



# NEW ZEALAND CHINESE ASSOCIATION AUCKLAND INC

紐西蘭屋崙華聯會

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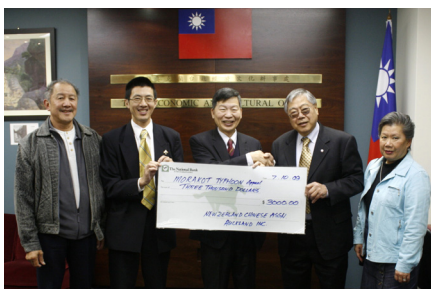
[www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz](http://www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz)

Summer Newsletter 2009/2010



NZCA Auckland Life Membership Award recipients Gillian Young and Edmond Yee

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# On John's Mind

John Kum - Editor



Happenings? First, the weather has been pretty rough for most of us, but I suppose if you were a duck then you most probably disagree.

In August, I received a notice by mail from SKY TV to inform me that after September 31 they would not be transmitting in analogue and that they would upgrade to digital transmission for 12 months at the same billing.

What have I got to lose? I have only the basic package which I can tune into Sports 1, Juice, C4 and Box. The other channels 1, 2, 3, Triangle, Prime are Free to Air. So I arranged a time in the middle of September for the Sky contractor to replace my analogue transmission for the digital transmission which I'm told is far superior.

After discussing where he should put the satellite dish and where the wiring should or shouldn't go, I was told that I had taken up a considerable amount of his time and that he would come back the next day! Hey, hey, hey, what's this? It appears that he has only limited time to install the dish and to make good the connection! I said 'woo a minute, you're here now so do your best!' So after 15 minutes or so he says I'll have to drill through the weather boards (you see, to bring the wiring down through the wall panel I had to get an electrician as they (contractors) don't do that.

So, a hole through the weatherboard it was! What? A direct connection to the decoder? What about a junction on the wall? No, that would interfere with the reception, the best quality reception is to connect it this way! Yes, you guessed it - I spent the next hour or hour and half surfing from channel to channel.

TV1, TV2, Prime, Sport1, Sport2 etc. CNN, Fox, BBC, back to Documentary, History, then

CCTV9, CH310, not to mention Disney and Playhouse (my grandson Lukaz's favourite channel).

Dialogue, New Horizon, Hidden Culture? Talk about being addicted to TV. Before digital my TV hour would be spread only between News, Sports and Documentaries, the average 1 – 2 hours in front of the 'Box'. Now that I have CCTV9 I'm transformed or brainwashed into Chinese history, Chinese culture and arts! I'm also now a constant traveller in many parts of China. Can you tune into CCTV9, CH310? After the 'Banana Conferences' and now being exposed to CCTV9 CH310 (English), I feel more of an affinity to the country of my parents and ancestors.

And, hey hey, October 1st! Did you watch the 60th anniversary of the PRC? I was really impressed. Were you? I thought it conveyed a strong exhibition of, totally Chinese, and presented to people in countries all over the world how China has progressed in 60years under the rule of the PRC. Now don't get me wrong here – all governments have their good and bad points (very debateable, but I'm not into politics) but I would say that if you were not proud of being Chinese after the anniversary celebrations (even a Banana one) then maybe, just maybe I'll forgive you.

So what now? Guy Fawkes, Christmas? Gee hasn't 2009 flown? 2010 Tiger here we come!



Co-editor  
Raymond Kwok



Co-editor  
Alistair Kwun

## Disclaimer:

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## From the Chairman



With summer and Christmas nearly upon us, it seems that 2009 has just flown by. Thanks very much to Richard Leung for keeping the NZCA Auckland ship running with an enthusiastic Executive Committee team as I have been out of New Zealand several times over the last few months.

Since the last newsletter in September, we have had the Annual Bowls Tournament on 6 September, the Moon Festival Dinner at Mandarin Seafood Restaurant on 12 September at which \$3,000 was raised for the Typhoon Morakot Relief Appeal, the Combined Auckland Chinese Association National Day Dinner to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the one day outing to Whangarei on 3 October, and the Annual Volleyball Tournament on 3-4 October. All these events were well supported by our members and the general Chinese community, and are separately reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another activity started in November 2008 in conjunction with ACCC is the Senior Lifestyle Group with the objective of providing stimulating and active activities for those NZCA members not in full-time employment. We currently have over 20 regular attendees but new participants are very welcome. The Women's Group and the Chinese Bi-lingual School are two other regular activities still going very strongly.

Upcoming events being held over the next few months by NZCA Auckland or our sister organization, ACCC, are as follows:

- **ACCC Guy Fawkes BBQ & Fireworks** at ACCC Hall at 6.30pm on Saturday 7 November 2009 with fireworks display and bonfire, free admission for members

- **ACCC Social Fun Night** with the Amarillo Band & Scrumptious Supper, 7.30 – 11.30pm at ACCC Hall on Saturday 14 November 2009, admission \$15 BYO
- **NZCA Xmas BBQ** at ACCC Hall on Saturday 5 December 2009 for our traditional celebration with Santa Claus in attendance, free admission for members starting from 12pm
- **ACCC Chinese New Year Festival** and Market Day to welcome the Year of the Tiger at Halls 1 & 2, ASB Showgrounds on Saturday 13 February 2010 from 9.30am to 4pm. Free admission for all, extensive entertainment and over 200 market and food stalls
- **NZCA Chinese New Year Dinner** at Imperial Garden Restaurant on Saturday 27 February 2010 at 6.30pm to raise funds for the Auckland Easter contingent, \$35 BYO

Another new exciting project involving NZCA Auckland, ACCC and other Auckland Chinese organisations is the formation of a Steering Committee to construct a traditional Chinese Garden with the preferred location in the Auckland Domain. Auckland City Council is providing the land and have endorsed their support for the project, and we will be enlisting the support of our sister city, Guangzhou, and other organisations to ensure that the project proceeds with the minimum of delays. As Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee, I will keep you all fully informed on the progress.

Please refer to our website [www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz](http://www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz) for the latest and constantly updated information on NZCA Auckland activities, and provide your email address (if you have one) to John and Connie, so that they can send you important information as soon as it is received.

From all of us on the Executive Committee we wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Kai Luey  
Chairman  
NZCA Auckland Inc.



