. 学 becomes ㄒㄩㄝˊ and 路 is represented as ㄌㄨˋ.

Character simplification even results in some words with different pronunciations and meanings depending on context.

We can consider the simplified characters as representing a lossy form of compression where important semantic and phonetic details are dropped from the characters. To most who learn the simplified characters, the historical trove of more than 2000 years of Chinese literature is lost to them.

It is true that simplified characters represent a reduction in stroke count when writing characters but most modern Chinese do not hand write. Instead they use keyboards on their phones and computers. They type out the pinyin and choose the characters from the choice given to them. Even if you select the wrong character the software can be smart enough to correct mistakes automatically. There are even short cuts so that entire phrases can be reduced to a few single characters making the typing of Fántǐzì faster on a western keyboard than typing English! Eg. wsm → 为什么 (wèishénme, "why"). If you have ever used a Chinese karaoke machine you will know how this works.

And the use of keyboards has become so prevalent that people after graduating from school have started to forget how to write the characters though they can still read them. It even has a name for the phenomenon "提笔忘字" (tíbǐ wàngzì) or pick up pen, forget characters. It mainly affects the younger generation highly dependent on pinyin input to produce output.

Now, traditionally, Chinese literacy is taught by the highly repetitive method of handwriting out characters time and time again. And we now suspect that this isn't necessary with modern digital systems. We really only need to know the pinyin and how to read the characters which is different from writing them putting us at the same level as those of the younger generation who have forgotten how to hand write.

At the age of 70 I knew how to write my Chinese name. But I couldn't write the names of my children or wife or siblings. I do remember being taught how to write 國 at a Sunday school off Queen Street in Auckland when I was 4 or 5. But that was about the limit of my formal instruction. Interestingly if you look at that character 國 you see the word for a weapon surrounded by a defensive border. But the modern version is a border enclosing jade (国) suggesting a cultural treasure). The phonetic-semantic content is totally changed.

A few months ago I came across a book called "Remembering Simplified Hanzi" by James Heisig. It borrows upon the tricks of memory experts who can remember the number pi to hundreds of decimal places. They tend to use what are called memory palaces but Heisig sticks to just constructing the vivid stories around a Chinese character for you to finally remember how to read them. Others go further with the memory palace method to assign rooms in the palace to a particular tone, and you have actors or residents in the palace who represent the beginning and ending sounds of a word. To partly illustrate this, consider the characters 长江 Cháng Jiāng or the Yangtze River. Let's say you want to remember how to read 江. The left hand radical is water which you will learn early on. The right hand looks like an I beam. So, imagine an I-beam floating down a river. But to get the sound, we add an actor Jennifer Aniston. She is throwing the beam into the water. Of course it's silly, iron beams don't float but this makes it more memorable. And we use the first J from her name to approximate the J of Jiāng. You need another actor or place to get the ang sound and the first tone. Although it sounds like a awful amount of work to generate the stories and characters, practice has shown it does help. And eventually the word's meaning remain while the stories fade from memory. AI can even be prompted to generate a series of mnemonics until it gives you one you can use.

You need maybe 10,000 characters to read a Chinese newspaper with your translation device to get the ones you don't know. Heisig's book will get you the first 1500 characters and his second book another 1500 characters. Reading elementary primers to consolidate what you learn and increase your vocabulary is one way to extend after that.

Having started his book 1 and method a couple of months ago I am up to 500 characters and I'm pleasantly surprised to find I can read the odd characters when I walk the streets of Urumqi whereas before they were all a mystery. This is all very encouraging and hopefully I will be able to get the first 3000 characters under my belt. To consolidate the learning I use Ankiroid which is spaced repetition software which is designed to help you retain things you want to learn. It's a pity I didn't start this process 60 years ago given that it seems so easy and no teacher is involved.

Remembering Simplified Hanzi 1: How Not to Forget the Meaning and Writing of Chinese Characters by James W. Heisig (Author), Timothy W. Richardson (Author). Kindle Edition USD12.00 Rated 4.5/5 from 144 ratings.

Farewell to Reverend Henry Yap

Reverend Henry Yap, minister to the Anglican Chinese Mission for 14 years, retired in June this year, and we were invited to attend his retirement dinner. Graham Chiu shared a table with Keith Chin (Seyip President) and Debbie Chin (WCA President) and we gave Henry a small gift to commemorate the occasion.

