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December 2021 news

President's Welcome



2021 has been a difficult and challenging year for many of us and for businesses in Haymarket in particular. For many months during the year, the Sydney metropolitan area was under lock-down restrictions and just when they were gradually being lifted, the Omicron virus became a new threat. This has had an adverse, and in some cases devastating, impact on businesses in Haymarket, in particular with the absence of international tourists and students.

At the Chamber, we are working closely with the NSW Government and the City of Sydney in an effort to rejuvenate and revitalise the Haymarket precinct. We also welcome the NSW Government's plan to create a new theatre precinct in Sydney centred on George Street and Haymarket. Haymarket would indeed be an ideal and natural location for such a precinct given its existing infrastructure and facilities. The Chamber will assist the Government in every way that it can to bring this proposal into reality.

On a personal note, I am honoured and humbled to have been endorsed and elected by my committee colleagues at our recent AGM to be the new President of the Chamber. I take over from Simon Chan who stepped down as President. Simon's leadership and contribution as President for the last 7 years can only be described as sterling and magnificent. There is much more work for us to do at Haymarket and I commit our executive committee team to continue to serve to the highest level as is expected of us.

Last but not least, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyous festive season and look forward to seeing you at our *Year of the Tiger Chinese New Year Banquet* on Friday 11 February 2022.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vincent Lim
President

Latest News

HCC 2021 AGM

The Chamber held its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 14 December 2021** at The Eight Restaurant, Haymarket, followed by dinner with members and guests. Our newly elected Executive Committee team for the 2021-2022 year are **Vincent Lim** (President), **Ruby Cheung** (Vice President), **Jack Lee** (Secretary), **Jonathan Wong** (Treasurer), **Richard Hughes** (Public Officer), **Simon Chan**, **Jessie Xiao**, **Brad Chan** and **Serena Tran** as

committee members.

After serving as President for 7 years, Simon Chan gave his final address as President thanking all executive committee members for their hard work in carrying out the activities of the Chamber and all our members for their continuing support. He also expressed gratitude and appreciation to the City of Sydney, Multicultural NSW, Investment NSW and the Darling Square Community Bank for their financial grants and sponsorships of events.

Simon noted that this had been another difficult year due to the pandemic and expressed hope that Haymarket may be revitalised once our international border is opened to international tourists and students. Simon welcomed the NSW Government's proposal to turn Haymarket and the southern part of the city into a theatre and entertainment precinct and believed that art and culture can bring life back to the city and to the Haymarket area. He suggested that Haymarket Chamber of Commerce can work with Chinese Garden of Friendship, Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA), 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and Capitol Theatre to make Haymarket a cultural hub and bring people back to the area.

Incoming President, Vincent Lim, thanked Simon and Jessie Xiao (who stepped down as Vice President due to increasing commitments in the coming year), and Linda McCreath, Kerena Tran and Arthur Chao for their significant contribution to the Chamber's work and activities. Simon and Jessie will continue to serve as committee members.



(Photos: Playlist Productions & V Lim)

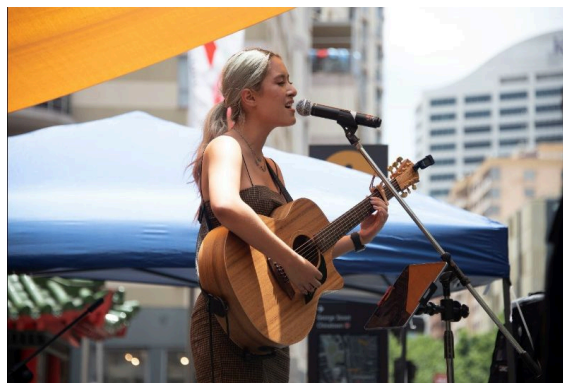
End of Year and Christmas Celebration Performances

On Sunday 19 December 2021 the Chamber hosted this celebratory event at the **Dixon Street Mall in Sydney's Chinatown** with the most beautiful

music from the **Huaxia Chinese Music Ensemble**, songs by singer-songwriter **Zhuli (Alana Patmore)**, dances by **Malasoul**, Cantonese and Mandarin hits from the vocal duo, **Larry Ng and Yanping Zhu**, and the awesome **XO Music** band with songs from Frankie Valli to Bruno Mars.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by one and all and many thanks to the [City of Sydney](#) for making it possible including the funding of the event.