# Happy Birthday, China!

Melissa Wong

At Coral Reef Restaurant on Saturday 26 September, family, friends and committee members of NZCA Auckland joined forces with the Auckland Chinese Community Centre (ACCC) and United Chinese Associations of New Zealand (UCANZ) to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The celebratory banquet dinner opened with quick and witty speeches from various officials including Kai Luey (Chair of NZCA Auckland), Arthur Loo (Chair of ACCC), Jichao Liang (Vice President of UCANZ), Madam Liao Juhua (Consul General of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Auckland), Hon. Pansy Wong (Minister of Ethnic Affairs), and Hon. John Banks (Mayor of Auckland City). The speeches touched on a diversity of topics, ranging from the history of Chinese in NZ to unique milestones such as China's rapid development and industrialization processes and the success of the Beijing 2008 Olympics. John Banks' story told of his experience of adopting a child which he likened to New Zealanders adopting people of different ethnicities into Kiwi culture.

Throughout the occasion, guests dined on a sumptuous twelve course meal and were entertained by a range of dynamic musical performances - from the traditional Auckland Guangdong Music Band to solo performances of folk songs, opera acts, and flutes.

Everyone revelled in the beautiful music, stimulating conversations, and insightful speeches. At the conclusion of the evening, our

taste buds were tantalised and our stomachs were full. Happy 60th Birthday, China!



Madam Liao Juhua addresses the diners at the Auckland Chinese Associations' 60th anniversary banquet.



NZCA Auckland Chairman Kai Luey opens the evening's proceedings of speeches and traditional Chinese entertainment.

*Images courtesy of John Ling*

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## Membership Renewal 2010

Your continued support is an important factor to NZCA Auckland. It funds activities for you as members such as these newsletters. Show your support in renewing your membership fees. The 2009 calendar year subs are now overdue and we are now accepting 2010 renewals.

Visit our website <http://www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz> to download our latest membership form.

# Fundraiser for Typhoon Morakot

David Wong

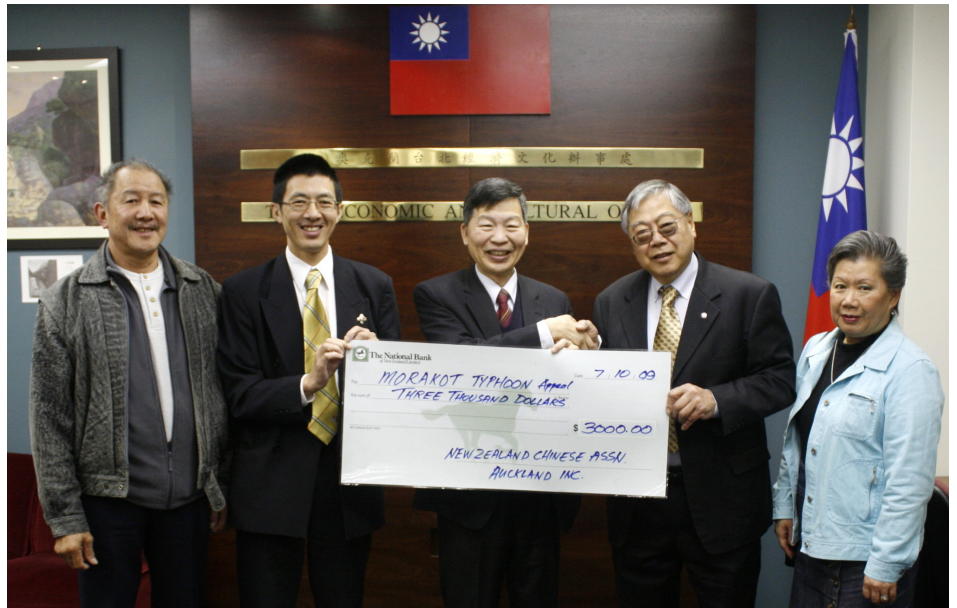
NZCA Auckland hosted the Moon Festival fundraising dinner on 12 September at Mandarin Seafood Restaurant. With over 200 guests in attendance, the dinner was in support of the relief aid towards the southern area of Taiwan struck by Typhoon Morakot.

Typhoon Morakot struck Taiwan on the weekend of 8 August, bringing down a record amount of rain (over 100 inches) and caused the most severe flooding in five decades. A number of villages and townships have been buried by mudslides triggered by heavy rainfall.

The dinner successfully raised \$3000 which was a culmination of a fully entertaining evening. The Moon Festival brings out many cultural traditions including the eating of moon cakes, lighting lanterns, burning incense in respect of the Gods and planting mid autumn trees.

It was an evening of success and recognition – with the bestowment of Lifetime Membership Awards to well deserved recipients – Susan Wong, Edmond Yee and Gillian Young. This was followed by Kristy Leong receiving the sports achievement sponsorship for her representing New Zealand in Taekwondo. Amanda Ling received the NCEA academic Level 1 award, with Kimberley Chan receiving the NCEA Tertiary Scholarship award (1<sup>st</sup> in New Zealand).

Richard Leung did a great job as auctioneer driving high bids for various items including



Director General of TECO Carl Yang receives the cheque donated by NZCA Auckland. From left: John Kum, David Wong, Carl Yang, Kai Luey, Connie Kum.

Peter Collis' pottery (kindly donated by Ron Sang) and Nosh food baskets.

On 7 October – representatives from NZCA Auckland visited TECO (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office) offices in Albert Street to present the fundraising cheque. It was a great opportunity to meet the other diplomats within Carl Yang's team and better understand their roles and responsibilities. This was followed by a delicious yum char at Dragon Boat.



## SS Ventnor Mailing List

Are you interested in what's happening with the Chinese bones buried by Maori over 100 years ago when the SS Ventnor sunk off the Hokianga coast? If so, register your interest by emailing [wongkirsten@gmail.com](mailto:wongkirsten@gmail.com). Read and watch more at [http://www.osca.org.nz/osca\\_sup\\_activities](http://www.osca.org.nz/osca_sup_activities) and <http://www.3news.co.nz/Video/CampbellLive/tabid/367/articleID/111590/cat/84/Default.aspx#video>



# Women's Group News

Gillian Young

The year is going fast and our members always enjoy keeping in touch with each other at each monthly meeting. We have learnt many new skills from a large variety of speakers, as well as enjoyed many social outings and day trips over the years.