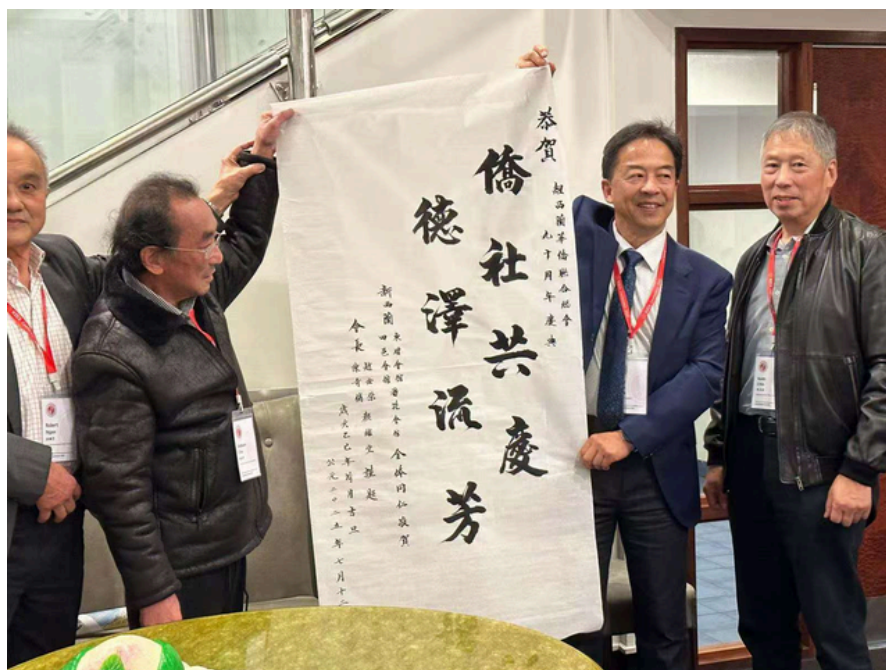


Reverend Henry Yap farewelled by his lion cubs

NZCA 90th Anniversary

by Graham Chiu

NZCA had their 90th Anniversary this year which they celebrated with a small dinner at the Grand Century Restaurant. We (Tung Jung, Seyip, and Poon Fah) commissioned a scroll to celebrate the occasion which we presented at the dinner. Both Tung Jung and Poon Fah were one of the founding organizations for NZCA, and our president at the time, William Kwok (Kwok Kee-Yee) also became the NZCA first president. On a personal note both my grandfathers were also signatories to the incorporation of the NZCA. The Seyip Association didn't exist at that time but the Chinese vice-consul, Yue Henry Jackson 余亨利, was a prominent Seyip person, who also signed the incorporation documents.



Presidents Robert Ngan (Poon Fah), Graham Chiu (Tung Jung), Paul Chin (NZCA), Keith Chin (Seyip)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUNG JUNG ASSOCIATION NZ SUNDAY 24 AUGUST 2025, 3PM

REGAL RESTAURANT

7 Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington 6011

And Online: <https://meet.google.com/sby-fqsw-qnr>

Agenda and minutes from 2024 will be circulated prior and will be available on the day.

Any other agenda items to be notified in writing by Sunday 17th August to the Helen South (secretary@tungjung.nz)

Members are invited to join the committee for dinner at Regal Chinese Restaurant following the AGM. Please RSVP to secretary@tungjung.nz.

Constitution review

We're making some important updates to our society's constitution to align with the Charities Amendment Act 2023. A provisional version will be shared with you ahead of the AGM, and we'll be discussing and finalising the changes there.

These updates are crucial for staying compliant with the new laws. Plus, to stay on the Incorporated Societies Register, we'll need to re-register under the 2022 Act by 5 April 2026. It's important we all understand what this means and agree on the changes to keep things running smoothly.

Make sure to have a look at the updated constitution before the AGM, and feel free to bring any questions or provide feedback!

Obituaries

Since 2003, the TJA has published regular newsletters, which have become a valuable historical record of our members' lives and their contributions to both our community and New Zealand. These stories help preserve our collective memory for future generations. We warmly encourage families to submit obituaries when a loved one passes away. By sharing these tributes, we honour their legacy and ensure their place in our shared history remains meaningful.



