



NEW ZEALAND CHINESE ASSOCIATION  
MANAWATU BRANCH INCORPORATED  
新西蘭華聯會面那威滔支會

Newsletter No. 46 April 2025

**Presidents Report** 主席會務報告

Greetings everyone! We have had a very successful start to the Year of the Snake.

Our food stall at the Lunar New Year Festival in the Square, together with the MCA Chinese New Year dinner at the Chinatown restaurant attended by 250 people, raised close to \$5,000.

Many thanks to the generosity to the donors of the food and raffle prizes Chinatown, Innes Dean, Greer and Wong, Property Brokers, Manawatu BMW, Vivian Leung, Rodney and Angela Wong.

大家好！蛇年伊始，我們已經有一個非常好的開始！

我們在廣場的農曆新年活動中的食品攤位，以及在中國城酒家舉行共 250 人參加的華聯會農曆新年晚宴中，共籌款得近\$5,000。

我們衷心感謝所有慷慨捐贈的親友們為我們提供的美食和禮物：

中國城酒家、Innes Dean 律師所、Greer & Wong 會計事務所、Property Brokers 房地產中介、Manawatu BMW、Vivian Leung、以及 Rodney 和 Angela Wong



It is very pleasing to see the continuing development of both of the lion dance and dragon dance team. The new baby lions were officially eye dotted at the Lunar New Year event in the square by our Mayor Grant Smith and Deputy Mayor Debi Marshall-Lobb. We have recently purchased 2 lion drums and a 7 person dragon from Wellington Dragon dance team.

我也很高興看到我們的舞獅和舞龍團隊的不斷發展和成長。包括在今年廣場農曆新年活動中，我們的市長 Grant Smith 和副市長 Debi Marshall-Lobb 正式為新生的小獅子進行點睛儀式。以及我們最近從惠靈頓舞龍隊購買了兩面獅鼓和一條七人舞龍。



I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Anna Kong and the Adults dance team members who selflessly perform under MCA umbrella at many events around Manawatu throughout the year.

All the dance teams are the visible face of MCA in the wider Manawatu multicultural community. Well done and thank you to all the team members, leaders' supporters, helpers and organisers of those teams.

我還要感謝 Anna Kong 以及其舞蹈團隊的所有成員為我們提供的每一個精彩表演，感謝她們對華聯會組織活動的支持和所做的傑出貢獻。

在面那威滔多元文化社區中，所有的舞蹈團隊都展現出我們華聯會極具代表性的一面。感謝所有台前幕後的團隊成員、領導、志願者，負責活動的工作人員，以及所有為我們提供支持的人，我為你們感到驕傲！

We are working towards our new constitution which must be finalised by April 2026. Many thanks to Tony Thackery for all his hard work in getting this onerous but necessary task done.

我們正在努力製定新的華聯會章程，章程必須在 2026 年 4 月前最終確定。我非常感謝 Tony Thackery 為完成這項艱鉅而重要的任務所做的努力。

Congratulations on the opening of our very MCA Community Op Stop on Sun 6 April. The Op Stop opens every Sunday 2-5 pm. You can not only pick up bargains at the shop but come in for advice, information and a friendly chat. Many thanks Angel, Andrew and Johnny in helping with this initiative. Thank you all for the donations to the shop.

祝賀我們的華聯會的社區互助社於 4 月 6 日（星期日）正式開業。我們的互助社定於每週日開放，開放時間為下午 2 至 5 點。互助社不僅可以為您提供非常實惠的物品用品，而且還可以是一個獲取一些生活建議和相互交流的落腳點。非常感謝 Angel、Andrew 和 Johnny 對互助社的成立提供的協助。

We plan to have our very first MCA Club and Activities night at the hall on Fri 2nd May with mahjong, table tennis, board games and karaoke etc. Hopefully this will turn into a monthly event. Look forward to seeing you all there and/or at AGM dinner on Sun 18 May

我們計劃在今年 5 月 2 日（星期五）舉辦我們的第一次的華聯會俱樂部活動之夜，屆時將有麻將、乒乓球、桌遊和卡拉 OK 等活動。如果一切順利，我們希望這能成為一個我們華聯會為大家提供的每月固定活動之一。期待在這個活動之夜或在我們 5 月 18 日的年度晚宴上與大家見面。

On behalf of MCA, I would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of all the MCA committee members, volunteers and supporters throughout the year.

