

Chinese Voice 15 April 1997 issue

Contributed by Lachlan
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Sports Centre 20 Years Old

Steven Young

The Wellington Chinese Sports & Cultural Centre will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of its complex in Mt Albert Road this weekend. It has been a centre for the close-knit "old" Chinese community which has played together (basketball, volley ball, badminton, table tennis) and worked together to be self-funding by catering for weddings and other special occasions.

As well as meeting the sporting needs of young Wellington Chinese, the Centre is also the base for a Cantonese language kindergarten and plays host to other community and cultural events such as the Chinese Association's national Easter Tournament when it has been Wellington's turn to host this long-standing annual sports event.. The Centre is also available for use by the wider community for basketball, bowls or other public events requiring a big venue.

The Centre was one of two Chinese community efforts in the 1970s which resulted in major additions to the Wellington scene - the other being the Chinese Anglican Church & Chinese Centre in Glenmore Street which opened about the same time. Both groups while then led by older-styled Chinese community figures, harnessed the energy of baby-boomers just coming of age. Twenty years on the hard core of those young fundraisers and workers are sprinkled around Wellington as business leaders, principals, senior managers, senior partners and senior consultants. And their children - the babes-in-arms and brats running around "helping" to set the tables; are they running the Centre now? - "They've all graduated and gone off to London on their big OEs," laments President Graeme Young with a happy grin. "But they'll be back," he adds.

The original 900 sq metre building, large enough to accommodate a full sized basket ball court, changing rooms, and members facilities, was opened by then-mayor Sir Michael Fowler in 1977 after a massive 3 year effort raised sufficient funds to build the shell. (Contract value \$400,000 equivalent to about \$1.2M today.) Members then worked for months finishing the complex, sanding and painting the interior, as well as raising more funds for furniture, fittings, sports equipment and a full catering kitchen. Such has been the demand for its facilities it has been extended twice. The Anniversary dinner is on 17 May 1997.

Chinese on the Internet

Steven Young

Unless you have been living under a rock for three years you will be aware of the growth of the Internet as a medium of communication and source of information. However it may seem at first glance to be exclusively based on the English language or at least a Roman alphabet. Not so. The bandwidth of the Internet and the power of personal computers and their graphical interfaces are such that they are able to transfer and display non-Roman texts such as Chinese quite easily. How this can be done is explained on the Internet itself (isn't everything?) at <<http://www.biol.uregina.ca/liu/>> The procedure involves downloading some software and installing it; thereafter you will be able to read a wide variety of Chinese language magazines and other texts in both traditional and simplified text styles - for free -sourced from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. Hey kids, you can thank your parents for buying you a multimedia PC by taking half an hour to do this for them. (They'll only appreciate your efforts if they're Chinese of course, but you would notice this.)

Chinese Voice is now also available on the Internet, together with other material related to the Chinese community in New Zealand - mainly this correspondent's ravings but also notably the full text of Pansy Wong's maiden speech in Parliament, and a very scholarly history of Chinese Settlement in New Zealand - Past, Present and Future by Dr James Ng, author of Windows on Chinese Past - the textbook on the early history of the Chinese in NZ. The web page is at <<http://www.stevenyoung.co.nz>> and is kindly hosted by Actrix.

Contributions to this web page on the general subject matter of the Chinese in NZ are invited and should be emailed to me at syoung@stevenyoung.co.nz. Format your work either as ASCII or HTML text. Remember that the information is then available to everyone in NZ and adds to the worldwide Internet resource. Help in maintaining this page is also very welcome.

Erratum

It has been pointed out that Dai Qing, campaigning against the Three Gorges hydro project, is NOT resident in Australia, and has only been there on an ANU fellowship. It is crucial to her moral position that she remains resident in China. Late news. It is reported that Li Peng (a Soviet-trained hydro engineer) is to be eased out of his post as Prime Minister and put in charge of the prestigious Three Gorges Project. This almost guarantees that the original project will be built without modification. S Young Editor

McNaught

D McNaught's assertions (City Voice 10 April 1997) that "Pansy Wong and Tuku Morgan" are "similar in technique ...shamelessly playing to the gallery", that Pansy Wong "belittled the standing of NZ's long term Chinese residents by linking them to recent Chinese affluent immigrant purchasers of NZ nationality"; that these people are not "true New Zealanders", and indeed that Pansy Wong herself "entered Parliament through the back door"; invite a response and it is this: I have it on good authority that Pansy (not Suzie) Wong buys her own underwear; the "long term" residents or their parents were new arrivals once and some also paid a very large sum (the poll tax under another government policy) to get in; some people will never regard anyone who is not white to be a true NZer; and one third of all MPs - the List MPs, including several ministers, "entered through the back door". S Young Editor

Shanghai Restaurant Re-opens

Advertisement

A stylishly updated Shanghai Restaurant has re-opened in its new location at 121 Manners Street.

But Wellington's newest Chinese restaurant is also its oldest. Now owned and managed by Simon and Anna Yen, it continues a family link and a tradition of service and quality unbroken for 46 years.

Specialising in Hong Kong and Sichuan style cuisine, its many loyal customers will be pleased that it still provides authentic Chinese meals at reasonably prices.

Most importantly it still serves its famous wonton short soup perfected by KK Yen.

Shanghai Restaurant Tel 382 8825