Regal Chinese Restaurant 豪苑

Address: Level 1, 7-9 Courtenay Place,
Wellington, New Zealand.

Phone: (04) -3846656

With our professionally trained chefs specialising in Cantonese cuisine and Yum Char, we aim to share you the fine tradition of Cantonese cooking with a contemporary touch, utilising fresh New Zealand produce.

我們擁有經過專業訓練的廚師，擅長粵菜和早茶，我們利用新鮮的紐西蘭食材，為您分享具有現代風味的粵菜烹飪的優良傳統。



Chinese Mission Hall

By Felicity Wong, Historic Places Wellington

The future of the Chinese Mission Hall (completed in 1906) at 46 Frederick Street is being discussed.

Last week owner Maurice Clark sought a Teams meeting with President Graham Chiu, members of other Associations and Councillor Ray Chung.

The Chinese Mission Hall is a Heritage category 2 listed building. It was purchased in 2009 from the Murdoch family by Snefru Ltd, with director Maurice Clark. Maurice closed the building, then known as “Fred’s TV” in 2012 partly due to concerns about the brick structure in an earthquake. However, MENZSHED started to use the building again from 2013 until it closed again in 2017 due to its earthquake prone status.

Owner’s Obligations

As a condition of adding extra floors to his social housing building next door at 40-44 Frederick Street (which exceeded the height limit in place at that time), Maurice agreed to strengthen and refurbish the Chinese Mission Hall and these conditions were added to the consent.

Maurice says he received an extra 2 floors but others say he received an extra 4-5 floors with a 34.5m building in a 27m height limited zone.

In any event the resource consent conditions were agreed prior to 2022 and Maurice says that costing of compliance with them was done pre-Covid and have increased since then.

Maurice also received a “shovel-ready” government loan of \$10m during COVID. Despite positive media reporting about the restoration of the Chinese Mission Hall, it was not a formal condition of the loan which has since been repaid.

The issue of costs for strengthening has been around for a while. In August 2024 Graham Chiu received a communication from Steven Young, consulting engineer advising *“I have inspected the building with Maurice and concluded that it would be prohibitively expensive to restore to an authentic and creditable condition”*.

During last week’s Team’s call Maurice presented his preferred proposal to demolish the building and replace it with a smaller Chinese style pavilion (Option 3 below).

Site Purchase

Maurice purchased four sites: 40-44 Frederick St for the 13 storey social housing building; 46 Frederick St (Chinese Mission Hall); and the adjoining two sites facing Taranaki St (129-133).

He paid \$2.02m for the Chinese Mission Hall in 2009, and an unknown sum for the Murdoch factory site on Taranaki Street. He incurred additional costs to demolish the existing buildings and undertake site studies. He sold the two Taranaki St sites to Wellington City Council for \$3.7m in July 2023 in order for it to create a new urban park.

The “Housing First” development was completed this year and is leased to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. HUD sub-leases it to a Community Housing Provider to manage. The social housing is well run and homes 72 vulnerable disabled and homeless people.

WCC is currently doing detailed design work for its new park and has contracted designers (including artist Ah Ling). WCC is pressing Maurice to make progress with strengthening the Mission building saying its status causes difficulty for the park work to proceed.

Maurice advises that WCC (Parks and Gardens) would actually prefer to see the Mission Hall demolished and its footprint absorbed into increasing the size of the park. Such an option would be cheaper for Maurice than the revised estimate of \$2m-\$5m cost of refurbishment (asbestos was found in late 2023).

Maurice’s Proposals

Maurice has identified three options:

1. Full restoration and compliance with consent conditions which he objects to as unaffordable (\$2m-\$5m);
2. Bare minimum external strengthening and sale; or
3. Demolition and replacement with a smaller Chinese style “pavilion” or garden feature.

Option 1: Restoration

Full restoration is now estimated to have increased from \$2 million (pre-COVID) for seismic strengthening, asbestos removal, and compliance with modern building codes (e.g., accessibility especially from Frederick Street, thermal insulation).