最後，我想代表華聯會對所有委員會成員，志願者，以及過去一年以來所有對我們提供支持的所有朋友們表示最真摯的感謝。

Allan Young - MCA President  
楊傑凌華聯會面那威滔支會主席

## **Information MCA Hall Hire, Hall Use Fees, Membership and Benefits**

**Guideline to MCA (Manawatu Chinese Association) Membership, Activity Fees and Rental Costs as at 1 June 2024- 31 May 2025. The fees are reviewed twice a year by the committee.**

### **Membership Fees:**

Individual	\$20
Family	\$40
Senior Over 65 years old	Free/Voluntary Donation
Friends of MCA	\$75

What does Membership give you?

- a) Membership discount from businesses who support MCA.
- b) Useful information, notices of forthcoming events and newsletter
- c) Events provided by MCA and Services provided by Integration Project
- d) Discount to attend PNCS (Palmerston North Chinese School) who support MCA

### **Additional Annual Fee for Regular Activity (for both members and friends of MCA)**

\$45/year for one session per week activity

\$90/year for two sessions per week activities

\$130/year for three sessions per week activities

- a) Includes leisure activities like badminton/table tennis/tai chi/dancing/mah-jong/pickleball
- b) Excludes private groups who hire the use of the hall
- c) The year is from 1 June to 31 May or half year fee for a start from late December
- d) Fees paid via internet banking only, with Membership Fee on Membership form
- e) Members/Friends of MCA not paying activity fee; casual rate \$3 per session
- f) General Public may join in an approved activity but need to pay casual rate \$5 per session.
- g) Team leader to keep register of attendees

Note – Fees are to cover the cost of expenses e.g. cost of heating, lighting, security and repair and maintenance of the building and property.

### **Hall Hire:**

The MCA hall is used by the wider community, and regular activities are booked in throughout the week. We are currently investigating some ways to streamline our bookings and see when there are empty time slots. Keep an eye out for this.

Prices varies depending on membership/public status, rooms and hours required. For anyone interested please contact Catherine Richardson 021 1262410 for a copy of MCA Hall Rates 2024-2025

## Lion and Dragon Troupes

Over the last 18 months, the MCA committee have been working to build resilience and succession planning through raising our younger membership. Our Lion troupe has historically been where we have seen our young members start their long lasting relationship with MCA.

The Lion is more individual and stylised, whereas the Dragon is more a whole team effort. In both you have the role to play in the entire team, whether you are dancing or playing the instruments.



At the Lunar New Year celebrations, we thanked the hard work of the departing troupe leaders, as they handed over the reigns to the next upcoming leaders.

Throughout the year, several workshops have been run with the gracious help and support from Vince and his crew from Wellington Dragon Troupe which have allowed our teams to practice new movements in both the Lion and Dragon. It has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm our young members have to learn new techniques, and the opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

With the investment in a new baby lion, another dragon, and additional instruments, MCA now has a strong foundation to further grow our troupes. Thank you to the troupe members for your commitment, and to all the parents who support them.

The troupe has regular practice sessions for both the Lion and the Dragon, so if you know of anyone who is interested in joining the troupe, or at least trying it out please get in touch.



## Community “OP STOP”

The community “OP STOP” initiative has been in the making for 1 ½ years. It is called an “OP STOP” because we want it as a place for the community to stop by; to share information and also ask for help, in addition to a place for people to donate their preloved items and shop.



Tony Thackery and the MCA Dragon Dance team officially opened the OP STOP on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025. It was originally looking a bit ominous, proceeding the previous days of bad weather, but the weather gods were in our favour.



Eleven stall holders were in attendance for the supporting community car boot sale, and the hall was a buzz with the younger ones having fun on the bouncy castle, and many treasures to be found in the various boot sales.

The OP STOP is open on Sunday afternoon between 2:00pm and 5:00pm, and open to the community to come in for a social chat, check out the large selection of donated goods for sale and seek assistance for which we may be able to help with.



We currently have Lily running our opening hours on Sundays, with the backing of a supporting team of volunteers. If you have some time to spare, we are always on the lookout for more helping hands.

