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**Editor's note:**

Time flies, they say, when one is having fun! And boy, isn't that true for HKUAANZ!? Two months in 2019 have already passed and we have had two monthly lunches, a very memorable Chinese New Year celebrations, and the Exco is already busy planning another event for its members - a visit to stud farms; An EGM was held where a key decision regarding the life membership was taken, our own HKUAANZ website was launched (Yay!), and three HKU students arriving in Auckland have registered with HKUAANZ to be mentored by our members. These two months have been quite eventful and this bimonthly newsletter comes to you on the last day of that second month attempting to capture the activities, news, and views of our association. We hope that this newsletter will bring you joy although it comes to you somewhat later than planned!

**Monthly lunch - January**

Being the first monthly lunch of 2019 it was still in the middle of the NZ holiday season when many of the usual faces were out of town. However, that didn't deter a determined few to gather at the Remuera Golf Club to have a good time chatting and enjoying a delicious lunch. Ray and Achela also took this opportunity to discuss the website that was being designed and also get feedback on its appearance from those who attended.

**Monthly lunch - February**

February monthly lunch was filled with excitement for the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations. The group not only enjoyed the meal and the usual jolly conversation but also took the opportunity to share views about couplet and to plan games to be played on the big day! Some of the group then proceeded to the residence of KY So to wrap all the gifts to be won and distributed on the night of the celebrations. Exemplary team work!!

**Monthly lunch - March**

Monthly lunch gathering for the month of March will be on the 1st of March. For those who are not yet familiar with this gathering and for the benefit of new comers and mentees: This is an informal lunch at the Remuera Golf Club on the first Friday of every month. It usually starts around 12:30PM and lasts for about 1.5 - 2 hours. It is very casual – you order your own food/drink from the café menu and just talk with whoever attending the lunch on that day. Sometimes you strike on a topic with someone who might have some unusual opinion that irritates you or makes you laugh. The address is 150 Abbots Way, Remuera. If anyone needs transport, there are a few regulars who will be able to offer to pick you up or you can car pool. Come one, come all!
Chinese New Year Celebrations

A very enjoyable time was had by all who attended the 春茗 Banquet on the 15th February at Lucky Star Restaurant. This is one of the major events of the HKUAANZ calendar and great efforts put in by the Exco with the support of members leading up to the event bore fruit on the night! The event was well attended; there were four banquet tables with a total of 47 attendees.

Ray Zhong welcomed everyone to the banquet as President of HKUAANZ. Eva Ho, the Legal Advisor for HKUAANZ, drew the first Table Prizes and started the evening’s entertainment on a high note. This year we had a variety of Chinese word games prepared by W. Y. Chan. Participants were asked to decipher a couple of composite words. We also had 猜句游戏, where poetic hints lead to a sentence stating “it is not easy to forget your fellow alumni.” These games drew very enthusiastic participation.

Ivy Ho hosted the game on measuring the head circumference (of John Tseung) and the waist line (of KY So). Anyone who could give a close estimate could win prizes. Much laughter followed, and the generous lucky draws throughout the evening were appreciated by all.

The Banquet finished with a Group Photo. A few photographs from the elaborate album prepared by our own KK Yam appear below giving you happy reminders of that joyful evening. You can view the complete album by clicking on the link to this album on the internet: HKUAANZ - 2019 CNY Celebrations—Album by KK Yam. Do enjoy!
New Mentees in 2019

This year we welcome three HKU undergraduate students to Auckland. They are Emily Peng, Tiffany Tang, and Rebecca Zhang. Emily and Tiffany will be mentored by Emeritus Prof. Manying Ip while Rebecca by Dr. KY So.

Emily is from HKU School of Journalism. She is spending a gap year in Auckland. She spent some childhood years in NZ, and now looks forward to interacting with the HKUAANZ.

Tiffany is a third year student in The University of Hong Kong majoring in English Studies. She plans to take a few English courses and the Introduction to Wine Science course at The University of Auckland.

While welcoming all three of them to Auckland the HKUAANZ members invite them to participate in the activities of HKUAANZ, and seek assistance wherever and whenever necessary to make their stay in New Zealand a memorable one. Welcome!

New web page of HKUAANZ

As we announced in the previous newsletter, the committee was actively pursuing the goal of setting up a website with currency and usefulness for those seeking generic information relevant to HKUAANZ. The wait is finally over! We have our own website. The web address is www.hkuaanz.com.

Do browse through the website. Your feedback is valuable; do not hesitate to send in your comments to hkuaanz@gmail.com. Please note that this website is open to the public and therefore photographs and personal details of our members have been left out intentionally. An old and out-dated website of the association used to carry photographs of the association's activities in detail. That old website will be permanently removed by the HKU DAAO (Development & Alumni Affairs Office) in due course.

EGM and Life Membership

The Extraordinary General Meeting held on the same evening as the Chinese New Year banquet was attended by 26 members and there were 12 proxies. The motion to change the constitution for conversion to Life Membership did not reach the required two-third majority, and therefore the motion was not carried out.

This brings to a close a long, transparent, and robust review process to collectively determine the way forward regarding the suggestion made a couple of years ago to consider changing the criterion for obtaining life membership.

We thank all the members who participated in the review process giving timely input and valuable feedback at the relevant occasions; a big thank you also goes to the Exco members in consecutive years who took great effort to make the process robust and fair.

Visit to stud farms

A visit to stud farms is organised to be in the 17th of March. The participants will travel in several cars, leaving Auckland in the morning. The group is planning to visit several studs with different emphases such as breaking-in, pre-training, and racing stables etc. in Cambridge. After a quick lunch in Cambridge more visits to studs in Matamata area are on the cards. The members will regroup in Auckland to share an evening meal and talk about the experience of the day.

If anyone wishes to join the tour now please get in touch with our Exco member KY So.

Readers’ corner

We have received a response to our invitation to all our members to suggest interesting articles/videos that they like to share with other members in the following newsletter. Today we share the article on dental research findings relevant to Alzheimer’s disease sent by Ken Li. Thank you, Ken.

Happy reading everyone!!

The Cause of Alzheimer’s Could Be Coming From Inside Your Mouth, Study Claims