In September, Iris Cheng from the Sogetsu Ikebana Association gave an Ikebana demonstration, the beautiful Japanese art of flower arranging. Iris is a very talented lady with many years of experience in Ikebana. She guided us during a 'hands-on' class to make our own arrangements. It was a very interesting and fun session where our enthusiastic participants produced many stunning Ikebana arrangements.



On 17 October, 32 keen members took a day trip by bus to Hamilton. Our kindly bus driver Bill Houghton first drove us to the lovely Hamilton Gardens where we saw many beautiful theme gardens: Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Indian, English, American modernistic, etc. Afterwards, we were taken to the Waikato NZCA hall to meet up with the friendly Waikato Women's group for lunch. They prepared a wonderful lunch for our big group, making such a huge effort with a lot of different dishes on offer. This was followed by a selection of delicious desserts. After lunch, raffle draws took place with many grocery basket prizes. Some lucky members won lovely prizes! On the way back to Auckland we stopped at the famous Pokeno Bacon shop to buy bacon and other fresh meats. At an ice-cream shop along the road many of us bought very big ice-creams at very reasonable prices. It was a very full and enjoyable day.

On 21 November we will go on another bus trip, this time to the Whitford area, east Auckland.

We will visit 2 beautiful gardens there – first to the Zen Garden, a large Asian themed garden, then to Ayrli's Garden, a large New Zealand garden with many special features. Ayrli's is included in many books featuring the best gardens of New Zealand. After that we will spend time at the Whitford village that has interesting craft and home produce shops.

If you are interested in joining us for this day trip, or if you have any queries about our meetings, please contact Gillian or Florence. You will need to reply by Wednesday 11 November at the latest if you wish to come on this trip. Both men and women are welcome on this trip.

In December, there will be no Women's Group meeting as we are joining all NZCA members for the annual Christmas barbeque lunch at the ACCC hall, 99 Taylor Rd, Mangere on Saturday 5th at 12 noon. Please come along with your family and friends. Santa will be there with gifts for the children. NZCA members free, non-members \$5. There will be many lovely grocery baskets for raffle, but no obligation to buy tickets.

We wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2010.

Gillian Young 09 528 9008; [youngz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:youngz@ihug.co.nz)  
Florence Hing 09 528 6920; [bfng@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bfng@xtra.co.nz)



# Think Asia

Justin Yang

I've been blessed to have worked across many countries over the years. It has been a real eye opener, and the opportunity to experience other cultures and work environments has been enriching and fun. I've worked in Shanghai previously and, in most recent times, my company, Flotech, has sent me to Singapore, Indonesia and Korea.

Most New Zealanders choose Australia or the UK as their first destination for an overseas work experience, but I think there are so many other countries and opportunities out there that people are overlooking. Like those in Asia!

Singapore is a fantastic place to work. The people are friendly, the city is modern and the action is nonstop. It's a place that genuinely strikes a balance between East and West. English is the common language, so it makes getting around easy. If you like the fast pace, great food and endless shopping, then Singapore is the place for you.

Indonesia has been nothing less than an exhilarating experience. I worked briefly on Batam, one of the islands which is only a 45 minute ferry ride from Singapore, but seemed like a world away. It's a little complicated to manage if you don't speak the local language, but there are loads of foreigners working there, and they seem to get by, so if you up for a challenge, then why not?

Korea is a great place. It's another vibrant city with lots to do, eat and see. English is not so common here, but teaching it presents many opportunities to native speakers who are keen to meet people from all across the globe while gaining great cultural exposure.

Hong Kong is similar to Singapore in that English is widely spoken. Touted as 'Asia's World City', it is the headquarters of many multinational companies. It's super fast-paced, and you will experience the true buzz of Asia if you go there. If you already speak a little



Justin on a work site in Indonesia.

Cantonese and want to improve, then there's no better place to work in Asia.

China, The Motherland, can be a bit of a cultural shock for Kiwi Chinese. This is where 'Falling Leaves Return Home': you can truly connect with and appreciate your ancestry. With an endless stream of activities and an excellent exchange rate on your side, it makes living, working and playing very attractive. Like Hong Kong, many multinational companies operate within Shanghai and Beijing. English is on the increase, although it pays to have a working knowledge of Mandarin, broken or otherwise.



An intense staff meeting in Singapore.

So if you're wondering where to go for your overseas experience, think Asia. Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself when you are there. Where are the learning and fun times in life if you don't think outside the square, right?

*Justin Yang works for Flotech. He was Co-chair of the NZCA Leadership and Development Conference 2009.*



# Champions Claim Hat-Trick

Ryan Young

Volleyball keeps getting bigger and bigger! This year's tournament held 3-4 October at Tamaki Recreation Centre in Glen Innes expanded to an unprecedented 19 teams (7 Men's, 8 Mixed and 4 Women's). This is unheard of even at the national Easter tournaments!

Due to the strong network that we have with Auckland Volleyball new Chinese teams that come onto the scene are quickly alerted to our attention. Also the pro-activeness of teams to recruit new players is reflective of the passion that many share about the game.

Special mention needs to be made about the Dragons team from Wellington who for the second year running have journeyed north to pit their capital might against the behemoth that is NZCA Auckland.

Competition had improved from last year which showed in this tight battle for the number one position. Semi-final positions were anyone's guess. In the end one team reigned supreme.



Kai Luey presents team Wanfang with the winning trophy.

Congratulations to team Wanfang for making it a hat-trick for the Men's competition.

Results:

- Winner of the Men's competition: Wanfang
- Winner of the Mixed competition: Wanfang
- Winner of the unofficial Women's competition: Vorta



## Guy Fawkes BBQ & Fireworks

**Saturday 7 November from 6.30pm**

ACCC Hall, 99 Taylor Rd, Mangere

Bring your family and friends and enjoy the social atmosphere! There'll be a barbeque sausage sizzle and you're welcome to bring your own meats and salads. Fireworks display and bonfire to follow after!

This popular event has always proved fun and everybody is welcome.

## Ten Pin Bowling Night

**Sunday 15 November from 3.30pm**

Panmure Superbowl, 523A Ellerslie Panmure Highway, Panmure

This is a fun social event for individuals, couples and whole families and it doesn't matter if you haven't played before! Make up a group or enter as an individual and have a great time. We can head off somewhere for dinner afterwards for those who don't want to cook.

