

## Interviews

The interviews with Chinatown community leaders are recorded on cd with Diana Giese, from Oral History, National Library of Australia

1. King Moo Fong, Born 1938, Suva Fiji (Oral TRC 3260)

Sydney Chinese community leader in business, welfare and charity groups including the Chinese Cultural Association of NSW, the Sydney Chinatown Chamber of Commerce and the Sydney City Council's Chinese New Year Steering Committee.

2. Benjamin Chow, Born 1946, Shanghai, China (Oral TRC 3707)

President of the Chinese Community Association, President of the Chinatown special branch of the Liberal Party and Foundation member of the Australian Chinese Forum.

3. Henry Tsang, Born 1942, Guangxi Province, China (Oral TRC 3685)

Former Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney and Principal of Tsang and Lee Architects

4. Angela Chan, Born in Sydney (Oral TRC 3612)

Since 1994 Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW. She was the first Australian-born Chinese to be admitted as a barrister.

5. Irene Moss, Born 1948, Sydney (Oral TRC 3612)

She has worked for the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and has also worked as Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. She is currently the Commissioner for the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

## Acknowledgements

Exhibition Co-ordinators: Melissa Chiu & Jennifer Kwok

Exhibition Team: Emil Goh, Aaron Seeto, Lance Lai, Gia Nghi Phung, Jennifer Kwok, Melissa Chiu

With special thanks to our sponsors and contributors.

Sponsors: King Fong; Connie Chung, Marigold Restaurant; Donald Tong, Silver Spring Restaurant; Stanley Yee, Emperors Garden; Nigel Stiffe, Market City Tavern; James & Lily Liang, Home Basics; Soy Airport Cafe

Contributors: City of Sydney Archives, King Fong, Diana Giese, Shirley Fitzgerald, Annette Shun Wah, Emmanuel Arroney, Kenneth Kwok & Sabrina Man; ACCA, Helen Pecheniuk, National Library of Australia, Irene Moss, Henry Tsang & Victor Tsang, Angela Chan, Gladys Lim; Jeffrey Ng, Mary Lee & Carlos Ung; CYL, Helen Fong, Howard Choy, Allen Yip, Eileen Lai & Lance Lai, John & Lois McEvoy, Benjamin Chow, Mark Costello, Capitol Theatre, Ruth Chong, Lily Ma, Jacqui Wong & Jackson Wong; The Mandarin Club, Linda Wong, Norma Oong, Bobby Leedow, William Yang, Chris Wong, Choy Lee Fut, Cyril & Milla Vincenc, Cyril's Deli, Shen Jiawei, Maira Stark Bryan; QVB Ipoh, Melissa Smythe; Intro International; Teresa Cheng & Dominic Cheng, Chinatown Promotions, Martin Kwok, Goon Yee Tong, Nick Mahone

Director: Melissa Chiu

Gallery Manager: Gia Nghi Phung

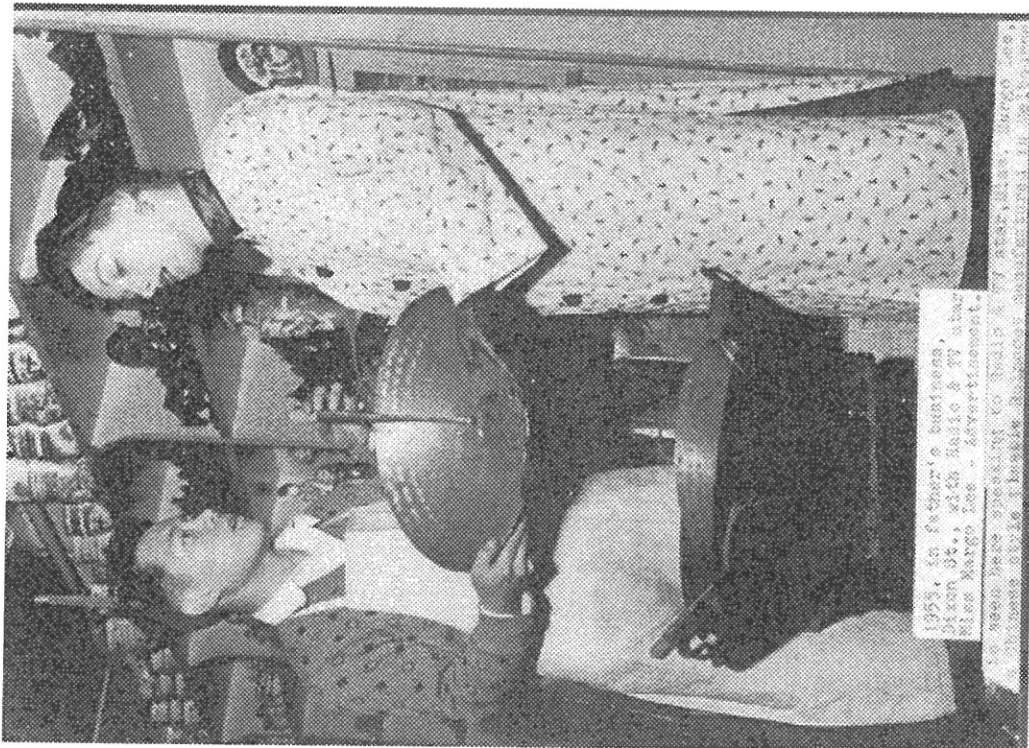
Media and Public Relations: Jennifer Kwok