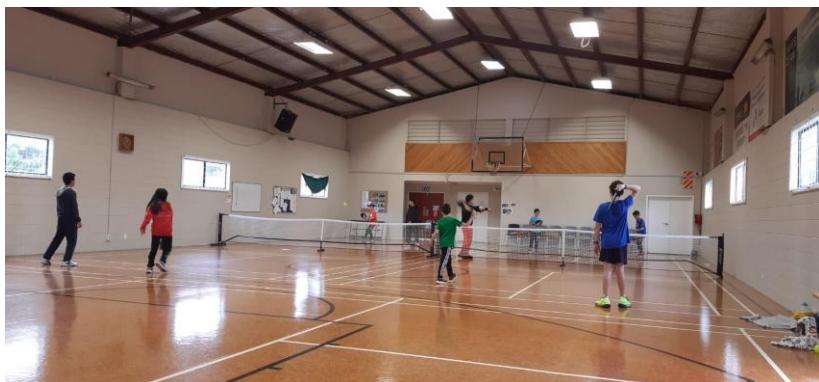
Our team can also accept your preloved items you wish to donate. All the profits will go to MCA hall maintenance and services to the community.

## Social Cohesion and Integration Project

MCA recently received a grant from Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) towards the social cohesion project. The focus is on enabling our community to build and strengthen their sense of belonging in the city and also their self-esteem for their better wellbeing for the elderly, families, children and youth. In the past few years, we have successfully developed the cohesion within our Chinese community and also integrated to the wider community.



Talk about Stroke Health and wellbeing workshop held at the MCA hall.



Pickle Ball and indoor sports during the school holiday program.

Activities during the Dragon Boat Festival increasing intergenerational relations.



## Constitution Changes

A MCA subcommittee led by Tony Thackery has been working through the required changes to our current constitution to comply with the new law. As an incorporated society, we must have this done by April 2026 to continue operating.



But what does it all mean?

Although our current constitution falls under the laws of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, it has been updated several times to reflect the changes times, but still within the legal requirements of a 1908 law. This has now been superseded by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 which aims to strengthen governance functions by aligning director duties more closely with those in the Companies Act. This includes new officers' duties and dispute resolution processes.

Nothing much changes under the new law, from what we are currently doing, other than formalising and ensuring clear and transparent processes are being followed. A key focus is around accurate record keeping, and we will be looking at ways to streamline keeping all membership details upto date and secured.

When the new constitution is finalised, the MCA membership will be consulted for comments, before being submitted for reregistration.

After we have reregistered, all new memberships will fall under the new constitution. Existing membership will be retained under the current constitution until they renew.

## Club and Activity night



Our first MCA club and activities night will commence at the MCA hall Fri 2nd May from 7-10 pm.

This will be an intergenerational social event for families and friends and a chance to meet new people and renew old connections whilst having fun with activities such as mahjong ,board games Karaoke ,table tennis, badminton and pickleball.

There will be a supper after so please bring a plate to share.



NEW ZEALAND CHINESE ASSOCIATION MANAWATU BRANCH INC

新西蘭華聯會面那威滔支會

**Annual General Meeting Fundraising Dinner**

周年會員大會籌款晚宴

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Sunday, 6:00 p.m.**

**Venue: Tasty Restaurant, PN**

二零二五年五月十八日,星期日,下午六時正

假座於北帕友誼酒家

**Menu 菜單**

Minced Chicken and Snow Fungus Soup 雞蓉雪耳羹

Crispy Roasted Pork 脆皮燒肉

Crispy Roasted Duck 脆皮燒鴨

Sweet and Sour Fish 松子魚

Golden Prawn Balls with Egg Yolks 富貴黃金蝦球

Chicken and Cashew Nuts with Vegetables 腰果鷄丁

Golden Tofu In Malaysian Style 黃金馬拉豆腐

Deep Fried Eggplant with Minced Pork 干燒肉菘茄子

Lamb Brisket with Dry Bean Curd and Lettuce 枝竹羊腩扒生菜

Bok Choy with Garlic 蒜蓉炒白菜

Steamed Rice 白飯

Silky Coconut Jelly 香滑椰汁糕

Orange Juice and Sprite 橙汁及雪碧

BYO Wine 自攜酒類

每位\$45 Per Person / 每圍十位 \$450 Table of 10

**For Tickets/訂票**

Aidan Wong 黃朝興 Phone/電話: 06 356 2214

233 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North

Catherine Richardson 劉嘉逢 Mobile/手機: 021 126 2410

Payment Method: Acct. 03-0726-0030129-000. Ref name and code Dinner

Raffle Tickets / 現場有抽獎券

## Dr Phoebe Li

MCA had the pleasure of hosting Dr Phoebe H Li author of **Golden Enterprise**, whilst she visited the various NZCA branches to promote her latest book.