**When:** Sunday 15 November; turn up at 3.30pm for 4.00pm start.

**Cost:** Adults - \$16.50 for 2 games; Juniors (16 years and under) - \$14.50 for 2 games.

Please email all names to me as soon as possible to make up teams. Let me know who wants to play together and how many games you want to play. We have 6 lanes booked-first in first served with 2 lanes set aside for juniors.

**Dinner** for 15 has been reserved at Hansan Vietnamese Restaurant nearby at 6.30pm.

**Contact** Richard Leung: 09 368 9180(wk), 09 634 1817(hm), 021 891 942, [qbee@ihug.co.nz](mailto:qbee@ihug.co.nz)





# Exploring Whangarei

Meilin Chong

It was a rather overcast when we left Greenlane at 8am for a days outing to Whangarei to go to the Marsden Oil Refinery, Claphams Clock Museum and the Whangarei waterfalls. The bus departed on time with 37 people aboard and arrived at Sheep World our first comfort stop where we stopped for half an hour. Here we stretched our legs, saw the newly brightly sprayed psychedelic pink sheep and some of us had a little retail therapy.

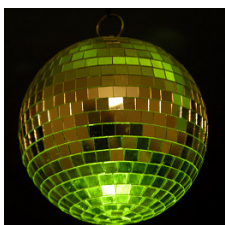
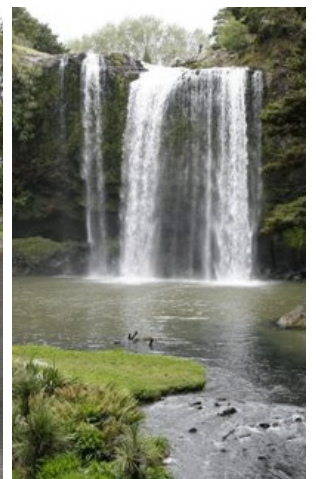
Then it was onwards to Whangarei and the oil refinery. Marsden Pt. Oil Refinery is one of the world's most modern refineries. It is the only one operating in NZ and has been in operation since 1964. It was expanded in 1986 making NZ self sufficient in all refined products. NZ processes the cheaper heavy crude oils mainly of Middle and Far Eastern origin. The refinery produces premium and regular motor gasoline, automotive and marine diesel, aviation and lighting kerosene, fuel oils and bitumens. Most of the refinery's output is distributed around the country by sea but about one third travels by pipeline to Auckland. There is a model of the refinery showing how large the complex is and it is huge! The refinery operates 24hrs a day all year round as does the pipeline to Auckland.

I found it very interesting and informative.

The next stop was to the town Basin where we were able to go to cafes and eateries for some lunch and to wander round the galleries and shops before meeting at the Claphams Clock Museum. Here is the largest collection of clocks and timepieces in the southern hemisphere. They were all shapes and sizes, some very elaborate, large and small, and others beautifully crafted. All were in working order but I'm not sure whether they kept perfect time or not! The clocks were from all around the world.

From Claphams we went to the Whangarei Falls where some of us walked down to the bottom of the falls .The less adventurous stayed at the lookout near the top of the falls. It was good exercise for us and worked off some of the lunch we had consumed.

We left the falls at 4.30pm and made the trip back to Auckland without further stops arriving back about 7pm. It was long but enjoyable day and the weather was kind to us by not raining until our return!



## ACCC Social Fun Night

**Saturday 14 November from 7.30pm**  
ACCC Hall, 99 Taylor Rd, Mangere

Join us for a scrumptious supper and live music by band **AMARILLO!**  
The night begins from 7.30pm and admission is \$15. BYO.



# Made in Taiwan

Melissa Wong



Melissa's first day of work at ITRI, Taiwan

During June-August 2009, I travelled to Hsinchu, Taiwan to undertake a ten week summer internship sponsored by the Asia New Zealand Foundation and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). ITRI is a world renowned research facility which specialises in the fields of communication and computing systems, chemical and nanotechnologies, biomedical science, advanced manufacturing systems, energy saving and environmental science. Every year, they accept 25 international students to take part in their internship program.

I chose to intern within the Energy and Environment Laboratories (EEL) department. Their research into the field of bio-diesel appealed to me because I study biofuels at a post-graduate level at The University of Auckland. During my ten week internship, I found the program to be academically and professionally rewarding. I was able to mentally challenge myself, learn new scientific skills and techniques.

The majority of the EEL office department spoke English very well. My assigned mentors and departmental director were fluent. However in the lab, it was a different issue. Most only knew the Chinese names for chemicals and technical procedures. On the other hand, I only knew the English definitions for the scientific terms. Often, I would speak a mixture of English and Mandarin, use Google Translate, wildly gesticulate, or draw pictures. It was extremely challenging working across a diversity of languages, but it made it all the more exciting and rewarding.

Many of the students came from universities such as IIT (India), NUS (Singapore), Harvard, UCLA, and UBC (Canada). I met a wide variety of industry people, including my departmental director who is also the Vice-President of APEC's Environment and Energy Schemes, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise staff stationed in Taiwan, and staff from the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office.

Learning and working in a foreign country, where English is not predominantly spoken, was challenging and fun. It was great to experience a new culture, different customs, and be given opportunities to improve foreign language skills. Overall, I found the internship a brilliant life-changing and career advancing experience!

*Melissa Wong is a Researcher at LanzaTech. She was on the Organising Committee for the NZCA Leadership and Development Conference 2009.*



Melissa with fellow international interns and ITRI's president Johnsee Lee

## NZCA Auckland Xmas BBQ

Saturday 5 December from 12pm

ACCC Hall, 99 Taylor Rd, Mangere

BBQ and sausage sizzle will be provided as well as a lolly scramble! Be entertained by the Cantonese Music School students and Santa will also be making a visit! It would be much appreciated if members please bring a salad and dessert to share.

**Cost:** Members FREE; Non-Members \$5



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## Cantonese Music School

Connie Kum – Cantonese Music School Coordinator

Cantonese is our heritage language – as it is for those that have come from the Guangdong province of China or Hong Kong. Many have since learned Mandarin at school and then become fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese.

