

History of Chinese in Cairns

Chinese people first came to North Queensland in the 1870s seeking their fortune on the Palmer Goldfields near Cooktown. When the gold supply diminished the men moved on with many settling in the new port of Cairns, Innisfail and the Atherton Tablelands. These early Chinese migrants played a major role in agriculture and the economic growth of Cairns.

In 1886, Chinese residents formed 30% of the settler population in the Cairns census district. In that time, Grafton Street (formerly Sachs Street) became a flourishing Chinatown with shops, merchant stores, family residences, boarding houses and two temples, one of which was the Lit Sung Goong.

Although the Chinese population began to decline in the early 1900s due to increasingly restrictive immigration policies, Chinese businesses continued to be a vital part of the Cairns region. Many descendants of the early Chinese settlers remain in the district.



Cairns & District Chinese Assoc Inc (CADCAI)

CADCAI is a FNQ non-profit community organisation established in 1978. It is a culturally diverse organisation offering visitors and locals both historical and contemporary perspectives of Australian Chinese culture through a variety range of activities and events.

Chinese Language Classes

Weekly Mandarin classes are available for children to learn Chinese language skills.

Lion and Dragon Dancing

The Lion and Dragon team train regularly and perform at many local and regional events including the Lunar New Year Celebration and Street Festival.

Chinese Dance

The Molihua Chinese dance group is open to both boys and girls who learn and perform both contemporary and traditional Chinese dance.

Heritage Conservation

CADCAI manages the preservation of heritage objects, keeping records of the migration history of Chinese people in North Queensland.

Chinese Culture and Heritage Centre Project

CADCAI remains the custodian of the nationally significant Lit Sung Goong collection. These artefacts are an outstanding example of the material culture of Chinese Australian religious practices in Cairns.

CADCAI is now working on a major project to build a Chinese Cultural and Heritage Centre in Cairns. The centre will provide a permanent home and exhibition space for the irreplaceable Lit Sung Goong collection, exhibitions and celebration and performance of Chinese culture. Our volunteers are now raising funds for this valuable project.



Make Donation · Save the History

CADCAI membership is open to anyone with an interest in Chinese culture and heritage. For further information about the membership or make a generous tax deductible donations to the Cultural Centre project, please email: info@cadcai.org.au or visit www.cadcai.org.au

凱恩斯華人移民史

華人定居昆士蘭州遠北地區的歷史可追溯至於1870年代，當年凱恩斯地區附近發現金礦，吸引大批華人移民來到遠北地區淘金，但華人的腳步並未止於礦場，他們留下來並逐漸移居至剛剛建成的凱恩斯城，同時引進先進的園藝技巧和灌溉方法，在當地的農業及經濟發展擔當重要角色。

1886年，華人數目佔凱恩斯地區人口三分之一，並大多從事與農業有關的工作。之後這些華人在凱恩斯開始經營其他行業，建立大批的店鋪和房屋，其中不少住宿、商貿公司、藥店、俱樂部、甚至有兩間廟宇：包括凱恩斯第一座華人寺廟列聖宮，均集中在格拉夫頓大街（Grafton Street）附近，令該處發展成當時昆士蘭州最早期的唐人街之一。

20世紀初，華人因為移民政策修緊而逐漸離開凱恩斯，但部分華人繼續在凱恩斯經營不同生意，其後代亦開枝散葉，展開一個個華人移民的家族故事。



凱恩斯華人會 (CADCAI)

凱恩斯華人會（Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc, 下稱「華人會」）成立於1978年，為昆士蘭州遠北地區的非牟利社團組織，多年來一直致力發揚及保存華人文化，並透過定期舉辦不同華人節日慶典和活動，如舞獅、燈會，凝聚遠北華人，傳承華人的傳統精神及文化藝術。

中文課

每週定期上課，讓華裔學生提升中文聽說讀寫能力，加深了解華人文化。

醒獅和舞龍表演

安排醒獅和舞龍練習，每逢節慶及重大活動表演助興，培育龍獅文化新一代傳人。

舞蹈團

開放予本地男女參加，同時提供傳統及現代舞蹈課堂，定期公開表演，宣揚傳統文化。

澳洲現存中國歷史文物研究和保存

妥善保存和公開展覽珍貴的華人歷史文物，紀念本地區早期華人移民的貢獻和成就。

華人歷史研究及文物展覽中心

華人會保管了1886年至1964年間華人在凱恩斯生活的多件文物，包括國家級文物列聖宮的寺廟珍藏品，這些文物具有珍貴的歷史、美學和信仰上的價值，也是整個北昆士蘭中國遺跡的重要見證。華人會一直致力於在凱恩斯建立一個華人歷史研究及文物展覽中心，項目包含博物館、展覽館、圖書館、資源中心、多功能大廳、傳統中國園林等，志願者亦正在編輯及整理文物資料及修復保存各項珍貴的歷史文物。按照規劃，目前尚需集資用以支付建築裝修，道路園藝設計、顧問和政府申請費用等。



慷慨捐助 · 攜手傳承華人歷史文化

華人會會員開放予各界人士申請參與，我們更期待社會各界慷慨捐助及支持以上計劃，並誠摯邀請志願者踴躍加入，攜手保護華人珍貴的歷史文化和遺產，共同譜寫華人在凱恩斯的絢麗篇章！如欲捐助或了解更多詳情，請寄電郵至 info@cadcai.org.au 或瀏覽華人會網頁：

www.cadcai.org.au