Gallery Assistant: Aaron Seeto

The Asia-Australia Arts Centre  
181-187 Hay St Sydney NSW 2000  
(between Pitt and George Street)

tel: 02 9212 0380 fax: 02 9281 0873 gallery4a@one.net.au  
Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 - 6pm

# My Chinatown



asia-australia arts centre  
23 January - 3 February 2001

## My Chinatown

My Chinatown is an exhibition that explores the rich history of the Chinese in Australia. Haymarket has been the focal point for Australia's largest population of Chinese and identified with the Chinese community since as early as 1897. Photographs, interviews and objects tell the different stories of Chinese families that came to settle in Australia. Individuals such as Quong Tart, one of the most famous Chinese at the turn of the century played a significant role in society. While events such as the Dragon Balls begun in 1938 and the establishment of organisations such as the Australian Chinese Community Association in 1974 contributed greatly to the general acceptance of the Chinese community. More recent stories are evident in the interviews with Chinese-Australians including King Fong, Irene Moss, Angela Chan, Benjamin Chow and Henry Tsang. While photographs of his Chinese-Australian family and friends by William Yang also provide an account of contemporary life in Australia.

## The Chinese in Australia

- 1798 One of the best known early Chinese arrivals was Mak Sai Ying from Canton who arrived as a free settler.
- 1840s Schemes for introducing 'coolie' labour were reinvigorated as convict transportation ended.
- 1848 120 Chinese labourers arrived from Amoy.
- 1852 News of gold spread to the villages around Canton, China.
- 1861 The population of Chinese in NSW reached almost 13,000.
- 1867 First immigration restriction Act: Chinese Immigrants Regulation and Restriction Act: £10 tax for every Chinese who entered the country.
- 1878 Immigration restriction act repealed because of declining numbers of Chinese to Australia.
- 1878 Increase in numbers of Chinese arrivals and increase in violence against Chinese community. In December an anti-Chinese torchlight meeting in Hyde Park was held, attended 15,000 people and afterwards Ah Toy's workshop in Queens Place (now Dalley St) was nearly burned down and the windows smashed.
- 1881 New restrictions for Chinese entering Australia: Influx of Chinese Restriction Act: £10 tax. One Chinese for every 100 tonnes of shipping.
- 1888 More restrictions for Chinese entering Australia: Chinese Restriction and Regulation Act: Tax increased to £100 per Chinese arriving, only one Chinese per 300 tonnes allowed, no possibility of naturalisation. In July a fire went through Alexandria huts where some 60 gardeners were living, leaving them homeless. Sir Henry Parkes allocated £100 from state revenue to assist them.

- 1891 Royal Commission into Chinese Gambling: 60 people were interviewed to ascertain the extent of bribery and corruption in the Chinese gambling community. Quong Tart Commissioner.
- 1897 The Rocks housed the majority of Sydney's most successful Chinese merchants, but more lived near the Belmore Markets in the city's south, built in 1869.
- 1897 Chinese community organised a carnival at Prince Alfred Park to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, attended by nearly 20,000 people.
- 1901 In 1900 the City council published a table stating that Sydney's Chinese community could be located in the Rocks 14% and at Haymarket 86%. Immigration Restriction Act forced Chinese entering Australia to pass a dictation test in English, poll tax remained in effect.
- 1909 First market building in Haymarket.
- 1910 Land in Dixon street was bought by Philip Lee Chun, one of the earliest acquisitions in the area by Chinese.
- 1911- Decline in Chinese population in Australia but the population of Chinese in Sydney remained about the same.
- 1947 Chinatown had fully established itself in the area of Dixon Street
- 1920 Regulations were relaxed to allow local traders to employ 'assistants' from China.
- 1934
- 1938 The first Dragon Ball was held by the Young China Relief Movement.
- 1939 Chinese Youth League (originally Chinese Youth Dramatic Association) was established originally to raise money for China through dramatic performances.
- 1952 NSW Chinese Workers Association established to dismantle the 'indenture system' of Chinese.
- 1957 Jap Kuan Wong and several other prominent Chinese residents were granted citizenship.
- 1958 The Law was changed to permit citizenship to any Chinese after 15yrs of residency.
- 1972 Whitlam Govt recognises China which co-incided with a growth in the Chinese population in Australia.
- 1974 Australian Chinese Community Association established.
- 1975 The ABC made a documentary based on Haymarket, Chinese language programs commenced on 'ethnic radio' 2EA and continued to expand as well as SBS Television.
- 1988 Chinese Gardens at Darling Harbour opened, a bicentennial gift from Canton (Guangzhou).
- 1992 The Chinese community donated the To Sail. To Stop sculpture as part of the Sesquicentenary of Incorporation of the City of Sydney. Currently on display between Town Hall and St Andrews Cathedral.
- 1989 Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced a four year temporary residence for students as a result of the Tiananmen incident.