NZCA Auckland gives you the opportunity to take your child to a school where the focus on learning is “The Fun Way”. The Music School focuses on oral language/conversation, role play, recognition and writing of simple characters. It is a fact that the best time for learning languages and music is between the ages of three to seven. It is amazing how quickly the preschoolers learn and absorb through play and music and movement. Parents can then continue this learning process by reinforcement at home and through the use of CDs.

Chinese culture and learning the art of Chinese cooking for the senior class is a part of the curriculum that the children find most enjoyable.

Its never “too early” (preschooler) or “too late” (senior citizens) to learn. The adults are learning Chinese etiquette, culture, customs as well as conversational language. Pay only \$5 per lesson when in attendance if every week is too difficult a commitment.

Enquiries for booking a place ring Connie on 09 625 8611, [cojay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cojay@xtra.co.nz) or Debbie on 021 271 6010, [qbee@ihug.co.nz](mailto:qbee@ihug.co.nz)

Classes held at Oranga Primary School hall, Rangipawa Road, One Tree Hill.

<b>Preschool</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>11am</b>
<b>Primary 1</b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>12.45pm</b>
<b>Primary 2 and</b>	<b>1pm</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>
<b>Adult Classes</b>			

Our very enthusiastic teachers:

Mr Tat Ming Tsui is an experienced Primary teacher who has taught for a number of years in Hong Kong. Tat is bilingual with a vast knowledge of Chinese culture and makes a very tasty fried rice dish.

Ms Irene Ho (Tat’s wife) has a degree in Counselling and has three grown up sons. She is very gentle with the children and is very successful in building up their confidence and self-esteem in their ability to learn the Cantonese language.



Both are very passionate that Cantonese children should know their heritage language. I urge you to give your three year olds this opportunity. My four year old grandson looks forward to this class every Saturday morning – he’s been for a term and knows four songs!



# Senior Lifestyle Group

Elsie Wong

To all who have reached the age of discretion and have no need to go to work every day why not make a habit of coming along to the Senior Lifestyle Group every Tuesday. WHY?!! To enjoy the friendship, company and joie de vivre of so many like-minded people.

From 10am we start off with Tai Chi under the expert and very patient guidance of jiao shi David Wong. Presently we are practising earnestly to give a demonstration at Chinese New Year Festival at the ASB Showgrounds in February. He has got his work cut out to whip us into a co-ordinated team, and dedication is needed to do him proud. Although a bit daunting, nevertheless it seems to be getting easier every week.

Morning tea follows at 11am, and you would think it was "party time" as the decibel level of chatter from everyone catching up rises considerably while having the morning cuppa.

Then, if you are interested in learning Mandarin conversation, it's off to the boardroom where a dozen or so put their heads down trying to master the intricacies of putonghua with the right tone (four tones plus neutral as opposed to eight for Cantonese which most of us use). Sometimes the words come out as a garbled and mangled cross between Cantonese and Mandarin with hilarious results as gales of laughter resound around the room. You would never think we were serious students! Stan King is another patient and dedicated teacher and has us reciting or rather singing out loud the

four tones so we can differentiate. The wrong tone can give a totally different meaning to a word! Any language conversation learning is repetition and practise, so we soldier on just as some who are in the class are learning English and need to do everything in reverse. Translating literally from one to another is too stilted and we are learning and practising colloquially.

For those needing something a bit more physical, there's mah jong, table tennis, indoor bowls, watching DVDs, or just socialising. From time to time we have cooking demonstrations and varying speakers. We have karaoke if you feel in full voice.

With the warmer weather approaching we will begin outings once a month again. We have been taking advantage of using the Gold Card free bus and ferry rides and so far have been to Devonport and Milford shopping, lunch and visit to the naval museum, to Muriwai gannet colony and a very informative guided tour to Steven Wong's East Tamaki factory *Fresher Chips*. We saw the complete production process from go to whoa. Any suggestions for future outings are welcome. In the offering we have in mind Candyland in Gordonton and the Tip Top Ice Cream factory.

All this for \$2 per week. Come on you people we're all still "YOUNG AT HEART." Join in, don't vegetate and stay at home feeling lonely. We are a very friendly crowd!

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## ACCC Chinese New Year Festival Saturday 13 February 2010 from 9.30am – 4pm

ASB Showgrounds, 217 Green Lane West, Greenlane

The ACCC Chinese New Year Festival and Market Day welcomes the Year of the Tiger at Halls 1 & 2, ASB Showgrounds on Saturday 13 February 2010 from 9.30am to 4pm.

**Free** admission for all, extensive entertainment and over 200 market and food stalls.



# Whareuku – House of the Future

Deanna Yang

The house is spacious and inviting. There's a family feel to it. It's as if the house is saying, "Haere Mai! Welcome! Sit and join us." The walls of the house are made not from conventional materials but instead from a mix of earth, flax and cement. This is not your average Auckland home - this is a whareuku.



Whareuku, Maori for 'Earth House', is what Civil Engineering PhD student John Cheah has been working on for the past two and a half years. The building of a whareuku in Northland is currently in process as part of a University of Auckland research project that aims to develop sustainable and low-cost housing solutions for rural Maori. John says that the idea surfaced from the desire of some rural Maori wanting a "low-cost building system that Maori could



John tests the properties of a newly constructed section of a Whareuku wall.

implement themselves using materials they could find on their land." John has been testing the engineering properties of whareuku so that the housing technology can be consented by local councils and pass New Zealand building standards.

John's work is important in Aotearoa because many Maori have sub-standard and cramped living conditions due to the high costs and inaccessibility of housing resources in rural areas. He says, "Conventional housing systems do not work well in rural Maori communities because many of them cannot afford them, especially because the communities live so far away from city centre and supplies."

However, holistic sustainable living cannot be achieved purely through low-cost earthen housing – the community's values and way of life also need to be considered. "Culturally, conventional housing is also not suitable for rural Maori. In Western culture, a two-bedroom house works well, but for Maori there's a big family emphasis and regular large gatherings. Therefore, the housing needs to accommodate

that. There needs to be different solutions for different cultures because there are different needs to be met."

Whareuku meet these needs by using home designs that suit the family's preferences and cultural practices, as opposed to adopting conventional layouts popular in Western culture. Additionally,

the modular technology provides a low-cost solution that can be built from local materials by local people with minimal outside help from professional builders or architects. John hopes his research will validate Whareuku as a viable housing option so that more communities can benefit from it.