Holder of a PhD from the University of Auckland, and a research fellow of Tsinghun University in Beijing; Dr Li is an independent historian, and publisher of several books about Chinese history.

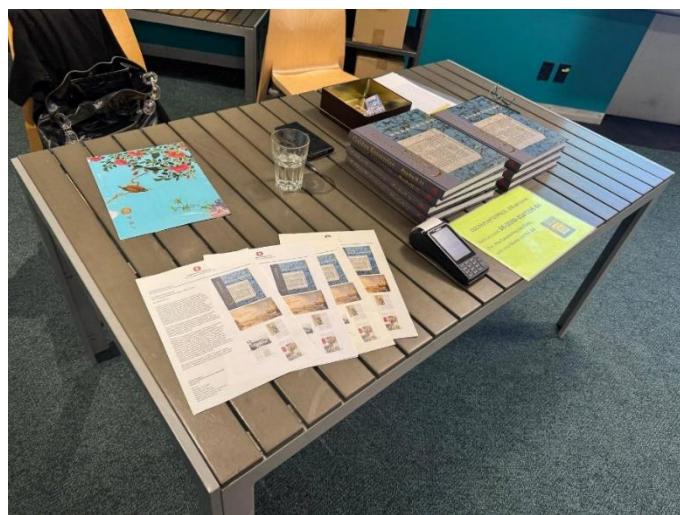


**Enterprise**, was launched in Palmerston North City Library on the 21st March to coincide with heritage month, and focuses on the role of the Cantonese merchants between 1860's to 1970's. The hardcover book can be purchased directly from [www.goldenenterprise.nz](http://www.goldenenterprise.nz) or emailing [goldenenterprisenz@gmail.com](mailto:goldenenterprisenz@gmail.com).

Members of the committee shared a meal with her over the weekend, and she then spent the following day at the MCA hall, where we shared our op stop initiative, and showed her the vibrancy of the weekly activities held at the hall.

She explained her eagerness to get around the local Chinese community to hear stories to contribute to her research work in NZ Chinese migration patterns.

Commissioned by the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust, her latest book **Golden**



## Youth Leadership Camp



The New Zealand Chinese Association, Youth Leadership Camp (YLC), is an initiative to bring together our future leaders, through a comprehensive leadership, cultural and team building experience for Chinese students across the community, where unforgettable memories are made and long-lasting friendships evolve.

2024 marks the seventh NZCA Youth Leadership Camp.

The Manawatu branch sponsored two young members to attend the camp over the period 19 Dec to 22 Dec 2024.

*I discovered this camp only a month before and had no idea what this camp is about. Got off my flight at 8am and waited for around 6 hrs until picked up. I met the first few delegates at the mall during the wait. Everyone was chill and gave me good feelings for the camp. Upon entering the grounds of Camp Adair and being one of the first delegates, I was greeted by several facilitators - all were very welcoming. Like most people, I was surprised to find out later on how most of the camp is white washed.*

*YLC provided me with unforgettable memories and allowed me to get time off screen which is very nice. I thought I would be more nervous but turns out I wasn't. The food were all really good that I even went for fourth. I actually had expected more muddy/water activities since in the equipment list it said extra clothes for muddy activities but turns out the Burma trail was the only one. To be honest, the Burma trail was scarier than the ropes. When the lead said to duck I was ducking for my life. Luckily I only smacked into three trees.*

*This camp allowed me to step out my comfort zone and realize my capabilities. Never knew I would pop those dance moves at the diamond dance thing. Highlight of the camp have to be the rope course and surprised even myself by doing those 42 blind folded push ups on the hi-beam. Mentioning Adam (one of my two amazing leaders) for also doing 21 push ups on the beam. Shoutout to all my fellow teammates in my group (Hong Baos) for being so supportive and amazing. Even though we came second for the presentations but the experience from it is the part that really values - Up the Woks!*

*Overall the camp was a very fulfilling experience. Met great people and made wonderful friends. I'm gonna end it here because I could go on and talk about every detail but that will take forever.*

*Roger Lin, 2024 YLC Delegate*

## In special memory of Jenny Chu - Alex Chu

Today, we are here to cerebrate Jenny's life: to remember what Jenny meant for each one of us individually.

