



CASA DE MACAU INCORPORATED

PO Box A908 Sydney South NSW 1235 Australia

President's Report – 2010/11 (Presented at the AGM on 22 October 2011)

I would like to formally present this report as a summary of the past year's activities of our association. Firstly;

Our Social Activities:

The past year has been a busy one, primarily due to the energy within the Committee. Our goal was to increase the number of social activities to encourage and enable members to meet more frequently. This was achieved with most States adding a Chinese New Year function to their social calendar.

In Queensland, the traditional Christmas lunch was rescheduled due to the Encontro in December 2010 and instead a successful New Year lunch was held. Following this Melissa Fox volunteered to be the new representative for the State and has risen to the challenge, organising a self catered Dia de S. Joao event at a lovely venue by the river, which raised the bar for all of us. No mean feat considering this was in the aftermath of the horrific flooding that hit Brisbane in January. Melissa was well supported by members who were more than willing to step up and assist.

In NSW our ambitious plan to have one function each quarter was achieved in September when a Cha Gordo cum Tea Dance was held at St Michael's Church Hall in Hurstville. The Committee with the help of a small band of volunteers turned out some truly delicious home cooked, traditional fare complimented by some "age" appropriate music provided by a very empathetic DJ. Our thanks to all the volunteers and the rock and rollers too who helped make this a really fun day.

The Encontro in late November was as always a great opportunity for our community to reconnect with old friends and Macau itself, as well as enjoy some superb meals and entertainment. The organising body, the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses did not disappoint. The week long reunion was supported by more than 130 members from Australia. It was nice to see the former Governor of Macau, Gen. Rocha Vieira there for the whole week and the personal support of the Macau Chief Executive, His Excellency Dr. Chui Sai On was most encouraging, especially his commitment to continuing future reunions in Macau.

Our Finances and Membership:

The Financial Accounts have been circulated prior to the meeting along with the Treasurer's report. Overall we are in a strong financial position thanks to higher term deposit rates but looking ahead, these appear to have peaked and will more than likely begin to fall slightly in the coming year. The incoming Committee however, will be encouraged to continue to find a way to provide a small subsidy for increased activities which will help bring members together during the year.

Our membership numbers at the end of September 2011 are as follows:

Year	Ordinary	Spouse	Junior	Extraordinary	Life	Total
2008/9	386	130	122	60	3	701
2009/10	393	142	119	56	3	713
2010/11	374	142	99	52	4	671

The Disappointments:

Although the Committee worked very hard to resolve the issues relating to our occupancy of the Cultural Centre, in Sydenham I am disappointed to report that we are still a little way off. However, some progress has been made as our plans have been approved by Council and we have already awarded a contract for the necessary compliance work. With luck the work will be completed before Christmas if not we will push to have everything finished by early in the New Year. Once completed, we will work on changing the operating conditions of our DA.

Looking Ahead:

We began work on cataloguing the library inventory but have fallen behind in the completion of this project. The new Committee will be tasked with this work as a priority.

We failed to make any headway in Youth specific activities but hope this will be rectified in the new term. The incoming Committee will have the motivation to do so, in line with planning for attendance at the Youth Encontro in Macau, which will most likely be held during the Easter break. A Youth Sub-committee will be formed to lead this effort. The focus will be on ways in which to educate and perpetuate our History, Culture, Cuisine and perhaps even the Patua language.

Acknowledgements:

- The Newsletters would not be as eagerly awaited if not for the sterling effort of our editor Jorge Estorninho in Tasmania and the interesting and informative contributions from Stuart Braga in Sydney. Thank you both.
- Thanks too to our web mistress, Maria dos Santos Lee for being both efficient and timely on any request made of her regarding our website.
- Thank you to all the State Representatives for volunteering their time and hard work to make each Casa event a success.
- I would also like to acknowledge all the volunteers in every State who helped to make our events a success and special thanks to Patrick de Souza for volunteering to be our official Casa photographer.
- The whole Committee contributed throughout the year to make it a successful year. I had fun and hope you did too.

Thank you

Ed Rozario
President
October 2011