John's interest towards Maori sustainable housing will continue even after his research has finished. "I've spent a lot of time in rural Maori communities, not just finding out their needs but living with them and being a part of the community. After I've finished my research, I am sure to still have a interest in how it is serving them because in effect – we have become friends."

A Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship, awarded to New Zealand's top scholars by the Government, has funded John, an NZCA LDC 2009 Delegate, in his three-year Whareuku project. For more information visit [www.whareuku.com](http://www.whareuku.com)

*Deanna Yang is a first year Bachelor of Communications student at AUT University.*



# Celebrating Winter Solstice · 冬至

Bevan Chuang · 莊家欣

“Winter Solstice is more significant than New Year” – a phrase my mother often says. Like Thanksgiving, no matter how busy people are, families gather to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Indeed, Cantonese speakers treat this occasion as more important than Chinese New Year since it marks the end of the year when family members gather for dinner and eat Tang Yuan (Sweet Glutinous Rice Balls) before or after the main meal.

Dong Zhi, He Dong (Celebrate Winter) or Dong Jie (Winter Festival) is one of 24 points in traditional East Asian lunisolar calendars. Night is longest and day is shortest in the Northern Hemisphere on this day. The night before Dong Zhi is called Dong Zhi Ye (Dong Zhi Night). Dong Zhi is the first day of the nine coldest days. In the past Dong Zhi marks the start of the 24 points solar term. Because Dong Zhi is the second most important festival following Chinese New Year, it is also referred to as Ya Sui (Second New Year).

Northern Chinese traditionally eat Jiao Zhi (dumplings). According to the saying, a doctor called Zhang Zhong Jing from the Han Dynasty took pity on the people from his home village working hard in the blistering winter. On Dong Zhi he placed lamb and other Chinese medicines to fend off the extreme coldness in pastry, shaped them into “ears”, and gave them to the people. They would help protect them from illness and give them strength. The name of the medicine is called Xu Han Jiao Er Tang (Ear Soup which wards off the cold), and pronunciation Jiao Er (ear) is similar to the word Jiao Zhi (dumplings).

In Southern China, people eat Tang Yuan (Sweet Glutinous Rice Balls) which signify family reunion. In Zhe Jiang, people add petals of Sweet Osmanthus preserved in fermented rice wine to their Tang Yuan and give offerings to their ancestors. In Xu Zhou, Guihua Dong Niang Jiu (Rice Wine made with petals of Sweet Osmanthus) that are only available during this

time of the year. Large stuffed Tang Yuan are used at night as an offering to the ancestors, and the small non-stuffed Tang Yuan are treated as an offering to Gods and Goddesses.

Dong Zhi is being celebrated on December 22nd this year, just before Christmas. It's an important day to celebrate with family.

*Bevan Chuang is Settlement Support Coordinator - Auckland City at Auckland Regional Migrant Services (ARMS). She was a delegate on the NZCA Leadership and Development Conference 2008.*

「冬大過年」 – 一句我媽常講的話。像國外的感恩節般，每年冬至期間一家人無論有多忙碌一定會圍在一起過節。對於廣東人來講，冬至比過年更重要。作為一年之結，一家人必須團聚吃晚飯，飯前或飯後吃湯圓，代表一家團圓。

冬至，又稱「賀冬」、「冬節」，是中國的二十四節氣之一。冬至日這一天，北半球黑夜最長，白晝最短，故又稱「長至」（夜長至，或稱日短至）。冬至日的前夜稱為「冬至夜」。冬至日是數九寒天的第一天，俗諺「冬至交九」，從冬至日開始即進入「數九天」。古時冬至節氣是計算二十四節氣的起點。因冬至節以往是僅次於新年的重要節日，所以又俗稱「亞歲」。在民間廣泛流傳着「冬至大如年」的說法，意指冬至的禮俗如同過新年春節一樣隆重。冬至還有「新正」、「如正」、「喜冬」、「交冬」、「消寒節」、「一陽節」、「履長節」、「小年」等稱謂。



在冬至節，中國北方有冬至日吃餃子的習俗，南方某些地方有冬至日吃湯圓的習俗，傳說在漢朝的醫聖張仲景體念家鄉鄉民在寒冬中工作的辛苦，在冬至那天利用羊肉等祛寒的藥材包在麵皮中，作成耳朵的樣子，給鄉民們治病補身，這個藥方的名字叫作「祛寒嬌耳湯」，嬌耳就是餃兒。中國南方則有吃湯圓等甜食的習俗，江浙一帶在冬至吃湯

圓外，還要吃桂花酒釀，并祭祖，蘇州還有桂花冬釀酒，只在此時節上市。大湯圓有餡的「粉團」是用於晚上祭祖，而無餡較小的粉圓用與早上拜神。

今年的冬至在十二月二十二日，剛好在聖誕節前數天。大家也該好好與家人共度這麼一個重要的節日。

## RECIPE: Coconut Balls

### INGREDIENTS

400ml coconut cream  
400ml water  
1 packet glutinous rice powder (nor mai fun)  
1 cup sugar  
Fillings: doh sa, lotus nut paste (or anything you like)



### DIRECTIONS

1. Stir altogether and pour into a greased or non stick cake tin
2. Steam for 1 hour with closed vent
3. Test with chopstick (to make sure that it does not stick)
4. Cool
5. Assemble using vinyl gloves on a plate of desiccated coconut
6. Roll cooled skin mixture into balls
7. Flatten and spoon in filling
8. Close and twist tip
9. Roll in desiccated coconut
10. Dot with red food colouring

## BOOKS FOR SALE

We currently have the following books about Chinese in NZ and globally available for purchase.

### Contacts

Kai Luey 09 522 1840, [kailuey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kailuey@xtra.co.nz)

Connie Kum 09 625 8611, [cojay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cojay@xtra.co.nz)

- |   |                 |      |
|---|-----------------|------|
| 1. A Guide to Laws & Policies Relating to the Chinese in NZ | - Nigel Murphy  | \$35 |
| 2. NZCA Manawatu Branch Inc 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary    | - Tony Thackery | \$25 |
| 3. Chinese Dimensions - Their Roots, Mindset & Psyche       | - Yow Yit Seng  | \$55 |

All prices include GST. Limited quantities available.