He said that the current building is impractical for reuse (e.g., as a café or gallery) due to high restoration costs and poor integration with the adjacent park. Rent would not be financially viable due to the need to recover costs.

Option 3 : Demolition for Garden Feature

Maurice expressed his preference for a cheaper option of demolishing the Chinese Mission Hall and replacement with a smaller, Chinese-themed pavilion or garden feature, which he considers would be more functional for the community.

Maurice understood that WCC parks and garden would prefer for it to be demolished as it interferes with the views from the adjacent park area. He pointed out that the community could get a Chinese themed garden now if the building were removed, and appropriate landscaping be applied to the adjacent garden area given his belief the Chinese Garden on the waterfront was likely to be at least 10 years in the future.

Thomas Chong suggested a modern architectural interpretation rather than replicating historical styles.

Community Opposition

Graham and Ray emphasized the building's heritage value as a link to early Chinese-Christian settlers, rejecting the idea that its non-traditional Chinese architecture diminished its cultural and historic significance.

Felicity Wong of community group Historic Places Wellington, and others advocate for preserving the building to display historical photos and artifacts, though Maurice disputed the feasibility due to lack of funding.

Graham questioned whether cost increases alone justified demolition and recalled that even as recently as June 2023 Maurice was advising that the restoration and fit out was going to cost \$2 million (prior to the discovery of asbestos).

Option 2

A further option has since been identified. Strengthen and retain the existing external structure while postponing any internal restoration for a future owner.

Maurice warned that this would require significant concessions from the council on code compliance but he will work up costings for such an option, assuming the building could be sold on an "as is" basis, once strengthening was completed.

Outcome

The group noted the options and looked forward to receiving Maurice's formal proposals (including cost breakdowns for options 2 and 3) before exploring or seeking funding, or engaging in any council negotiations.

The Committee noted the issues relate to tensions between heritage preservation, financial realities, and urban development priorities.

Heritage Status

In 2023 Heritage New Zealand recognised the historical significance of the building as one of the last remaining buildings of the old Chinatown, known as 'Tong Yan Gaai'.

The Heritage NZ listing includes the whole building (ie the land described as Pt Section 231 Town of Wellington (RT WN141/92), Wellington Land District and the building known as Chinese Mission Hall thereon).

In 2000 (27 July) only the front façade was scheduled on the Wellington City District Plan. The demolition and relocation of the front facade is therefore a "restricted discretionary" activity (ie needs resource consent). The DP scheduling did not cover the rest of the building, though WCC consults with Heritage NZ.

The site has also been recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association (references R27/270 and R27/405).

History and Design: ACM Years

From the 1880s Chinese arrived in Wellington from elsewhere in NZ, including from areas of gold mining. In 1900 the Wellington Anglican Diocese identified the need for a Chinese Missioner and church to meet the specific needs of the small but growing Chinese community in Wellington. The Anglican Diocese formally set up the Wellington Anglican Chinese Mission (ACM) in 1903. The ACM soon became the dominant church for Chinese in Wellington and was based in temporary quarters in Haining Street.

In 1905 the ACM purchased the Frederick Street land and the design and construction of the hall was largely due to the efforts of Reverend Richard Coffey, the Vicar of St Marks Anglican Church at Dufferin Street by the Basin Reserve.

The Chinese community raised half of the cost of the building. The rest was met by the Anglican Diocese of Wellington, various Trusts and individuals.

The modest brick building at 46 Frederick St was designed in a plain Gothic Revival style by noted architect Frederick de Jersey Clere (1856-1952).

Frederick de Jersey Clere designed the building in brick with concrete foundations and a symmetrical façade. The brickwork for the walls is in English bond. Pilasters with minimal decoration are positioned at either corner of the front façade. The central timber front double-door has two steps leading up to it and a fanlight above. The fanlight and the door, sit within a smaller, projecting entrance gable.

The original cross which was fixed above the entrance gable has been removed. The original raised lettering for the signage of 'Chinese Mission Hall' is largely gone, only the fragment of 'NES.....M..SION' still remains. The interior of the hall is in poor condition but the building largely retains it's authenticity with much of original historic "fabric".

The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Frederic Wallis in December 1905 and the church was dedicated three months later by Venerable Archdeacon Thomas Fancourt.

