

2016 Lunar New Year Festival Hobart

The 2016 Lunar New Year Festival, held on 7 February 2016, was another success for the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania (CCAT) and the Tasmanian community in general. This all day Festival was held in sunny conditions on the lawns of Parliament House, Hobart waterfront. We had a wide and diverse participation in all our activities which were manned by many different organisations.

Our food stalls, showcasing festival foods from many nations, were a great success with many happy patrons busily eating the yummy food.

Our Panda (kids) Zone proved to be popular with a dragon boat, a petting zoo and a vintage car. Here the Friends school and The Tasmanian Chinese Language Teachers Association stall held children activities for donations, where all money raised were for the "Relay for Life" initiative of the Cancer Council Tasmania.

The Cultural Zone had stalls displaying cultural riches of organisations including the Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia, Tasmanian Chinese School, the Australia China Friendship Society as well as the Chinese Medicine stall and the Chinese brush painting stall.

We had a wide and diverse performance list for all sectors of the community on the stage of our Entertainment Zone. These include traditional Chinese performers from our Chinese Organisations, individual and group performances such as Tan Wen Da, a Singaporean Kung Fu Master, Friends School, Taiko Drum, the Indonesian, the Philippines and the Thai communities.

As a part of the official opening ceremony, gigantic two metre fire crackers was set off to ward off evil spirits as per Chinese customs. Due to popular request the lion dance / fire cracker ceremony was repeated again during mid afternoon.

We made every effort to have a wide section of community involvement in all aspects of the festival including the Rotary Club of Sandy Bay manning the barbecue stall, MOCO Dragon Boat Club showcased their dragon boat, school children involved through colouring-in and school groups (Friends School) and individual students performing activities.

Each and every area of the festival was well attended, with a total attendance of more than 5,500, including dignitaries; Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, the Speaker of the House of Assembly the Hon Elise Archer MP, Chinese Consul for Political and Chinese Community Affairs Madam KANG Xiaolei, and the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey.

We were supported by wide media coverage and publicity which promoted the event, including television and radio commercial on Southern Cross Austereo, ABC Radio interviews as well a roving ABC reporter broadcasting live at the festival site, publicity posters for letterbox drops and on our Face book page.

We created a fun festive atmosphere for the whole family where many attendees sat around on our 100+ chairs and simply enjoyed the atmosphere of the day. This festival has contributed to improving social harmony, cultural awareness and goodwill throughout the community.

We are very grateful to all of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers who have made this festival such a success. We are grateful also to the unflinching support of our CCAT members and friends and especially to James Lee, our Festival Chairman, whose enthusiasm, drive and sheer hard work has made this festival such a success!!!!

We very much look forward to your participation at our Lunar New Year Festival 2017!!!!

Sponsors

City of Hobart
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Wrest Point Tasmania
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Activities/Performances: Lunar New Year 2016

• Four distinct zones (Food, Cultural, Performance & kids) on one site enabling attendees to enjoy various areas throughout the visit. • Total 42 Stalls including 15 stalls in the Cultural Zone and 13 stalls in the food zone • Student Colouring in competition Grades 3 – 8 which involved various schools in Tasmania • Petting Zoo • Dragon Boat Display • Chinese Medicine demonstrations, • Kung Fu demonstration by Master Wang’s performers as well as Singaporean Kung Fu Master Tan Wen Da • Traditional Chinese Instruments performances (Pipa, Dizi, Guzheng) • Two Lion Dance performances. Firstly by the Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy at the opening ceremony and a second performance by Tan Wen Da at the family section of the entertainment at 2.45pm. • We had Two 2 metre Fire Crackers lit during the day to ward off evil spirits. Once at the opening ceremony and secondly around 3.00 pm • We had students from Friends School perform. Friends School also had a stall which they shared with Tasmanian Chinese Language Teachers Association which raised money for “Relay for Life” an initiative for the Cancer Council Tasmania.

Organisations assisting / participating: Lunar New Year 2016

- Australian China Friendship Society
- Rotary Club of Sandy Bay
- Dragon Boat Tasmania / Moco Dragons Boat Club
- Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia
- Friends School
- Tasmanian Chinese School
- Chinese Cultural Society of Tasmania
- Chinese Language Teachers Association of Tasmania
- Australia Chinese Association of Biomedical Sciences (Tas Branch)
- Hmong Society
- WellSpring Anglican Church
- Indonesian Community in Tasmania
- Indonesian Student Society
- Thai Community in Tasmania
- Korean Community Volunteer Association of Tasmania
- Philippines Australia Association of Tasmania