## NZCA Auckland Chinese New Year Dinner

Saturday 27 February 2010 from 6.30pm

Imperial Garden Seafood Restaurant, 12-26 Swanson St, Auckland Central

Welcome in the Year of the Tiger with us at Imperial Garden Seafood Restaurant. There will be a special New Year dinner menu which will please everyone's palates!

Price: Adults \$35; Children 12 and under \$25. BYO.



# China Marks 60th Year

Steven Young

NZCA National President Steven Young represented our organisation at the official celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, at Tiananmen Square, Beijing, 1 October 2009.



The Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs invited some 2000 representatives from around the world to join the official celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China held 1 October 2009 in Tiananmen Square. I attended as one of five people invited by the Embassy from the lower North Island/South Island. The Consulate invited another 13 people from Auckland.

## 28 SEPTEMBER 2009

Met at Beijing Capital International Airport by a large welcome team sent to collect overseas visitors and given a personalised VIP plaque. Escorted to VIP lounge and thence to a bus to transfer to Beijing Double-Tree Hilton. Completed check-in and registration procedures.

For the rest of our stay, the 2000 overseas visitors, accommodated in three hotels would be transported by a convoy of 50 buses, led by a police car, travelling unimpeded in its own traffic lane with side roads blocked off.

## 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

Morning: Visited a "trade fair" exhibition featuring displays by the People's Liberation Army, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs and motor vehicle, aeronautical and technology companies.



Lunch: Attended a buffet/barbeque hosted by official community groups welcoming us overseas Chinese, held in a park reserved for State visitors.

## 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

Morning: Visited the Olympic Bird's Nest and Water Cube.

Evening: Banquet at the Great Hall of the People hosted by Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs.



Late: Watched a screening of a new film telling the story of the founding of the People's Republic of China featuring most current Chinese actors.

## 1 OCTOBER 2009

Early start for bus convoy arriving at the back of the Palace Museum, then a walk through to Tiananmen Square to be in personally-allocated positions at 8am. Two hour wait for start of the official Celebration from 10am to 12noon featuring a massive military and civilian parade. The previous day's smoggy weather had been changed to a clear blue sky by cloud seeding.





Evening: Return to exactly same position to watch an outdoor celebration concert featuring the most prominent Chinese entertainers.

Overall, my impression was that the official celebration was aimed at the Chinese people, with other countries represented only by their diplomats and military attachés. The parades both military and civilian were tightly scripted, thoroughly rehearsed and undertaken at what must be huge expense; similarly the evening entertainment.

## Women's Group in Hamilton

Helen Wong

The weather forecast for Saturday 17 October was for rain and hail, but that was not enough to deter 32 excited women from the bus trip.

Leaving from Meadowbank with a pick up at Takanini, we were on our way to the Waikato, passing the rural area of Gordonton. We managed to laugh and talk all the way until we reached our first stop – the Hamilton Gardens. There we had a 90-minute walk through the many theme gardens, admiring the Italian Renaissance Garden, Chinese Scholar's Gardens, Japanese Garden of Contemplation, the pleasant Indian Char Bagh Garden, English Flower Garden, as well as the American Modernist one with a large picture of Marilyn Monroe.

Luckily, the weather forecast was completely wrong – it turned out to be a warm spring day, not a drop of rain. For Anthea Ko, on her second trip with the Women's Group, the Gardens had great scenery, and her favourites were the Chinese and Italian ones. The Chinese one

The special treatment given to representatives of overseas Chinese communities would seem to indicate that we are still very much regarded as an important part of the family.

That the President of NZCA was invited is very pleasing and perhaps reflects official recognition of our long history; however, other Chinese groups in New Zealand with a shorter history, a less active programme, more limited geographical spread and a lower penetration into the wider New Zealand community have received more invitations.

While NZCA must continue to conduct its activities according to its own light, we must also strive to remain in communion with contemporary Chinese affairs, culture and developments.

reflected the culture and the Italian Garden was beautiful with the fountains.

Lunch was at the NZCA Waikato hall. Waikato President Sid Lim welcomed the Auckland women, thanking them for bringing the fine weather. He had some good news to share – the



Chinese community in Rotorua was forming their own branch of NZCA. It will open an opportunity for both Auckland and Waikato groups to visit Rotorua now. Isabel Lim introduced their committee. Gillian Young



replied on Auckland's behalf, saying that we all always enjoy coming to Hamilton and especially the great hospitality of the friendly Waikato group. The food served consisted of pork bone jook expertly made by Sid Lim, followed by superb homemade Chinese and Kiwi food, with delicious desserts to follow. It was a marvelous lunch with lots of chatter and shared memories.

Florrie Leong of Hamilton said it was about the third time they have hosted a group from Auckland. "It is good for keeping up our friendship. I made some "open mouth laughs" for dessert, and some asparagus rolls." Carol Tims added, "It's nice to meet new people and renew friendships. It's good to hear what the Auckland group is doing as it is bigger than ours."

Isabel says that their group is excited to see their city cousins. Usually only women come to their meetings. However, today their menfolk have come, "to see what we do, and to meet old friends."

Michelle Rhodes explained, "Our group attendance is usually 10-20 women. We have guest speakers, yum chars, and walks. We have visited the Arboretum; a rose grower's glasshouse called Stem to Stem; an asparagus farm; and Joe's Health Foods in Morrinsville, operated by committee member, Linda Tai. We also took a bus trip to the City Farmers' Market in Auckland."

Bus driver Bill Houghton has been involved with the Auckland group since 2004. He drives us on the garden and other social trips in the spring and summer, joined by his wife Judy. Bill says, "The ladies talk a lot but they are a good bunch of sheilas!"

After many group photos taken by committee member Janine Rhodes, the Auckland women headed home via the Pokeno Bacon shop where bacon, pork bones and sausages were the order of the day. And who could resist buying a big ice-cream at an ice-cream shop along the road? All in all, a most enjoyable day.

