

James Chung Gon 150 Year Family Reunion April 2023

The Chung Gon Family 150 Year Reunion was held on 15-16 April 2023 in Launceston where 113 family members from all over Australia and globally came together to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

James Chung Gon was one of the earliest Chinese migrants that arrived in Tasmania and through his skills and hard work, he was successful and became one of the best known early Chinese identities in Tasmania. James was involved in various successful business ventures in the Launceston area and also contributed to local civic affairs. He was one of the prime organisers of the Chinese Dragon procession that raised funds for the initial development of the Cataract Gorge as well as other civil activities.

James was also the inspiration for many young men from his local village region in China to migrate and make a new life in Tasmania and he was most generous and supportive of these new arrivals. James's family are very supportive of the local Chinese community in Tasmania and Gladys, one of his daughters-in-law was an inaugural Committee member of the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania and served generously for many years.

The Reunion has the opportunity to visit local places where James had an impact, including:

- Farm house at Turners Marsh, Lilydale where most of his 13 children were born
- Baptist Church, Wellington Street where James became a lay preacher
- Hadspen, opposite Entally House where James had a successful 101 acre mixed farm
- Relbia Farm, next to Joseph Chromy Vineyard where James had a large farm with a piggery and vegetable crops
- Queen Victoria Museum where there is a extensive legacy to James and his family, including Chinese artifacts such as clothing, furniture and the relocated Joss House Temple.
- Carr Villa Cemetery where the family grave is located in a quadruple block large enough for James and his immediate family
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It was a momentous celebration where descendants were able to meet each other, some for the very first time, and share the significant family history as well as highlighting a most successful Australian migrant story.

More information is available via:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-03/chung-gon-family-reunion-celebrates-australian-chinese-history/102268280>



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