



W/O 2061/1 Section 21 Co. Act 1973 An Association Not For Gain. Registration No.: 001-234 NPO PBO 930019568

## Overview by Elaine Ho

### *How the home began*

The Hong Ning Chinese Aged Home was the brainchild of Miss Veronica Chokie who, as the then editor of the *Vinculum* magazine, first mooted the idea of a Chinese old age home in 1972.

Despite the initial lack of interest and opposition from those who felt the idea was contrary to the Chinese belief that the care of the elderly was the responsibility of their children, a group of Chinese professionals and prominent members of the Chinese Catholic Church in South Africa formed the Organization for the Welfare of the South African Chinese Senior Citizens (a non-profit organization) and purchased a hotel that was for sale in Belgravia in 1976. A few properties surrounding the hotel were also purchased so that the entire block became the Hong Ning Chinese Aged Home.

The hard work of all the people involved in overcoming the huge red tape in establishing such a home as well as the generous donations from local and overseas benefactors resulted in the transformation of the building into a suitable home to meet the needs of our elderly folks.

The impossible dream finally became a reality on 25 January 1981 when the Hong Ning Chinese Aged Home was officially opened.

A frail care section was later built to provide for those needing constant attention.

This is the only official Chinese Aged Home in South Africa.

### *Meet the Team!*

The day to day operations are overseen by the general office manager, the matron and the housekeeper.

Other staff include a registered nurse, staff nurses, nursing assistants and caregivers who work in shifts to ensure 24/7 care to the residents.

There are also domestic staff, two cooks, a maintenance supervisor, a gardener and a gateman.

### *The Hong Ning Management Committee*

The management committee is elected annually at the AGM and receive no financial remuneration.

The current members for the period 2019/2020 are as follows:

<i>Honorary Life President</i>	Walter Pon
<i>Chairman</i>	Winkin Leong
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Francis Lai Hong
<i>Treasurer</i>	Steven Tong
<i>General Secretary</i>	Elaine Ho
<i>Minutes Secretary</i>	Jason Hong
<i>External Auditor</i>	Nick Ho Lam
<i>Residents' Representative</i>	Malcolm Kwan
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Jo-Anne King
<i>Web Administrator</i>	Danny Wong
<i>Committee Members</i>	Dr Herbert Wong Issac Germishuys Joan Nom Chong (Housekeeper) Kwok-Leung Ho Laura Dyson (General Manager) Nelly Fok Shirleen Man Sr Nanette Walters (Matron) Yvonne Fokming

### *The home, the residents and the challenges*

The home is entirely self-funded and receives neither Government support nor any allocations from the Lotto.

Although the home is lacking in many fully fledged professional facilities, it is a place where Chinese senior citizens with nowhere else to turn can come and stay and have a roof over their heads, 3 meals a day and a warm bed at night.

In the early years the home was occupied by elderly folk who were still fairly mobile who had either outlived their children or been separated from their offspring under some unfortunate circumstances.

Over time some of these independent residents have had to be moved into the frail care facility due to their inability to cope with independent living or they require 24/7 care.

Arrears of monthly rentals have added to the financial burden of the home.

Bearing in mind that the economic condition of South Africa has deteriorated significantly over the past decade, the financial situation of the home has become more and more challenging every month.

The home as it stands runs at a deficit every month and were it not for the generosity of the donors within the community, from expats living overseas, various local and overseas organisations and businesses as well as the fund raising efforts of its hard working committee (who are all volunteers), the doors of Hong Ning would have closed a long time ago.

Initially the home attracted very active community involvement as everyone was proud of what was achieved and it received many visitors from both family and friends of the elderly residents.

With the emigration of family and friends or passing on of relatives as well as crime in the area, fewer visitors are coming to the home.

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### *Major Fund-raising Events*

The annual Hong Ning Braai Day is held traditionally on the first Sunday of September.

- A Hong Ning Oriental Golf Day is held annually at the Glendower Golf Course.

### *Other Fund-raising Events*

The committee also tries to organise smaller fund-raising events during the year as the opportunity arises.

These events include the following:

- Catering at the Easter Tournament (Gauteng).
- Hot Pot evenings, Yusang, Wonton Mein and Beef Flank lunches.
- Bingo Evening.

The annual Hong Ning Braai Day held on the first Sunday of September is a family fun day enjoyed by all.



The Hong Ning Oriental Golf Day held annually at the Glendower Golf Course, is organised by Daryl Fokming.