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## RECIPE: Cheong Fun

### INGREDIENTS

2 cups rice flour (jim mai fun)  
½ cup tapioca starch (Bol Nang label)  
2 cups cold water  
2 ½ cups boiling water  
1 tablespoon oil

Fillings: meat (as you desire), prawns, har mai

### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix 2 cups water with rice flour to blend
2. Pour over the boiling water
3. Stir well
4. Add salt (optional)
5. Have meat, prawns or har mai to put on before wrapping
6. Use a microwave proof flat container with lid (from The Warehouse)
7. Oil the container for the first time
8. Using a Chinese soup spoon, pour two spoonfuls of the mixture into the container

9. Put into microwave and heat on high for 1 minute
10. Remove from microwave and sprinkle fillings on top
11. Using a spatula, lift the rice sheet off the container
12. Begin to roll filled rice sheet into a cylinder shape
13. Cut and serve



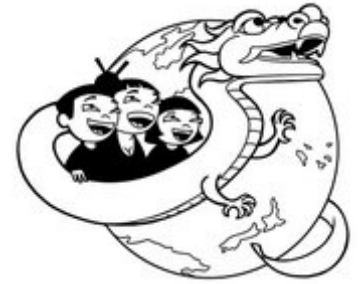
# NZCA/The Listener Short Story Competition Results

First prize (\$1000): *At Two Speeds* by **Christopher Tse** of Wellington

First runner-up (\$500): *The Jade Princess* by **Sandy Angela Harman** of Hamilton

Second runner-up (\$250): *Lo Yun* by **Wailin Wong Elliot** of Coromandel

The secondary school winner for the merit prize of \$250 goes to **Diana Chen** of Christchurch for *The Other Side of the Mirror*.



In total, 26 entries were received. The youngest participant was aged 12 and the most senior 79. Entries were received from all across the country with the biggest number from Auckland.

The Listener will publish *At Two Speeds* in late December 2009. Following this, NZCA Auckland will publish both on its Branch and the Going Bananas website ([www.goingbananas.org.nz](http://www.goingbananas.org.nz)) the winning stories with the judges' comments.

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## NZCA Auckland Achievement Awards 2010

The Executive Committee of the NZCA Auckland wishes to advise members that this branch will be making two annual awards to encourage and recognise significant achievements by any member in the sporting, academic, cultural, community, charity or political arena.

The two categories will be:     **Significant Achievement Award** (for persons over 21)  
  **Youth Achievement Award** (for persons under 21)

Members are invited to submit nominations of other NZCA Auckland members and the trophies will be presented at the annual NZCA Auckland Chinese New Year Dinner to be held at Imperial Garden Restaurant on Saturday 27 February 2010.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The awardees must be current financial members of NZCA Auckland either through individual or family membership.
2. The qualifications and achievements for the awards can be gained in virtually any field of activity.
3. Nominations can be made by any two NZCA members and must be received by the Secretary at PO Box 484, Shortland St, Auckland by 5pm Thursday 31 December 2009.
4. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.



# New Zealand Chinese Association Leadership & Development Conference Sunday 24 - Friday 29 January 2010

## ARE YOU

- Aged between 18 - 28?
- Keen to learn more about yourself and your potential?
- Keen to meet other people of like minds?

NZCA Leadership & Development Conference (LDC) is a national initiative which brings together the next generation of outstanding leaders between the ages of 18 and 28 to discover their unique identity as Chinese New Zealanders. Designed as a 'live-in' seminar with the aim to create leaders that will create the future, the LDC provides a fun, relevant and effective training experience that enables young people to explore culture, identity and communication.



High-profile local personalities from across New Zealand are invited to share their leadership journeys in the creative arts, media, academic, community and business sectors. These achievers will present valuable knowledge on how to gain the leadership edge in today's society. The power-packed programme will also feature a range of indoor/outdoor activities, group discussions and a team leadership project.

The conference is aimed at those who have an interest in making a positive impact in the local Chinese communities, now and in the future. It is an enriching experience that will deepen their personal and professional outlook on life, develop their leadership potential, provide insights into their heritage and equip them with practical life skills.

Applications close on Monday 30 November 2009.

To attend all applicants must be a member of a branch of the NZ Chinese Association (in this case Auckland). If you are not a member, please contact Auckland Branch Secretary David Wong for more information on how to join 09 524 8786, [David\\_D\\_Wong@bnz.co.nz](mailto:David_D_Wong@bnz.co.nz)

An application form can be downloaded from <http://www.nzchinese-akld.org.nz>

**Dates:** Sunday 24 - Friday 29 January 2010

**Location:** Wellesley Country Club, Upper Hutt

**Accommodation and meals:** Provided for the duration of the conference

**Attendance Fee:** \$100 per person (Auckland branch will subsidise this cost for successful applicants)

**Target age:** Applicants must be aged between 18 and 28 (as at 31st December 2009). Those over the age of 28 are also invited to apply.

**Contacts:** Justine Kohing [justinekohing@paradise.net.nz](mailto:justinekohing@paradise.net.nz) or Laura Ng [Laura.ng8@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.ng8@gmail.com)

**Internet:** <http://www.nzchinese.org.nz>

## The Stranger

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Texas town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family... The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave).

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honour them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... Not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We just call him... 'TV'

*Anon*

## Contributions welcome

Would you like to write for us?

Got a story to share?

Current events, food recipes,  
book/film/travel/event review?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact:

John Kum:  
09 625 8611  
[cojay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cojay@xtra.co.nz)

or

Alistair Kwun:  
021 774 789  
[alistair.kwun@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alistair.kwun@xtra.co.nz)

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Full page	\$299	\$800
Half page	\$199	\$500
Quarter page	\$99	\$300

Prices exclusive of GST.

Contact Raymond Kwok:  
021 259 2255  
[rmskwok@gmail.com](mailto:rmskwok@gmail.com)



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**Back:** Elsie Wong, Lynette Wong, Michael Ng, John Kum, Raymond Kwok, Alistair Kwun, Ken Ginn, Melissa Wong.  
**Front:** Edmond Yee, Virginia Chong, Connie Kum, Kai Luey, Susan Wong, Meilin Chong, Percy Kai Fong, Donald Sew Hoy.  
**Absent:** David Wong, Estella Lee, Justin Yang, Richard Leung, Robert Wong, Vivian Chow.

# NZCA Auckland Awards from Moon Festival Dinner



[1] Kimberley Chan – NCEA Tertiary Scholarship Award. [2] Kristy Leong – Sport Achievement Sponsorship. [3] Alan and Connie Cheng – Winners, Lawn Bowls Tournament. [4] Peter Sue – Best Stableford<sub>1</sub>, Golf Tournament. [5] Trevor Young – Best Stableford<sub>2</sub>; Interbranch Trophy, Golf Tournament. [6] Amanda Ling – Academic NCEA Level 1 Award.