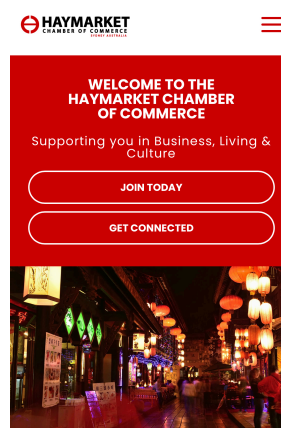
[See more photos on our website >>](#)

New website

We are pleased to announce [our brand-new website](#) is now in place.

Members whose memberships have lapsed may [renew their membership online](#) on the website. If you are not a member yet we would also welcome your participation in the activities of the Chamber and applications may also be lodged online.

[Check it out >>](#)



HCC on social media

The Chamber is now on social media, including [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please keep up to date with the latest news from Haymarket and give us a follow and like!



Dixon St Mall upgrade

Simon Chan arranged a site meeting at Dixon Street with Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer and Bridget Smyth, City Architect of City of Sydney regarding Dixon Street and Haymarket. City of Sydney is putting the upgrade and refurbishment of Dixon Street Mall and Chinatown at the top of their priority list and will be organising a community consultation process in the new year.

A meeting will be organised with the Haymarket Chamber Executive Committee in February to discuss the proposal. Anyone with potential suggestions on the proposal will be welcome to contact the Chamber with their input.

Consultation with Department of Home Affairs

A zoom meeting was arranged with Sneha Chatterjee, Department of Home Affairs Regional Director NSW/ACT, and Audrey Ng, Community Liaison Officer with Simon Chan, Vincent Lim and Linda McCreath representing Haymarket Chamber to discuss the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 andemic on Haymarket businesses and the Chinese community.

Filming at Dixon Street

A local short film titled The Dancing Girl and The Balloon Man is set to start filming on Wed 19 January from 6pm until 2am in the Haymarket area. They will not interrupt pedestrian access or business operations.

The producer hopes the film can add to the representation of Chinese people in this country and create a more nuanced and empathetic understanding of the immigrant experience.

Catering will be arranged from local restaurants, and businesses interested in supporting the project are invited to get in contact, to be featured and credited. Funding opportunities within the creative arts are limited and so additional funds are welcome in the form of tax deductible

donations to pay cast, crew and contributors. Please contact Ashleigh Hales (ashleighhales2444@gmail.com, 0435 430 688) or David Ma (davidma0201@gmail.com, 0416 183 269) regarding this film and the proposed activities or for any donation.

New Members



Mathew Fong
[Rockit Digital](#)

Mathew Fong is the co-founder of Rockit Digital, a digital marketing agency that provides beginning to end solutions for small to medium businesses around Australia.

He is also a co-founder of Zodiac Friends NFTs, a non-fungible token (NFT) project that serves and supports under-represented artists and helps onboard new talent into the NFT space through education and funding. He is also Head of Media at *Subtle Asian Traits*, a Facebook group with 1.9 million members celebrating Asian cultures and sub-cultures globally.

Matthew is also a martial artist and he recently appeared in the Marvel Comics film, *Shang Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings*. He also has a

passion for videography and photography.

Business Tips

Current NSW COVID-19 restrictions

In response to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, the following rules are being reintroduced:

- Mask wearing is now required in all indoor settings
- COVID-Safe check-ins will be required to enter hospitality and retail premises from 27 December 2021
- Businesses should encourage staff to work from home (where possible)
- Hospitality venues, including pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes have density limits of 1 person per 2 sqm rule indoors, with no limit for outdoor settings
- You should remain seated while eating and drinking in hospitality venues, and singing and dancing is strongly discouraged

[Keep updated so your business is compliant >>](#)

International students and skilled migrants

Fully vaccinated international students have been able to return to Australia since 15 December. Recently announced rules have meant:

- Temporary Graduate visa holders who were unable to enter Australia and whose visas expired on or after 1 February 2020 can apply for a replacement visa of the same duration
- Masters by coursework students can stay in Australia longer for post-study work (three years, instead of the current two)
- time spent offshore and studying online will count towards qualifying for a Temporary Graduate visa

The government has also announced visa changes that will improve access to permanent residence for:

- Existing Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa holders in the short-term stream
- Legacy Temporary Work Skilled (subclass 457) visa holders who no longer meet the age requirement

[Stay up to date >>](#)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Haymarket Chamber of Commerce wishes all our members and friends a safe and joyous festive season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Our mailing address is:

Haymarket Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 20702
World Square
Sydney, NSW 2002
Australia

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