

洲華人歷史協會

# Chinese Australian Historical Society Inc



## Symposium

### From Great Grandmothers to Great Granddaughters: The Transformation of Chinese Australian Women

Sunday, 25 September 2005

### Program Outline

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch

#### **Session 1: Opening Reflections- The Older Generation**

1:15 – 2:00

**Henry Chan:** *Welcome and Opening*

Henry Chan is an historian and President of the CAHS as well as a fourth generation Chinese Australian, and second generation Chinese New Zealander! He has recently returned from New Zealand where he spent a year as the 17<sup>th</sup> National Library of New Zealand Research Fellow, researching for two books on the Chinese in New Zealand he is writing.

**Dawn Wong:** *“Four Generations of Wong Sat Women”*

Dawn Wong is the great granddaughter of Wong Sat, who arrived in New South Wales in 1857. Over the next half-century he and his English wife, Amelia Hackney, built a thriving family, pastoral business and store near Crookwell, NSW. Their efforts are now the subject of a permanent exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum. Dawn is a lawyer and Treasurer of the CAHS, and has been researching her family history for more than 20 years.

Dawn will be speaking about the four generations of the Wong Sat women and her experience growing up in a non-Chinese orientated family.

**Lily Ma:** *“Australian Born Chinese Women”*

Lily Ma was the President of Chinese Women's Association of Australia from 1986 to 1995.

Lily Ma will also be speaking about the generations of Chinese Australian women in her family and their experiences growing up in Australia

## **Session 2: Reflecting on our Mothers' Generation**

**2:00 – 2:30**

### **Doreen Cheong: *"East West Fusion"***

Doreen Cheong is the mother of two boys from a Chinese marriage. She attended university as a mature age student and was offered a job as a management consultant with a large international professional services firm. Doreen is now retired and has the time to catch up with all the interests that she didn't have time to pursue.

Doreen will be speaking about her memories of growing up as a first generation female child born in Australia. Her focus will be on the expectations placed on her by her mother based on her upbringing in a village in China. Doreen will then contrast this expectation with the reality of what occurred from her exposure to a very different world, that of a modern western culture.

### **King Fong: *"My China Town Experience"***

King Fong is the Vice President of the CAHS. He is also an active member of the CWAA, the Mandarin Club Chinese Women's Association, and the Hills Chinese Women's Association.

King Fong will be speaking about the experiences of his mother, and also explore the experiences of those Chinese Australian women in the community he has been in contact with in his membership in the women's organisations.

## **Session 3: Reflections Between a Daughter and Her Father**

**2:30 – 3:00**

### **Lisa Chan: *"A Banana"***

Lisa Chan is a fourth generation Australian-born Chinese and grew up in Sydney, Matraville. She is an active committee member of the CAHS.

Lisa will be speaking about the experiences of her mother, grandmother and great grandmother and then compare these experiences to that of her own.

### **Steven Chan: *"East Meets West"***

Steve Chan is a Malaysian born Chinese Australian and has been living in Sydney since he was 16 years old. He is the father of 3 children and is now happily retired.

Steven will be speaking about his experiences with his mother, grandmother, and also his daughter, Lisa Chan.

**3:00 – 3:30**

Afternoon tea

## **Session 4: Reflections of the Younger Generation**

**3:30 – 4:00**

**Mimi Zou:** *“Nü: The Story of a Phoenix”*

Mimi Zou is an active member of the community. She currently is studying Bachelor of Law/ Bachelor of Economics and Social Sciences (Honours) while doing work for numerous organisations including the National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) and Oxfam Community Aid Abroad International Youth Parliament.

Mimi will look at the different experiences of her grandmother's, mother's and her own generation, as well as the common bonds they share. This will be placed in an historical context and focus on their struggles and successes.

**Nikki Loong:** *“Big Westerns in Little China”*

Nikki Loong is a second generation Australian-born Chinese and grew up in Sydney's western suburbs. Nikki's interest in her Chinese ancestry and culture emerged during her Mandarin studies at Macquarie University.

Nikki will speak about her experiences growing up with a Chinese grandmother where a language barrier exists. She will also compare and contrast her grandmother's experiences to her own as a young Chinese Australian.

## **Session 5: Concluding Reflections and Discussion**

**4:00 – 5:00**

**Henry Chan:** *“A Grumpy Old Huaqiao's Reflections on the Changing Lives of the Women in His Life.”*

Henry will give a lighthearted reflection on his own experiences with the Chinese Australian women in his life!

**Dr Cindy Pan:** *“Afterword: Reflecting on Four Generations of Chinese Australian Women”*

Dr Cindy Pan has appeared on The Panel, Beauty and the Beast, and Sex/Life, GP, actor/singer, and author of Pandora's Box: Lifting the Lid on Life's Little Nasties (HarperCollins).

Dr Cindy Pan will sum up the afternoon by reflecting on all the speakers and offer some insights into her own experiences as a Chinese Australian woman.

**Nikki Loong**  
**Event Organizer**  
**15 September 2005**