**I have the following examples of what Jenny's life meant to me:**

### **1. Poh Yum her Chinese name 曾寶艷**

Poh (寶) means previous, Yum (艷) means beautiful and gorgeous. When we first met in 1965, in Palmerston North, I did not know her Chinese name. Jenny did not know how to write Chinese. I only found out what her Chinese names were when I went to Malacca, her home town in Malaysia, to meet her parents to ask for her hand in marriage.

I was told that before she was one year old the fortune-teller at the temple told her mother, in order to balance her life's energy her name has to be changed from Yum (艷) beautiful and gorgeous to Yum (焱) with 3 fires:

When I found out her name Yum has 3 fires, I thought to myself: Oh dear, am I getting a beautiful but hot-tempered wife? And then her Aunty told me the fortune teller removed one of the top fires to cool her down a little.

Luckily for me, her TWO fires turned out to have nothing to do with hot temper but represented **WARMTH** and **BRIGHTNESS**. Her WARMTH had touched her friends' life, and BRIGHTNESS, like a **BEACON**, a lighthouse, helping them to find the right way. This has been referred to in almost all the condolence messages I received.

### **2. What does Jenny mean to me in my life?**

I met Jenny when she was studying at PN Girl's High School in 1965, and she was 16 years old. I was called "a cradle-snatcher". She was my first and only girlfriend: and I was her first and only boyfriend. For almost 60 years we were together, through thick and thin. She was my light, my beacon, and my soul-mate. She shared the honours I received while working at Massey University. Behind every great man there is greater woman

### **3. Jenny's respect for other religions**

When I went to Malacca to asked her father for her hand in marriage, Jenny's family are Buddhist; like Carrol and Doreen sitting here. I am a Christian. So, I asked Jenny whether we can get married in a Christian church?

"I have no problem following the Christian faith", because I believe in "**Let Thy Will be Done**".

- The Buddhists believe in "**KarMa**"
- The Muslims believe in "**InshaAllah**"
- Jenny, a strong Christian, believed "**Let God's Will be Done**".

### **4. What happened in ICU on Sunday night (16th June 2024) ?**

Jenny was transported to hospital by St. John ambulance around 3.30 am on Sunday; she was barely conscious and could not talk or move her body. When I left her just after 2.00 pm there was hardly any improvement. I went back to ICU at 7.00 pm and there she was, moving her legs vigorously and her hands were tearing at her neck brace.

She was tearing at the tapes that the nurse used to tie the leather glove to cover her finger, to stop her using her fingers to untie the tapes. Now, if she can coordinate her **EYES** and **HANDS** to pull off the tapes one by one, her brain must be working, and Halleluiah, I thought she must be improving. The doctor in charge did say these are signs of improvement, but unless they persist it is too early to draw any conclusions. I left her at 8.30 pm, she was still tearing at the gloves. I went back the next morning Jenny has deteriorated and was

on her last minutes. My question to myself was: if she can coordinate her eyes with her fingers why was she tearing at the equipment that are keeping her alive? All that time she did not look at me, nor squeezed my hand. but only trying to remove the equipment that was protecting her .

**May be last night was a flick of the candle before it went out, maybe it was not; maybe Jenny was involved**

I have a simple explanation, may be a childish, but I personally believe it is possible. I prayed very hard, like many relatives and friends all over the world; we all prayed to God to let Jenny recover. God is great, He has answered our prayers, and He was going to let Jenny live. **BUT JENNY DISAGREED**

She was fighting to tear down the equipment that was protecting her. She did not want to wake up as a vegetable and she wants to free me from looking after a vegetable. She pulled off a final **KAMIKAZE**. God did answer our prayers, but Jenny, who loves a bargain, had negotiated a **WIN/WIN** situation for both of us. I like to believe that.

I thank you for coming to share this cerebration of Jenny's Life with the family. For my Jenny was my soul-mate and an Angel from Heaven, sent by Almighty God to help me in my career; and to share her warmth and her beacon with all of you here and beyond. She was a Good Samaritan from God with a Christian attitude of helping people, and more importantly with love and respect to people from different religions.

**Jenny would say:**  
**Regardless of what religion we are from, we are all God's Children**