



MEDIA RELEASE

24 January 2017

Hobart welcomes Lunar New Year with a bang

Hobart's Chinese community has organised a program of events to celebrate Lunar New Year and welcome the Year of the Rooster.

Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey said the City of Hobart was pleased to help local groups organise a festival that showcases Chinese culture.

"Hobart is most fortunate to have an active and vibrant Chinese culture which I am pleased to say, has been further enriched in these past years through the Council's international city friendships with Xi'an and now, Fuzhou," said the Lord Mayor.

"Lunar New Year celebrations have fast established themselves in Hobart's summer calendar.

"The cultural festival on Parliament Lawns and Lantern Festival are both highlights but the concert from visiting musicians in the past couple of years has taken the program to a new level," said the Lord Mayor.

Chairman of the Lunar New Year Working Group, Alderman Damon Thomas said he was looking forward to nearly a month of activities to mark the Lunar New Year.

"2017 marks the fifth Lunar New Year Festival for Hobart and I encourage the people of the city to bring their friends and family along to support our local Chinese community to welcome in the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rooster," said Ald Thomas.

This year the City of Hobart is continuing its marketing support with a competition on its City Guide Facebook page.

People who share their images of Lunar New Year events will go into the running for family passes to the Hobart Aquatic Centre, a Lunar New Year baseball cap, Hobart Town Hall historical postcards and the colourful Salamanca Market coffee table book.

Hobart's City Guide Facebook page can be found at @Hobartcityguide

Lunar New Year runs from 28 January to 16 February 2017 and events are listed on the City of Hobart website at www.hobartcity.com.au/lunarnewyear

For interview - Alderman Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor: 0427 351 987 or Alderman Damon Thomas: 0429 064 805

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Lunar New Year 2017

Hobart events

This Lunar New Year will herald the Year of the Rooster on 28 January 2017.

The City of Hobart is helping to coordinate the many activities being held to celebrate this important cultural and social festival for many Asian communities. Go to hobartcity.com.au/lunarnewyear for the full listing of events around the City.

What's On

Lunar New Year Festival

Sunday 29 January, 10 am – 4 pm, Parliament House Lawns

The Chinese Community Association of Tasmania runs this family-friendly festival of performance, food and culture to celebrate the Lunar New Year – including dragon and lion dancing and fire cracker displays. This is a colourful and energetic entree into Chinese culture for many Tasmanians and is the first major community event of the Lunar New Year calendar.

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Chinese New Year Lantern Festival

Saturday 11 February, 2–4 pm, Hobart Town Hall

A family friendly festival packed with lion dancing, Chinese traditional dances and musical performances. Bring your children along to learn paper cutting, delight at the brightly coloured lanterns and costumes, and taste one of the world's favourite cuisines.

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Royal Hobart Regatta

Monday 13 February, 5.30 pm, Regatta Grounds

The Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia will perform a lion dance to celebrate the Lunar New Year, which is sure to delight children and adults alike. Dancers goad the lion on, which writhes, jumps and shakes its massive head to bring good luck for the coming year.

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Chinese New Year Concert 2017 ***Treasures of a Nation***

Tuesday 14 February, Federation Concert Hall, 7 pm

On its second visit to Australia, the Chinese Music Orchestra will perform its Treasures of a Nation Chinese New Year concert at its first Tasmanian outing. Blending traditional and contemporary musical styles, the prestigious ensemble is brought out by the Ausfeng Group and its Tasmanian performance is supported by the local Australian Chinese Business Council branch.

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Salamanca Square decorations

Tuesday 24 January – mid February

The Salamanca Traders Association and the Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy have decorated the tree in Salamanca Square with Chinese lanterns and sashes to celebrate Lunar New Year.