The opening on 9 March 1906 was presided over by both Coffey and Fancourt, a number of Europeans and with Daniel Wong (1864-1908) an Anglican Lay Evangelist interpreting to the over 100 Chinese present. Wong ministered to approximately 500 Chinese residents from the hall, teaching Anglican spiritual traditions and English literacy. Wong was held in high regard in Wellington and, when he passed away in 1908 he was mourned with community silence and over 200 Chinese attended his funeral at St Marks.

Others took over the leadership at the Chinese Mission Hall and the community continued to prosper.

The Anglican Chinese Mission Hall met their community needs by functioning as both a church and community hall. It was used by members of the Chinese community to attend services, learn the gospel, improve English literacy through the study of Christian religious texts and celebrate Anglican spiritual traditions.

By 1922 there were reportedly between 90 and 160 people attending Sunday church services at the Chinese Mission Hall, where they were often 'packed like sardines' in the small space.

Under the leadership of Baptist Missioner, Mr Chiu Kwok Chun, (Graham's grandfather) between 1932 and 1949 Anglicans and Baptists combined in ecumenical cooperation to share the space.

As well as attending church services, Sunday School and English language gospel study, the community also gathered at the hall to celebrate the traditional spiritual celebrations of the Christian calendar, including Christmas - complete with Christmas tree. Although it was primarily members of the Chinese community who ran and attended these events, Pākehā also assisted with playing the organ and running the Sunday School. The Chinese school, Bible classes, Youth Groups and Chinese folk dance classes who also used the hall catered for Wellington's Chinese youth – both those born in China and New Zealand. Parents sent their children to the hall for not just Chinese language lessons but socialisation, worried that their children might otherwise 'lose their Chineseness' if mixing mainly with non-Chinese children.

The hall also provided a space where romance could blossom – with parents hoping their young people might meet and marry other Wellingtonians of Chinese descent and in doing so hold onto their Chinese culture and traditions.

After ACM

Just next door, the Murdoch family firm built one of the first industrial structures in the street, running a prosperous business on the corner of Frederick and Taranaki Streets. The 'evil-smelling vinegar' emanating from their pickle factory however 'proved too much' for the worshipers next door and prompted them to sell the Chinese Mission Hall to the Murdoch family in August 1956 for £3,725.59. The ACM moved to a new site at Taranaki Street, then again in 1978 to Glenmore Street.

After the Murdoch family purchased it in 1956 the building was used as a photography studio, a design studio called "Mission Hall", and from 2009 as a sound studio. From 2013 to 2017 it was a 'MENZSHED'.

Editor's note: the above figures have been taken from the WCC website, and may have been misinterpreted as the parties involved are not revealed. Any corrections will appear in the next newsletter subject to notification.

2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Vote **1**

STUART WONG

Lambton Ward / Pukehīnau



**‘Wellington City Council
needs to be a facilitator for
thriving businesses and
employment opportunities,
not a barrier.’**



**independent
together**

Vote 1

Stuart Wong

Lambton Ward / Pukehinau



Over the last 30 years, my company has been supplying high quality fruit and vegetable produce to Wellington's hospitality trade. I also manage Moana seafood's wholesale business, including the popular fish market at Moore Wilson. Wellington's hospitality sector is struggling. The city's residents are paying more in rates and council charges and that leaves less money for dining out and other things. People are leaving because they perceive Wellington is becoming increasingly unaffordable. I was born, raised and educated in Wellington and choose to raise my own family here because I love the city. Wellington City Council can be a facilitator for commercial growth, not a barrier. Creating the right conditions for businesses to thrive, creates employment opportunities. We all want Wellington to be a great city to work, live, and visit. We can take back our reputation as being the coolest little capital city in the world.

**DON'T GO WRONG
VOTE STUART WONG!**

I stand for

✓ ZERO RATES INCREASES

Wellington ratepayers are tired of double-digit percentage increases in their rates bills. It is making the city an unaffordable place to live.

✓ BACK TO BASICS

Council must stop overspending on wasteful, ideological projects. No more debt spiral.

✓ NO PARTY POLITICS

No Party Politics around the council table. I am campaigning alongside a team of candidates who will put Wellington first, not a political party.

