

Goodbye Wahkna, I Thank You!

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On the 5th of November 2017, the Western Australia Hong Kong Nurses Association (Wahkna) held the last annual general meeting to decide on the future of her incorporation. This was inevitable and understanding, as the majority of, if not all members either have retired or are reaching their retirement age. The voting was a unanimous and resounding “yes” to the dissolution of the corporation and changing Wahkna from a professional to a socialite. Not a slight sigh of regret was heard or expressed, apart from perhaps a lone affiliated outsider, yours humbly!

My partner, Vivian, was a maternity nurse and worked in Western Australia until 2008. We first became aware of Wahkna in the 1980's but in the beginning we only attended her annual meetings and dinners because we were busy raising a family. By 2005 our kids had moved out of the house for some time and we started to feel the loneliness of an empty nest. So we joined the coach tour of Yunnan, which was organised under the auspices of Wahkna. Group touring is no doubt the most enticing of her many attractive functions. Indeed the trip was so enjoyable that many more followed. In time as we got to know other members better, we took part in additional activities, including the Sunday morning walks in Burswood and periodic barbecue parties. All these engagements with their inevitable human interactions are just the right kind of tonic for our body and mind in the mellowing years. Although it must be true that these activities can be continued with or without her, I may argue that our commitments would not be the same in the absence of a distinct and professional identity such as Wahkna! Then again, in pulling down the final curtain, have we ever considered the future relationship with our sister organisations in the other States, Territories and overseas?

However, this is just the private view of a solitary non-member and the decision has been made. I feel sorry to see Wahkna being metamorphosed but at the same time I must be thankful for having been acquainted with her for over thirty years. Let us then leave behind any regrets and bid our beloved Wahkna farewell by going through her glorious days in Memory Lane one more time.

Most of the members, if I may say, arrived in Australia with a basic nursing degree but, through hard work and dedication, the majority have acquired additional specialist status in different fields and landed themselves at top positions in their corresponding institutions. Such academic achievements are typical of, and natural to all Chinese in foreign soils but the collection of extra-healthcare talents among the members is nothing short of spectacular. Being not very social myself, I cannot claim to know them all or well enough. Still the number to my avail will be too large to be listed in full here. Some examples, none the less, will be necessary to illustrate my

point.

Heading the list is the famous Queen of Ethnic Radio Broadcast, Beata Fung, who is so well known that no elaboration is necessary. Edward Ma comes a close second as a notable connoisseur in food and drink. Who can deny that Anthony Hung is our king of ballroom dancing and Sonny Mak our longest serving and most popular President? Then Erica Mui certainly will take the chair in Chinese calligraphy and poetry, while at the same time and combined with Daisy, they produce the best-loved brand of sesame seed and peanut candies, which are being sold in many Chinese restaurants and grocery shops for charity donations. Less familiar to me but not to many others are Godfrey Leung's in-depth knowledge in computing technology and Pingche Law's handicraft skills in pattern and figurine knitting. Need I say more? I don't think so but I must.

There are four others, with whom I have the privilege of an up close and personal encounter, and about whom I had previously written some comments. They are individuals unique in their own rights and deserving special attention.

Henry Li must be Wahkna's most famous member. His unique characters are well known but less so is the fact that he is a celebrity in the West Australian harness racing circle as well as owner, trainer and rider of a number of successful pacers. He is also an expert in turning photographs into lively DVDs.

贈李兄群弟

旅滇道上初相識 未問寒暄辨短長
談高論遠呈本色 舌巧唇乖顯鋒芒
製碟加音賢內助 馴駒試賽馬車場
豪氣干雲行我是 管他掃否瓦前霜

George Ho is a fanatic in origami, so much so that he would not waste a second in folding anything he happens to have between his fingers under all circumstances, be they mealtime, tea break, inside a touring coach or outside sightseeing! Do you know that his skills and reputation have spread to the WA Lottery Commission?

贈摺紙大師何佐杰并序

週日晨行例息於博是活賭城啡茶小點談天說地之餘何兄每摺紙自遣疊砌出各式模型維肖維妙其手法精嫻若流水行雲其成竹在胸則深如丘壑觀者惟張口結舌驚奇嘆服焉

人皆迷魔幻 少識賞藝晶

一葉紙拈手 三方摺定形
無物不能仿 有題當可成
莫作雕蟲技 胸藏百萬經

Anna and Peter Yung have a perfect family, which I admire, and a home, which is so well looked after that I envy. Of course most members know that Peter is a first class carpenter and family handyman. But sorry ladies! Anna has already sealed up a second term contract of marriage with him into the next life!

初訪容居

容家大府氣堂皇 陋室謙詞難掩藏
古木傢私親手造 鮮瓜果菜自身秧
芳菲圍植前後苑 綠蔭盆栽東西廊
開陽高雅新貴地 萬載福緣壽而康

Finally I like to share with all members my joy in the many wonderful tours by way of three representative Chinese poems. The first two had a relatively detailed description of the scenes and actions while the last one was a light-hearted humour on the rushed visit to World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. In either case I hope they will bring back some sweet moments and happy memories.

濟州島

午辭赤立角 薄暮抵仁川 首爾奔上路 金浦轉南沿
濟州春四季 多有榜三專 仙境旅遊地 漢華渡假村
飲食無巧手 康療有溫泉 水濺筋絡活 泥塗面膚娟
氧音魂入定 禾稈魄迴旋 白浪將軍影 金陵石物園
觀熊泰迪館 賞瀑天地淵 日出城山頂 長今古俗村
奇路因錯覺 化龍且從權 千階尋窟寺 萬里問機緣

黃山遊

軒轅幻境耳熟詳 老大蹉跎願終償
座落江東茂原地 週圍水利魚米鄉
關山遠渡不嫌苦 勝地高攀難好強
牌門公路專車送 陡嶝險崖慢步量

萬級梯階冲天走 千叢壁樹滿目彰
橫空索道新形象 到處亭臺古色香
三大主峰嵐煙繞 四環幽谷鳥獸藏
仙人曬靴靈蹤杳 猴子觀海雅量汪
頑石飛來佇蝸后 勁松迎客羞孟嘗
鰲魚嶺脊金龜立 始信峰巔白髮揚
摸黑晨行雙頰冷 迎新日出半天黃
筋疲還能撐拐柱 力竭不用躺兜床
神州壯麗歎觀止 晚景餘年豪氣長

世博行上海十月十三日

風飄飄 雨瀟瀟 遊人裝備掛滿腰
爺娘妻子走相叫 人擠不見牌門標
拖男帶女當道搶 搶先要上九雲霄
道旁過者問遊人 遊人但云購票輪
或從四月求旅社 便至十月仍糾纏
來時滿懷興冲冲 到後仍然不著邊
邊際排隊若長蛇 主管增柵意未已
君不聞 上海世博三百家 熱館日夜人不止
縱有健漢飛馬蹄 難分場地東北西
況復導領曾數至 團員不異犬與雞
長者雖有恨 誰敢開聲問
只得一日遊 未肯片時卒
雖是自由行 隻身焉敢出
信知趕場難 反是休閒好
休閒樂得快朵頤 趕場雙足踏火草
君不見 浦東頭 到處爭建摩天樓
新廈更高舊廈倒 財資自需密密籌

Thank you Wahkna! Farewell Wahkna!

I'll miss you! Really I do.