

**Community history, Chinese
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Community leaders**

Raymond (Pak Jing) Chin (b. 1923)

He is a past President of the Chung Wah Society, Darwin, RSL

Secretary and the former CEO of the NT Legislative Assembly.

(Interview with Diana Giese and Robyn On, ORAL TRC 3542, 1996, joint Chung Wah Society/National Library of Australia project, part of *Post-War Chinese Australians* project:)

Robyn On: What are some of your best memories as President of the Chung Wah Society?

Ray Chin: Oh, the President—I was on the committee early, and then the Vice-President '73...I was on the committee one or two years before. David Gee was the President for three years. Had to go south. I was elected just before the end of '74, before the cyclone. So I had been a rookie as chair, and the cyclone had blown the Temple away. So naturally they say: 'What are we going to do?' There was the fund-raising. That's my biggest project, really, fund-raising and rebuilding the Chinese Temple. They were the biggest experiences. Another thing, even after the cyclone, the Timor refugees came along. I met 200-300 of them. They were lucky to get here. Actually, they thank their lucky stars they are safe in Darwin. They all come to the Chung Wah. We didn't have a Temple then. We ordered a statue in a hall. They came along. They were very thankful, thanksgiving, two or three hundred people kneeling down in front of the altar, quite impressive. They appreciated the welcome they got from the Society here, you see.

Diana Giese: Chung Wah actually helped them with food and accommodation and so on when they first arrived here.

Ray Chin: Yes—yes, we did. A lot of the welfare jobs, yes.

Robyn On: So do you think the role of the Chung Wah Society is important in promoting better understanding?

Ray Chin: Oh, definitely. Definitely that's it. In our day the Chung Wah usually—in old days mainly Chung Wah was always the principal way they got to mix with, to get better acquainted with the local community. Now we have got a better chance, through the sporting and other activities. We are getting closer-knit all the time, so we must be improving our relations all the time. Oh definitely, it's a good thing.

Daryl Chin (b. 1965)

He is a long-term activist and leader with the Chung Wah Society in Darwin, involved with its historical work, including setting up the Chinese Museum and the Lion Dance troupe.

(From interview with Diana Giese, 1996 used in her radio program *Reclaiming the Past*, ABC Radio National, 1996)

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Daryl Chin: Apart from being an active member of the Chung Wah Society committee, I'm personally interested in my own family—and I guess I wanted to discover my own family tree and who I was related to. I also had a desire to try and uncover documents that could account for our ancestors' migration and establishment in the Top End, which would support the oral histories, I guess, of my own family, to show when and where great-great-grandfather came out. I also wanted the opportunity to provide a record from my point of view, or our point of view, in terms of the Chinese community, on what our ancestors experienced, and how they contributed to the Top End. And I also see this is an opportunity for us to influence, or assist and guide the current and future research that's being carried out into the Top End Chinese history. But really I think the main reason is to highlight or pay tribute to the role that our ancestors played in the establishment, existence and growth of the Top End.

Diana Giese: ...I asked Daryl Chin how important contacts with others elsewhere had been to his work.

Daryl Chin: I guess it's an issue of the profile of what we're doing becomes known through people like yourself, taking your work that you're doing around the country. And we've had contact with, as you know, the Kwong Sue Duk family from Cairns and Melbourne. We've had contacts through the Chinese Museum in Melbourne, and also different associations that are setting up. We also have contact through our own initiatives with families that have left Darwin, who used to live in Darwin, who've moved to the southern states, either during the War, or for whatever reason—they knowing that we're doing such research and putting exhibitions together—they've got in contact with us, in instances, as well. So yes, it has kind of widened our opportunity of collecting more information.'