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Editor’s note:
Just after two weeks of our previous newsletter - on 15th March - came the darkest day we have seen in New Zealand. As an association made up of immigrants, the members of HKUAANZ no doubt share the pain and horror following the heinous attack on the innocent in Christchurch, and downright condemn it. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy are extended to all the individuals and families affected, directly or indirectly, by this act.

For our association, things have gone according to plan and we have news to share on the Stud Farm visit, the activities with the mentees recently arrived from HKU, and our usual monthly gatherings. Past and upcoming activities of members in and outside New Zealand related to the association, HKU, or Chinese or New Zealand culture are always welcome; read about our President's involvement at HKU and a member’s upcoming Cantonese opera in this newsletter.

All members are kindly invited to submit items of interest they wish to share with your fellow members.

Visit to stud farms
Thanks to Audrey and Peter Chan who put the committee of HKUAANZ in contact with the New Zealand Chinese Jockey Club, it was possible to organise a tour to visit three stud farms in Cambridge on the 17th of March 2019. Some HKUAANZ members, their spouses, and one of our three mentees for this year - Tiffany Tang - joined on this day filled with fun and laughter. The stud farms’ liaison persons Tiffany and Harry accompanied the group through the day explaining in detail the different stages of training that horses undergo: breaking in and preparation for vigorous exercises, resting and building up muscles etc. The group saw racehorses of different age-groups, and listened to nutritionists, trainers, and other experts in stud farming industry. The tour ended with KY So and Tiffany (mentee) thanking the liaison personnel with small gifts from HKUAANZ.

A lunch stop and the journey to and from Cambridge gave the participants further chances to share their thoughts.
Monthly lunch - March

March gathering at the Remuera Golf Club was attended by one of the three mentees - Tiffany Tang. It was her first time to meet up with members other than her mentor - Manying Ip. She not only brought down the average age of the group but also added cheerfulness livening up the conversation to the monthly gathering. It was a happy, lively luncheon meeting. The new chef’s menu was also a very welcoming feature on the day.

Monthly lunch - April

The seating arrangements had to be extended twice to accommodate the good number of members and spouses gathering on the 5th of April at the Golf club restaurant. They had a very lively time exchanging ideas and discussing various topical issues while enjoying a tasty meal. Casual chats were on topics varying from recent visits to Sri Lanka, China, Hong Kong, the South Pole wrote through raising children in New Zealand, China, and Hong Kong to new housing complexes and shopping malls coming up in Auckland. The group didn’t realise it was 2PM and probably the time to disperse!

Mentoring activities

As reported in the last newsletter, there are three undergraduates of HKU in Auckland who are in our mentorship program. Of them, Tiffany Tang has made good use of her relationship with the HKUAANZ and her mentor Emeritus Prof. Manying Ip and already engaged in a several activities.

She and her mentor first met up for a lunch and a walk around the campus under clear skies. More recently Tiffany also got the opportunity to accompany Manying to Pacific Sisters, an exhibition of Pacific and Maori fashion designs at the Auckland Art Gallery where she had the wonderful experience of meeting renowned personnel in the art/fashion circle in Auckland.
Dr. Ray Zhong, the president of HKUAANZ, was invited to attend the signing ceremony of agreement for Academic Exchange between The University of Hong Kong and Tohoku University on 16th March 2019. The collaboration between HKU and Tohokudai (東北大) is a strategic one that brings together top researchers from both universities to focus on cutting-edge research and application development in the fields of transformative artificial intelligence and robotics, including establishing a Centre with the theme being Transformative AI/Robotics Technologies (TransART), to spearhead projects around transforming manufacturing industries and mega cities through the application of AI and Robotics.

Mr Nicholas W Yang - the Secretary for Innovation and Technology of the HKSAR Government, Professor Zhang Xiang - President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, Professor Hideo Ohno - President of Tohokudai, and a group of distinguished guests were invited for witnessing the signing ceremony.

Audrey Chan will be performing a Cantonese Opera again! This time with a professional artist on 23rd July 2019. The second half which is a two hour performance by the entire professional group is specially worth seeing; it is the story of the Monkey King. The performance will be accompanied by live music and this show is a rare concert of this kind in New Zealand, so grab this opportunity.

The AGM of the HKUAANZ is now confirmed to be held at the Remuera Golf Club on Sunday the 4th of August 2019. Please mark your calendars.