✓ ACCESS BRINGS BUSINESS

Take a balanced approach to transport in the city. Restore better access throughout the CBD and reinstate lost car parks. We will ensure council projects support and take into account local businesses, not harm commerce.

✓ A SAFER CITY

There must be zero tolerance for anti-social behaviour. Community policing must be strengthened and more police visibility. Public spaces must be well-patrolled and well-lit, including 24-hour CCTV in the CBD.

I welcome your views on issues that are important to you.

I can be contacted at:

Email stuart@voteforit.nz

Phone 027 443 8318

f [stuart4wgtm](https://www.facebook.com/stuart4wgtm)



Find out more about Stuart and other
Independent Together candidates at
voteforit.nz



**independent
together**

Thank you for reading

This newsletter content is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](#), unless otherwise noted by the authors.

Please note a full colour edition is available online
<https://tungjung.nz/newsletters/>

Please contact the secretary@tungjung.nz if you wish to access photographs taken at community events.

Bequests

If you've joined us for dinners or yum cha over the past year, you may have noticed something great—lower prices! No, it's not because food costs have dropped. Thanks to the TJA paying off its mortgage last year, we've reduced our fixed expenses. So, your committee decided to pass those savings on to you by subsidizing event prices.

While these gatherings now run at a loss, we're still maintaining a positive cash flow overall. But we'd love to do even more—like offering scholarships or expanding member benefits.

If you've ever considered leaving a legacy or making a tax-deductible donation, supporting the Association in your will would help us keep building a brighter future together. Every contribution makes a difference!

We're looking for enthusiastic helpers!

Interested in event planning? Join a subcommittee to help organise upcoming social events or our Centenary Celebrations in 2026.

We're also seeking people to take on key roles, including Treasurer, Membership and Newsletter Editor – perfect for those who are organised, creative, and community-minded.

Email secretary@tungjung.nz for more info.

Committee 2024-25

President	Graham Chiu 趙世榮	Property	Thomas Chong 吳永華
Past President	Kevin Leong 梁永基	English Secretary	Helen South 楊雪梅
Vice President	Rayward Chung 鍾振威	Chinese Secretary	Kevin Zeng 曾凱文
Treasurer	Lucinda Chiu 趙潔蘭	Social	Peter Moon 歐偉權
			Valerie Ting 陳惠嫻

To sign up as a Full or Associate member, fill in an online form here:
<https://tungjung.nz/about/#full-membership>



新西蘭東增會館

Tung Jung Association of NZ inc.

PO Box 9058, Wellington, New Zealand

<https://tungjung.nz>, secretary@tungjung.nz

Membership form to 31 March 2026

Name 家姓名

Spouse/partner 丈夫/妻子/朋友

Family (seniors over 70) 長輩

Family (younger generations) 家人

Family (younger generations) 家人

Family (younger generations) 家人

Village ancestry paternal 男鄉下

Village ancestry maternal 鄉下

Email

Phone 電話

Address 地址

Membership registration

Please send your membership form and fee, if applicable, to:

- Tung Jung Assoc, P.O. Box 9058, Wellington
- or email the form to secretary@tungjung.nz and pay via internet banking: 01-0505-0178453-00 with your name as a reference

☐ \$20 single

☐ \$30 household

☐ Free for seniors 70+

☐ Donation
\$_____

All donations are tax deductible

☐

Members only: please send me my newsletter in paper form.

If your postal address is different to the one you've given above, please write it below

Thank you for your support!

We collect your name/s and contact details to communicate with members. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected. Please email secretary@tungjung.nz to do so.



Tung Jung Association of NZ Inc, P.O. Box 9058 Wellington, N.Z
新 西 蘭 東 增 會

Tung Jung Association of NZ, incorporated 1926

Hey there Tung Jung family and friends!

Apologies in advance. We're still struggling with our mailing lists without Gordon Wu's knowledge. We're very sorry if your newsletter is addressed incorrectly.

If we don't have your **email address can you please let us know** so we've got an updated contact list? Also please let us know if you would prefer to get your newsletter by email. Email: **secretary@tungjung.nz**

You can also go to our website <https://tungjung.nz/about/> and fill out a membership form.

Thank you for your continued support

PS sign up for the Tung Jung newsletter—it's free to read on our website!

